



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, November 2020

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### First word

It is no secret that the past month has been a challenge for the school. With the onset of winter, we have seen more positive Covid-19 cases and resulting self-isolations. This has affected staff, as well as students and I am grateful to everyone for their flexibility and understanding. The decisions to provide remote education for Years 11 and 12 were not taken lightly and were as a result of the extraordinary pressures we are under. Year 11 have returned this week to sit their mock exams and it has been good to have them back. Year 12 are working at home until the middle of next week and we hope this disruption will be an exception, rather than the rule.

We have tried to maintain some QM normality and it was a delight to hold the Speech Day assemblies before half-term. We are working on plans for a prize giving event; watch this space! We also ran a virtual Remembrance assembly on 11<sup>th</sup> November and, despite not being able to be together as a community in person, this was as poignant as ever.

The PE, music and Mandarin departments have continued to run activities outside of the school day, within the DfE guidelines and I am pleased that so many students are still accessing our co-curricular offerings. The CCF parades have moved to a digital format and I hope that the cadets are accessing this. We hope to see a return to year group parades in person in the New Year.

Finally, we have featured a number of events and initiatives in school assemblies to promote Black History Month. Students from the History department have presented to the School on different aspects of Black History and Mrs Gray reported back on the winners of the Art department's competition. I have included the winners at the end of this email. The English department are also engaging with sixth form students on a review of the curriculum, with regards to the representation of BAME writers and viewpoints. I am proud that we have a school where these things are possible.

### Covid-19 management and controls

Please make sure that you are familiar with the quick reference guide that is [available on the website](#).

Please remember the other key control measures in operation:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene procedures by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- a zonal approach and a reduction in close contacts
- Compulsory face coverings on entry/exit to school, in corridors and public areas (except when eating in the canteen)

### Parents' evening feedback forms (Year 12)

We are holding a virtual parents' evening for Year 12 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Year 12 parents have been written to directly. This letter includes a link to a [Year 12 survey](#), which I would be grateful if these parents could complete.

### Movember

A group of staff and students, including myself, have taken part in *Movember* once again this year. Please take some time to look at the fantastic work the organisation does for men's health and support us if you can:

<https://uk.movember.com/team/2317532>

### QMA Fundraising

As a result of the current restrictions, we are unable to run our regular QMA events. However, parents can still support the school in other ways. With the Christmas shopping season in full flow, the QMA are once again

promoting the **Easy Fundraising scheme** – a great way of raising money for the school with very little effort. Make sure you register, if you haven't already, at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenmarysgrammar/>

### **Well-being (Mr Collins)**

The Student Welfare Hub is up and running and is adding value to our SEMH and SEND provision. The wellbeing e-mail address is still open and parents or students can use this to contact the team on such matters: [well-being@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:well-being@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

### **Road safety and considerate driving**

We have continued to monitor the situation on the Sutton Road and I am grateful for the consideration of parents. You may have noticed the presence of enforcement patrols, whereby people not following the rules may be issued fines. These will be a regular feature and it is vital that you follow the rules. Please work with us in making the surroundings of the school a safe place for everyone.

### **Keeping safe outside school**

West Midlands Police and the Walsall Council safeguarding team have contacted the school to make us aware that there has been a case in the local area of a suspicious person in a vehicle approaching primary school-aged pupils. Please speak to your children about remaining vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity.

### **Notice period for medical appointments**

Any request for absence should be made in writing at least three days in advance. We ask that parents try and make appointments so they have minimal impact on the school day.

### **Key dates for the diary coming up**

The following are upcoming, which you may be interested in:

Mon 23 Nov-Wed 2 Dec	Year 11 mock exams
Thu 3 Dec	Year 12 parents' evening
Wed 16 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Fri 18 Dec	Finish for Christmas holiday at 2pm
Mon 4 Jan	Teacher training day
Tue 5 Jan	Spring term begins at the usual start time (according to year group arrangements)

### **The live calendar and term dates for 2020-21 are available on the School's website:**

<https://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/school-live-calendar/>

<https://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Thank you for your continued support

Regards



**Richard Langton**

Headmaster

**Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall**

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[www.qmgs.org](http://www.qmgs.org)

Twitter: @qmgs1554





## ART COMPETITION

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER



### CALLING ALL ASPIRING ARTISTS AT QMGs

**WE WANT TO SEE YOUR CREATIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF YOUR CHOSEN BLACK ICONS OR ROLE MODELS.**

ENTRIES CAN BE PRODUCED IN YOUR CHOICE OF ART MEDIUM. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO YOUR FORM TUTOR. THERE WILL BE A WINNER FROM EACH YEAR GROUP, AND HOUSE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR EVERY ENTRY.



Year 7 winner: Daniel Bannister (Aragon)



Year 8 winner: Blake McCarthy (Petypher)



Year 10 winner: Harpreet Kalia (Aragon)



Year 12 winner: Ivan Lei (Petypher)