



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, June 2021

First word

As we draw towards the end of term, it has been pleasing to see students taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities, albeit still in their bubbles and within the current level of controls. Sports Week was a great success and there have been a variety of trips and activities, which are available to see on the School's [Twitter account](#). There will be more coverage of the activities going on in school, as well as tributes to staff who are leaving, in the July newsletter.

Open evening

We have been unable to run our usual summer open evening, but have uploaded a range of digital resources on our website. Please pass the link on to friends and family who are interested in 2022 school admissions: <https://qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/2021-open-evening/>

Covid-19 controls

It is important that we all maintain a vigilance around Covid-19 and the secretary of state for education has written an [open letter](#), encouraging students to continue with lateral flow testing at home. Kits are available from school and please do remind yourself of the [school procedures](#) in the event of a positive case or symptoms.

We don't know as yet what the arrangements will be in September, but I will communicate this in detail before the start of next term. Can I remind you that, due to Covid-19 restrictions, parents are not allowed on site or into Reception unless you have a pre-agreed appointment? Please instead call Reception with your enquiry.

New Online Payment System - Parentmail

We wrote to parents several weeks ago to notify that you that as of **Monday 5th July 2021** the school is moving to a new parent payment system called Parentmail.

We will be transferring student data over to our new parent online payment system week commencing Monday 28th June. The previous Parentpay system will continue to work and take funds and be available for meal purchases while registrations take place on the new Parentmail system. A guide to the system can be found [here](#). The school will be using Parentmail for parent payments for purchases of meals, trips, resources, and other such items.

At the end of the day on **Friday 2nd July** Parentpay system will be closed and student catering balances will be transferred across to Parentmail ready for use Monday morning. As of Monday 5th July and payments will be made through the new system.

We will be working closely with the catering teams on week commencing Monday 5th July to ensure all the balances are available to the students.

If you have any difficulty registering or have any queries on the system please ring or email our Finance support team 01922 211389 Finance@the.merciantrust.org.

National Express flyer

I have included a flyer for discounted travel at the end of this newsletter.

Leave for medical appointments

Please remember that it is a school policy to provide 3 days' notice for medical appointment leave (as set out in the Home School Agreement).



Walsall Summer Holiday Activities Programme.

Walsall Council will be running a Walsall Right for Children Summer Holiday Programme for all children and young people aged 5 – 16 years old in Walsall over the summer holidays.

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme will provide free meals and activities for eligible free school meal children and their families across Walsall. This will include face to face holiday clubs, virtual courses / pick n mix sessions, activity packs and healthy food recipe boxes plus much more fun over the summer holidays. More information is available on the council [webpage](#). The summer registration and activities programme opened on Monday 21st June and parents can sign for summer news by visiting on the [webpage](#)

We are recruiting volunteers to help with a range of activities to ensure we can deliver the best holidays to children and young people this summer. Can you help? If you are interested take a look at our [website](#) and register your interest

For further information visit: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup or via WR4C@walsall.gov.uk

Parent App

To enable you to monitor and impact your child's attendance, behaviour and achievements in school, the school uses an information sharing app called 'Parent App'. You can access the app from a smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere. The app will give you daily updates on your child's attendance, positive achievements and any potential behaviour points. School reports, student timetables, messages and key dates can also be shared through the app.

We will be sending out end of term grades and reports via this system.

The app will also provide you with the ability to update your contact details so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of an emergency. The majority of school communication is sent by email and Parent App so it is crucial that you keep your contact details updated. If you have not already registered for Parentapp please request a link by emailing parentapp@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

Mental health and Wellbeing

Any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing email address well-being@qmg.walsall.sch.uk or by using the QR code below.

This account is monitored by the SEMH team:

- Mr Collins (Assistant Head and DSL)
- Mr Farnell (Safeguarding and Welfare Officer)
- Ms Hendricks (SEMH mentor)
- Miss Weston (6th Form Operations Manager, Girls welfare)



Second hand kit

We are still looking for donations of good quality second hand uniform and kit, for distribution to families in need. Can I please ask that students bring these in a carrier bag and hand them in to a member of staff in their year group zone? Thank you for your support

Travel, road safety and traffic around the school

I have written extensively in the past about traffic around the school site and parents may have noticed a recent increase in the number of police and community officer personnel at peak times. This is part of our drive towards improving the safety and traffic compliance around the school site.

I urge you to be considerate when parking and driving around the local area and to read signs carefully on access.

Acceptable Use Agreement (Students and Parents/Carers)

We have updated our [E-safety policy](#) and require all students and parents to complete the new acceptable use agreement. Please use this [link](#) to do so.



Our community has raised **£3,340.00** in total through easyfundraising. Here is a quick update of the statistics, which you may find interesting.

- **1243** pupils currently on roll
- **239** supporters have registered with easyfundraising
- **128** supporters have raised our total so far
- **10** supporters alone have raised a staggering £1700.44 to date

We need your help to raise much needed funds!

- easyfundraising has over 4,400 shops and sites which will donate to us at no extra cost to yourself, including lots of big name retailers like John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay, M&S, Just Eat, Now TV, Domino's Pizza and Audible.
- All you have to do is sign up to support us using the link below and the next time you shop online go through the easyfundraising website or App and we'll receive a free donation.
- We really need all the help we can get at the moment and any funds we raise will make a big difference to us!
- You can find our easyfundraising page at this [link](#)

Thank you!

Final thoughts

Thank you for your continued support for the school. I will write again in two weeks.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. J. Langton'.



Richard Langton

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

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