



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, May 2021

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### First word

It has been a very intense half term and I, like all members of the school, am looking forward to a break over half term. I am grateful to all staff for their work on the Year 11 and 13 assessments and have been really impressed with the way in which students have gone about their business. I spoke to the Year 11 today and thanked them for their positive attitudes. We look forward to welcoming Year 13 back for their celebration event after half term. I hope that the students in these years now get some well-earned rest and we look forward to seeing them later in the summer.

Students in Years 10 and 12 have their exams after the break and I spoke this week in assembly about the importance of mixing revision alongside rest and re-engagement with friends and family as the lockdown eases. We also look forward to more co-curricular activities after half term, including sports week.

### Early closure for moderation

We have one further early finish on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, to enable staff to complete assessments and moderations. You can find the letter [here](#).

### KS3 curriculum

We have had feedback from a number of lower school parents that they didn't fully know what the programme of study was for Years 7-9. Here is a [link](#) to the KS3 curriculum map on our website.

### 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).

### 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.

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.s.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:parentapp@qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk)

### Testing and contact tracing in school

Students are expected to keep carrying out LFTs at home throughout the half term holiday and remainder of the summer term. All students should have received additional home-testing kits. Staff and students should:

- continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to)
- report positive, negative or void results using the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result portal](#)

- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases
- Continue to use our [established reporting procedures](#)

### **Mental health and Wellbeing**

Any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing email address [well-being@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:well-being@qmgs.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)



### **Britain Get talking campaign (School Council)**

The Britain Get talking campaign is all about promoting better conversations around mental health. The campaign has been promoted by ITV and has some really great tips. There's some great quick tips along with a video series called the "how to chat show." It contains some great advice on how to have healthy conversations about mental health.

The campaign is run by Mind and Young minds and can be found at this [link](#).

### **Plants for the Student Welfare Hub**

If we have any keen gardeners in school and you are having a spring tidy, we are looking to put some planters around the student welfare hub and in the playground near the blue tables and benches area. If anyone has any planters, pots, compost and plants you would like to donate we would be most grateful.

### **Second hand kit**

We are 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 have received a number of complaints from residents since we returned in March about inconsiderate parking and trespassing on private land from people connected to the school. Recently, I have received specific communication on:

- Encroachment on private property on Princes Avenue/Sutton Road Junction
- Use of the private access road from the Broadway North onto the Sutton Road as a short cut

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.

### **Green Bus**

The Green Bus have recently released their new routes and passes for the new academic year starting in September 2021. You can view all of their routes here: <https://www.thegreenbus.co.uk/> Pass prices do

increase after 30 April 2021 so The Green Bus would advise to purchase as early as possible to avoid a higher cost! The majority of routes are over 50% sold already. You can purchase your bus pass here: <https://shop.thegreenbus.co.uk/shop/pass/>. If you have any questions, you can contact their customer service team at [hello@thegreenbus.co.uk](mailto:hello@thegreenbus.co.uk)



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 hope that you have a restful half term break

Regards



**Richard Langton**

Headmaster

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

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

Twitter: @qmgs1554