



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



School Prospectus 2021



First of all, may I offer a warm welcome to Queen Mary's Grammar School!

Whether you have a previous connection with the school, or are visiting us for the first time, I am confident that you will be impressed by our facilities, the opportunities on offer and the students you meet.

Our academic purpose is well documented, with success in GCSE and A-level examinations, but we stand for much more than just what happens in the summer term. Throughout the year, a huge range of life-enriching experiences take place in the school: from work within our local community, to the west coast of Wales (at Farchynys) or on the international stage, our students seek to '*live life to the full*'.

We are a diverse community and our '*Pastoral Charter*' sets out our core values in the rounded education we look to provide. We want our students to be enterprising and show a generosity of spirit and I urge you to take the opportunity to speak to them in order to find out what makes them tick.

Whether it is through participation in the Combined Cadet Force, music achievement, success in national design and debating competitions or recognition on the sports pitch, we aim that our students make the most of opportunities on offer to them.

I hope that you enjoy your evening with us and look forward to welcoming you into our community in the future

With warm regards

Richard Langton
Headmaster

Our Pastoral Charter is central to our school's ethos



- Human dignity matters
- Justice is an absolute priority
- Serving others is part of the School's DNA
- A sense of Community holds everything together
- Inclusion and diversity are fundamental principles
- Our approach must be holistic: what we must be informed by who we are
- Generosity is the key to our motto: it often means getting your hands dirty
- Supporting others means we have to step out of our comfort zone
- There is always hope ...

QM Houses

Aragon House represents the international ethos of the School. It takes its name from Catherine of Aragon, the mother of Queen Mary.

The arrows of Aragon currently displayed on the school badge are its symbol, and its red colour is taken from the colours of the flag of Aragon.



ARAGON
HOUSE



Gryphon House represents the spirit of community which distinguishes Queen Mary's. It is named after the heraldic device which forms the crest of our Founders, George and Nicholas Hawe.

The symbol is shared, appropriately, with the QM Club. The gryphon on the Hawes' coat of arms in the Hall is gold and the house colour is its modern equivalent: yellow.



GRYPHON
HOUSE



DARBY
HOUSE



Darby House represents the spirit of enterprise that characterises the school. It is named after Mr SL Darby, who was Headmaster of the School between 1956 and 1979. His enterprising leadership brought about the new buildings at Mayfield and the purchase of Farchynys.

Mr Darby was also responsible for the preservation of QM as a grammar school. The symbol of the house is the distinctive skyline of the buildings and the house colour is blue – the colour of the school blazer.

Petypher House represents the academic tradition of Queen Mary's as a Grammar School.

It is named after the first known Headmaster and takes as its symbol a book (a copy of Virgil's Aeneid) which is known as Petypher's Virgil and is one of the school's oldest possessions.

We have selected green as the colour as this was used as the livery of the Tudor monarchs in the 16th century.



PETYPHER
HOUSE



QM House Competitions

We are **proud** of our House system at Queen Mary's.

It gives every student an additional identity, as well as providing the QM community with a huge range of competitions.

Besides a whole host of sport and music competitions, Year 7s can compete in castle making; KS3 students can volunteer for "Articulate"; all forms can enter a challenger for House chess; forms compete to raise the most money for charity or donate the most amount of food to our local food bank and so much more.

The House system is inclusive, diverse and, most importantly, fun!



Our Four Pillars of the School

Academic in Purpose Enterprising in Spirit International in Outlook Generous in Approach



The Four Pillars of the School are what we believe are the core values of our community.

We believe that every student should strive to uphold and fulfil each pillar— whether that is through academic excellence, participation on foreign trips, charity work or innovation.

Four Pillars: Academic in Purpose

Throughout the school, our aim is to stretch and challenge every student through a broad and balanced curriculum.

In Year 7, boys will study English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern European Foreign Language, Geography, History, ICT, Design Technology, Religious Studies, Art, PSHEE, Music and a generous allocation of time to PE, Games and Swimming. All students in Year 7 also learn Mandarin Chinese.

In Year 8, the curriculum diversifies with Biology, Chemistry and Physics replacing Science.

At GCSE, all students study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Religious Studies as part of their core curriculum. Students then choose three option subjects alongside this core.

The school offers a traditional academic curriculum to its sixth form student body. All students choose three academic subjects. Alongside these A Level options, students are also expected to follow another academic option. This may be Further Maths, the EPQ or a range of other courses including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

We will also expect students to take on an element of mentoring or volunteering during their time in the sixth form.

The final expectation is that students become involved with an extra-curricular activity in order to develop key employability skills, such as leadership, teamwork and organisation.



Mandarin
Excellence
Programme

Four Pillars: International in Outlook

Global understanding and perspective is fast becoming a necessity in the modern world. Here at QM, we provide students with a huge plethora of opportunity to visit different countries.

From the space camps of Florida to a trekking expedition in Borneo; from the Battlefields of Belgium and France to an exchange in China; from skiing in Canada to tapas in Barcelona, students have plenty of chances to gain understanding of different cultures and communities, and enrich their understanding of the world beyond the restraints of the classrooms of Walsall.



Four Pillars: Enterprising in Spirit



Above you will see our own celebrity, David Pearce. Thanks to the DT Department here at QM, David was given the opportunity to enter a national competition to design the new £1 coin... and won!

But this is only one of the examples of QM students showing enterprising spirits. QM students have the chance to become Awkwright Scholars, join engineering societies and enter a variety of national competitions championed by different departments.



Four Pillars: Generous in Approach

There is a strong sense of community here at QM. Our community recognises that we can enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and our many privileges.

We are keen to share what we have – experience, expertise, enthusiasm – both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto **quas dederis solas semper habebis opes**: It is what you *give* that you will keep as eternal riches.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



The Combined Cadet Force continues to gain in popularity at the school with well over 300 cadets, representing almost half of the school community. The contingent consists of Army and RAF sections of roughly equal size and is one of more than 200 such contingents based in schools throughout the country.

Membership of the contingent is entirely voluntary, with students choosing to join when they enter Year 9. We also offer a fast-track scheme for new-entrants to the sixth-form. Our best cadets are invited to continue their membership whilst in the sixth-form to act as cadet NCOs and undertake the majority of the instruction of other cadets.

The contingent parades after school each Friday. Cadets undertake a variety of training, including drill, navigation, first aid, leadership, military knowledge and sectional training such as fieldcraft or principles of flight.



Sport

From international athletes and sailors, to students that just “want to have a go”, the QM Sports Department delivers a vast array of sports to all year groups - both during PE lessons as well as during lunchtimes and after school. So, whether rugby is your game, or hockey; cricket or futsal; cross country running or badminton; or maybe a sport you have never tried before, at QM you will find a sport suited to you and your ability!



Music



September 2015 marked the beginning of a new collaborative venture bringing together the music departments of both Queen Mary's Grammar School and Queen Mary's High school. This has opened up wonderful opportunities, particularly the combination of some of our extra-curricular groups for what have already been some memorable concerts in Walsall Town Hall.

Central to the philosophy of our new music department, is the idea that music has the ability to change peoples' lives for the better, and provide life-long fulfilment and enjoyment.



Project Horizon



Horizon is Queen Mary's Grammar School's near space programme.

Founded in 2012, the project provides our School and its students with an incredibly enriching and memorable experience. Horizon also aims to raise the profile of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics within QMGs and the wider community.

Using high-altitude balloons, we fly our probes far beyond the breathable atmosphere of the troposphere and out into the blackness of the stratosphere.

Other Clubs and Societies

Chess Club
Extra-Curricular sports
Maths Clubs
Economics and Politics Society
Wellbeing Group
MEDSoc
Skiffle Group
Homework Club
Board Game Club (Y7)

DT Enrichment
History Society
Student Investor Challenge
Judge Denison Debate and
Public Speaking Society
Book Club
QM Scholar lectures
Alumni Careers Meets
Art Club

and many more...

Farchynys

Farchynys, the school's Welsh Centre, is located on the stunning Mawddach Estuary in southern Snowdonia with views over to Cadair Idris. Purchased for the school in 1963, it has been a centre for adventure and learning in a contrasting setting for the past 50 years.

All year 7 students visit Farchynys in the summer of their first year in a series of trips with other members of their form group. These "Learning to Learn" weeks form an end to the year when students learn about learning in other contexts and about working with each other. Typical activities include visits to Harlech Castle, a local slate mine, a trip to the nearby Blue Lake and creating their own meal one evening.

In December 2016, the Headmaster was pleased to announce the purchase of two further properties on the Farchynys estate – the Barn (pictured right) and the Cottage. These purchases, mainly enabled through very generous donations, have ensured that the expanding school is safeguarded in the use of the facility for future generations of Marians.



Left you will see pictured Paul Christopher Walton, Old Boy of the school and author of "Marians on the Mawddach".

His book retells the story of QM's intertwined history with the Mawddach Estuary.

The Wider QM Community



Queen Mary's Club

For all ex-pupils of Queen Mary's Grammar School

Once a Marian, always a Marian!

When students leave QM, they never fully detach from the school because they automatically become part of the Queen Mary's Club, the QMC.

The QMC runs events throughout the year to support the school and to foster community between the alumni. Indeed the QMC played a crucial role in securing funds for our Farchynys expansion programme. Similarly, the QM Alumni are fantastic at supporting our GCSE and A Level students in career choices through attending careers fairs and even providing mock interview practice.

The QMA

The Queen Mary's Association is our parents' association. Without their fundraising efforts, QM students would miss out on a range of opportunities.

In recent years, the QMA have funded 3D printers, cardio-vascular equipment for the new gym and kitchen equipment for Farchynys.

The QMA focuses on running three events each year; Family Fireworks in November, a Burns' Night Dinner in January and a summer festival.



The Mercian Trust

Life to the full in the business of education



A NEW MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Queen Mary's Grammar School is a proud founding member of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This is a group of schools working together under a common banner and an over-arching structure of governance. The Schools are: Aldridge School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, Queen Mary's High School, Shire Oak Academy and Walsall Studio School. Each school retains its autonomy, will be the custodian of its heritage, distinct identity and successful operation.

The name of the new Trust, the Mercian, was chosen because it is both rooted in history and expresses a geographical identity and ambition. Mercia was an ancient kingdom comprising Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and, crucially for us, what we now call the Black Country. It was in Mercia that St Chad established an association of small monasteries which fostered unity through *bonds of kinship*. We intend, a thousand years later, to adopt the same spirit in our approach to a Multi-Academy Trust.

The MAT's ethos and approach reflect the diverse nature of the schools. Our schools prepare students to enjoy life to the full by inspiring them to:

- Realise their full potential as learners
- Thrive in the world of work
- Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community

The Trust fully respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, fosters strengths greater than the sum of its parts. It provides a framework for sharing expertise and enthusiasm.