



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, July 2021

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### First word

July sees the end of another school year, but one truly like no other. In 2019-20, we were denied the last 5 months of normal operations, but 2020-21 has seen a year of restrictions and operational challenge. I am proud of the way staff and students have faced up to this difficulty and have been pleased to read the many academic and extra-curricular good news stories in reviewing reports and grades over the past couple of weeks. The School's [Twitter account](#) is full of examples of the QM experience coming back and we hope that we can re-launch this in earnest in September. We find great strength as humans in overcoming adversity and I am committed to us coming back stronger. I have shared the following quote with the School in assembly this week, from the Swiss-American psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross:

*"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen."*

### Staff farewells

We say goodbye to a small number of staff this year.

Miss Wei has worked with the Mandarin department as a support teacher through the British Council for the past two years and returns to China at the end of her term. I know that Mrs Wang has appreciated her input and hard work in supporting the MEP and we wish her well for the future.

Mrs Davies is relocating and leaves her role as a SEND administrative assistant. Mrs Youngman writes: *"Mrs Davies joined the SEND team in January 2020. Since day one, she has helped us get organised, set up meetings and be the contact between the different people involved in the SEND provision plus lots more. Her commitment to our team has been much appreciated and she will be greatly missed. I wish her all the best as she makes a move to Somerset."*

Miss Bahra joined the English department September and has been a steadying presence in a time of change and upheaval. She has worked quietly and well with her groups, showing real commitment to students' learning across KS3 and 4. Mr Fadden says that the department have especially valued Miss Bahra's investment in the department's diversity agenda and her clear passion for wider reading. She leaves us with our very best wishes for the future.

Finally, Miss Richards ends her second stint at the school to re-train in educational psychology. Mr Reynolds writes: *"We are sad to see Miss Richards move onto pastures new. As we know, Miss Richards wholeheartedly gives her everything to help others; whether it is intellectual curiosity, school clubs and performances or the wellbeing and safety of others. Always ready to help out and take on new challenges, Miss Richards' 'fizz' will be missed by colleagues and pupils alike. We wish her well in her new adventures, which as you would expect, is focused on helping others- truly generous in approach"*.

### **End of term/beginning of term arrangements**

Term finishes at 2pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July for the summer break (1pm sign out for Year 12). Details of the results days can be found on the [School website](#) for those in Years 9, 11, 12 and 13.

In summary, the key dates for next term are:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September | Staff training day; no students in school   |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September   | Staff training day; Year 12 induction; Year 7 event for those not attending the summer school |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September   | Year 7 and 12 induction; Year 8 in school, along with some invited Year 11s                   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September  | All students in school (8.45am start)   |

The Heads of Year 7, 8 11 and 12 will be writing to parents separately this week with the specific arrangements for these groups on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Covid-19 controls**

As reported in the [press](#) last week, the current system of controls are to finish at the end of term. The DfE have released [guidance for parents](#), setting out the arrangements for September. We expect to return to the pre March 2020 arrangements, in terms of start/finish times, lunch and teaching arrangements. I will write to all parents at the end of August to confirm this and to set out details for the lateral flow testing, which we are required to do.

I strongly encourage that all students continue with their home lateral flow testing over the summer break, in readiness for the new term. Spare kits can be sourced in school.

### **Innovate caterers**

The Mercian Trust have recently awarded the catering contract to the Innovate group. I attach an introductory flyer and more information will follow in the new term, including updates to the School website.

### **Queen Mary's Observer (QMO)**

I attach the end-of-year QMO, which has been overseen by Mr Kolaric and written by a group of students. It is heartening to see such a range of key issues being addressed in a liberal and thoughtful way. I am grateful to all who have played a part in putting it together.

### **New Online Payment System - Parentmail**

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

We transferred student data over to our new parent online payment system in the week commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. 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. As of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July and payments will be made through the new system.

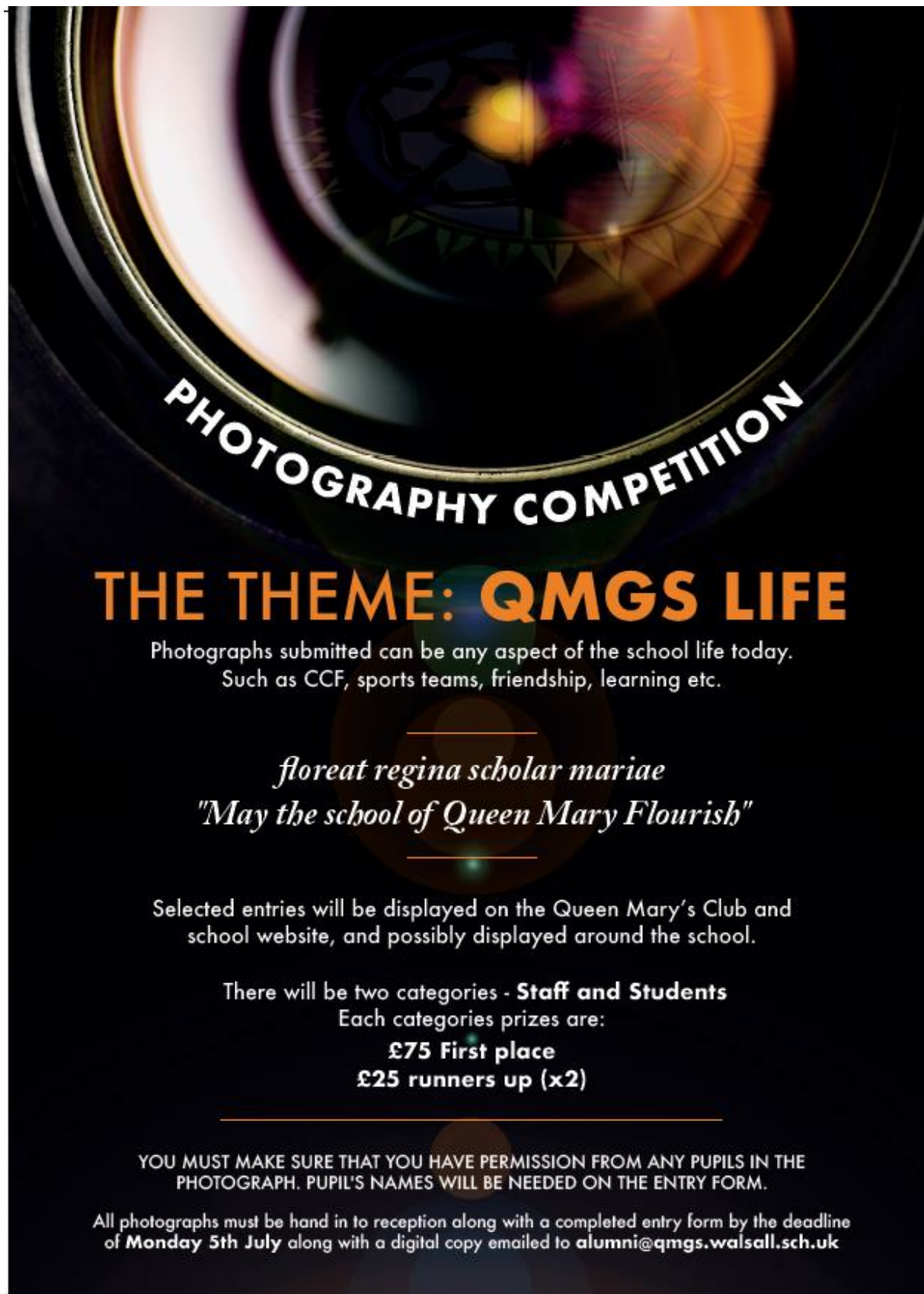
If you have any difficulty registering or have any queries on the system please ring or email our Finance support team 01922 211389 [Finance@the.merciantrust.org](mailto:Finance@the.merciantrust.org).

### **National Express flyer**

I have included a flyer for discounted travel at the end of this newsletter, which may be of use for next term.

## Photography competition

We have extended the deadline of the photography competition (see below) and it would be a great use of the summer break to gather entries. Please email the alumni email address (below) with any queries.



**PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

# THE THEME: QMGS LIFE

Photographs submitted can be any aspect of the school life today.  
Such as CCF, sports teams, friendship, learning etc.

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*floreat regina scholar mariae*  
*"May the school of Queen Mary Flourish"*

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Selected entries will be displayed on the Queen Mary's Club and school website, and possibly displayed around the school.

There will be two categories - **Staff and Students**  
Each categories prizes are:  
**£75 First place**  
**£25 runners up (x2)**

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YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE PERMISSION FROM ANY PUPILS IN THE PHOTOGRAPH. PUPIL'S NAMES WILL BE NEEDED ON THE ENTRY FORM.

All photographs must be hand in to reception along with a completed entry form by the deadline of **Monday 5th July** along with a digital copy emailed to [alumni@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:alumni@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)



### **Walsall Summer Holiday Activities Programme.**

Walsall Council is running a Walsall Right for Children Summer Holiday Programme which will provide free meals and activities for children eligible for free school meals and their families across Walsall. The programme will provide eligible child/ren with access to fun and free Holiday Club activities and online resources to engage with during the Summer Holiday. You can find more information on the programme on our website: [https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_young\\_people/haf\\_signup](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup) The Summer Activities Programme booklet which provides an overview of the activities children and young people aged 5-16 can benefit from. If you think you are eligible and you would like your child to have access you can email [WR4C@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:WR4C@walsall.gov.uk) or ring our Holiday Activity helpline on 01922 653899 (Monday – Friday 10:00-4:00pm)

### **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 have sent out end of term grades and reports via this system over the past couple of weeks.

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](mailto: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](mailto:well-being@qmg.walsall.sch.uk) or by using the QR code below using the holidays.

This account is monitored by the SEMH team and will be checked periodically during the summer break:

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

I also attach some resources from Kooth at the end of this message.





Easyfundraising:

Currently £3,471.80 raised with 247 supporters.

ONE supporter has raised a magnificent £421.28 thus far. Just imagine what we could raise if every household signed up, and used, Easyfundraising. It would help us to provide even more opportunities and facilities for our young people. Please support this initiative which does not cost you anything as it is the retailers who donate on your behalf based upon the amount that you spend with them.

*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 all your support throughout the year. I have written to all parents over the past week promoting the School's *Lift Fund* and I hope that you can contribute towards this to enable us to run as a wide a range of activities as we possibly can next year. We will also be actively recruiting for the Queen Mary's Association (QMA) and hope to run a full range of events. Watch this space and let us know if you would like to be involved.

I hope that you have a restful and energising summer break.

Regards



**Richard Langton**

Headmaster

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



## Your free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community

Whether you are looking for advice or simply aren't feeling your best, Kooth offers a range of features and tools to support you.

### Magazine

Helpful articles, personal experiences and tips from young people and our Kooth team.

### Chat with the team

Chat to our helpful team about anything that's on your mind. Message us or have a live chat.

### Discussion boards

Start or join a conversation with our friendly Kooth community. Lots of topics to choose from!

### Daily journal and goal setting

Write in your own daily journal to track your feelings or emotions and reflect on how you're doing.

### Mini activity hub

Select from a growing menu of fun, therapeutic and useful activities.



## How to sign up

- 1 Head to **Kooth.com**
- 2 Click on the **'Join Kooth'** button on the homepage.
- 3 Choose your **area** and **location** from the drop down menu.
- 4 Select the **year** and **month** you were born.
- 5 Click on the **gender**, **ethnicity** and **background** that most closely describes you.
- 6 Create an **anonymous username** and secure **password**.
- 7 Let us know how you found out about Kooth from the drop down menu.
- 8 Select **Next Step** to complete your registration!

## Where to find us



[kooth.com](https://kooth.com)



[@Kooth\\_UK](https://www.instagram.com/kooth_uk)



[Kooth\\_UK & Kooth Podcast](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DX0XUf1h2Dgk1)



[Kooth-Podcast](https://www.kooth.com/podcast)

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with a Term Plus pass

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**£5 OFF\***

WITH CODE  
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About Term Plus bus passes



Plan your journey to school by bus



Travelling with us

[nxbus.co.uk/wm-intake](https://nxbus.co.uk/wm-intake)



\*£5 off code only valid for direct debit and one term tickets.  
Offer valid until 31st August 2021, online only.

national  
express **West Midlands**