



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, September 2021

First word

Although it has been a very intense start to the new school year, it has been great to see everyone back, embracing their lessons and co-curricular activities. To hear the music practices, see the CCF parades and view the sporting successes via the [Twitter account](#) have been a real tonic. We have welcomed back school assemblies for the first time in 18 months and it has been really valuable to bring everyone back together. I have spoken a lot about re-launching the QM experience and about our re-established School values, which can be viewed on our [website](#). We welcomed our alumni to the school for a fabulous dinner last Saturday and look forward to Speech Day on October 21st (more on that to follow).

We have run a number of information evenings for those year groups where we haven't had a chance previously to meet the parents. If you have missed these, the presentations can be found below:

[Year 12](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 7](#)

Covid update

As with all Schools, we have experienced some positive Covid cases in the School community this term, but are following the national guidelines and liaising with the local public health team. The main control measures in school continue to be:

1. An encouragement to continue with regular **lateral flow testing** – spares can be requested from school
2. **Ensure good hygiene for everyone** - wipes in classrooms, regular hand washing, promoting good respiratory hygiene
3. **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes** – we are maintaining a daytime cleaner
4. **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated** – please continue to keep windows and doors open. Promote the principle of 'Think outside' to students, in terms of their movement between lessons and where they are at break time
5. **Follow public health advice** on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 – details are included in this document and both staff and students should not attend school if they are showing signs and symptoms of Covid-19

Please do continue to keep us informed on cases and follow the [School's guidance](#).

Guidance for parents and carers on the vaccination programme for young people aged 12 to 15

This autumn, all young people aged 12 to 15 are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Public Health England has updated its [page of resources for young people and their families](#) with [answers to some frequently asked questions](#).

I have also attached a letter from the Public Health Team from Walsall Council and more information will follow when we have this

16 and 17 year olds can now use the online booking service for their COVID-19 vaccine

The Department of Health and Social Care announced on Friday 24 September that all 16 and 17 year olds can now book their first COVID-19 vaccination appointment [online](#).

Young people aged 16 and 17 can:

- [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#) for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) to get vaccinated without needing an appointment

If students cannot book appointments online, they can call 119 free of charge. They can speak to a translator if they need to. Further information can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Traffic and parking around the School

I have written extensively in the past to parents in bid to encourage sensible driving and parking around the School. With the full return of the school in September, it has inevitably been busy, but it is disappointing to see many drivers not listening to my requests to take account of others. In particular, we have observed:

- **Dangerous driving** – in the form of speeding and U turns down the length of the Sutton Road
- **Inconsiderate parking** – particularly around driveways and on private property. We have received lots of feedback from residents, for example in the access road at the bottom of the Sutton Road and at the flats on the corner of Sutton Road and Princes Avenue

We have engaged with Walsall Police and the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers, who can issue Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences relating to Traffic Regulation Orders, you may have seen an increased presence of the Enforcement Officers around the school; this will continue. I have spoken to the students about encouraging you to make different choices, such as:

- Dropping the students further away from school
- Using public transport
- Walking or cycling

Please work with us on this to make the environment around the school a safer place.

Women's Tour international cycling event – Tue 5 Oct

Walsall will welcome Stage 2 of the Women's Tour international cycling event on Tuesday 5th October 2021. The Women's Tour is the UK's first international stage race for women, bringing the world's top riders to compete in Great Britain as a part of the UCI Women's World Tour. Up to 100 elite riders will be competing in the event including 2021 Olympic time trial champion, Annemiek van Vleuten.

The race will start from Walsall Arboretum at approximately 11.30am and head out onto a closed 10km circuit around the Barr Beacon area. The riders will complete 10 laps of the circuit before returning to the town centre for the finish along Lichfield Street before approximately 3pm. The stage will cover a ride distance totalling 103 kilometres.

I have included at the end of this email some details of road closures which will be in operation on the day.

School contact details

We kindly request that you use the relevant email address when communicating with the school, details can be found on [the school website](#).

CT Policing and 'Netmums' partner in an effort to raise awareness of online radicalisation.

Young people are spending more and more time online and Counter Terrorism Policing are seeing younger and younger children being exposed to extreme material and views. Here in the UK, children as young as 12 have been targeted and groomed into supporting extremist ideologies.

That's why CT Policing's advice line and safeguarding Prevent website [actearly.uk](#) is aimed at family and friends to encourage them to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to

radicalisation. To promote the new website and advice line to parents, CT Policing has partnered with [Netmums.com](https://www.netmums.com), to encourage them to have radicalisation on their radar in the same way they do with other online harms. This partnership focuses on supporting the work of Prevent bringing transparency around the programme and the support available. It includes content for parents to learn about the dangers, spotting signs and to help protect their children from the potential risk of online radicalisation. You can read all of the useful articles, tips and information on the dedicated [Netmums ACT Early hub](#) and even read the [live Q&A](#), where parents ask Prevent related questions.

For more information about ACT Early, please visit www.actearly.uk or contact nctphq.comms@met.police.uk.

CT Policing's key messages to parents:

- Have a conversation with your children about the potential risks of radicalisation as you do about other harms like drugs, sexting and child sexual exploitation. Find out more by visiting actearly.uk.
- Protect your child by finding out about extremism and radicalisation and help make them more resilient to potential risks.
- Find out how to make your child digitally savvy to help protect them
- Not all children are vulnerable to radicalisation but some are and every parent needs to know the potential risks and what to look out for.
- If you are concerned act early and seek advice from the advice line on 0800 011 3764.
- We are here to help and to listen. They will not be wasting our time. The earlier they tell us their worries, the quicker we can get the person they care about the help they need to protect them from being groomed and radicalised. Most cases they issues will be unconnected to radicalisation and the support will be provided by other partners.

Niall Markham,
Prevent Coordinator, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council,
Walsall Prevent Webpage: <https://www.saferwalsallpartnership.co.uk/prevent>

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.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 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)



Microsoft Teams – Weekly Assignment Summary

Queen Mary's Grammar School is now using Microsoft Teams to communicate pupil homework. This provision will help parents and guardians stay in the loop with regards to their child's work. All teachers this academic year will be setting work via Microsoft Teams; some work will require online submission and other work via paper submission in class (instructions will be made clear in each assignment).

Each weekend the priority 1 parent will receive an email that outlines all work that is due in by teachers for both the previous week and the upcoming week (Note: The assignments visible in the summary will only show work for the weeks that they are due in and will not show assignments from weeks behind nor weeks into the future). With every 'Weekly Assignment Summary', assignments from the previous week will indicate either if the student has completed their work with a tick or if the student has yet to complete the work with an exclamation mark. Please see a preview of the 'Assignment Summary' below:

It should be noted that although the system only allows us to send the information to one parent the other parent can easily check what assignments are outstanding by asking the student to login to teams. Clicking assignments on the left will then bring up a list of all outstanding assignments for you to view with your child.

Weekly Assignment Summary

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Here's a summary of assignment updates for from last week and a peek at upcoming due dates.

Previous week: August 23 - August 29

Turned in ✓ 1 Not turned in ! 3

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 1

R Lally

- 1- Introduction to Python
Not turned in • Due August 28 !
- 5- Review your knowledge
Not turned in • Due August 28 !
- 2- Working with data
Turned in • Due August 29 ✓

Coming up: August 30 - September 5

Assignments created before Sunday, August 30, 2020. More may be added

August 30

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 2 • R Lally

Ready to Learn Python

August 31

SMcP French Y9 2019-20 • S McPHEE

Assigned work w/c 13th July

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 1 • R Lally

3- If Statements

September 1

GCSE history preparation Sept 2020 • R REYNOLDS

Summer preparation booklet Germany

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 2 • R Lally

Python - Selection

Queen Mary's Association

Thank you to all those parents who have signed up to help the different QMA committees. We are looking forward to hosting our full range of events this year:

Sat 4 Dec 2021	Tastes of the World
Sat 22 Jan 2022	Burns Night
Sat 25 Jun 2022	Summer Ball

Each event has a committee to run it and we have a separate group who manage the running of the bar. We also have a separate group to support Farchynys. If you are interested in supporting the work of the QMA, please contact Judy McCoy (alumni officer) at: alumni@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk



Easyfundraising:

Currently £3,584.96 raised with 250 supporters.

One supporter has raised a magnificent £434.32 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 your support and communications as we try and re-establish the normal working routines of the school. I look forward to seeing you during the year.

Regards



Richard Langton
Headmaster
Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

Women's Tour international cycling event – Tue 5 Oct – road closures

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES SCHEDULE

WALSALL TOWN CENTRE

Arboretum Road	To its junction with A4148 Broadway North (Expected to be closed between the hours of 0830 and 1130)
Lichfield Street	From its junction with The Arboretum junction to its junction with Bridge Street (Expected to be closed between the hours of 0500 and 1900)
Bridge Street (Upper)	From its junction with Ablewell Street to its junction with Ablewell Street (including for limited periods the junctions of Lower Rushall Street and Upper Rushall Street) (Expected to be closed between the hours of 1300 and 1530)
Ablewell Street	From its junction with Bridge Street to its junction with Springhill Road. (Expected to be closed between the hours of 1300 and 1500)
Springhill Road	From its junction with Ablewell Street to its junction with Birmingham Road. (Expected to be closed between the hours of 1300 and 1500)

Including all side roads and accesses at their junction with the above

10 KILOMETRE ALDRIDGE / BARR BEACON CIRCUIT

Expected to be closed between the hours of 1030 and 1400

A454 Walsall Road	From its junction with A454 Aldridge Road / A454 Walsall Road Roundabout to its junction with B4154 Bosty Lane / A454 Walsall Road
B4154 Bosty Lane	From its junction with A454 Walsall Road to its junction with Barr Common Road
B4154 Barr Common Road	From its junction with B4154 Bosty Lane to its junction Erdington Road
Erdington Road	From its junction with Little Hardwick Road to its junction with B4151 Foley Road West
Aldridge Road	From its junction with the B4151 Beacon Hill / B4151 Foley Road East / Aldridge Road Roundabout to its junction with Bridle Lane
Bridle Lane	From its junction with Aldridge Road to its junction with B4154 Beacon Road
B4154 Beacon Road	From its junction with Bridle Lane to its junction with B4151 Beacon Hill
Little Johnsons Lane	From its junction with B4154 Beacon Road to its junction with B4151 Sutton Road
B4151 Sutton Road	From its junction with B4154 Beacon Road to its junction with Longwood Lane
Longwood Lane	From its junction with B4151 Sutton Road to its junction with A454 Aldridge Road

Including all side roads and accesses at their junction with the above

ROLLING ROAD CLOSURES

A4148 Broadway North	From its junction with Arboretum Road to its junction with A4148 Littleton Street East (including all approaches to The Arboretum junction)
Lichfield Street	From its junction with A4148 Littleton Street East to its junction with A461 Lichfield Street
A454 Mellish Road	From its junction with Lichfield Street to its junction with Aldridge Road
A454 Aldridge Road	From its junction with A454 Mellish Road to its junction with Longwood Lane
B4151 Sutton Road	From its junction with Longwood Lane to its junction with A4148 Broadway North
Sutton Road	From its junction with A4148 Broadway North to its junction with Springhill Road

Including all side roads and accesses at their junction with the above