



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, January 2022

First word

It is my first chance to say Happy New Year to the school community! Although the Christmas holiday seems like some time ago, I hope that it was time to rest and re-charge. It has been a busy start to term, with Year 13 mocks, Year 11 Academic Reviews and all the usual co-curricular activities that can be seen on the School's [Twitter account](#). We aren't able to run the postponed Speech Day activities this week with large audiences, so are making arrangements to record the different aspects on Friday. This includes musical performances, speeches and prize giving from the academic year 2020-21, which we will make available digitally in due course.

Covid – important information

Please do continue to follow our [guidance](#) on reporting cases and let us know if you have any questions. In particular please note:

- LFT testing is for asymptomatic cases, a positive LFT does not require a follow-up PCR test
- All LFTs need to be registered within 24 hours on the Government [website](#); you will then receive a Notification
- PCR testing is for symptomatic cases, you will receive a Notification
- Both LFT and PCR Notifications need to be emailed to enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk within 24 hours

We have updated our [risk assessment](#) in line with the national changes to guidance. Whilst staff and students need no longer wear face coverings in classrooms, we have been advised that they should continue to do so in communal indoor areas for the time being. I have attached a letter from the Director of Public Health with this email for your attention. Our remote learning statement is available on our [website](#). This sets our expectations if students are absent from school.

English initiatives and library newsletter

There have been a wide range of opportunities advertised recently from the [English department](#). I have included a flyer at the end of this newsletter, setting out the Orwell Youth Prize writing competition. The student team behind the library newsletter have released their most recent [edition](#) and I have very much enjoyed seeing the whole school reaction to the Friday form time reading sessions. Please take the time to speak to your son or daughter about what they are reading.

Lower School Music Concert

The music department are organising a Lower School Music Concert on Thursday 10th February featuring pupils from years 7-9. This will take place in the School Hall starting at 7.30 pm; tickets will be limited to ensure covid safety. Tickets are £3.50 available on line through this [link](#):

Careers and work experience

We are continually looking to expand our offering of work experience and careers links. If you are able to offer any input, or particularly a placement for a Year 12 student in the summer of 2022, please contact Mr Sunley via the CEIAG@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk address. If you are a parent of a Year 12 student, please do encourage them to follow up on the information given out in school about signing up for their placements.

Absences for appointments

May I remind parents/carers, as per the [Attendance Policy](#), the below process for absences relating to appointments during the school day:

- Medical appointments should be arranged outside of school time wherever possible
- The school must be notified a minimum of 3 days in advance of any medical appointment that have been made. Without this prior notification the absence will be marked as unauthorised
- This notification should be sent to absences@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk with a copy of the appointment notification
- If you are attending the appointment from school you are required to collect your child from Reception and sign them out using the Exeat Book, you will need to sign them back in on their return
- If the appointment is before school you are required to accompany your child back into school and sign the Exeat Book
- Parents are not allowed to drive onto the school site, please park off site legally and with consideration for local residents
- Parents need to ensure that their child is aware of what time he/she is being collected. The student will be responsible for making their way to Reception so that they are ready for collection when you arrive to sign them out.

Home-school agreement and MS Form

We wrote to parents at the end of November, highlighting that we have made some changes to the Home-School agreement. The new document is available on the [school website](#). If you haven't already done so, please complete the [MS form](#) as your part of this agreement.

Traffic and parking around the School

Please continue to work with us in making the school environment a safer place. In particular, please consider the following:

- Not undertaking dangerous manoeuvres (such as U-turns or overtaking) on Sutton Road or surrounding streets
- Not parking inconsiderably near to resident driveways
- Not using access roads or resident only parking areas
- Dropping the students further away from school
- Encouraging the student to use public transport
- Walking or cycling; a helmet must be worn when cycling and students should make sure they are fully visible (through lights and clothing) in the winter months

Queen Mary's Association

It was with a heavy heart that we had to cancel the Burns night event last weekend. Thank you for all the support given towards the raffle, which has raised £2500 for the QMA funds. The draw was made on Monday 24th January and prize winners have been contacted.

The remaining events are:

Sat 19 Mar 2022	Taste of the World (rescheduled from December)
Sat 25 Jun 2022	Summer Ball

Thank you to all those parents who have signed up to help the different QMA committees at the beginning of this year. 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 Also, please contact us if you can provide a good quality raffle prize for any of the events. Please see p4 of this newsletter for information on the Easyfundraising initiative.

SIMS Parentapp

The majority of school communication, including Reports, is sent by email and Parent App so it is crucial that you keep your contact details updated. Please check your account and ensure you can access it. If you have any access issues please email parentapp@qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk for assistance.

Performing arts sessions

Please see the attached flyer for the M3 Performing Arts group, who will be hiring the school facilities later in the school year.

Mental health and Wellbeing

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

This account is monitored by the SEMH team and is checked regularly:

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



Key dates for your diary

Thu 3 Feb Year 12 futures evening
Thu 10 Feb Lower School Music Concert
Thu 17 Feb Year 9 parents' evening
Fri 18 Feb Break up for half term at 3.40pm
Mon 28 Feb Term starts

Regards and thank you for your support



Richard Langton

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall



We have currently raised £3813.07, from 266 supporters. The top 4 supporters have raised £1303.35 between them!

One supporter has raised a magnificent £423.63 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.
- There are big donations on travel bookings. A small selection is below but there are many more:
 - Trainline 2.5%
 - Travelodge 2%
 - Haven Holidays 2.5%
 - Booking.Com 4%
 - Crystal Ski Holidays 0.5%
 - TUI 2%
 - First Choice 1.5%
- 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!

THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE 2022

COMING UP FOR AIR: WRITING THE CLIMATE CRISIS



— George Orwell, *Coming Up for Air* —
We're
all stifling
at the bottom of
a dustbin, but I'd
found the way
to the top.

Write in response to

'COMING UP FOR AIR: WRITING THE CLIMATE CRISIS'

Journalism, essays, short stories, blog posts, poems, and plays are all welcome. We've also introduced a game design category! How you respond to this year's theme is your choice.

FINAL DEADLINE: FRIDAY 3RD JUNE 2022

FEEDBACK DEADLINE: FRIDAY 22ND APRIL 2022

www.orwellyouthprize.co.uk

#comingupforair

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