



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, February 2022

First word

It doesn't seem too long since my last update, but it has been a busy few weeks and it was great to experience live musical performance with the lower school soloist's concert; thanks to Mr Vause and the team and well done to all performers. I had the pleasure of taking the U13B team for their fixture last Saturday and it was great to see so many parents in attendance. I can't claim any credit for the 18 tries the boys ran in: it was a team effort, and the product of lots of hard work that they and all the other sports teams and associated staff have been putting in. There are lots of picture and results, as usual, on the School's [Twitter account](#), along with the usual array of school events, including the CCF being back at Farchynys.

Another highlight of the month was the Mental Awareness week, organised by Mrs McPhee. The quality of the sessions was excellent and I would particularly draw the attention of parents to the work of the [Charlie Waller Memorial Trust](#) and the [Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation](#) in particular. I have included on the last page of this newsletter a flyer for an English department writing competition and there are lots of other activities for the students to get involved with.

QMA Taste of the World Event – Saturday 19th March 2022

It is my pleasure to confirm that the event will be running on 19th March. Tickets purchased for the original date are still valid, but additional tickets can be bought [here](#). Join us for a night of family fun!

Queen Mary's Association

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@qmg.s.walsall.sch.uk Also, please contact us if you can provide a good quality raffle prize for any of the events. Please see p6 of this newsletter for information on the Easyfundraising initiative.

The Queen Mary's Association are delighted to present...

TASTE OF THE WORLD

NEW DATE Saturday 19th March 2021, 6-9pm

India, Nigeria, Philippines, Italy

"Ultimate Bhangra" Dancing Performance
Performances from the Mandarin Excellence Programme
Cultural games
Open Mic Talent Competition
And more...

Tickets can be bought via Ticket Source (see QR code) with prices as follows:

Under 18s & QMGs students: £5
Adults: £15
Family: (2 adults, 2 children) : £35

Prices include entry, entertainment and food from each stall (Philippine, Nigerian, Indian, Italian). There will also be a desserts and drinks stall with a licensed bar, for an additional fee.

Celebrating The Flavours And Diversity Of QMGs

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.

Y10 Entrepreneurs Day, Tuesday 24th May 2022

We are looking for parents with an entrepreneurial background to be part of an event in May. This will be aimed at Year 10 and 12 Business students and will involve a series of talks and workshops. Mr Sunley is keen to hear from you and can be reached via CEIAG@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk

Staff vacancies

We currently have a number of non-teaching staff vacancies, which can be viewed on the [website](#). These include an alumni and fundraising development officer, which would appeal to people with a range of backgrounds. We will also be shortly advertising for some part time exams and data assistants.

Covid – important information

Please do continue to follow our [guidance](#) on reporting cases and let us know if you have any questions. 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. We do expect these arrangements to change after half term and will communicate this when any announcements are made.

Curriculum updates and information

We have updated all curriculum pathways for each key stage and these can be accessed via the school [website](#). Please take the time to discuss these documents with your child.

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.

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@qmgs.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.

Ofqual message from the Chief Regulator to all students taking exams in 2022

Dear students,

In my job as Chief Regulator of qualifications I get to meet many students, teachers and parents from different parts of the country. Speaking to students like you, who are getting ready for formal exams and assessments, it's clear to me that you want life to get back to normal and that you would like as much certainty about what is going to happen as possible. For that reason the exam boards have published for you 'advance information' on their websites. This is subject by subject, specification by specification, specific outlines of the focus of questions across many of your summer exams. [We've added a tool on our website which shows you what is available for each subject.](#)

These materials are just one of the ways we are working to make sure that, despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, your exams and formal assessments are less daunting. You will also get formulae sheets for GCSE maths exams and updated equation sheets for GCSE physics and combined science exams, so you won't have to memorise as much. As well as advance information and formulae sheets, you will be supported by generous grading, which will provide you with a safety-net to protect you from just missing out on a grade.

We will also publish videos, infographics and other materials to help those of you who have been prevented from ever sitting a formal exam, to know what that feels like.

You can find more information at the following official sources:

- [Rolling update](#)
- [Ofqual blog](#)

Best wishes,

Dr Jo Saxton Ofqual Chief Regulator

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

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.sch.uk for assistance.



WALSALL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY & FOOD PROGRAMME 2022

What's on offer?

A free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals. The programme is running over Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022.

Take part in:

- Holiday clubs
- Multi sports activities
- Football
- Swimming
- Drama
- Arts and crafts
- Cooking
- Graphic design
- Gaming
- and much more...

**Sign up
Now!**



*Funded by the
Department Of Education*

Walsall Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

The HAF programme is for children and young people aged 5 to 16 years who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. Children and young people and their families will be able to access free activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022 holidays. The Department for Education's (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) has provided funding for the scheme.

For more information visit the council [website](#) or you can email to WR4C@walsall.gov.uk

Mental health and Wellbeing

Any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing email address well-being@qmgs.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 17 Feb	Year 9 parents' evening
Fri 18 Feb	Break up for half term at 3.40pm
Mon 28 Feb	Term starts
Thu 10 Mar	Year 7 parents' evening
Thu 17 Mar	Early finish at 2pm for staff CPD
Sat 19 Mar	Taste of the World event
W/B 21 Mar	GCSE English speaking assessments
Thu 24 Mar	Year 8 parents' evening
Thu 24 Mar	Y9 DTP Vaccinations
W/B 28 Mar	Y13 additional mock exams

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



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— 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

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