



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, April 2022

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### First word

I hope that everyone has had a restful Easter. Not much has happened in school since my last update, due to the extended break, but we have lots to look forward to in the summer term, in terms of sporting, music, drama, CCF and educational visits, amongst other opportunities. Mr Kolaric and his team of editors have put together the spring term QM Observer, which can be viewed [here](#).

The full school calendar can be found the [School website](#), but I have included some key dates below, including the internal exam periods:

Thu 5 May	Spring concert	Sat 25 June	QMA Summer ball
Mon 9 May	Y7 Farchynys weeks begin	27-30 June	Sports week
Fri 13 May	Last day for Y11 and 13	Fri 1 July	Wreath Laying
9-13 May	Y10 exams	Fri 1 July	Y12 UCAS day
16-27 May	Y12 exams	Tue 12 July	Sports dinner
Fri 27 May	End of half term	Thu 14 July	Summer concert
Mon 6 June	Start of half term	18-22 July	Army camp
6-10 June	Y9 exams	Tue 19 July	End of term
Thu 9 June	Whole School Open evening	Thu 18 Aug	A-level results day
Thu 16 June	Shakespeare festival	Thu 25 Aug	GCSE results day
Fri 24 June	CCF field day		

### Spring Music Concert

The Spring concert takes place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30 pm in the School Hall. Tickets are priced at £3.50 and are available from this [link](#).

### Speech Day

I am pleased to share the video recording of the Speech Day presentations that took place in January. Please click [here](#) for the full video.

### Lunch balances

Please could we kindly ask you to check your child's lunch money account and ensure that there are enough funds for your child to purchase their lunch daily? There are an increasing number of children who do not have any funds available when going to the canteen tills at break and lunchtime. If there is money owing on these accounts, could we ask that these are paid as soon as possible please. The canteen will be unable to serve your child if there are not sufficient funds on the account this term which could result in your child having to go without snacks or lunch. We obviously want to work together to avoid this situation. If you are having any difficulties with the account or topping up the money, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting the finance department at [finance@the.merciantrust.org](mailto:finance@the.merciantrust.org)

### Covid – important information

Please continue to follow the guidance around self-isolation and communications with the school, which can be found from this [link](#)

## **Lockers**

The school is converting its stock of lockers to be padlock operated rather than key operated. Several lockers were converted during the Easter Break and the remainder will be done in time for the new Academic Year. To secure the lockers, students will need to supply a padlock. We most strongly recommend combination padlocks to avoid the chance of keys being lost.

In order to operate, the shank part of the lock needs to be between 4mm and 7mm diameter, most padlocks will therefore work however miniature luggage locks are unlikely to be sufficient.

Lockers will still shut and can be used without a padlock, but obviously do not then provide secure storage. Students whose lockers have been converted will be asked to return their existing keys. For those who have paid a key deposit this will then be returned, although it may take a little time for this to be processed.

## **Communications – SIMS InTouch**

You may have started receiving emails from Queen Mary's Grammar School [3355404@sims-communications.co.uk](mailto:3355404@sims-communications.co.uk) Please note that this is a new communication method replacing emails from [qmgms@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:qmgms@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk). Please ensure these emails are not blocked or treated as spam/junk

## **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@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:parentapp@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk) for assistance.

## **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@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:CEIAG@qmgms.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@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:CEIAG@qmgms.walsall.sch.uk)

## **QMGMS Breakfast Club**

We are delighted to offer a FREE Breakfast provision in school for our children. The breakfast, which is provided by the National School Breakfast Programme, runs from 8am until 8.30am in the canteen and includes a bagel and a spread.

This will run until the end of the academic year with the hope that it will continue into next year. The National School Breakfast Programme is currently funded by the Department for Education and run by Family Action to support schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day. Family Action is committed to supporting child development, and believe a healthy school breakfast, without barrier or stigma, can set up children to succeed and give them the very best chance to learn. In a normal school year, schools are open just over half the year (taking into account weekends and school holidays). This means even where breakfast is available within school, children are still having breakfast at home almost 50% of the time.

Below you will find tips, ideas, information, recipes, videos and quizzes to make breakfast time an easy part of your morning routine at home.

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/food/breakfast-support/breakfast-at-home/>

### Queen Mary's Association and summer ball

The QMA are proud to announce that the Summer Ball will be going ahead this year on Saturday, 25th June. The theme is a tribute to the roaring 20s and features a live band, games and 3 course dinner. 1920's dress is optional at this formal, adults only event. Doors open at 6:45pm. Guests will enjoy a three-course meal followed by live entertainment provided by 'Killerstream' who will entertain and fill the dance floor with a selection of lively music catering for all tastes. Please click here for [bookings](#).

We hope that, like similar events run by QMGs, this will be an enjoyable evening, giving you the opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents and friends of the school. Tickets are £40 each. Tables seat between 6 and 20 guests. Why not ask friends and relatives to join you? We will endeavour to seat smaller groups with other parents of your child's year or friends at your request. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Sponsorship would be gratefully appreciated towards any part of this event. Please contact Natalia Hill via [enquires@qmg.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquires@qmg.walsall.sch.uk)

We will also be holding a student raffle and non-uniform day in the run up to the event; please look out for raffle tickets and further details.



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.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:alumni@qmg.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.

### **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.

### **Ambitious Youth Network are running autism peer support sessions.**

This network is a space for autistic young people, between the ages of 16-25 to meet other autistic young people, take on new paid opportunities and join the group panels. Please click on this [link](#) for further information.

### **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 and proof of the appointment, the absence will be marked as unauthorised
- This notification should be sent to [absences@qmg.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:absences@qmg.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 Exit 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 Exit 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.

### **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

## **Mental health and Wellbeing**

Any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing email address [well-being@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:well-being@gmgs.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)



Regards and thank you for your support



**Richard Langton**

Headmaster

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



We have currently raised £4128.49, 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!