



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, June 2022

First word

It has been a difficult fortnight in the life of the school, following the tragic news I reported on Friday 17th June. However, I have drawn great strength from the way that the community has come together to support each other. I have stressed the importance of seeking support, if students or staff need it.

Any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing email address 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)



Last week saw the end of the GCSE and A-level exam season and I'm sure the Year 11 and 13 students are looking forward to the summer ahead of them. We look forward to seeing them on their results days in August (see separate details).

There have been a wide range of trips and experiences that are document on our [Twitter](#) account. In particular, I thought the Tweet below from the Farchynys Twitter account summed up what we hope our co-curricular programme achieves: new experiences that challenge students and, through working together, enables them to grow and develop as young people.



24 hour Maths Challenge (Mr Scott and Mr Mitchell)

One of the pillars of the school is 'generous in approach'. It is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches. It is in this spirit that Mr Scott and Mr Mitchell are organising an event 14th July to raise money and give to the cause of Birmingham Children's Hospital. 20 sixth form students are going to take part in a marathon of maths lessons, 24 hours of maths taught by 24 teachers of QMGS.

Maths will be taught from all different perspectives, science, English, History and yet again Mr Langton has agreed to take the hardest of lessons, at 5am. The students are hoping to raise more in this event than in previous years and would like to double the current total, raising more than £3000 for a worthy cause. Many of you will know someone that has been treated at BCH and know first-hand what an amazing charity this is to raise money for. Perhaps you would like to donate some money on the [Justgiving page](#) for the students who are taking part in the event, after all would you sit through 24 maths lessons in a row?

Summer Music Concert (Mr Vause)

Our final music event of the year is our Summer Concert taking place on Thursday 14th July starting at 7.30pm in the school hall. This concert will feature the usual mix of solo and ensemble items from our talented musicians. We do hope that you will be able to join us.

Tickets are available on-line priced at £3.50 each from 'Ticket Source' (children under 10 are free). Please search for Ticket Source and then in the 'find event box' on their home page, enter 'QMGS summer concert'. Alternatively here is the link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-nokralx>

E-Safety and the National online centre (Mrs Round)

We understand keeping up to date with your son or daughter's use of technology can be a challenge. How long should they be spending on their devices? What is safe for them to be doing online? Who are they speaking to? Many parents report feeling that their children know more about how to use electronic devices and the Internet than they do. Please remember you have the parental wisdom! Talking to your child about their online life is important. Don't blame, it is paramount everyone is as open and honest as possible. Finding out what apps they use, playing the games they like with them and discussing their use of social media are all key. Clearly, what is and is not appropriate will vary widely depending on your child's age. As a School we have recently subscribed to the National Online Safety service. This provides us with a range of up-to-date resources and training for students, staff and parents/carers. For parents and carers there are many short training courses, videos and one-page guides that you can access to learn more about e-safety. For example:

- What parents need to know about Discord, TikTok or Snapchat
- Online Safety Course for Parents of 14-18 year olds hosted by Myleene Klass
- Recorded webinars about topical issues such as: Screen Addiction, Online reputation, Age-inappropriate content, The Deep and Dark Web.



Their resources are regularly updated as technology and trends advance. We will be sharing some of the one-page guides through this newsletter throughout the year. This month the guide to Discord has been attached. I would strongly encourage you to **sign up for a free QMGS parent account** via: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/queen-mary-s-grammar-school> to access the full range of parental courses, videos and one-page guides.

You can also download their mobile app for free via both the Apple and Android app store. Simply type in "National Online Safety" and you should see an app with the below logo displayed, during the free sign up you will be asked to search for and select Queen Mary's Grammar School as your host school.

HAF programme

Please see the flyers at the end of this message for Walsall council's Holiday Activities scheme, open to anyone aged 13-16 who qualify for free school meals.

Queen Mary's Association and summer ball

It was with regret that we had to cancel the QMA's summer ball, due to low ticket sales. Thank you to all who supported the non-uniform day and raffle, which raised just over £1500. This has brought the fundraising for the year to over £10,000 and represents a great effort given the ongoing challenges of staging events.

We will be looking to run a full range of events in 2022-23 and we will be seeking opinions on a new format for the summer event. 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 Also, please contact us if you can provide a good quality raffle prize for any of the events. I have also included a summary of the progress made on Easy Fundraising at the end of this email.

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.walsall.sch.uk for assistance. Please send any updates of parental contact details to absences@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

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

27-30 June	Sports week	18-22 July	Army camp
Fri 1 July	Wreath Laying	Tue 19 July	End of term
Fri 1 July	Y12 UCAS day	Thu 18 Aug	A-level results day
Tue 12 July	Sports dinner	Thu 25 Aug	GCSE results day
Thu 14 July	Summer concert		

QMGs Breakfast Club

We have received a large number of students for the FREE Breakfast provision in school since Easter. 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/>

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.

Absences for appointments and religious observance

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@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.
- If you require some absence for the purpose of religious observance, please complete and return the form which is available on the school website via this [link](#)

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

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!



WALSALL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2022

What's on offer?

Free holiday activities for young people aged 13 - 16 years old who are eligible for free school meals. The programme is running over Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022.

Take part in:

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



*Funded by the
Department Of Education*

How to register and book for the 2022 programme?

We will send you a letter in the post with a unique code on, if you are eligible and haven't received one email us at WR4C@walsall.gov.uk.

**To register onto the programme you can visit our website:
www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup
or scan QR code.**

Or call us on 01922 653899

Once you have registered you will be able to book onto activities.



To find out more information visit our website
and sign up to our newsletter:

www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup

