



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, July 2022

First word

We started the academic year, back in September 2021, with optimism of the re-launch of the 'QM experience'. I am delighted, as we reach the end of the summer term, that this has been a resounding success. The amount of activity in the last month of the year alone exemplifies what it is to be a member of the QMGS community. The annual Wreath Laying trip to Westminster Abbey returned in full at the beginning of July, with members of Year 7, the PSLT and staff, being joined by a group of alumni to pay thanks for the foundation of the school.

All members of Year 7 completed their 'learn to learn' weeks at Farchynys, and groups of geographers and cadets have also enjoyed trips to Wales. Sports week was a huge success, the sun has shone for the cricket and over 200 people attended the inaugural sports dinner last Tuesday. Last week also saw the summer music concert, where a wide array of talent was on show. The army section of the CCF head off on annual camp this week and there have been a huge range of other trips and experiences this month, led by staff from the music, art, DT, history, chemistry, English, RPE and Mandarin departments. All of these and more, can be found on the School's [Twitter](#) account. I am grateful to all of the staff who have made these, and other trips, possible during the academic year.

Finally, I am delighted to say that the School has been successful in attaining the 'Wellbeing Award' for schools. After a rigorous process and verification visit, it was really pleasing to hear such positive feedback about the work that goes on in the School around wellbeing. Thank you to all staff, students and parents that were involved in the award.



Staff farewells

We say goodbye to a number of staff this year. Mrs Round joined the school just over 10 years ago, initially as maternity cover, which led onto becoming a permanent teacher at the school and flourished into the Head of Computer Science in 2017. Mrs Round is very much an enthusiastic and passionate teacher who brought a light to the department that has shone across the students and staff. The results in the department have been consistently impressive and she has done a great amount to enhance whole school teaching and learning. Mrs Round leaves us to take up the role of Head of Computer Science at Bromsgrove School, a role where her light will shine as bright as it has here; we wish you the very best for the future!

This year in the Maths department, we are saying goodbye to two members of our talented team, Miss Fahmida and Mr Scott. Mr Scott joined the school the 6 years ago, and has had a tremendously positive effect on the department, and across the school. Running strategies from Growth Mindsets in Mathematics, competitions like the Jaguar Team challenge and creating the maths fundraising annual event of the 24hr Maths challenge. He is moving to Canada; an incredible opportunity for him and his family! Miss Fahmida joined QMGS 5 years ago, with a desire to teach A-Level Maths and Further Maths, something that she has managed to accomplish, this desire continues and her new job in London sees her teaching a timetable of entirely A-Level and Further A-Level Mathematics. Her contributions to the school have been superb, from running a rubix club to taking year 10 pupils to the annual maths feast competitions (winning each one). Whilst working at QM she has also developed a passion for running fitness; this has inspired her to help run the Active Stars for many pupils in KS3 where her dedication and enthusiasm for the school shines through. Good luck Miss Fahmida.

Mr Abbas and Mr Bletcher both joined the PE department in 2019 and have made a big impact on the school, particularly in their coaching and supervision of fixtures. As a hockey and cricket specialist, Mr Abbas has put in countless hours to support the department and we wish him well as he moves onto new challenges in his career. Mr Bletcher has brought a huge amount of experience to the coaching of rugby in the school and the staff, as well as the students, have benefitted from this. Mr Bletcher also set up, and successfully applied for funding to support, the Active Stars programme and this will be a legacy of his time in the school. We wish them both well for the future.

Miss Cheema joined us just over two years ago as a science technician and quickly became part of the team in Biology. She picked up the years of experience from Mrs Diskin and quickly learned the job making handover seamless. At the back end of the pandemic she helped out in other parts of the school and was a vital part of the covid testing team doing the hard work to get students back into school and learning. Her good humour and calm sensible approach will be missed by the teachers and technicians of the whole science department. She has a knack of making molehills out of mountains and never seems stressed or flustered, we'll really miss her.

Miss Hendricks leaves us after 18 months to take up a position as a social worker. The students have benefitted hugely from her caring and nurturing approach as part of the SEMH team in the welfare hub. Joining us at the start of a period of lockdown in January 2021, she has relentlessly worked for the students and we will be sorry to see her go. Miss Hendricks has also been a key person in the School's work around diversity and inclusion and we have moved forward in this area due to her passion and enthusiasm. We wish Miss Hendricks all the best for the future.

Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Neal, who is retiring after two and a half years working on the main reception. Starting just before the beginning of the pandemic, in January 2020, she has been a reliable and calm presence in the school and we will miss her cheerful approach. We wish her well for her retirement.

Mental health and wellbeing

The School closes for summer at 2pm on Tuesday 19th July, but we will continue to monitor our wellbeing support communication channels. 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 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)

24 hour Maths Challenge (Mr Scott and Mr Mitchell)

The event ran on 14th July to raise money and give to the cause of Birmingham Children's Hospital. 24 sixth form students took part in a marathon of maths lessons: 24 hours of maths taught by 24 teachers of QMGs. Maths was taught from all different perspectives. 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](#) in support of the staff and students who took part.

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

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. The dates of the events are:

Saturday 3 December 2022 Taste of the World

Saturday 28 January 2023 Burns night

Saturday 24 June 2023 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 Farchyngs. 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:

18-22 July	Army camp	Mon 5 Sep	Staff training day
Tue 19 July	End of term (at 2pm)	Tue 6 Sep	Y7 and 12 induction day
Thu 18 Aug	A-level results day	Wed 7 Sep	All students in from 8.45am
Thu 25 Aug	GCSE results day		

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.

Purchase of Sportswear 2022/23 (Mrs Hopkinson)

To allow pupils to collect sports kit on their return to school, the School Sports Store will be open every lunch time, between 12.30pm and 2.00pm, for the first week of term in September, as follows:

WEDNESDAY 7 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 11 AND 6 th FORM
THURSDAY 8 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 8
FRIDAY 9 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 7 EXCHANGES
MONDAY 12 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 10
TUESDAY 13 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 9
WEDNESDAY 14 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 9/11 AND 6 th FORM EXCHANGES
THURSDAY 15 th SEPTEMBER	YEAR 8/10 EXCHANGES

Orders need to be placed through the Online Sports store using the following link:

<https://qmgssportsstore.org/>

If you need to make an exchange, please email Mrs Hopkinson at sports-store@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

Catering price changes

Please follow this [link](#) for information on changes to catering prices in September 2022.

Missed vaccinations

If your child has missed their immunisation in school - HPV - DTP/MenACWY, Vaccination UK are holding vaccination sessions in the summer holidays. These will be on an appointment basis.

Please contact the team on 01384 431783 to make an appointment or visit the website for further information: www.schoolvaccination.uk

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@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.
- 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

Final word

I am grateful for your support during the academic year and hope that everyone has a restful summer

Regards



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

