



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, October 2022

First word

I write this in the week of Speech Day and at the end of a very full first half term of the school year. We look forward on Thursday to returning to the traditional Speech Day format of a morning church service and evening celebration. I hope as many parents as possible can join us to hear the reviews of the year from 4.30pm, to enjoy the musical performance and to celebrate with the prize winners. Please do complete the ticket request via the prize winners' letter if you would like to attend. School finishes at 2pm on Thursday for most students, with prize winners and musicians remaining in school for practice. Full details can be found [here](#). We welcome Marian Andrew Peach back to the school for our afternoon seminar and evening address. Andrew left the school in the 1990s and has carved out a successful radio broadcasting career with the BBC and we look forward to hearing his reflections.

October has seen a number of school trips, including the CCF's field day, outward bound at Farchynys, and day trips from the art and geography departments. Students from the MEP programme received national speaking awards in London and there have been some encouraging performances on the sports field from the rugby and hockey teams. The School's [Twitter](#) account has full coverage of the co-curricular activities and I encourage you to take a look.

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

Plans are in full flow for the Taste of the World event and we will be sending out flyers and raffle tickets after half term. If you can help with raffle prizes, event set up or you have catering contacts, please let us know at the school.

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 Prveen Kataria-Raulia (alumni officer) at: alumni@qmgs.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.

Digital transformation

As part of the Mercian Trust's 'Digital Transformation' strategy, we will be undergoing some significant upgrade work to our IT network starting on Friday 25th November and lasting for just over a week. There will be disruption to communication systems and we will communicate with you in full after half term about arrangements. Please note that we will be moving the online Year 12 parents' evening that was scheduled for Thursday 1st December and will communicate the new date in due course.

Home School Agreement 2022-23

Please see the [website](#) for our Home-School Agreement and link to student consent. I would appreciate you taking the time to read this with your child and completing the MS Form to confirm that you have done so.

Cost of living support

We are very aware of the current economic challenges and want to support our families as much as possible. Mrs Youngman sets out two initiatives below and parents can view other resources both on our [website](#) and through [Walsall council](#).

QMGs Bagels for Breakfast (Mrs Youngman)

As a school, we have linked up with Family Action and the National Breakfast Programme so we are able to provide a free bagel every morning in the canteen between 8am and 8.30am to any student who would like one. They don't need to register for this; just turn up!

DT voluntary contributions

A letter has recently gone to all students in Years 7-9, along with those who have opted to study Design Technology at GCSE or A-level. We rely upon parental contributions (above our core budget) to be able offer the full range of curriculum and co-curricular opportunities in DT. Please follow this [link](#) for the letter and information on how to contribute.

Homework club

Homework club is running again this term, on a Monday-Thursday. More information can be found on the School's [website](#).

Mental health and wellbeing

The School continues to support staff and students with their wellbeing through the usual 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 Burgess (SEMH mentor)
- Mrs Mohan (6th Form Operations Manager)



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 for the next month:

Thu 20 Oct	Speech Day (finish for half term)
Mon 31 Oct	Return to school
Thu 24 Nov	Sixth form open evening
Fri 25 Nov	School closed, digital transformation starts
Thu 1 Dec	Year 12 parents' evening (this will now be moved to the Spring term)
Sat 3 Dec	Taste of the World event
Fri 16 Dec	End of term

National Online Safety Centre

The School are now signed up to the National Online Safety Centre. Mr Lally recently [wrote to parents](#) about how you can create an account. We will be sending out regular updates on specific E-safety matters.

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

I recently wrote to parents with regards to traffic around the school site. This letter can be found [here](#).

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 hope that you have a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you in school for events after the holiday.

Regards



Richard Langton
Headmaster
Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

We have currently raised £4,655.68, from 270 supporters. The top 4 supporters have raised £1303.35 between them!

One supporter has raised a magnificent £514.12 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

