



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, September 2022

First word

As we approach the end of September, the summer feels a long way in the past, but it has been a busy and purposeful start to term. The School's [Twitter](#) account is full of exciting activities and achievements on the sports field, through the CCF, in music and in the various departments. If you haven't seen it, please also have a look at the summer edition of the [Queen Mary's Observer](#). We welcome those who have joined in in Year 7 and 12 and I have spoken to the students about being the best version of themselves this year and making the most of the QM experience. We have been delighted to welcome into school parents from across the different year groups for information events this month and we look forward to seeing you more during the year. Resources from the Year 7, 10 and 12 information evenings, along with the RSE evening, can be found on the [school website](#).

Home School Agreement 2021-22

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!

Sixth Form Bursary Information (Mrs Youngman)

QMGs believes everyone should have access to an outstanding education. Our bursaries are awarded in cases of financial hardship as every student should be able to realise their potential. The Department for Education established the 16-19 Bursary Fund in 2011. The aim of the fund is to help 16 to 19-year olds continue in education, where they might struggle for financial reasons. A bursary is directly related to the income and financial resources of the student's family. We would encourage students to talk with families and decide if applying for financial support during your sixth form journey at QMGs would be beneficial. The student would need to apply using their school email address but will also need the support and some information from the family. It would be a collaborative approach. Please follow this [link](#) where the student can create a login and start the application process. Further information can be found on the school website [here](#).

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 Farchynys. If you are interested in supporting the work of the QMA, please contact Prveen Kataria (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. I have also included a summary of the progress made on Easy Fundraising at the end of this email.

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@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)
- 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@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk for assistance. Please send any updates of parental contact details to absences@gmgs.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 29 Sep	New QMA welcome evening
Sat 1 Oct	QMC dinner
Thu 6 Oct	Y11 parents' evening
Thu 13 Oct	Y13 parents' evening
Thu 20 Oct	Speech Day (finish for half term)
Mon 31 Oct	Return to school

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@gmgs.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 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!



This month I launched [The Big Summer Survey](#), a national conversation with children in England about their experiences over the summer holidays. I want every child in England to have the opportunity to take part so please share with your students.

[The Big Summer Survey](#) forms part of my Independent Review into family life which will inform the Government about the best ways to support families across the country, including what role schools can play.

Over three thousand children in England have made their voices heard so far. The survey is accessible, takes less than 10 minutes and is a great activity for children aged 7-17 to do in school as part of wider discussions about time with family and the summer holidays. [The Big Summer Survey](#) will close on 21st October.

On [The Big Summer Survey page](#) I have included the direct link to the survey, a presentation you can share with your students, FAQs, a poster, suggested tweets, newsletter text for parents and the survey in word document form.

If you have any questions, please do contact the Family Review Team at family.review@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. de Souza'.

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England