



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, April/May 2023

First word

I have combined the news for April and May, given the Easter break, half term and bank holidays. I have also been waiting for the publication of the inspection report, which is now live on the [Ofsted website](#). We are all delighted with the outcome and feel that it is a true reflection of the current school. Reflecting upon our journey over the past 5 years, with the formation of the Mercian trust, growth of the school and dealing with the pandemic, it is heartening to see that the QM values we hold dear to our hearts shine through. The report is fulsome of its praise across the curriculum and pastoral structures of the school and recognised the huge amount of work that goes into the wider personal development of the students.

Following the inspection, Mr Lee Roberts has stepped down as chair of governors and has written the following message for members of the community:

"Ofsted's award of an Outstanding Rating for Queen Mary's Grammar School is extremely good news, particularly in the context of Ofsted's stated aim to reduce significantly the proportion of schools in this category. Any school now rated Outstanding can truly regard itself as one of the best schools in the country. There can be no greater endorsement of the fantastic work undertaken by the Headmaster, the Senior Leadership Team, and all the school staff, supported so effectively by the Mercian Trust and my fellow governors over the last few years. Most of all, I would like to pay tribute to the students who make the school so special. Their ambition, energy, and enthusiasm to make the most of this wonderful school are the very qualities that make Queen Mary's truly an outstanding school. I am now stepping down and passing over the role to Neil Moseley, who brings a decade of experience both as a Member of the Governing Board and Link Governor for SEN. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all members of the school for working so hard and with such commitment and professionalism over the years. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve such a dedicated and talented team."

I am grateful to Mr Roberts for the support he has given me and the School over the past 3 years in an extremely challenging period in education and wish him well for the future.

As we head into the May half term holiday, the exam season is well into swing. There are, however, a huge amount of extra-curricular activities taking place, which can be seen on the School's [Twitter](#) account. Mr Vause and the music department put on a memorable concert just before the Easter holiday and there have been a large range of trips taking place, to Farchyngs and international shores. It feels like the full QM experience is well and truly back!

Music Lessons at QMGS from Sep 2023 (Mr Vause)

We are planning ahead for next year's music tuition. If you would like your son/daughter to receive instrumental lessons at school from September 2023, please complete the following form by clicking on the link: [Music Lessons Sep 2023](#). The deadline for completion is 23/6/23. Further Information relating to fees etc is on the form itself, however if you have specific questions, please don't hesitate to email me: m.vause@qmgm.merciantrust.org.uk

Summer exams guidance from the DfE

A new [factsheet for parent of students taking exams this summer](#) has been published, providing information on exam arrangements and support available for their children. It also includes information on how university admissions work and what choices students have for their next steps.

Queen Mary's Association

Following the Taste of the World and Burns night events, the QMA are proud to announce their summer Art Fest, taking place on Saturday 8th July, with all proceeds going towards the School's Future Sports campaign. The Arts Fest is a new family event that will celebrate the talents of our school community across all the arts. There will be a variety of musical performances from our students, drama pieces from our Queen's Players, an art showcase and a design and technology exhibition, all demonstrating the amazing talents of our students. Alongside this there will be lots of food and drinks available to purchase, a number of stalls to visit and, weather permitting, outdoor inflatables.

Tickets are now on sale via Ticketsource - £4 adults, £2 children £10 for family of 4. A pupil raffle will also be held and a non-uniform day on the week of the event.



Are you ready for the first QM Arts Fest?

A Celebration of

MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, ART & CREATIVITY



Choir, Drama performances

**Training Band, Orchestra,
Skiffle, Clarinet ensemble**



**Art, Design & Creativity,
'TikTok' competition**

**£4 Adult
£2 Child
£10 family of 4**

**Plus food, games, fair rides,
Raffle, activities & more**

BOOK YOUR TICKETS ON LINE

We also welcome volunteers to help on stalls throughout the event but also, donations of gifts that can be used for a tombola stall and a raffle.



A Celebration of MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, ART & CREATIVITY



We need your help!
Please volunteer to help make
the day a success



Please give an hour to make it happen
Help with stalls, craft activities, selling drinks,
set up and raising money.

Would you like a stall to sell your crafts?

Please contact the School
reception for more details

Each QMA 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@qmg.merciantrust.org.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. This is a simple and effective way of supporting the school through your online shopping.

SIMS Parent App

We would like to inform you that the SIMS Parent App has returned to full functionality and is now displaying accurate information related to House and Behaviour Points. The issue was first identified by us following the Digital Transformation process in November 2022. We apologise for the difficulties that we know this has created for parents trying to obtain up-to-date information about their child. While this was not a School-based problem, we are frustrated that it has taken so long for it to be resolved by our IT service providers. We are committed to continual improvements in our communication systems to avoid this happening again in the future. Please use the app to get a range of valuable information about your child's attainment, attendance and conduct at QMGS. 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.merciantrust.org.uk for assistance. Please send any updates of parental contact details to absences@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

Cost of living support (Mrs Youngman)

We are very aware of the current economic challenges and want to support our families as much as possible. Parents can view resources both on our [website](#) and through [Walsall council](#).

QMGs Breakfast Club (Mrs Hill)

The breakfast club, in partnership with the National Schools Breakfast Programme, offers free bagels and spreads every morning from 8am until 8.30am in the Canteen - all pupils welcome! Click on the [link](#) for more information on the National Schools Breakfast Programme, weekend breakfast ideas and quizzes

Pre-loved Uniform Store (Mrs Hill)

Thank you to parents and alumni alike who have generously donated uniform and sports kit to our Pre-loved Uniform Store. This is always very much appreciated. We have a healthy stock of pre-loved items, so please do contact Mrs Hill at d.hill@qmgsmerciantrust.org.uk if any items are required.

Food hampers (Mrs Hill)

Food hampers to support families during the Easter holiday, have been generously donated by Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Branch, Walsall. Pictured is Bushra Naureen, President of the Walsall Branch, Balbir Seimar, Secretary of the Hindu Forum, Walsall and Sehajnit Seimar former QMGs pupil. Thanks also Adil and Aayan Parkar from the Masjid Al Falaah Mosque who have also kindly donated food hampers to support our families and the community. Please contact Mrs Hill at d.hill@qmgsmerciantrust.org.uk if your family would benefit from a food hamper.

Summer Holiday Activities Programme (HAF) from Walsall Council

Walsall Council are currently in the planning stage of our HAF summer delivery. Please see below updates and information how to get families booked on ready for summer.

What is the HAF programme?

Walsall Council is running a Walsall Right for Children Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (funded through the Department for Education). This programme will provide free activities including free meals for children ages 5 – 16 years old who receive income related free school meals or on a plan across Walsall, over easter, summer and Christmas holidays.

What is the Summer Offer?

Booking activities will go live from the 3rd of July 2023. If the family you are working with has already registered, they will not need to register again they will just need to book their activities from the 3rd of July. Once the child is registered, they will be able to book a maximum of 4 week of activities choosing from the below offer.

Offer 1 A Holiday Club, providing a range of activities throughout the week for children/young people to attend, including a healthy meal. The children/young people will attend the same setting for four days for a minimum of four hours per day.

OR

Offer 2 A Pick and Mix/ Family Activity, a different activity each day, including a healthy meal. Each child/young person will be able to choose up to four Pick and Mix sessions per week. We aim to target teenagers as well as young people on these sessions; we have a range of activities including bowling, roller skating, swimming and arts and crafts.

How to families register for our FREE Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme?

Each child will receive a letter in the post, or they can contact us for their unique code via our helpline or email. Once families have a child unique code they can either register online via the [HAF portal](#)

We also have several locations that families can drop in and we can help you register and book summer activities.

- Ilmington House, Crescent Rd, Darlaston, Wednesbury WS10 8AE on 26/06/2023 09:30 – 14:30
- Birchills Childrens Centre - 150 Stafford St, Walsall WS2 8EA room 3 on 27/06/2023 09:30 – 14:30
- Pelsall village centre High St, Pelsall, Walsall WS3 4LX on 28/06/2023 09:30 – 14:30
- North locality hub Unit 4 Blakenall Heath & 275 Blakenall Lane Blakenall Walsall, WS3 1HJ 29/06/2023 09:30 – 14:30

Once we have more information on locations and activities, we will share this information with you.
For further information email the HAF team on WR4C@walsall.gov.uk or you can call the HAF helpline on **01922 653899** (Monday – Friday, between 10:00am to 4:00pm)



The banner features five circular images at the top showing children engaged in various activities: playing football, climbing a tree, playing basketball, swinging on a swing set, and playing table tennis. To the right of these images is a pink circle with the text 'FREE Activities'. Below the images, the title 'WALSALL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME' is written in large, bold, pink letters. Underneath the title, it says 'For children and young people in Walsall aged 5-16 years who get free school meals'. A note in smaller text states: '*eligible children and young people who get benefit related free school meals will be able to access free activities over Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays'. On the left side, there is a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME' below it. In the center, it says 'For more information please contact us on:' followed by 'Website: https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup' and 'Email: WR4C@walsall.gov.uk'. On the right side, there is an illustration of a girl and a boy playing. At the bottom, there are three logos: Walsall Council, Walsall Right Children, and the Department for Education.

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 new wellbeing or safeguarding email addresses.

Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

qmgssafeguarding@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

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)

Homework club

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

Future Sport @ QMGs: A community legacy project

I have spoken at various events about our £1.8million Future Sports @ QMGs project, designed to revolutionise our outdoor sports facilities. I have included some plans below and will be speaking after a series of sports fixtures across the remainder of the academic year. Please see the separate flyer for the games involved and come along both to support your child and to find out how you can support the campaign.



PROJECT PLANS

Above: Pavilion and viewing gallery

Left: Aerial view of facilities

Below: Pavilion view from artificial grass pitch

Bottom left: Pavilion view from side

Bottom right: Artificial grass pitch for hockey and tennis



PARENTAL INFORMATION EVENTS



26 March 1.30pm

Y8 v Walsall RFC (KO. 12.30)

Walsall RFC



28 March 3.30pm

Y9 House Rugby
(KO. 2pm)

QMGS



19 April 8.30pm

Yr10 v Walsall RFC (KO. 7.30pm)

Walsall RFC



24 May 7pm

Y9A v Y10A & Y9B v Y10B
(Start 4.30pm)

QMGS

18 July 7pm

Y7A v Y8A & Y7B v Y8B
(Start 4.30pm)

QMGS



22 April 12pm

Beacon Hockey Club & QMGS
Hockey Festival (Start 11am)

Aston Uni
Recreation Centre

28 May 10am &
12noon

Walsall Asian Sports Association
Hockey Tournament (10am & 2pm)

Aston Uni
Recreation Centre

11 July 7pm

Sports Celebration Dinner

QMGS

Further information on tickets and timings will be issued in due course



Queen Mary's Grammar School
Walsall



Scan to
support
QMGS



THE MERCIAN TRUST

Dates for your diary

The full school calendar can be found the [School website](#), but I have included some key dates for the summer term below:

Mon 15 May	Public exams begin
Mon 22 May	Year 12 World of Work Week
Fri 26 May	Finish for half term
Mon 5 Jun	School re-opens; Year 9 exams begin
Thu 8 Jun	Whole school open evening (early finish)
Mon 13 Jun	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Thu 16 Jun	Field day
26-29 Jun	Uniform sales event for new Year 7
Various	New Y7 welcome afternoons: Mon 12, Tue 13, Thu 15, Mon 19, Tue 20, Thu 22 June
Sat 24 Jun	Year 7 MEP Saturday learning day
26-29 Jun	Sports week (sports day Wed 28)
Sat 1 Jul	Music exams
Sat 8 Jul	QMA summer arts festival
Thu 20 Jul	School closes for summer (2pm)
Thu 17 Aug	A-level results day
Thu 24 Aug	GCSE results day

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.merciantrust.org.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](#)

Final word

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you a restful half term break.

Regards

Mr Langton



We have now raised £5,829.59 from 288 supporters. The top supporter has single-handedly raised £739.90!

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.
- Donations are applied on everyday brands and shopping outlets such as Amazon (Up to 1.5%), TK Max (1%), George at Asda (5%), Selfridges (8%), M&S (Up to 3%), Argos (3%), Groupon (Up to 8%)
- There are big donations on travel bookings. A small selection is below but there are many more:
 - Expedia (Up to 5%)
 - 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