



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, June 2023

### First word

As we move towards the end of the school year, we begin to reflect upon what has been achieved. It certainly feels like we have returned to pre-pandemic levels of co-curricular activities, with all of year 7 completing their 'Learn-to-Learn' weeks at Farchynys. A wide range of other trips and activities have taken place, providing students with excellent opportunities to expand their educational experience. Most of these activities can be seen on the School's [Twitter](#) account. There have been a number of regional/national successes in:

- Junior maths challenge
- Mandarin speaking competition
- Lord-Lieutenant's Young Active Citizens Award 2023
- British Association for American Studies School BIPOC student Essay Award and the Monticello Teaching Fellowship Award to Mr Reynolds
- Magistrates mock trial

It is also the time of year where we say goodbye to our Year 13 cohort, as they have now completed their A-level exams. We hope that they will continue to stay in contact with the school and wish them well for their futures. At the same time, we have hosted welcome afternoons for our new Year 7 induction intake, and it has been great to welcome these families to the QM community.

### QMA and QM Summer Arts Festival

We are selling tickets and preparing for the QMA's Arts festival Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July (from 12.30-4.30pm), which combines music, drama, spoken word and exhibitions by the DT and art departments. Tickets are now on sale via Ticketsource (£4 adults, £2 children £10 for family of 4). Click [here](#) to book your places. We are holding a Non-uniform day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, with donations and raffle tickets available on Parentmail.

The students have been asked to submit talent videos, which can be uploaded via the Ms Form [here](#). Thank you to all parents who have provided support for the event and it would be great to see you there!

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 us via: [alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk). 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.

8th July  
12.30 - 4.30pm

**QM MUSIC AND ARTS FEST '23**

Are you ready for the first QM Arts Fest?

A Celebration of  
MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, ART & CREATIVITY

MUSIC

Training Band, Orchestra,  
Skiffle, Clarinet ensemble

Choir, Drama  
performances

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**

## **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 or safeguarding email addresses.

[Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)

[gmgssafeguarding@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:gmgssafeguarding@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 continuing to run again in the summer term, on a Monday-Thursday. More information can be found on the School's [website](#).

## **Litter and parking**

I have written regularly in previous newsletters with regards to safe parking, traffic manouvers and general use of the roads around the school. I have continue to receive regualr communications from parents and local residents about this matter and urge you to please consider other members of the community. We are continuing to work with the local council and police, to ensure a presence and intervention around peak traffic times.

Can I also please ask that parents are students are mindful of litter in the community, both in the school grounds and around the local area. We are a busy school, but can make a difference if everyone plays their part.

## **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:

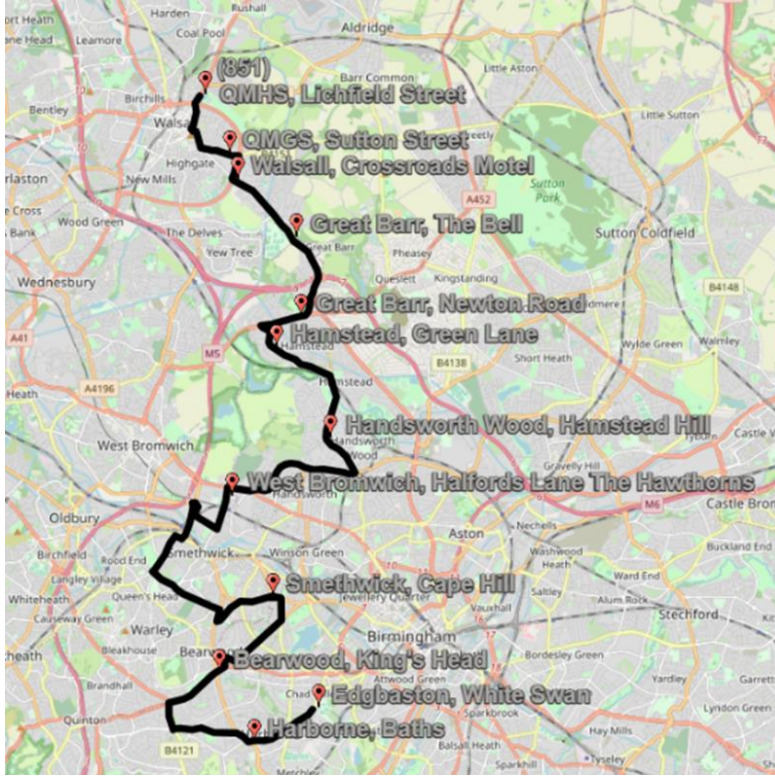
- Medical appointments should be arranged outside of school time wherever possible
- The school must be notified a minimum of 3 days in advance of any medical appointment that have been made. Without this prior notification and proof of the appointment, the absence will be marked as unauthorised
- This notification should be sent to [absences@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:absences@qmgs.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](#)

# TheGreenBus

## 2023/2024 School Bus Service - Queen Mary's Grammar School & Queen Mary's High School

The Green Bus serves schools across the West Midlands and Warwickshire providing direct bus services with text message updates and bus tracking for both Children and Parents. We provide the 851 bus service for children attending the QM schools:

Edgbaston | Harborne | Bearwood | Smethwick | West Bromwich | Handsworth Wood | Hamstead | Great Barr | Walsall | QMGS | QMHS



Timing Point	To	From
Edgbaston White Swan	06:44	17:51
Harborne Baths	06:50	17:46
Bearwood King's Head	06:57	17:36
Smethwick Cape Hill	07:10	17:22
West Bromwich The Hawthorns	07:24	17:08
Handsworth Wood Hamstead Hill	07:44	16:46
Hamstead Green Lane	07:51	16:36
Great Barr Newton Road	07:58	16:30
Great Barr The Bell	08:05	16:20
Walsall Crossroads Motel	08:15	16:15
Walsall QMGS	08:20	16:10
Walsall QMHS	08:40	16:00

All bus stops on the line of the route will be served

### Annual Passes

To use any of the services, you can purchase annual passes which provide travel every school day on our website for £1,145. Purchase in one full payment or spread the cost with 10 monthly direct debit payments throughout the school year. If you have more than one child, you'll be eligible for our 20% sibling discount. For further information, please visit [www.thegreenbus.co.uk](http://www.thegreenbus.co.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 and food hampers (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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk) if any items are required. We also provide food hampers for families in need. Please contact Mrs Hill at [d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.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. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:WR4C@walsall.gov.uk) or you can call the HAF helpline on **01922 653899** (Monday – Friday, between 10:00am to 4:00pm)

**FREE Activities**

## WALSALL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

For children and young people in Walsall aged 5-16 years who get free school meals

\*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

For more information please contact us on:  
Website: [https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_young\\_people/haf\\_signup](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup)  
Email: [WR4C@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:WR4C@walsall.gov.uk)

SCAN ME

Walsall Council | Walsall Right 4 Children | Department for Education

## 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 more can be found out about the project [here](#). I will be speaking at the Sports Awards dinner in July and parents can support us by accessing the QR code below. Please do contact me at the school with any questions or suggestions.

Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Walsall



Scan to  
support  
QMGS



### 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



## 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:

26-29 Jun	Sports week (sports day Thu 29)
Sat 1 Jul	Music exams
Sat 8 Jul	QMA summer arts festival
Tue 11 Jul	Sports awards dinner
Thu 20 Jul	School closes for summer (2pm)
Thu 17 Aug	A-level results day
Thu 24 Aug	GCSE results day
Mon 4 Sep	Staff training day
Tue 5 Sep	Induction day for Years 7 and 12
Wed 6 Sep	First day of term for all students

## Final word

Thank you for your continued support. I will be in touch at the end of term.

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.
- You can find our easyfundraising page at this [link](#)

Thank you