



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, July 2023

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### First word

It is with a sense of pride and satisfaction that we find ourselves at the end of the academic year. It has been one filled full of incredible achievements and so much opportunity. The inspection outcome is clearly a highlight of the year, and validation of what we are doing, but it is in the sheer range of activities and experiences that I have found the most fulfilling. Seeing the students on School's [Twitter](#) account currently in south-east Asia makes me envious, but also completes the return of the QM experience that we have been building towards for the past two years, since the lifting of public health conditions. I am incredibly grateful to all the staff who have made these opportunities possible and who continue to provide a first-class educational experience for our students.

The end of the summer term is, inevitably, a time for staff farewells and we say goodbye to four influential members of staff. Mr Hitchin leaves after 3 years as head of PE to start a new role at Newcastle under Lyme School. Mr Hitchin has worked hard to raise standards in PE, by innovating on curriculum (including the introduction of GCSE PE) and expanding the extra-curricular activities. It was clear at the sports awards evening last week that the performances of the various teams are at an all time high, as is the amount of representation. We wish Mr Hitchin well for his new challenge. Mr Brown joined the school in 2019 as an assistant head and has made a huge impact. He has developed systems and expanded both the pastoral staff and facilities within the school. Mr Brown has delivered consistently high standards and his expectations will leave a real legacy. I have been indebted to his support as a member of the senior leadership team, through the pandemic and beyond. He has contributed widely to the extra-curricular programme, through PE and CCF, and I hope that we will continue to see his involvement, as he moves the short distance to QMHS.

Two members of staff retire this summer, after long and successful spells at QMGS. Mrs Franklin joined the school as a French and Spanish specialist in 2006 and retires as head of these languages this summer. I have always been impressed by the high standards Mrs Franklin has set in the classroom and a large number of students and staff are indebted to her dedication over 17 years at the school. She has led and participated in a wide range of trips and exchanges over her time in the school and has worked incredibly hard to fight the corner for languages against stern competition from STEM subjects. Mr Rockett retires after almost 30 years at QMGS and leaves a huge legacy. In a speech at a staff retirement event, Mr Ridler reflected on how many students Mr Rockett has inspired over the years, many of which have chosen physics as a career route because of his teaching. Mr Rockett was the head of physics and science for many years, before moving to part time in recent years due to family commitments. He is a hugely popular colleague and teacher and we will miss him, although we expect to still see him with a racket in his hand or at staff football. We wish both colleagues a long and happy retirement.

### 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. These will be checked during the summer, but there may be some delay in response.

[Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)  
[qmgssafeguarding@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto: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)
- Mrs Young (nee Burgess) (SEMH mentor)
- Mrs Mohan (6th Form Operations Manager)

## QM Summer Arts Festival & QMA events 2023-24

The first QM Arts Festival was held at the start of July and was a huge success. A wide range of performers and exhibitors took part, and I am grateful to all staff, parents and students who made this happen. We are still calculating the proceeds, but we hope to have raised around £3000 for the QMA. We hope that this becomes an annual event.

The dates for 2023-24 events are:

Taste of the World	Sat 2 Dec 2024
Burns Night	Sat 27 Jan 2024
QM Arts Festival	TBC July 2024

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 Farchyngs. If you are interested in supporting the work of the QMA, please us via:

[alumni@qmgsmeciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmgsmeciantrust.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.

### 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

### Community Hub (Mrs Youngman)

We have been busy this term developing our new QMGs Community Hub. The Hub is a place where we are able to safely store the pre-loved uniform and food donations and a place where students and families are able to come and pick up any requests of support. The preloved uniform has come from school community donations, and we are supported with our food donations by Balbir Seimar of the Hindu Forum, Bushra Naureen of the Ahmaddiya Muslim Women's Walsall Branch and Adil Parkar of Masjid al Falaah.

We are in a position to help if you need support for either of the above. Please complete [this form](#) and we will do our best to contact you before the end of term. If not, we will do our best to contact you during the GCSE results week, most probably 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> August. If you have any uniform that your child has grown out of that you no longer need, we would love to have it please to help continue to build our Community Hub provision.

If you have any revision books that your child no longer needs, we will also welcome these as over the next academic year we want to continue to develop this provision. Our community is important to us, and we want to be able to support as many students and families as we can.

If you have any further queries, please contact Mrs Hill via [d.hill@qmgsmeciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmgsmeciantrust.org.uk)



## **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 regular 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 and 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@qmsg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:absences@qmsg.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](#)

## **Summer Holiday Activities Programme (HAF) from Walsall Council**

Walsall Council are currently in the planning stage of our HAF summer delivery. 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 went 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.

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**
2. 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](#)

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)

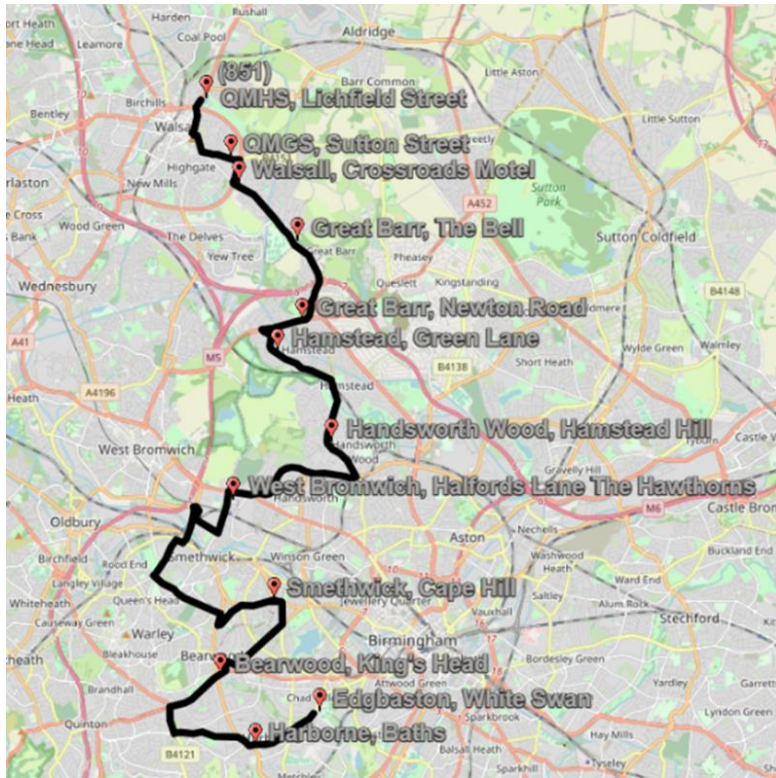


# TheGreenBus

## 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 QMH	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)

### Homework club

Homework club will continue to run again in the autumn term, on a Monday-Thursday. More information can be found on the School's [website](#).

### Future Sport @ QMGS: Walsall Arboretum Park Run takeover Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

The Future Sport @ QMGS campaign board team have confirmed a Parkrun takeover for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 9am at Walsall Arboretum. We would love a massive QMGS turn out on the day of parents, pupils, staff, alumni, campaign board members plus other families/friends connected to the school. You can run or walk or mix it up. Plus if anyone wants to be a volunteer Marshal on the day to get in touch. We will have refreshments (samosas!) on the day. For more info and to register for Parkrun, please visit the Parkrun website at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/walsall/> or email the [enquiries@gmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gmgs.merciantrust.org.uk) to let us know of your interest. We will send out a sign up form in September for the 23<sup>rd</sup> takeover.

## 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](#). Current pledges are at £620,000, which is a great start, but there is lots of work to do. If you would like to discuss how you can help please email our Alumni and Development Officer, Prveen Kataria-Raulia via [alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk) or you can make a monthly/ annual or one-off donation by following this [link](#).



### 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:

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
Thu 7 Sep	Year 12 parent information evening
Tue 12 Sep	Year 7 parent information evening
Thu 14 Sep	Year 10 parent information evening
Sat 16 Sep	Entrance exam
Thu 21 Sep	RSHE parents' information evening

## Final word

Thank you for your continued support. I hope that you have a restful and energising summer break.

Mr Langton



Through Easy Fundraising we have raised a total of £5,937.01 for the school from 292 parent and staff supporters, with the leading supporter having single-handedly raised £755.84 towards this! 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