



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



**Year 12 parents'  
information evening  
Thursday 7th  
September 2023**



## **Mr Langton (Headmaster)**

- Welcome and introductions
- Sixth form recruitment and induction
- QM experience and Core Values
- Future Sport @ QMGS project

## **Mr Lax (Deputy Headteacher)**

- Curriculum; Timetables and options
- Additional Academic Options
- Unifrog

## **Mr Matley (Head of Sixth Form)**

- Support in the sixth form
- Signing in/out and SPS procedures
- Additional opportunities in the sixth form
- Timeline of 6.1 and 6.2

## **Mr Kolaric (Assistant Head)**

- QMGS use of MS Teams; Attitude to Learning grades; Effective learning/revision habits

## **Mr Sunley (Head of Careers)**

- Y12 Workplace Experience Programme

## **Mia Pell and Thomas Sharma (Captains of School)**

- A student perspective on life in the sixth form

## **Queen Mary's Association**

- Welcome to the Queen Mary's Parents' Association

# Running order

## Q&A



**Mr Richard Langton**

**Headmaster**

**[r.langton@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:r.langton@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)**

Welcome and introductions

Sixth form recruitment and induction

QM experience and Core Values

Future Sport @ QMGS project



## Sixth form recruitment and induction

- Sixth form places filled from conditional offers
- Over 110 new students are joining the school!
- Importance of induction – social and academic
- Transition work and testing
- Importance of low level testing - especially on the first two or so weeks as students adapt back into school.



QUEEN MARY'S  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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MERCIAN

## Information Pack

A Level Transition Work- Section A

The Importance of Independent Study  
at A Level

September 2022

Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Sutton Road,  
Walsall,  
WS1 2PG

01922 720696







# ATOMIC HABITS

The small seemingly insignificant things which when done on a consistent basis lead to our outcomes

**GIVE**



**BE ON  
TIME**



to teacher and task

all the time

**ALWAYS**



**BE**

**EQUIPPED**

and ready  
to learn

**DO YOUR BEST**



to attend school  
all the time

**SHOW**

**RESPECT**

**to staff and pupils**

Be courteous, considerate  
and cooperative



Always  
wear the  
**CORRECT  
UNIFORM**

Tidy up  
after  
yourself  
and care  
for your  
surroundings



★ Be a **CREDIT** to QMGS ★

## Core Values

**QMGS**



**Courage.**

facing new challenges with  
determination & resilience



**Respect**

for yourself & tolerance of  
others



**Equality**

opportunities for all, whilst  
recognising & celebrating  
diversity



**Discipline**

developing personal  
responsibility



**Integrity**

to be honest, sincere, reliable &  
selfless



**Teamwork**

stronger together



**High Challenge, High Support pastoral approach**



## The 4 pillars:

Academic in Purpose

International in Outlook

Enterprising in Spirit

Generous in Approach

## The QM experience

Recognising our past

Re-engaging with the USPs

Part of a community

Developing leaders

Striving for excellence in all we do

Taking co-curricular opportunities

*"Quas dederis, solas semper  
habebis opes"*



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## Engaging with the USPs

### Farchynys

Farchynys, the school's Welsh Centre, is located on the stunning Mawddach Estuary in southern Snowdonia with views over to Cadair Idris. Purchased for the school in 1963 it has been a centre for adventure and learning in a contrasting setting for the past 50 years.

The centre provides basic self-catering accommodation for up to 24 pupils and accompanying staff in dormitory accommodation, together with classroom and dining room facilities. The school also owns 10 acres of the adjoining headland including its own access onto the estuary.



All year 7 pupils visit Farchynys in the summer of their first year in a series of trips with other members of their form group. These "Learning to Learn" weeks form an end to the year when pupils learn about learning in other contexts and about working with each other. Typical activities include visits to Harlech Castle, a local slate mine, the Centre for Alternative Technology and creating their own meal one evening.



### Combined Cadet Force



the majority of the instruction of other cadets.

The Combined Cadet Force continues to gain in popularity at the school with well over 300 cadets, representing almost half of the school community. The contingent consists of Army and RAF sections of roughly equal size and is one of more than 200 such contingents based in schools throughout the country.

Membership of the contingent is entirely voluntary, with pupils choosing to join when they enter year 9. We also offer a fast-track scheme for new-entrants to the sixth-form. Our best cadets are invited to continue their membership whilst in the sixth-form to act as cadet NCOs and undertake

The Combined Cadet Force is a youth organisation which is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. Its purpose is summarised by the CCF charter, but in essence is about developing our pupils to be full citizens in the future.



**Mandarin  
Excellence  
Programme**





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**Initial project plans**

## FutureSport@ QMGS A Community Legacy Project



**Pavilion and viewing gallery**





## HOW YOU CAN HELP?

## FutureSport@QMGS A Community Legacy Project

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**We are looking for a team of committed supporters who will consider supporting the campaign:**

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By giving a thoughtful and proportionate cash gift or pledge over time

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By volunteering their time to help the School reach its goal

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By making introductions to individuals or families who might be interested in supporting the project

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By hosting a or home/work event/dinner for a select group of prospective supporters

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By making introductions to funding bodies such as grant-making trusts and foundations

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By creating opportunities with potential corporate sponsors or partners

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## QMGs Curriculum policy

### Academically-Ambitious and Accessible to All



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

### Curriculum Policy

Approved by the LGB, February 2021 (updated May 2021)

#### Principles:

Queen Mary's Grammar School believes that the Quality of Education experienced by students is driven by a curriculum in its broadest sense: the entirety of a student's learning experience, in lessons and beyond. We aim to design and embed a curriculum that is planned and sequenced to develop in our highly academic students the knowledge and skills necessary for their future roles in society, while ensuring that the balanced curriculum offer is accessible to all.

The curriculum will promote the spiritual, moral, social, physical and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils, fostering a sense of identity and place within the broad range of cultural contexts represented by members of our community. It will encourage pupil engagement in a wide range of co-curricular and enrichment opportunities and the broadening of subject-specific knowledge and skills beyond the classroom and into the wider community, nationally and internationally (See Appendix 2).



**Mr Michael Lax**

**Deputy Headteacher**

**[m.lax@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:m.lax@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)**

**Curriculum**

**A-Level Options**

**Additional Academic Opportunities**

**Unifrog & Post-18 Pathways**





## QMGS Curriculum policy A Levels

### **Academically-Ambitious and Accessible to All**

- A Levels are undoubtedly challenging for all students – we want all students to be academically-ambitious
- 3 A level subjects for two years plus an additional academic option
- Exception is Further Maths for those wanting to pursue a relevant degree course (e.g. maths, physics, economics)
- Emphasis is upon choosing the right 3 A Level subjects early on
- Expectation of mentoring/volunteering and participation in extra-curricular activities
- Internal Y12 exams in May (8 months)
- Influence upon UCAS Predicted Grades



## Options Change Requests

### QMGS Policy

- A Level options change requests must be submitted as soon as possible via the MS Form at (QR Code to the right):
- <https://forms.office.com/e/xDG8mnG4MU>
- We will try our best to accommodate requests but any swap depends upon:
  - Meeting the GCSE entry requirement for that subject
  - Spaces available in the subject
  - Avoiding timetable blocking clashes for a combination of subjects
- We want students to be certain about choosing the right subject but the longer a decision is left, the more difficult it will be
- No changes after 15th September





## Timetable and Options

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art	Biology x2	Biology	Biology x2
Biology x2	Business	Chemistry x2	Chemistry x2
Chemistry x2	Chemistry	English Lang&Lit	Design
Computer Studies	Computer Studies	Economics	Economics
English Literature	Economics	History	Geography
Physics x2	Further Maths x3	Maths x5	Maths x4
Psychology	History	Physics	Mandarin
	Physics x2	Philosophy	Spanish
	Psychology		<b>"MAT Subjects"</b>
			French
			German
			Politics
			Music
			Theatre Studies





## Additional academic options

- Sports Leadership Award
- Level 3 Core Maths
- Level 3 EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)
- History of Art
- Gold Art Award
- LIBF Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies
- ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management & First Aid Qualification (CCF)
- Foreign Language Leader Award
- Gold CREST award in Chemistry and STEM mentoring
- "Change Your Mind" Mental health/wellbeing and volunteering programme
- Mandarin – IB/HSK



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## Making Applications

### Competencies Store

- ✕ Started
- ✕ Completed all 5

[Go to tool >](#)

### Personal Statement

- ✕ Subject added
- ✕ Started
- ✕ Character count
- ✕ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

### Teacher References

- ✕ Overall Reference

# UNIFROG

## Searching for Opportunities

### UCAS

You've shortlisted university courses -  
now pick your top 5

[Start >](#)

### CV Creator

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

### University

You have 4 shortlists  
[View shortlists](#)

[Start >](#)

### Apprenticeships

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

### MOOC

Make your first shortlist

[Start >](#)

### Oxbridge

Make your first shortlist

[Start >](#)



**Mr Robert Matley**

**Head of Sixth Form**

**[r.matley@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:r.matley@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)**

Support in the sixth form

Signing in/out and SPS procedures

Additional opportunities in the sixth form

Timeline of 6.1 and 6.2

Introduction of students







## Support in the Sixth Form

Mr Adams (Head of Year 12)

Induction Programme

Group Tutors & Form Periods

Priority Application preparation

Academic teachers and departments

Year 12 & 13 Prefects

Mentoring Scheme

Sixth Form Assemblies

Non-teaching staff – Mrs Bayley / Mrs Mohan / Miss Smith / Mrs Thomson

Parental Support – communication via Parent App & email



## •Sixth Form Signing-Out

## •Supervised Study

	Year 12
End of a normal school day	If leaving at 3.40, there is no need to sign-out
No lesson p6	Use biometric scanners
Early finish due to no lesson p5 <u>and</u> p6	Sign-out with Mrs Bayley in the Collier Centre
Lunch Offsite	Use biometric scanners when leaving and returning
Wednesday Games arrangements	Sign-out with Mrs Bayley in the Collier Centre if not involved in on-site activities



## Additional opportunities in the sixth form

Community Volunteering

Mentoring – QMGS, primary schools, STEM ambassadors

Coaching and refereeing

Work experience (including alumni network)/World of Work week

University and other outside speakers





## Timeline of Year 12 and Year 13

Year 12 Parents' Evening – Thursday 22nd February 2024

Year 12 Futures Evening – 1st February 2024

Higher Education and Post-18 Pathways Fair – March 2024

Prefect Application Process – March 2024

Examinations – 7th-17th May 2024

World of Work Week – 20th-24th May 2024

UCAS Day – July 2024

Priority Applicants (Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Science)  
September 2024

Year 13 Parents' Evening – October 2024

UCAS Application process completed in November 2024

Final A-Level Examinations – May/June 2025



## Mr Kolarić

1. QMGS use of MS Teams
2. Attitude to Learning grades
3. Effective learning/revision habits



## QMGS Use of Teams

- 1) All classes to have an individual Teams site.**
- 2) Relevant lesson resources to be uploaded to these Teams sites.**
- 3) All H/W to be set using Assignment function on Teams.**



## What are the benefits to pupils?

- Gives you access to a **blended learning curriculum**.
  - 1) **Personalise** learning
  - 2) Allow pupils to go **deeper** in your learning
  - 3) Makes it easier for **catch up**
  - 4) Improves **organisation**
  - 5) Increases and improves **parental engagement**

## Weekly Assignment Summary

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Here's a summary of assignment updates for  
from last week and a peek at upcoming  
due dates.

Previous week: August 23 - August 29

Turned in



1

Not turned in



3

### Weekly Digest Trial - Team 1

R Lally

#### 1- Introduction to Python

Not turned in • Due August 28



#### 5- Review your knowledge

Not turned in • Due August 28



#### 2- Working with data

Turned in • Due August 29



## Coming up: August 30 - September 5

Assignments created before Sunday, August 30,  
2020. More may be added

August 30

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 2 • R Lally  
Ready to Learn Python

August 31

SMcP French Y9 2019-20 • S McPHEE  
Assigned work w/c 13th July

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 1 • R Lally  
3- If Statements

September 1

GCSE history preparation Sept 2020 • R  
REYNOLDS  
Summer preparation booklet Germany

Weekly Digest Trial - Team 2 • R Lally  
Python - Selection



# Attitude to Learning

**Are you:**

**Self-regulating**

motivated, focused and organised in your learning inside and outside the classroom.

**Actively engaged**

listening and contributing in discussion and showing interest in your learning.

**Aspirational**

responding to teacher and pupil feedback to improve your work and aiming high.

**We expect you to achieve Grade B at a minimum.**

Frequency

Grade

**ALWAYS+**

+ regularly going above & beyond, showing a genuine interest in your learning

**A**

**ALWAYS**

**B**

**USUALLY**

**C**

**RARELY**

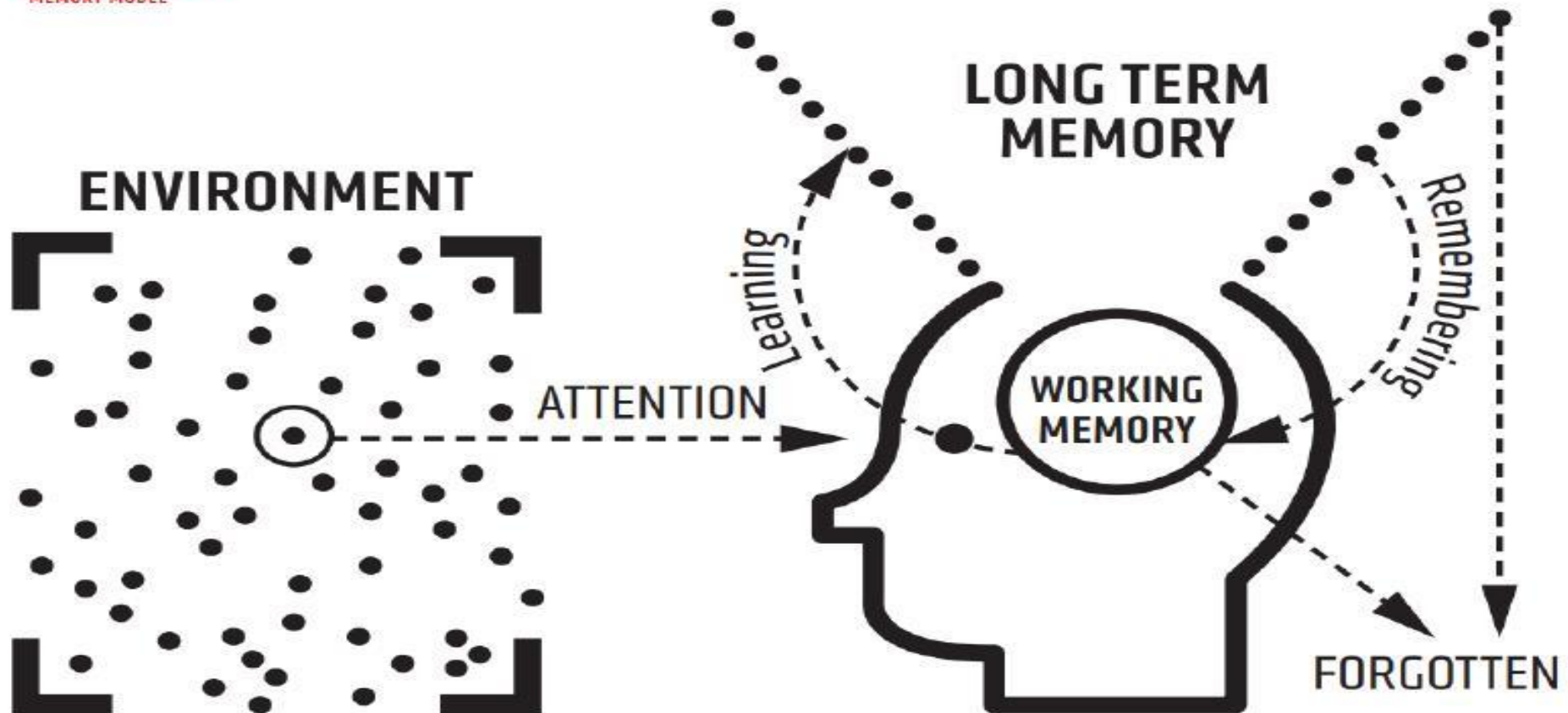
**D**



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**OLI  
CAV** OLIVER CAVIGLIOLI  
@olicav  
olicav.com  
WILLINGHAM'S SIMPLE  
MEMORY MODEL



[The Learning Scientists](#)



## Y12 World of Work Week [Work Experience]

Mr Sunley

Head of Economics / CEIAG Coordinator





## Benefits of workplace experience (WEX)

- Bring the working world to life
- WEX is now a key part of the UCAS process
- A chance to road-test a career/job role
- Relate studies to the world of work
- Learn and develop employability skills
- Could lead to a reference or further opportunities



## Virtual Work Experience (VWEX)

- Many organisations have created some excellent VWEX placements.
- Amazing opportunities can be found via: -
  - **Speakers for Schools**
  - **SpringPod**
  - **Medic Mentors**
- There will be regular e-mails to students about these
- Ask your child – have they
  - registered on the Speakers for schools/Springpod websites?
  - made any applications?







## Y12 World of Work Week 20th – 24th May, 2024

- All **Y12 pupils** to be out of school completing 5 days of work experience/volunteering during this week
- **Pupils need to ACT NOW and make steps to arrange this.**
  - Identifying and contacting employers
  - We encourage parents to support with finding employers/workplace using social/family contacts
  - Regular support sessions in school



## **Y12 World of Work Week 20th – 24th May, 2024**

### **HELP REQUIRED**

If you (or your employer) would be willing to host pupil(s) for the Y12 World of Work Week next May please get in touch with me at the school

**All details about the Y12 World of Work Week  
will be sent out in a letter later this month.**



## Senior Students

Captain of School – Thomas Sharma

Vice-Caption – Faith Blake

Please look out for notices and information on Twitter

@QMGS6THFORM

@qmgs1554

# Y12 academic adjustment

Thomas Sharma



# Key changes

1. Increase in independence
2. Increase in accountability
3. Complexity of content
4. Workload
5. Decrease in the number of subjects  
(don't let this fool you)





# Student role

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- **Holding yourself to account**

*Remember that both for UCAS, and to attain top grades, study **beyond the curriculum** is required. Especially when exploring academic interests, this cannot be arranged by anybody else*

- **Maturity**

*Deciding for yourself how to spend SPS sessions, balancing social and academic lives, treating lessons seriously.*

- **Organisation**

*Teachers may not check folders as frequently as books, and you will have to keep on top of notes for yourself.*

- **Support your peers**

*A collaborative environment goes a long way*



# Parent role

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- **Support networks**

*This is a difficult adjustment- ensure that students are well supported in taking their next steps by providing a listening ear and the right balance of support/independence. **Understanding will go a long way***

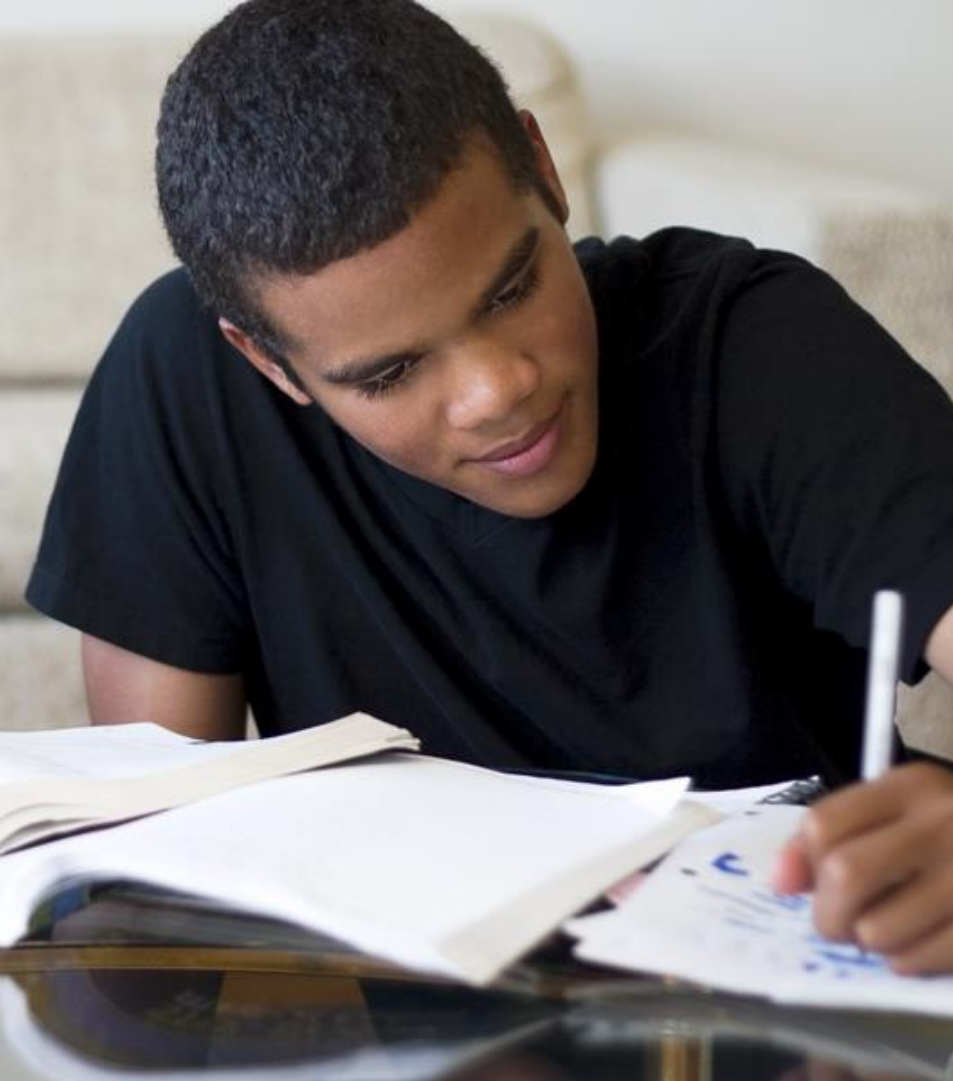
- **Spotting unhealthy habits**

*Checking in to stop e.g. late night cramming that can be harmful to me mental health and knowledge retention*

- **Recognise the need for independence**

*As tempting as it might be to step in, remember that going into A levels and then university, students need to take on more and more themselves- it is in a pupil's best interests to develop this quickly*





# Strategies

- Little, but often
- Make use of digital resources- iPads, online flashcards, revision banks (PMT, Massolit, online pdfs, integral)
- Going beyond the textbook- MOOCs
- **UNIVERSITY OUTREACH**- taster days, summer schools, open days, virtual sessions etc.
- Essay competitions- Databases of these available online
- **Remember that what works for you is personal, so find your study fit**

# Seek support

- You are not alone in making this adjustment, and academic success can only come if you balance this with preserving a good attitude and strong mental health.
- Take breaks where needed, and look for balance in extracurriculars and in your social lives.
- Parents and students should look out for signs of burn out, and identify it quickly
- Turn to school support networks where required.





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**Transitioning into a new  
school**

**Faith Blake**





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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



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



# Queen Mary's Association



Tweets **8,330** Following **857** Followers **324** Likes **2,168** Lists **18**

**QMA**

@qmg1554qma

The Parent and Teacher Association of @qmg1554. We raise funds for the school and have some fun doing it! Please tweet or email qma@qmg1554.sch.uk

**Tweets**



**Tweets & replies**

**Media**

The Queen Mary's Association are delighted to present...



**TASTE OF THE WORLD**



**Saturday, December 7th 2019, 6-9pm at QMGS**



Bhangra Dancing and Dhol performance from 'The Lions of Punjab' (6.15pm)  
Open mic talent competition  
MEP Mandarin performances (8pm)  
Fireworks (8.45pm)  
And more...

*Celebrating the Flavours and Diversity of QMGS*



Tickets can be bought at the QMGS reception with prices as follows:

Under 18s and QMGS students - £5 Adults - £15 Family (2 adults + 2 children) - £35

Price includes entry, entertainment and food from each of the stalls (South and North Indian, Mexican, Philippine)

There will also be a licensed bar. Desserts available for an additional fee.



## Queen Mary's Association (QMA)

The QMA have played a crucial part in school fundraising over a long period of time. In recent years, monies raised from the events have gone towards the outdoor cricket nets/covers and the blue minibus. Events in 2019-20 raised money for a refurbishment of the library. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, proceeds will be going towards our sports fundraising project.

The dates for the next events are:

Sat 2 Dec 2023

Taste of the World

Sat 27 Jan 2024

Burns Night

TBC July 2024

Summer arts festival

**Please fill in  
the interest  
forms!**





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## Communications



Website: [www.qmgsg.org](http://www.qmgsg.org) Email: [enquiries@qmgsg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgsg.merciantrust.org.uk)

Twitter: qmgsg1554