



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, February 2024

First word

Social mobility been a central focus of the school over the past 5 years, to broaden our reach to more communities and to ensure that children can make the most of their time in the school. I have written regularly about the support mechanisms in place and include details again in this newsletter. As part of the Future Sport project, we are also working with a range of community partners and charities, to ensure that more people from the local community can benefit from the school's facilities. I am delighted to include details on page 2 of the Holiday Activity Fund scheme we are hosting, in partnership with Walsall FC, during the first week of the Easter holiday. I encourage any family who qualifies for free school meals to investigate this and sign up.

February has been a busy month and saw a group of 70 staff and students in Austria for the annual ski trip. The feedback I have received has been extremely positive and I hope that all involved had a great time. We enjoyed the soloists' concert (just before half term) and some of these musicians have been entertaining us in school assemblies over the past couple of weeks. The Spring concert take place on Wednesday 20th March and promises to be a great occasion. Tickets can be bought via this [link](#). Pictures and videos of school activities can be viewed on [social media](#), but parents will need to create an X account to see the posts of the various departmental accounts.

Future Sport @ QMGS: Working together to raise the funds through the Great Birmingham Run 5th May

As I have spoken about at various events and in monthly newsletters, we are working hard towards our [Future Sports @ QMGS project](#). We have just over £700,000 in pledges and are holding a series of alumni events in the Spring term to raise awareness. All monies raised by the Queen Mary's Association (through events such as Taste of the World and Burns Night) are also going towards the project.

I am delighted to announce our next initiative: to have as many QMGS runners in the various events at the [Great Birmingham Run](#) on 5th May 2024

- The two main runs are a 10k and a half marathon. Minimum age restrictions are: runners aged 15+ (10k) and 17+ (Half marathon).
- There is a [Juniors & Mini run](#) on the same day, starting slightly earlier. The Mini is for those aged 3-8 and they run a 1.5km dash, while Junior runners (aged 9-15) run a 2.5km sprint.
- Runners will need to register individually via the Birmingham run website

Great Birmingham Run has partnered with Enthuse for fundraising and will be connecting the QMA to this so that all QM runners can raise sponsorship for the event. We would like to aim for 50 runners from across the staff, alumni, parent and student body and a combined total of £20,000.

If you want to compete, please register via the Birmingham run website links above and let us know you are doing so via this [MS Form](#). Look out for further information on the sponsorship opportunities. Training programmes are available via this [link](#) and please consider the local [Parkrun](#) opportunities for building up distance in an organised format.

If you want to donate directly to the Future Sport campaign, you can do so via this [link](#). Thank you for your support and do get in touch with us at the school if you have any questions via alumni@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Walsall Holiday Activity and Food Programme 2024

The Holiday Activity Programme portal for Walsall council went live on 20th February. As mentioned on p1, we are working with Walsall FC to provide to opportunity at QMGS during the first week of the Easter holiday. Families qualifying for free school meals can apply for this activity, or other events through the HAF. Parents can choose from:

- * 4 days of a Holiday Programme *for a minimum of 4 hours*
- * Pick n mix (up to 4 activities) *for a minimum of 2-4 hours.*
- * Family activity *for all the family to attend a fun day out including siblings.*

Activities include SEND, sensory activities bowling, Ninja warrior, Football, swimming, cricket, Arts & crafts, Golf, Hair & beauty, performing arts, cinema, Cinderella pantomime and much more!! Please see below some useful links:

- [HAF Website](#) please see for more details.
- Register: [How to register video](#)

Why do parents need to register?

- Every parent that wants to book activities on HAF will need to register first. This will enable us to gain the correct data including the below prior to parents booking onto activities.
 - Dietary needs
 - Photo consent
 - Send needs
 - Emergency contact details

If you or a family would like their code and they are not on free school meals please email us with the child's Name, Date of birth, Address, School and reason for eligibility and we can send this over! Simply email the wr4c@walsall.gov.uk



WALSALL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME 2024

What's on offer?

A free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who are eligible for free school meals. The programme is running over Easter, Summer and Christmas 2024.

Take part in:

- Holiday clubs
- Multi sports activities
- Football
- Swimming
- Drama
- Arts and crafts
- Cooking
- Graphic design
- Gaming
- and much more...

Sign up Now!



How to register and book for the 2024 programme?

Each eligible child will be sent a letter with a unique code on, if you are eligible and haven't received one email us at WR4C@walsall.gov.uk

To register for the programme you can visit our website www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup or call our Holiday Activities helpline on 01922 653899

Once you have registered your child you will be able to book them onto activities.



To find out more information visit our website and sign up to our newsletter www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup



Mental health and wellbeing

The school continues to support staff and students with their wellbeing through the usual communication channels. We will be running some student questionnaires this term, in order to make sure that we are capturing pupil voice. We work with a number of organisations and any member of the school community can raise concerns via the wellbeing or safeguarding email addresses. These will be checked during the holiday, but there may be some delay in response.

Qmgswell-being@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

qmgssafeguarding@qmg.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)
- Miss Daniels (SEMH mentor)
- Mrs Mohan (6th Form Operations Manager)

Welfare and Support (Mrs Youngman)

At Queen Mary's we want every student to reach their potential and participate fully as valued members of our community irrespective of background or family circumstance. To ensure the right support was being put in place, we opened the doors of the Welfare Hub in September 2020 and in June 2023, we set up the new Community Hub. On our school website, which can be found [here](#), you will be able to find information about a range of support being offered. This is where to find the main areas of support on our website.

The Welfare Hub: more information about who is based in the Welfare Hub and what support is available can be found [here](#).



Avenues of Support

As the cost of living continues to impact families daily, the school has worked hard to ensure there are a range of avenues of support for those families that require additional methods of support. An overview of the support can be found [here](#). This ranges from the pre-loved uniform and food hampers that Mrs Hill oversees from the new *Community Hub*. Application for the support can be done through this [Microsoft Form](#). We can also help some students with *technology at home* so they can use a laptop to complete their homework as we now use TEAMS extensively. If you would like support in this way, please complete this [form](#). We also know that though education is free of charge at Queen Mary's, there are still indirect costs involved in your child's education that we may be able to support with via the *Financial Assistance* support. The form can be found [here](#).

Queen Mary's Foundation Support Bursary

Queen Mary's prides itself in having a wide range of co-curricular opportunities which is a crucial part of our ethos. We would like all students to be able to take part in these but are acutely aware that there are many families who may struggle to afford these opportunities open to their child. Therefore, we have recently launched the *Queen Mary's Foundation Support Bursary* which works on a 3-tier system.

More information can be found via the [Avenues of support page](#) on our website and the form to complete can be found [here](#). On the school website under "Parents and Students Tab" you can also find more information about [Pupil premium and Free School Meals](#) and the [16-19 Bursary](#). If your child was under the umbrella of Free school meals or Pupil Premium in Year 11, we would encourage them to apply for the 16-19 bursary if they haven't.

Queen Mary's Association

The QMA are supporting the School's [Future Sport @ QMGS campaign](#). £20,000 was donated in the summer and we are continuing to support the campaign this year across our QMA events. The Taste of the World event in December was a tremendous success, raising around £6000 and with almost 400 people in attendance. 200 people attended the Burns night ball in January and the event made a fantastic £5000 profit. We hope that you can support the valuable work of the QMA by attending the QMA events and purchasing raffle tickets, so that we can continue to enrich our children's school experience. We are always looking for support in the running of the events, but also in the donation of raffle prizes, sponsorship, and match funding. Please do contact us if you can help out in any way. 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 us via: alumni@gmgs.merciantrust.org.uk.

Events coming up:

- Friday 12th - Sunday 14th April – Farchynys maintenance weekend; volunteers needed!
- Saturday 29th June – Summer arts festival; look out for information and ways to get involved.
- Easy fundraising - we have raised a total of £6,659.14 for the school from 303 parent and staff supporters. 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; you can find our Easyfundraising page at this [link](#)

Home-school agreement

There have been some tweaks to the home-school agreement, which all parents and students sign up to on entry to the school. The document can be accessed [here](#) and I would be grateful if you could refresh yourself with this document.

Sports Store changes

Clive Mark has now taken over the management of sportswear, as well as school uniform. All uniform and sportswear is available via their [website](#) and in the Walsall branch. We are also working with Clive Mark on their 'reform' programme, to recycle and re-use school uniform. If you have any uniform or sports wear in good condition, you can bring this into school and deposit in the box in main reception. If this is bagged and labelled with your name and details, you can receive a 10% voucher off future purchases. The items will be then made available to families in need. You can also take items directly into the Clive Mark store.

Dates for your diary

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

Thu 7 Mar	Year 7 parents' evening	Mon 8 Apr	Staff training day
Wed 20 Mar	Spring concert	Tue 9 Apr	Summer term starts for all students at 8.45am
Thu 21 Mar	End of term at 2pm	Thu 18 Apr	Year 8 parents' evening
Fri 22 Mar	Staff training day		

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Mr Langton



Richard Langton
Headmaster