



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, January 2024

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### First word

It seems quite a while since my last newsletter and a lot has happened in January. The [QM Observer](#) provides a record of the autumn term, which finished on a high with a memorable Christmas music concert. Highlights of this can be viewed via [YouTube](#). Last weekend saw a fabulous Burns night ball, hosted by the Queen Mary's Association. Almost 200 guests were in attendance, all of which thoroughly enjoyed the evening, with all proceeds (including those from the non-uniform day and raffle) going towards the Future Sports project.

There have been lots of other activities, pictures of which can be viewed on [social media](#), but parents will need to create an X account to see the posts of the various departmental accounts. It is a short, but busy term and I have included a list of key dates/events later in the document.

### Queen Mary's Association

As in 2022-23, the QMA are supporting the School's [Future Sport @ QMGS campaign](#). £20,000 was donated in the summer and we hope to match that 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. 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@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk).

### Events coming up:

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Farchynys maintenance weekend; volunteers needed!
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### Soloists Concert Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February (Mr Vause)

This is an opportunity to come and listen to some of our talented musicians from years 10 and above. Tickets are available on Ticket Source priced £3.50 via 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 sports wear, as well as school uniform. All uniform and sportswear is available via their [website](#) and in the Walsall branch.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk)

## **Personal safety of students**

I am conscious of a number of stories in the press at the minute of issues around the country, related to young people and their personal safety. Sad events in Birmingham, Bristol and London bring home some of the challenges that young people face, and we are keen to make sure that students at QMGs are safe, when they are out of school, including travelling to and from home during the week. We have had matters reported to us of the experiences of students at the end of the school day, off the school site, involving members of the public.

It is advisable that the students look to avoid travelling long distances alone and be vigilant about people around them (it is noticeable that a lot of school age children often walk around wearing headphones or looking at phones). If students do feel unsafe, they should apply the principle of 'run, hide, tell', making sure they distance themselves from any trouble and communicating with both family and school. Similarly, if anything of a threatening nature is posted on social media, they should tell a trusted adult. Finally, may I remind all members of the school community that students should not carry any form of weapon for self-protection? We have a strict rule in school for anything that is brought onto site, and it is illegal for such things to be carried in a public place. Please do speak to us if you have any concerns.

## 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.

## Mental health and wellbeing

The school continues to support staff and students with their wellbeing through the usual communication channels. 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](mailto:Qmgswell-being@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk)

[qmgssafeguarding@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto: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)

### **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 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 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

### **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 1 Feb	Year 12 futures evening
Wed 7 Feb	Soloist concert
Thu 8 Feb	Year 9 parents' evening
Fri 9 Feb	Finish for half term
Thu 22 Feb	Year 12 parents' evening
Thu 7 Mar	Year 7 parents' evening
Wed 20 Mar	Spring concert
Thu 21 Mar	End of term at 2pm
Fri 22 Mar	Staff training day

### **Final word**

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Mr Langton



**Richard Langton**  
Headmaster