



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, March 2024

First word

The spring term this year has been a short one, but it has been extremely busy and I'm sure that all members of the community are ready for a break. It's an important time for those who are observing Ramadan and Lent and we heard some thought-provoking words from staff and students in assemblies last week. The theme of thinking about others was particularly strong and I hope that the students take the time to consider the key messages and reflect upon their own behaviours. I hope that the Year 11 and 13 students (along with other year groups with impending exams) are organising their time effectively over the break and setting themselves up for the challenges of the summer term. We will communicate in due course, with regards to the study leave arrangements for the GCSE and A-level cohorts.

We have a number of trips out this week and during the first week of Easter and I hope that the students find these to be enriching. I am grateful to the staff who are running the trips and it is great to see that a number of families have accessed the various avenues of support, in order that students can take part. For future reference, these can be found on our [website](#). Pictures and videos of these 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.

The Spring concert also takes place this week (on Wednesday 20th March) and promises to be a great occasion. Tickets can be bought via this [link](#). Please remember that the term finishes at 2pm on Thursday and re-opens for students again at 8.45am on Tuesday 9th April. I hope that all members of the school community have a relaxing holiday.

MMR vaccine letter from Walsall LA

Please follow this [link](#) for a copy of the letter sent to parents (from Walsall council) regarding the MMR vaccine.

Bus services -Moor Street Queensway – Transport for West Midlands

Transport for West Midlands would like all your students and staff to travel around the West Midlands area easily. We therefore wanted to let you know that the Midland Metro Alliance will begin a project to install tram tracks on Moor Street Queensway in Birmingham City Centre. These works will start on 7th April immediately after the Easter vacation and will involve some changes to a few bus stops along Moor Street Queensway until Autumn 2024.

Some bus services will still serve Moor Street Queensway and others may be relocated around Carrs Lane with alternative bus stops being used in different locations near to the interchange. Details of the changes to various bus routes and stops will be sent out to you shortly. You will be supplied with a toolkit complete with assets to post up messages on social media prior to the bus stop changes. Bus passengers will be urged to plan ahead and check new bus stop locations in Birmingham City Centre.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact Midland Metro Alliance by emailing communications@metroalliance.co.uk or by telephoning 0121 643 8729 (monitored during office hours) or find additional information about these works by visiting www.metroalliance.co.uk and for information on public transportation in general, visit: www.tfwm.org.uk

West Midlands Lieutenancy 50 for 50WM campaign - Closing date 17th April 2024

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the West Midlands county and the West Midlands Lieutenancy. To celebrate, the [50forWM50 campaign](#) has been launched to recognise and thank volunteers across the region who dedicate their time to helping others, and highlight the inspirational stories of these often unseen and unheralded local heroes.

Please nominate our amazing volunteers who are helping their community in any of the seven local authorities in the West Midlands. **Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton** and tell us about the impact they have on our community with their selfless volunteering.

Nominations can be made through the month of March, there is no age limit for volunteers. [Click here](#) to nominate. One inspirational volunteer will have a West Midlands Metro tram named in their honour. 50 volunteers will be shortlisted from Wolverhampton and will be invited to join the 'Big Thank You Bash' in June.

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 £800,000 in pledges and are holding some Staff v Student sports matches (hockey and netball) over the next month. 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.

As previously mentioned, we would also like members of the community to sign up for 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. The team page can be found [here](#), where you can pledge your support for the runners.

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

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.

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)

Queen Mary's Association

The QMA are supporting the School's [Future Sport @ QMGS campaign](#). £20,000 was donated in 2023 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@qmg.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](#)

Renewal of Encroachments on to Private Property

There has been a recent increase in encroachments of QMGS parents (and others collecting pupils by vehicle) on to the entrance and carparking area of the flats at the corner of Princes Avenue and Sutton Road. The red line at the entrance is now being frequently ignored by those collecting pupils between 3.15 and 4.00pm on school days. There has also been an increase in rudeness to residents who request parents etc. not to park in this area and/or not to block the entrance to the flats. I have written extensively in the past about the need for parents and students to be courteous to local residents and other road users and I reiterate this message here. Please work with us on this important matter.

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.

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:

Wed 20 Mar	Spring concert	Tue 9 Apr	Summer term starts for at 8.45am
Thu 21 Mar	End of term at 2pm	Thu 18 Apr	Year 8 parents' evening
Fri 22 Mar	Staff training day	29 Apr-8 May	Year 10 exams begin
Mon 8 Apr	Staff training day		

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Mr Langton



Richard Langton
Headmaster