



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, April 2024

First word

Despite the weather telling us otherwise, we are well into the summer term and the exam desks have appeared in the sports hall, ready for the Year 10 exams this week. It is an important term for students in the upper and middle school and I have spoken to them in assembly about a sense of focus. It is also important that they seek support if they are finding things tough.

The summer term is also one of lots of activities outside of the classroom and we look forward to seeing the Year 7s visit Farchynys for the first time. Both the Year 7 and 8 rugby teams have been crowned county champions since I last wrote and the spring concert was a huge success, the highlights of which can be found [here](#). There are lots of other trips and events over the next few months and I am grateful to the staff who are running these. It is great to see that a number of families have accessed the various avenues of support, which 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.

Parent survey

I have spoken in the videos which have accompanied each parents' evening that we have moved to an annual survey. The questions remain similar to those used in the past and are based around the Ofsted Parent View survey. I would be grateful if you could complete the survey, which will help us to analyse patterns across the school. The link can be found [here](#). I will write to parents at a later point to summarise the outcomes.

Mercian Trust growth consultation

North Star Federation and The Mercian Trust are consulting on the proposal for the schools of the North Star Federation (Rushall Primary School and Oakwood School, Walsall) to convert to academy status and join The Mercian Trust. The consultation begins on Tuesday 7 May and closes on Friday 14 June 2024. As a valued member of our community, we would like to invite you to visit an independent consultation website to have your opinions heard. The consultation website will be shared after 7th May.

Is your child a young carer? (Mrs Hill)

We are proud of being a diverse and inclusive school and strive to support our pupils and their families in any way we can. As we continue to develop our support, we have been improving our knowledge and understanding of young carers. Therefore, we would be interested to learn if your child helps to give ongoing care and emotional support for you or other members of your family who may have an illness, a physical/mental disability or a mental health issue. With your help, we are looking to gather more information to help us identify and support any of our pupils who have a caring role at home and therefore could be considered a young carer. We have been conducting assemblies which have raised the awareness of young carers and asked pupils to reach out to us if they think this applies to them so we can try to ensure the right support is given to them. Since doing this we have identified 16 young carers but know that it is a small part of a much bigger picture.

Please follow [this link](#) to help you decide if your child might be a young carer. If you think they are, please email Mrs D Hill, Young Carer's Operational Lead d.hill@qmgm.merciantrust.org.uk with the heading 'Young Carer'. Please tell us your child's name and form with a brief overview of the caring role they provide. We will then be in touch with both you and your child to explain how they can be supported here in school (and out of school) and share information about other measures of support available.

Vaccination Clinics (South Locality School Nurses)

Over the next few months family hubs across the borough will be operating vaccination clinics for the MMR vaccine, please see below for further information. Vaccination clinics have been set up in Walsall to ensure children are up to date with their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Clinics will take place in June and July at Family Hubs across the borough:

- Saturday 1 June, 10:00 - 14:00, North Family Hub, 275 Blakenall Lane, Blakenall, Walsall WS3 1HJ
- Saturday 29 June, 10:00 - 14:00, South and Central Hub, Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NF
- Saturday 6 July, 10:00 - 14:00, North Family Hub, 275 Blakenall Lane, Blakenall, Walsall WS3 1HJ

The clinics will be staffed by trained healthcare professionals from the NHS and Vaccination UK who specialise in childhood vaccinations and follow all necessary safety protocols. Children will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the clinics.

The DTP vaccine, which provides protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) and the MenACWY vaccine, which helps protect against meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning), are also available at these clinics. Both vaccines are given to children aged 13 or 14 (school year 9 or 10).

Parents and guardians of children who have missed or delayed one of these childhood vaccines are being encouraged to come forward. Appointments can be booked by calling 01922 902035.

For information about measles, what to look out for, and what to do if you think you or your child has measles, please see: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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

Thank you to those people who have supported the event so far. We have just under a week to go and the fundraising total is standing at just under £5000! Our team of 11 runners represent staff, students, parents and alumni, all running to raise awareness of, and money for, the [Future Sports @ QMGs project](#).

The link for donations to the runners is available [here](#) and we are grateful for all support!

Thank you for your support and do get in touch with us at the school if you have any questions via alumni@qmgsmerciantrust.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.

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.

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:

- Saturday 29th June – Summer arts festival; look out for information and ways to get involved.
- Easy fundraising - we have raised a total of £7101.25 for the school from 305 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](#)

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:

29 Apr-8 May	Y10 exams	Sat 29 Jun	QMA arts festival
7-17 May	Y12 exams	1-5 July	Sports week
Mon 13 May	Y7 Farchynys weeks begin	Wed 10 Jul	Lower school soloists' concert
Fri 24 May	Finish for H/T at 3.40pm	11/12 July	Animal farm production
Thu 6 Jun	Whole school open evening	Tue 16 Jul	Term finishes at 2pm

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Mr Langton



Richard Langton
Headmaster