



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

## A message from the Headmaster, June 2024

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### First word

We have said goodbye to our Year 13 cohort over the past week, as they finish their A-level exams and look forward to an extended summer break. I spoke to them about the legacy they have left in the school and encouraged them to continue to be part of the school community as they progress in their education and careers. The Year 11s have also completed their exams and we look forward to celebrating the successes of both year groups later in the summer.

You only have to look at the School's [social media](#) account to see how much is going on at the moment, with lots of students on trips around the UK and beyond. Farchynys has been occupied for much of the past two months and I'm sure that the Year 7s have grown from the experience of going there. Such trips and activities wouldn't happen without the hard work of staff and I am very grateful to them for their time and energy.

We look forward to seeing lots of members of the community at the QMA's **summer arts festival on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. We are holding a non-uniform day on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June for the sale of raffle tickets (available through Parent Mail, along with an opportunity to make a donation). Tickets are still available and can be purchased by clicking [here](#).



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. 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@qmgsmmerciantrust.org.uk](mailto:alumni@qmgsmmerciantrust.org.uk). Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £7,246.97 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](#)

### Annual parent survey

May I encourage all parents to complete our annual survey? The questions are 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 questions, 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.

## **Instrumental lessons from September 2024**

We have had a record number of students undertaking instrumental lessons this year, which is a great sign of the health of the music department. Please use this [link](#) to sign your son/daughter up for instrumental lessons in school from September 2024 (next academic year).

## **Sports Store changes**

Clive Mark has now taken over the management of sportswear, as well as school uniform. All uniform and sportswear are 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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:Qmgswell-being@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)

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

## **Future Sport @ QMGS: A community legacy**

Thank you to those people who have supported the project so far. On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 08:00 the QMGS PE/Games department will start their 72 hour fundraiser for the Future Sport @ QMGS. This will involve 24 hours of Hockey, Rugby and Cricket back to back finishing on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 08:00. Over 300 pupils from all year groups are taking part and we would like to see even more join in. If you would like to take part then please get your son to speak to Mr Ryley (Rugby), Mr Hammond (Cricket) or Mr Francis/Mr Thompson (Hockey). We have set an ambitious target of raising £15,000; if each of the 300 pupils participating raised £50 each, we would reach our target easily.

Donations can be made in a number of ways:

1. Donating on our Just Giving Page [72 Hour Sport-a-thon - Queen Mary's Grammar School - JustGiving](#)
2. Via The Mercian Store, by scanning the QR codes on the next page.
3. Via ParentMail by logging into your account via the app or web-browser (<https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk/#core/login>). The payment option can be found under the Payments – Shop section.

[Future Sport @ QMGS](#) is a major fundraising project for the school which promises to revolutionise the sports facilities at the school and in the local community, providing opportunities for both current pupils of the school and the future generations of Marians. More information can be found here

If you have any questions regarding the 72 hour fundraiser or you or your business are able to donate a larger sum please contact myself via email [a.hammond@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:a.hammond@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk).



# Sport-a-thon 2024



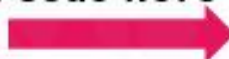
To donate £10, scan the QR code here



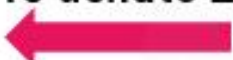
To donate £20, scan the QR code here



To donate £40, scan the QR code here



To donate £60, scan the QR code here



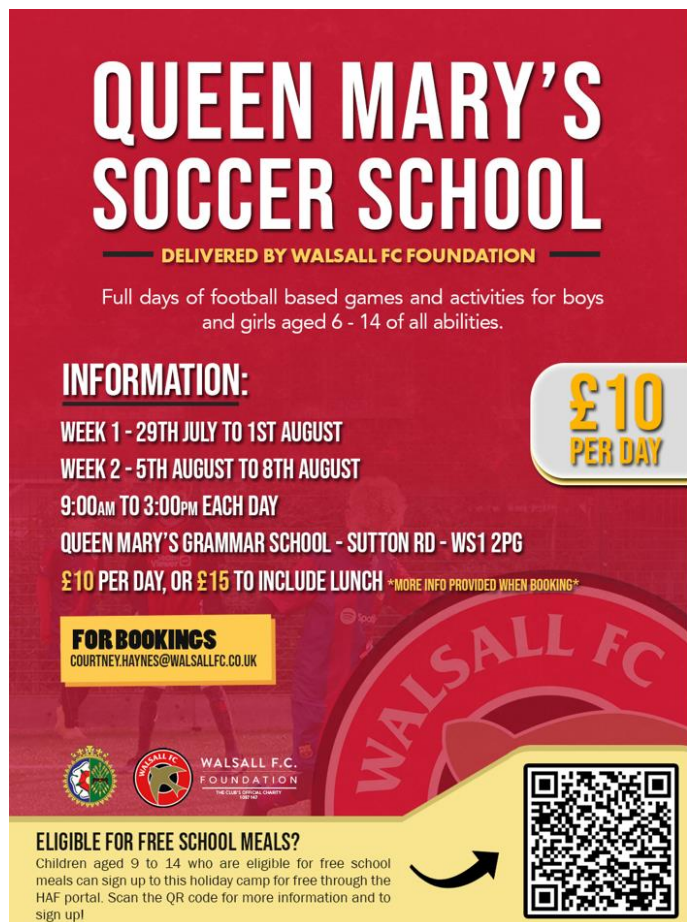
To donate £100, scan the QR code here





## HAF programme and summer football camp

Following a successful event during the Easter holiday, Walsall Football Club are returning to QMGS in July and August with their football camp. This is available for free to anyone who receives free school meals (through the HAF programme), but is bookable to other students aged 6-14 years. Please see the two flyers below and follow the QR codes for sign-up information.



**QUEEN MARY'S  
SOCCER SCHOOL**  
DELIVERED BY WALSALL FC FOUNDATION


Full days of football based games and activities for boys and girls aged 6 - 14 of all abilities.

**INFORMATION:**  
WEEK 1 - 29TH JULY TO 1ST AUGUST  
WEEK 2 - 5TH AUGUST TO 8TH AUGUST  
9:00AM TO 3:00PM EACH DAY  
QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL - SUTTON RD - WS1 2PG  
£10 PER DAY, OR £15 TO INCLUDE LUNCH \*MORE INFO PROVIDED WHEN BOOKING\*

**FOR BOOKINGS**  
COURTNEY.HAYNES@WALSALLFC.CO.UK

**ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?**  
Children aged 9 to 14 who are eligible for free school meals can sign up to this holiday camp for free through the HAF portal. Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up!

**£10 PER DAY**



**WALSALL FC FOUNDATION  
FREE HAF\*  
SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMP**  
QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL - SUTTON RD - WS1 2PG

WEEK 1 - 29TH JULY TO 1ST AUGUST  
WEEK 2 - 5TH AUGUST TO 8TH AUGUST

**HOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE**

1. Access your HAF code
2. Scan the QR Code at the bottom
3. Book on to Queen Mary's Summer Camp

Or email [courtney.haynes@walsallfc.co.uk](mailto:courtney.haynes@walsallfc.co.uk) with your code to get booked on

Sessions take place from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day for boys and girls of all abilities. We have 20 places available for booking.

**AGES 9 - 14**



## Avenues of support (Mrs Hill)

I would like to remind all parents of the Avenues of Support we offer, focussing on pre-loved uniform and sports kit and food hampers. We have had donations of uniform from Y11 and Y13, but there has been a drop in donations to the Community Hub of late.

Thank you to parents and alumni alike who have generously donated uniform and sports kit to our Community Hub. This is always very much appreciated and we look forward to receiving more donations. We have a good stock of pre-loved items, so please contact Mrs Hill at [d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk) if any items are required.

Thanks to Balbir Seimar and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Branch who kindly donate food hampers to support our families and the community. Please contact Mrs Hill at [d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk) if your family would benefit from a food hamper.

QMGS Breakfast Club, in partnership with the National Schools Breakfast Programme, offers free bagels and spreads every morning from 8am until 8.30am in the Canteen - all pupils welcome! Click on the link above for more information on the National Schools Breakfast Programme, weekend breakfast ideas and quizzes:

### **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@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:d.hill@qmg.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 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)

## Catering updates

Our school caterers (Impact Food Group) have announced some tariff changes for September and I include a letter below, explaining this. Ahead of September, we will share menu and meal deal information.



Dear Parent/Guardian

IFG proudly serves over 500,000 students nutritious meals each day. Our award-winning teams are dedicated to serving vibrant, appetising food, freshly prepared on site using quality ingredients. To enable us to continue to do this, our **tariff will increase by 2.0%** across our range from September 2024. Below we have outlined some of the cost pressures which have driven this increase.

**Food Inflation:** As is the case for supermarkets and restaurants across the UK, the rate at which food prices are rising has slowed, however, they remain high. Coupled with climbing fuel costs, we continue to encounter supply chain challenges such as lack of availability and higher prices.

**Employee Funding & Retention:** In April, the Government increased the minimum wage by 10%, a positive move which will ease cost pressures for many of our colleagues. Alongside this, to retain and attract a high standard of leadership, we have increased wages for supervisory and managerial roles. Despite positive advancements, the combination of these factors means significant ongoing cost demands across our industry, many of which we have absorbed. Our agility has enabled us to avoid an April increase and keep our September increase down to 2.0%, which is notably lower than the current rate of inflation.

We continue to seek ways of reducing these challenges, however, we refuse to compromise on ingredients or service standards. We remain proud to serve a home cooked main meal and dessert, and several alternative meal deal combinations. Additionally, our free porridge provision at breakfast time, meal deals and new 'PowerBites' range at £1.30 are all designed to provide further support and/or more affordable meal options to ensure nutritious food is always accessible. We truly believe we offer students innovative dishes which rival the high street whilst providing families with great value for money.

Through partnering with schools, we continue to see more students enjoying our services. Whilst this is great news and tells us our menus are popular with students, we are always looking to encourage more young people to dine with us. If you have any feedback we would love to hear from you.

We hope you understand our position and your family can continue to enjoy our services. We remain open and honest about our challenges and will continue to seek your input. Should you wish to discuss this letter, or anything else relating to your catering service, please get in touch.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Lygate".

**Bryan Lygate**  
**Managing Director**

**Impact Food Group Ltd**

Ground Floor, St Andrews House, West Street, Woking, GU21 6EB

T: +44 (0)204 5015000

E: [hello@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:hello@impactfood.co.uk)

Registered in England and Wales

Company Reg No 11096050



## Notice from Walsall council, regarding upcoming road works

We have received the following notification from Walsall council of road works to take place during July, in close vicinity to the school:

### **Carriageway Resurfacing Work: Total length of Princes Ave from Sutton Rd to Broadway North**

Walsall Council is to undertake carriageway resurfacing works at the above location as part of its Highway Maintenance Programme. The works have been planned and organised by the Council's Highways Maintenance Team.

This scheme is being delivered from additional funding provided to Walsall Council by UK Government under its Network North commitment to support highway maintenance across England.

To ensure the safety of our employees and the general public, the above works will be undertaken by using a daytime only road closure. Localised diversion routes will be in operation during the working hours listed below. We will endeavour to maintain access to frontages wherever possible.

The works above Works will be split into two individual phases.

**Phase 1:** From Sutton Road to The Crescent. Commencing on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July from 8am-4pm.

**Phase 2:** From The Crescent to Broadway North. Commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July from 8am-4pm. (no work at the weekend)

We will endeavour to start and complete the works to the above times scales; however, the above dates are subject to change should there be any adverse weather conditions prior to or during the works.

The above works will replace the existing carriageway surface, traffic calming and all associated road markings.

**IMPORTANT** Whilst the **CARRIAGEWAY WORKS** are in progress, please be aware that a temporary 'No Stopping' restriction order will be introduced for the duration of the work, and it is vitally important that the section of road to be resurfaced must be kept clear of vehicles. Temporary signs will be erected indicating the hours during which the 'No Stopping' restriction will be in force. Any vehicle obstructing our works during this period will receive a **PENALTY CHARGE NOTICE (PCN)** and the vehicle will then be physically removed in accordance with Walsall Council's Vehicle Removal Policy to a nearby location or to our contractor's compound of which a release fee may be payable.

To help the work be delivered swiftly and efficiently we will have dedicated traffic management personnel on site to offer advice to both residents and business on parking and access arrangements. **Civil Enforcement Officers** will be on site each day to ensure that no vehicles are obstructing our works within the above phases, therefore **please be mindful** that tickets will be issued from 8am.

#### **Disabled Bays.**

Any residents that current have the use of disabled bay outside their property please contact via email. [trafficmanagement@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:trafficmanagement@walsall.gov.uk) to ensure that it gets reinstated during our works. Failing do so may result in it not being replaced.

Every effort will be made to ensure noise pollution is kept to a minimum and we ask for your understanding and co-operation to allow the works to be conducted safely. If you have any queries or anticipate any problems that may be caused by these works, please contact Gary Chalk on the above email address.

## 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 have received recent notification of issues related to parents illegally using the access road that runs between Broadway North and Sutton Road. Could I please ask that all members of the school community stop using this access road and be mindful of local residents? 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

## Stagecoach stage school

Please see the flyers below for a summer holiday opportunity through the Stagecoach theatre group.

**STAGE COACH**  
WALSALL

# SUMMER SCHOOL

## SHOW IN A WEEK

MAKE FRIENDS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE AT OUR THEATRE WORKSHOPS

# Disney Aladdin JR.

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th July 2024  
Walsall Studio School, WS1 1RL

5 + years: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
8:30am Drop off on request  
£140 (£100 Sibling)

**Ofsted**  
Registered

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

**TO BOOK**

**SHOW TIME**  
26.07.24  
4:00PM

WEB: WWW.STAGECOACH.CO.UK/WALSALL  
EMAIL: WALSALL@STAGECOACH.CO.UK  
CALL: 07767 236 899

**STAGE COACH**

# WALSALL

Why not come along and experience the fun of Stagecoach during the Summer Holidays.

With a 'Show in a Week' Summer school you are on the flying carpet that is journeying to Agrabah.

Abu will be waiting for you to add your own cheeky spin on your character and bring to life the magical story that is Aladdin.

With scripts, choreography, music and lyrics ready to go we can't wait for you to join us on this adventure:

# Disney Aladdin JR.

Music By  
Alan Menken

Lyrics By  
Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics  
By  
Jim Luigs

Music Adapted and Arranged By  
Bryan Louiselle

Based on the Screenplay By  
Ron Clements and John Musker  
Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio

## 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:

Sat 29 Jun QMA arts festival  
1-5 July Sports week  
Tue 16 Jul Term finishes at 2pm

Thu 15 Aug A-level results day  
Thu 22 Aug GCSE results day

Thank you for your continued support for the school.

Mr Langton, Headmaster