

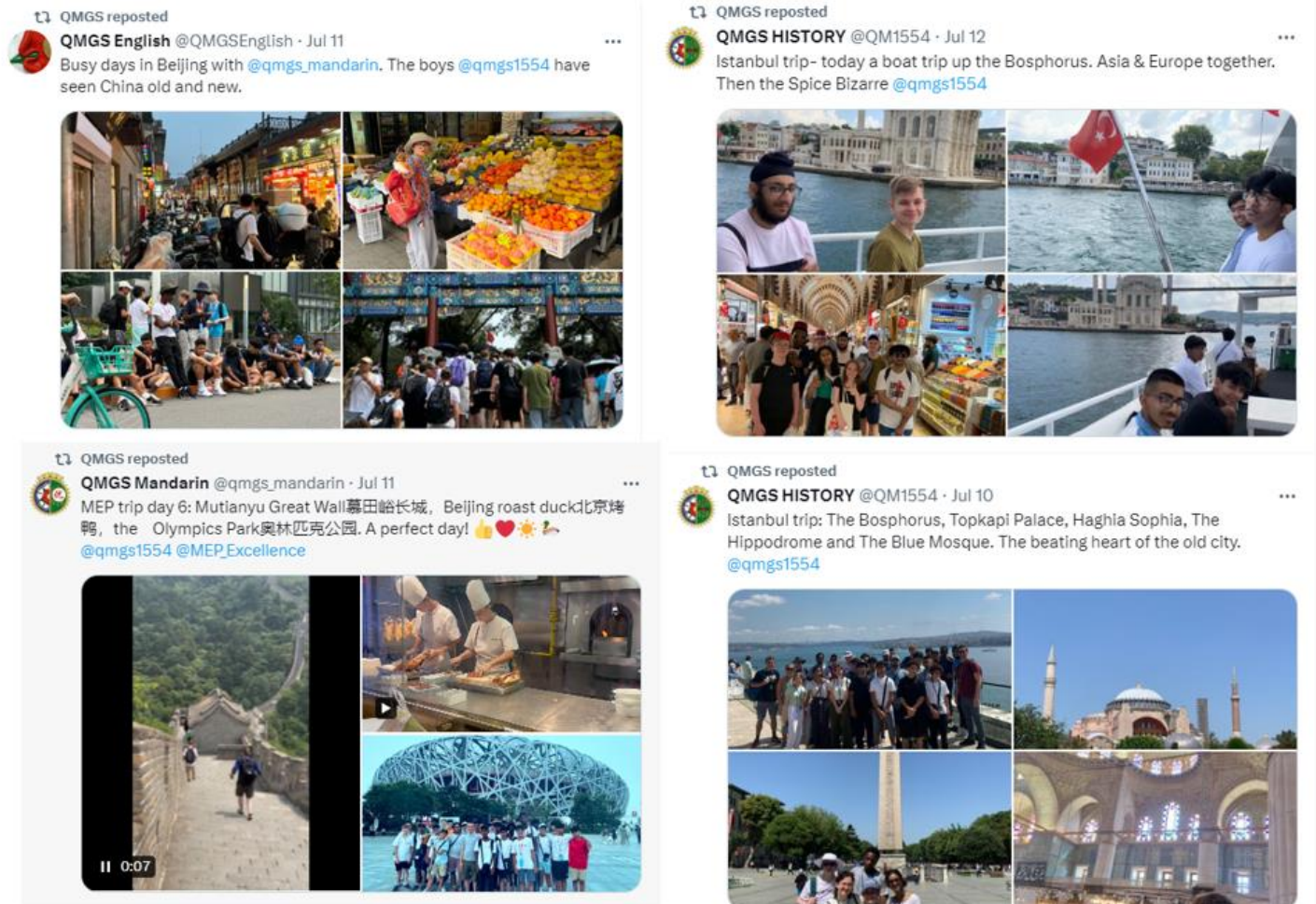


Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, July 2024

First word

As we reach the end of an extremely busy and productive academic year, I wanted to pay tribute to all the staff who have made such a wide range of opportunities available for the students. The photo montage below, taken from the School's [social media](#) accounts, gives a flavour of the international ethos of the School over the past few weeks and I'm sure that these students have found the experiences to be enriching and exhilarating.



Over the past month, we have also seen students showing their generosity of spirit, by being involved in sponsored events. Year 12 mathematicians have raised over £11,000 for Birmingham Children's hospital in their [24-hour challenge](#) and the 72 hour sport-a-thon (see page 3) has raised over £5000 towards the Future Sports campaign. It has been an outstanding year of fundraising for charitable causes and I am proud of the efforts of students and staff.

We always say goodbye to colleagues at this time of year and, in 2024, we pay tribute to three members of teaching staff. Dr Vinuesa Casas leaves us after 2 years in the maths department, to a college closer to home in Warwickshire. I am grateful for his contribution to the School and we wish him well for his future career.

Mrs Sharp has taught Spanish at the School since 2011 and, again, leaves us to pursue opportunities closer to home. She has contributed widely to the co-curricular programme, leading international trips to Spain, Dubai, and Morocco over her time. She has worked tirelessly for the students in her care and has achieved excellent outcomes over time. Mrs Sharp will be missed at the School and she leaves with our best wishes.

Our longest serving staff leaver is Mr Clements, who has taught Biology at QMGs for 19 years. He has displayed an impressive commitment to teaching and learning in that time and has contributed widely to the Biology

department and EPQ programme. He has led a wide range of enrichment opportunities and has contributed to sport, Farchynys and a range of trips, including sports tours overseas and early China visits. Mr Clements became a member of the chartered college of teaching during his time at QMGS and the quality of his teaching will be missed by students, as colleagues will miss the support he provides.

I am speaking to the students this week about making good use of their summer break, using it as an opportunity to relax and re-energize, but also to reflect on the past year and set resolution for what lies ahead. I hope that they find time to read, explore and try new experiences.

Queen Mary's Association (QMA)

We were delighted to see lots of members of the community at the QMA's summer arts festival in June. The event has made around £3500 profit, bringing the total for the year to just under £15,000! 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 have just welcomed new members of the parent community to the QMA and 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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk. Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £7,286.70 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).

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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk
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)

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.

Walsall College Future Foodies programme – July and August

Walsall College are running a free 4 day course aimed at 14 to 16 year olds to promote holistic life skills and diet autonomy for young people in the community. The aim is to empower the youth of Walsall to make positive informed lifestyle choices to continue into adulthood, within this course we want students to gain confidence, teamworking skills and organisation skills. Topics covered will include: cooking, budgeting, growing, eco-friendly kitchen tips, making a 'fakeaway' and a chance to cook in a professional kitchen. At the end of the course a Walsall College and Walsall Council certificate of completion would be achieved. More information can be found [here](#).



Future Sport @ QMGS: A community legacy

Thank you to those people who have supported the project so far and to those who attended the sports awards evening at the beginning of the month. On Tuesday 9th July 08:00 the QMGS PE/Games department started their 72 hour fundraiser for the Future Sport @ QMGS. This involved 24 hours of Hockey, Rugby and Cricket back to back finishing on Friday 12th July 08:00. Over 300 pupils from all year groups took part and we would like to see even more join in.

Donations can still 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.

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.



Sport-a-thon 2024



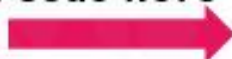
To donate £10, scan the QR code here



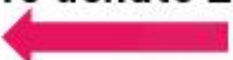
To donate £20, scan the QR code here



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. The HAF element of the programme is full, but places are still available on the paid programme, details of which can be found by scanning the QR code opposite.

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@qmgsmerciantrust.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@qmgsmerciantrust.org.uk if your family would benefit from a food hamper.

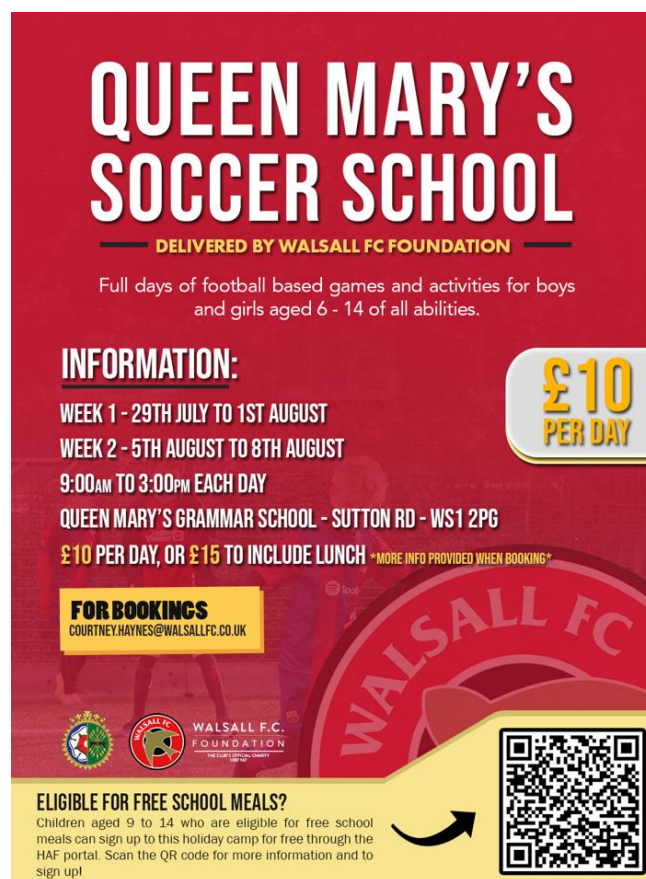
QMGS Breakfast Club, in partnership with the [National Schools Breakfast Programme](#), offers free bagels and spreads every morning from 8am until 8.30am in the Canteen - all pupils welcome! Click on the link above for more information on the National Schools Breakfast Programme, weekend breakfast ideas 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@qmgsmerciantrust.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



**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

WALSALL F.C. FOUNDATION

QR code

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.

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:

Tue 16 Jul Term finishes at 2pm
Thu 15 Aug A-level results day
Thu 22 Aug GCSE results day

Mon 2 Sep Teacher training day
Tue 3 Sep Year 7 and 12 induction day
Wed 4 Sep Term begins (all students, 8.45am)

Thank you for your continued support for the school. I hope that you have a great summer break.

Regards

Mr Langton
Headmaster