



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



**Year 12 parents'  
information evening  
Thursday 12th  
September 2024**



## Mr Langton (Headmaster)

- Welcome and introductions
- Sixth form recruitment and induction
- QM experience and Core Values
- Parental communications and expectations
- Future Sport @ QMGS project

## Mr Lax (Deputy Headteacher)

- Curriculum; Timetables and options
- Additional Academic Options

## Mr Matley (Head of Sixth Form)

- Support in the sixth form
- Signing in/out and SPS procedures
- Additional opportunities in the sixth form
- Timeline of 6.1 and 6.2

## Mr Kolaric (Assistant Head)

- QMGS use of MS Teams; Attitude to Learning grades; Effective learning/revision habits

## Mr Sunley (Head of Careers)

- Y12 Workplace Experience Programme
- Unifrog

## Christina Jojan and Nirav Kapur (Captains of School)

- A student perspective on life in the sixth form

## Queen Mary's Association

- Welcome to the Queen Mary's Parents' Association

# Running order

## Q&A



## Mr Richard Langton Headmaster

Welcome and introductions  
Sixth form recruitment and induction  
QM experience and Core Values  
Parental communications and expectations  
Future Sport @ QMGS project



## Sixth form recruitment and induction

- Sixth form places filled from conditional offers
- Over 130 new students are joining the school!
- Importance of induction – social and academic
- Transition work and testing
- Importance of low-level testing - especially on the first two or so weeks as students adapt back into school.



QUEEN MARY'S  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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MERCIAN

## Information Pack

A Level Transition Work- Section A

The Importance of Independent Study  
at A Level

September 2022

Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Sutton Road,  
Walsall,  
WS1 2PG

01922 720696



# ATOMIC HABITS

The small seemingly insignificant things which when done on a consistent basis lead to our outcomes


**GIVE**  **BE ON TIME** 


to teacher and task      all the time

**ALWAYS**  **BE EQUIPPED** **and ready to learn**

**DO YOUR BEST**  to attend school all the time

**SHOW RESPECT** to staff and pupils  
Be courteous, considerate and cooperative

 Always wear the **CORRECT UNIFORM**

Tidy up after yourself and care for your surroundings 

★ Be a **CREDIT** to QMGS ★

# Core Values

QMGS

- C**ourage. facing new challenges with determination & resilience
- R**espect for yourself & tolerance of others
- E**quality opportunities for all, whilst recognising & celebrating diversity
- D**iscipline developing personal responsibility
- I**ntegrity to be honest, sincere, reliable & selfless
- T**eamwork stronger together



High Challenge, High Support pastoral approach



## The 4 pillars:

**Academic in Purpose**

**International in Outlook**

**Enterprising in Spirit**

**Generous in Approach**

## The QM experience

**Recognising our past**

**Re-engaging with the USPs**

**Part of a community**

**Developing leaders**

**Striving for excellence in all we do**

**Taking co-curricular opportunities**

*"Quas dederis, solas semper  
habebis opes"*



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## Engaging with the USPs

### Farchynys

Farchynys, the school's Welsh Centre, is located on the stunning Mawddach Estuary in southern Snowdonia with views over to Cadair Idris. Purchased for the school in 1963 it has been a centre for adventure and learning in a contrasting setting for the past 50 years.

The centre provides basic self-catering accommodation for up to 24 pupils and accompanying staff in dormitory accommodation, together with classroom and dining room facilities. The school also owns 10 acres of the adjoining headland including its own access onto the estuary.



All year 7 pupils visit Farchynys in the summer of their first year in a series of trips with other members of their form group. These "Learning to Learn" weeks form an end to the year when pupils learn about learning in other contexts and about working with each other. Typical activities include visits to Harlech Castle, a local slate mine, the Centre for Alternative Technology and creating their own meal one evening.



### Combined Cadet Force



The Combined Cadet Force continues to gain in popularity at the school with well over 300 cadets, representing almost half of the school community. The contingent consists of Army and RAF sections of roughly equal size and is one of more than 200 such contingents based in schools throughout the country.

Membership of the contingent is entirely voluntary, with pupils choosing to join when they enter year 9. We also offer a fast-track scheme for new-entrants to the sixth-form. Our best cadets are invited to continue their membership whilst in the sixth-form to act as cadet NCOs and undertake

the majority of the instruction of other cadets.

The Combined Cadet Force is a youth organisation which is sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. Its purpose is summarised by the CCF charter, but in essence is about developing our pupils to be full citizens in the future.



**Mandarin Excellence Programme**



## Parental communications and expectations



Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Headmaster: R J Langton, MA

Beginning of term notices, September 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had a good summer. I wanted to write before the beginning of term in order to update you on some key matters.

### Beginning of term arrangements

- Mon 2 Sep – staff training day (no students in school)
- Tue 3 Sep – Year 7 and 12 induction day (see separate instructions for those year groups)
- Wed 4 Sep – return to school for all students (school starts at 8.45am)

### Summer disorder and return to school

It has been alarming to see the press coverage over the summer of disorder in communities around the UK, including within the Midlands. We are aware that some students (and their families) may have been affected by this and want to make sure that we provide the opportunities to check in and listen to any concerns. Please do speak to your child about talking to staff if they are worried about anything, including during their journeys to and from school. I am proud to lead a school with respect and equality as part of its core CREDIT values and want to emphasise that we take a zero tolerance approach to any form of discrimination or hate speech. I will be talking about this in assemblies at the start of term, along with warnings about the dangers of social media, including misinformation and fake news. As a Home-School partnership, I would be grateful if you could reinforce the same principles.

### Attendance requirements

School attendance is a legal requirement. Absence negatively impacts a child's academic potential and performance and denies the opportunity for them to interact socially with their friends and build experiences outside the classroom. All pupils should aim to attend school 100% of the time. Attendance and punctuality have always been monitored but as of September there will be some changes in line with the new [mandatory guidelines](#) published by Department for Education. This includes the requirement to share all daily attendance data with the government, new fine rates for absence, details of the thresholds for penalties and a change in attendance codes.

From September, no holiday in term time will be authorised and we are obliged to consider issuing a penalty notice to parents if a child misses 5 days of school for an unauthorised absence. Appropriate levels of challenge and support will be implemented where we recognise a cause for concern. If a child's attendance falls below 90%, they are classed as persistently absent and in turn the school will liaise with the Local Authority and an Education Welfare Officer who can issue legal proceedings where parents/carers are not meeting their legal obligation to ensure their child attends school. Parents can review their child's attendance and punctuality using EduLink. Please contact Mrs Johnson via [dataenquiries@qmg.merclantrust.org.uk](mailto:dataenquiries@qmg.merclantrust.org.uk), if you are unable to access this system. Our priority will be to take a 'support-first,' approach to help students and their families if there are barriers to attendance.



Queen Mary's Grammar School  
Headmaster: R J Langton, MA

### Behaviour expectations

We are proud that in March 2023, Ofsted rated our behaviour and attitudes as outstanding, but we are keen to ensure that our exceptional standards are maintained. Our [school policies](#) can be found on the school website. We ask all students to uphold our CREDIT values and embrace our atomic habits. Atomic habits are the small, seemingly insignificant things which if done consistently lead to positive outcomes. By setting these high standards of behaviour we create an environment that promotes academic excellence and well-being. In line with this, we will be reviewing some changes to our existing rules and sanctions relating to mobile phones and detentions. Any such adjustments will be communicated to parents and included in our behaviour policy.

**Core Values**  
QMGS

- Courage**: facing new challenges with determination & resilience
- Respect**: for yourself & tolerance of others
- Equality**: opportunities for all, whilst recognising & celebrating diversity
- Discipline**: developing personal responsibility
- Integrity**: to be honest, sincere, reliable & selfless
- Teamwork**: stronger together

**ATOMIC HABITS**  
The small seemingly insignificant things which when done on a consistent basis lead to our outcomes

- GIVE 100%**: to teacher and task
- BE ON TIME**: all the time
- ALWAYS BE EQUIPPED**: and ready to learn
- DO YOUR BEST**: to attend school all the time
- SHOW RESPECT**: to staff and pupils. Be courteous, considerate and cooperative
- CORRECT UNIFORM**: Always wear the correct uniform. Tidy up after yourself and care for your surroundings

★ Be a CREDIT to QMGS ★

### Home-School agreement

At QMGS, we believe in providing the best educational experience for our students in an inclusive environment that fosters personal growth and academic success. Staff work incredibly hard to provide the opportunities that your child benefits from. We hope you will support us in your child's journey. We are keen to work in partnership with yourselves and ask that all parents respect the professionalism of staff and are realistic in demands around communications. A copy of the home-school agreement can be found on pages 4-6.

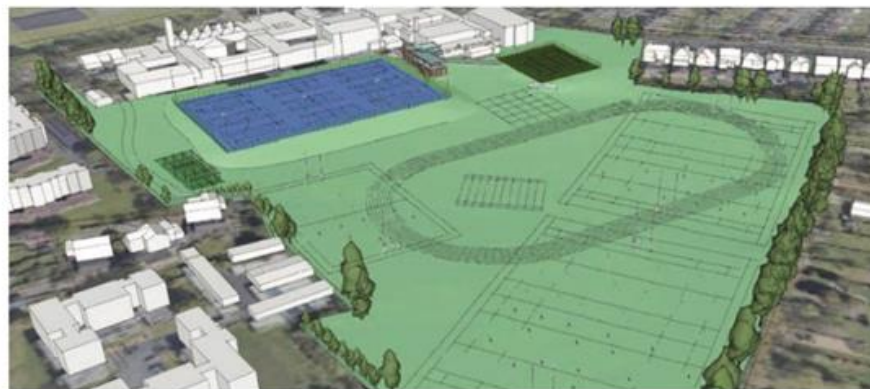




# Queen Mary's Grammar School

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## FutureSport@QMGS: A Community Legacy Project



Proposed Lower Ground Floor Plan (NTS)



Proposed Upper Ground Floor Plan (NTS)



### Walsall school looking to transform its sporting facilities – and here's why

A Walsall school is looking to transform its sporting facilities to enable it to compete competitively in hockey through an ambitious plan.



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, MA

September 2024

To Parents of Pupils in Y8-13

Dear Parents

### The QM Experience Fund

I hope that you have enjoyed a restful summer and that both you and your child is ready for the new academic year ahead. It is important to us that by the end of their time at Queen Mary's we have equipped him with the tools to face the future with confidence, including a strong academic portfolio. We have found, though, that it is not just exam results but also life experiences that shape young lives and opens doors. It is this 'QM experience' that sets us apart and makes our school such a rewarding place to work and study.

The School has many fine traditions dating back 470 years, including the embodiment of our School motto, *Quos dederis, solar semper habebis opes* which translates as 'It is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches'. Our hope is that you will consider giving to the QM Experience Fund to help us to help your child, and others, as he matures. Whether it is through sport, music, drama, language learning or one of the many other extra-curricular activities, we hope that your son will make the absolute most of the QM experience in his time with us.

We try our best to provide these activities through our school budget or at as low a cost as possible. However, our ambitions often go beyond this income and I am hoping that you will consider giving a regular amount to ensure that we can continue to offer a full range of activities. Prior to the Covid pandemic, we ran the 'Lift Fund' and I am grateful to those of you who supported this. Over the past few years, I have been very conscious of the national economic picture and have been cautious about approaching parents for support. However, I am grateful to those who have given what they can to the school and who have supported events through the Queen Mary's Association (QMA).

For the past two years, we have been fundraising towards the [Future Sport @ QMGS project](#): an ambitious initiative to revolutionise our facilities for the benefit of our students and the wider community. Any donations to the QM experience fund will initially go towards this, but will support a wide range of other opportunities once we have completed the project.

I hope that you will seriously consider making a regular payment to the QM Experience Fund. We are grateful for a regular contribution as it enables us to plan the best ways in which to support our young people. Please follow this [link](#) for details of how to set up a standing order to the donations account and a Gift Aid declaration which, if you are a UK taxpayer, will allow us to claim an additional 25% on top of your donations. Alternatively, if you would prefer you can make a one-off annual payment (£60) or termly payments (£20 per term), you can do this via Parent Mail. Please select the 'QM Experience' option.

## Future Sport @ QMGS A Community Legacy Project

Almost £1m in pledges

Planning decision  
imminent

Launch of the QM  
experience fund

All playing our part



**Mr Michael Lax**

**Deputy Headteacher**

**[m.lax@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:m.lax@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)**

**Curriculum**

**A-Level Options**

**Additional Academic Opportunities**

**Unifrog & Post-18 Pathways**



## QMGS Curriculum policy

### Academically-Ambitious and Accessible to All

#### Quality of Education Policy – September 2024

- Section 1: Curriculum policy
- Section 2: Teaching & Learning policy
- Section 3: Assessment & Feedback policy
- Section 4: Homework policy
- Section 5: Legislative compliance and responsibilities

#### Section 1: Curriculum

##### Principles:

**“Academically-Ambitious and Accessible to All”**

Queen Mary's Grammar School believes that the Quality of Education experienced by students is driven by a curriculum in its broadest sense: the entirety of a student's learning experience, in lessons and beyond. We have designed and embedded a curriculum that is planned and sequenced to develop in our highly academic students the knowledge and skills necessary for their future roles in society, while ensuring that the balanced curriculum offer is accessible to all.



## QMGS Curriculum policy A Levels

### **Academically-Ambitious and Accessible to All**

- A Levels are undoubtedly challenging for all students – we want all students to be academically-ambitious
- 3 A level subjects for two years plus an additional academic option
- Exception is Further Maths for those wanting to pursue a relevant degree course (e.g. maths, physics, economics)
- Emphasis is upon choosing the right 3 A Level subjects early on
- Expectation of mentoring/volunteering and participation in extra-curricular activities
- Internal Y12 exams in May (8 months away!)
- Influence upon UCAS Predicted Grades



## Options Change Requests

### QMGS Policy

- A Level options change requests must be submitted as soon as possible via the MS Form at (QR Code to the right):
- <https://forms.office.com/e/7Fs44tPucT>
- We will try our best to accommodate requests but any swap depends upon:
  - Meeting the GCSE entry requirement for that subject
  - Spaces available in the subject
  - Avoiding timetable blocking clashes for a combination of subjects
- We want students to be certain about choosing the right subject but the longer a decision is left, the more difficult it will be
- No changes after 13th September

### A Level Options Change Request Form 2024





## Timetable and Options

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Biology	Biology x2	Art	Biology x2
Business	Chemistry x2	Biology x2	Chemistry
Chemistry x2	Computer Science	Chemistry x2	Economics
English Lang & Lit	Design & Technology	Computer Science	English Literature
Economics	History	Economics	French
Maths x 5	Maths x5	Further Maths x2	Further Maths
Philosophy	History	Geography	Physics x2
	Physics	Physics x2	Psychology
		Psychology	<b>"MAT Subjects"</b>
			Politics
			Music
			Physical Education
			Theatre Studies



## Additional academic options

- Sports Leadership Award
- Level 3 Core Maths
- Level 3 EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)
- OCR Level 1 Certificate in Latin
- History of Art
- Gold Art Award
- CISI Level 2 Award in Fundamentals of Financial Services
- Ionic Liquids Research Project
- ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management & First Aid Qualification (CCF)
- Foreign Language Leader Award
- “Change Your Mind” Mental health/wellbeing and volunteering programme
- Mandarin – IB/HSK





**Mr Robert Matley**

**Head of Sixth Form**

**[r.matley@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:r.matley@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)**

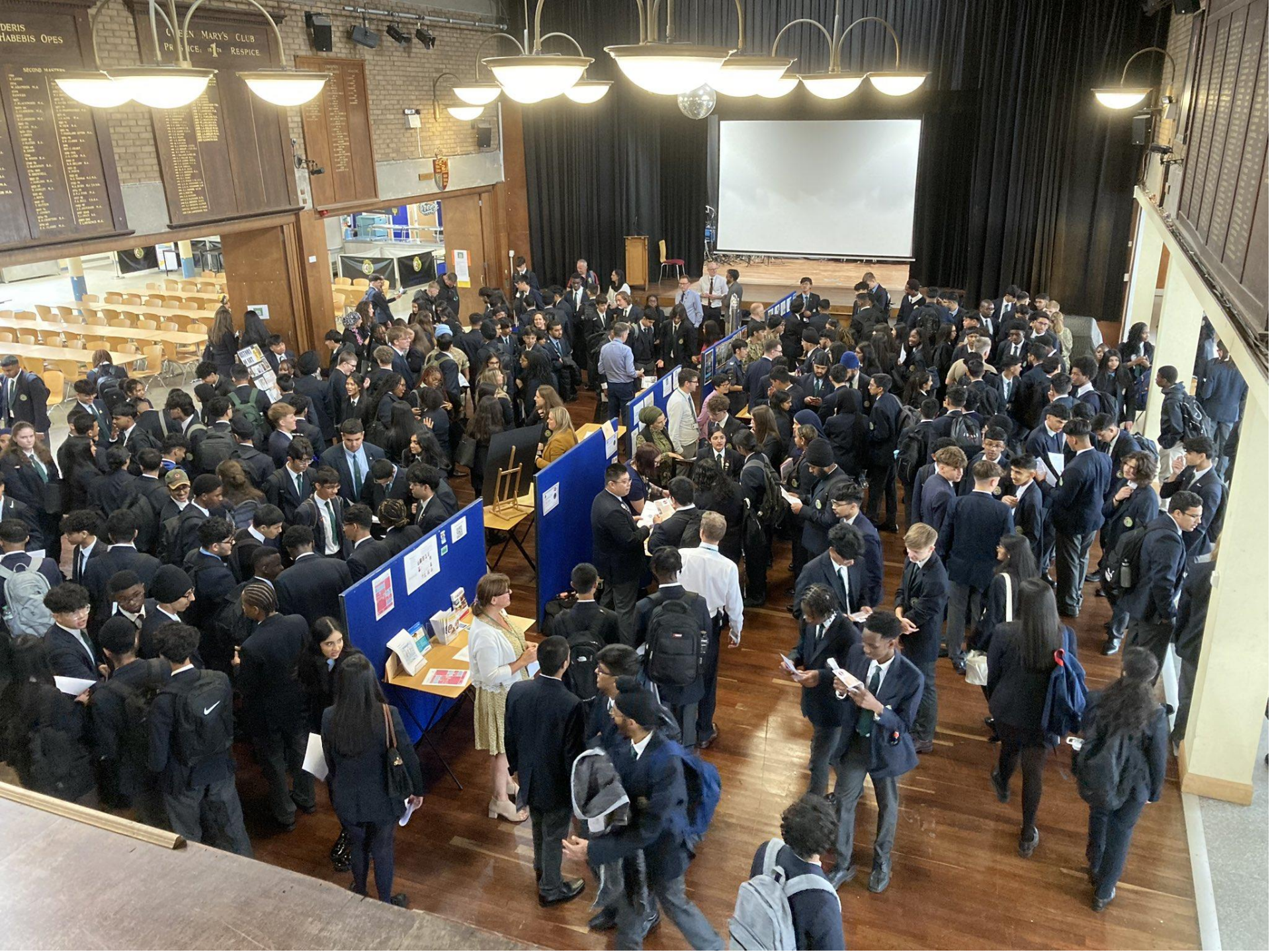
Support in the sixth form

Signing in/out and SPS procedures

Additional opportunities in the sixth form

Timeline of 6.1 and 6.2

Introduction of students





## Support in the Sixth Form

**Dr Rowley (Head of Year 12)**

**Induction Programme**

**Group Tutors & Form Periods**

**Priority Application preparation**

**Academic teachers and departments**

**Year 12 & 13 Prefects**

**Mentoring Scheme**

**Sixth Form Assemblies**

**Non-teaching staff – Mrs Bayley / Mrs Mohan / Miss Smith / Mrs Thomson**

**Parental Support – communication via Edulink & email**



## •Sixth Form Signing-Out

## •Supervised Study

	Year 12
End of a normal school day	If leaving at 3.40, there is no need to sign-out
No lesson p6	Use biometric scanners
Early finish due to no lesson p5 <u>and</u> p6	Sign-out with Mrs Bayley in the Collier Centre
Lunch Offsite	Use biometric scanners when leaving and returning
Wednesday Games arrangements	Sign-out with Mrs Bayley in the Collier Centre if not involved in on-site activities



## **Additional opportunities in the sixth form**

### **Community Volunteering**

**Mentoring – QMGS, primary schools, STEM ambassadors**

**Coaching and refereeing**

**Work experience (including alumni network)/World of Work week**

**University and other outside speakers**

***INFORMATION NEEDED – Bursary, Access Arrangements, SEND etc***



## Timeline of Year 12 and Year 13

Year 12 Futures Evening – 30th January 2025

Parents Evening – 27th February 2025

Prefect Application Process – November 2024/March 2025

Examinations – 29th April-9th May 2025

UCAS Fair (Post-18 Pathways) - June 2025

World of Work Week – TBC (June) 2025

UCAS Day – July 2025

Priority Applicants (Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Vet Science)  
September 2025

Year 13 Parents' Evening – October 2025

UCAS Application process completed in November 2025

Final A-Level Examinations – May/June 2026



## Mrs Youngman

Special Educational  
Needs and Disabilities

Pupil Premium &  
Free school meals

Avenues of Support

Sixth Form Bursary

Young Carers

A young carer is someone under 18 who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled or misuses drugs or alcohol.

Across the UK, as many as **1 in 5** children and young people are young carers.



## Mr Kolaric

1. QMGS use of MS Teams
2. Attitude to Learning grades
3. Effective learning/revision habits





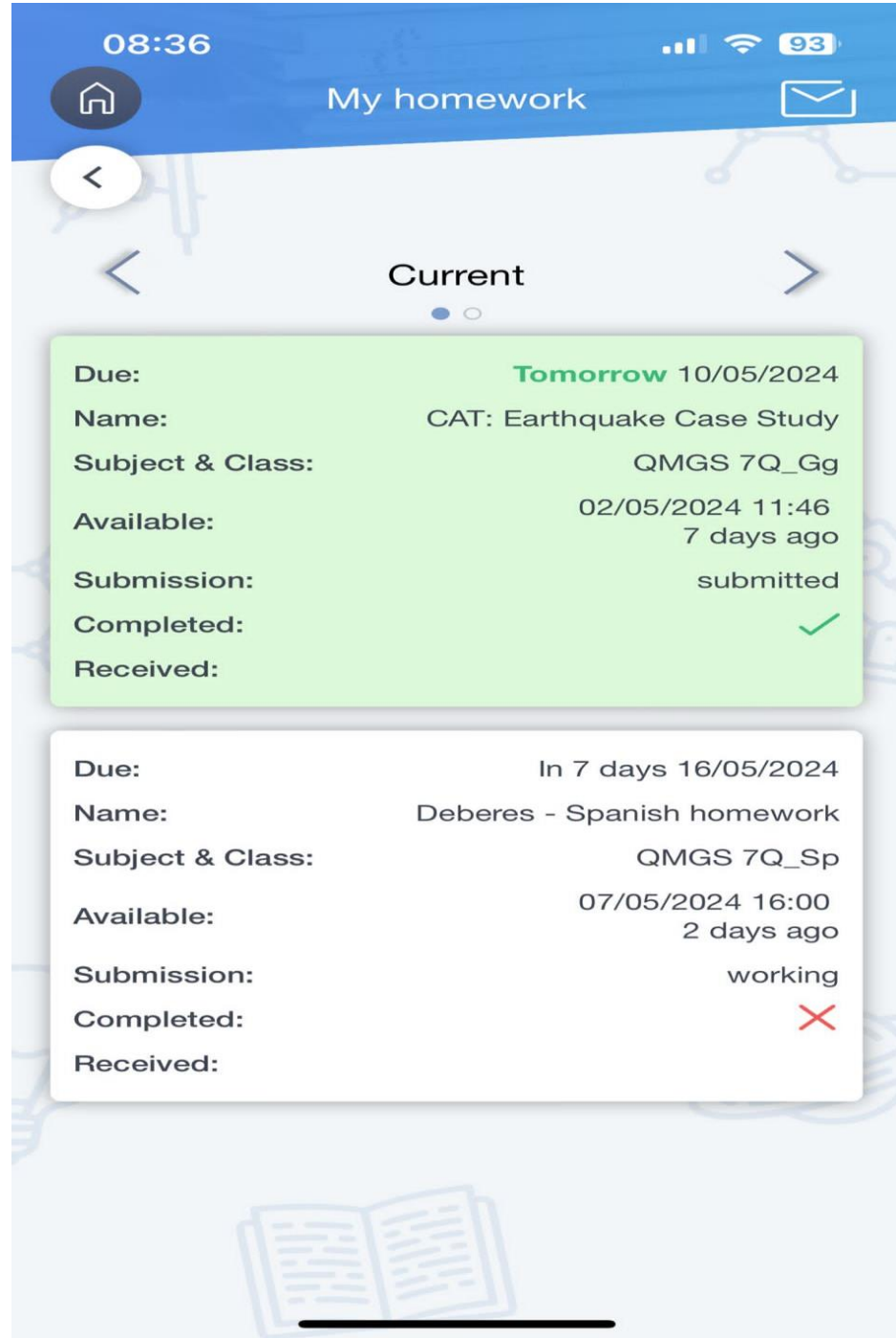
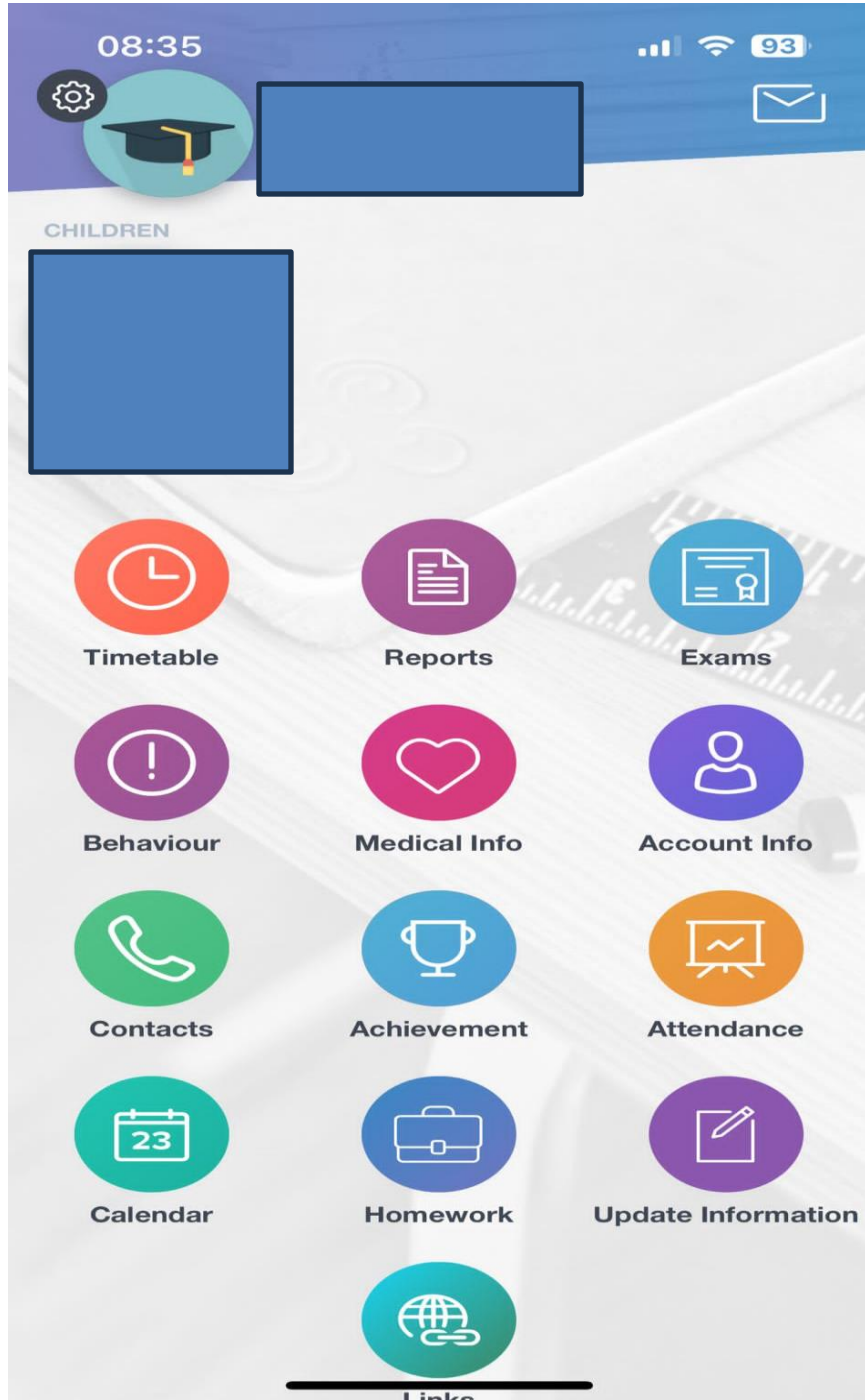
## QMGS Use of Teams

- 1) All classes to have an individual Teams site.**
- 2) Relevant lesson resources to be uploaded to these Teams sites.**
- 3) All H/W to be set using Assignment function on Teams.**



## What are the benefits to pupils?

- Gives you access to a **blended learning curriculum**.
  - 1) **Personalise** learning
  - 2) Allow pupils to go **deeper** in your learning
  - 3) Makes it easier for **catch up**
  - 4) Improves **organisation**
  - 5) Increases and improves **parental engagement**



# Attitude to Learning

**Are you:**

**Self-regulating**

motivated, focused and organised in your learning inside and outside the classroom.

**Actively engaged**

listening and contributing in discussion and showing interest in your learning.

**Aspirational**

responding to teacher and pupil feedback to improve your work and aiming high.

**We expect you to achieve Grade B at a minimum.**

Frequency

Grade

**ALWAYS+**

**A**

+ regularly going above & beyond, showing a genuine interest in your learning

**ALWAYS**

**B**

**USUALLY**

**C**

**RARELY**

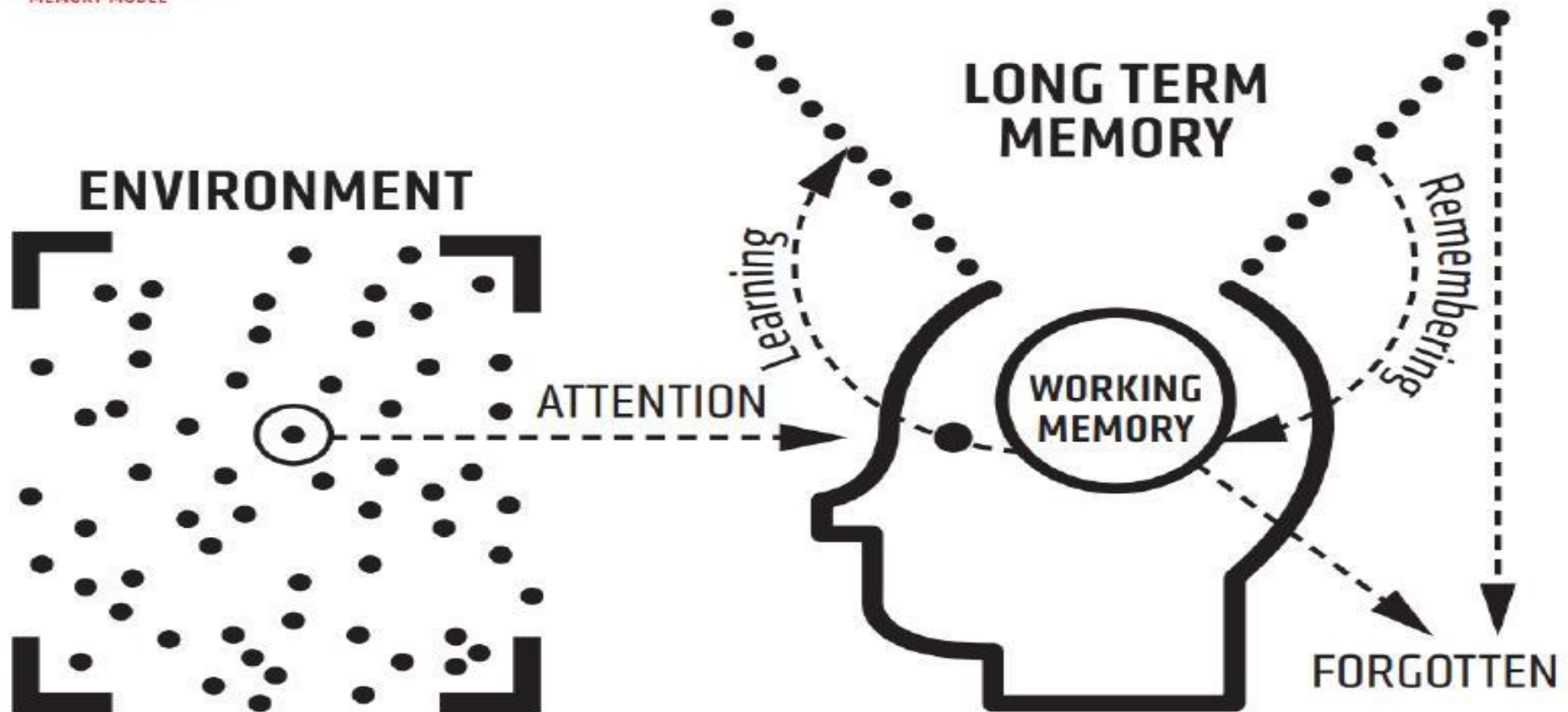
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# Queen Mary's Grammar School

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**OLICAV** OLIVER CAVIGLIOLI  
@olicav  
olicav.com  
WILLINGHAM'S SIMPLE  
MEMORY MODEL



[The Learning Scientists](#)



## **Y12 World of Work Week [Unifrog & Work Experience]**

Mr Sunley

Head of Economics / Careers Lead



## Making Applications

### Competencies Store

- ✘ Started
- ✘ Completed all 5

[Go to tool >](#)

### Personal Statement

- ✘ Subject added
- ✘ Started
- ✘ Character count
- ✘ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

### Teacher References

- ✘ Overall Reference

# UNIFROG

## Searching for Opportunities

### UCAS

You've shortlisted university courses - now pick your top 5

[Start >](#)

### CV Creator

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

### University

You have 4 shortlists  
[View shortlists](#)

[Start >](#)

### Apprenticeships

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

### MOOC

Make your first shortlist

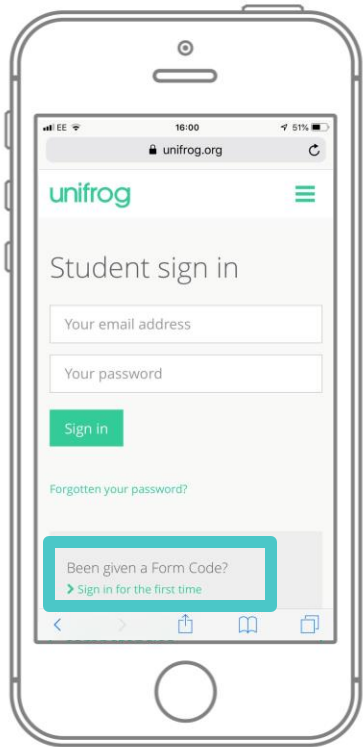
[Start >](#)

### Oxbridge

Make your first shortlist

[Start >](#)

# Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to [www.unifrog.org/student](http://www.unifrog.org/student) and click 'Sign in for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

**QMGSparent**

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!





## Benefits of workplace experience (WEX)

- Bring the working world to life
- WEX is now a key part of the UCAS process
- A chance to road-test a career/job role
- Relate studies to the world of work
- Learn and develop employability skills
- Could lead to a reference or further opportunities



## Virtual Work Experience (VWEX)

- Many organisations have created some excellent VWEX placements.
- Amazing opportunities can be found via: -
  - **Speakers for Schools**
  - **SpringPod**
  - **Medic Mentors**
- There will be regular e-mails to students about these
- Ask your child – have they
  - registered on the Speakers for schools/Springpod websites?
  - made any applications?



**SPRINGPOD**®





## Y12 World of Work Week end of May 2025\*

- All **Y12 pupils** to be out of school completing 5 days of work experience/volunteering during this week
- **Pupils need to ACT NOW and make steps to arrange this.**
  - Identifying and contacting employers
  - We encourage parents to support with finding employers/workplace using social/family contacts
  - Regular support sessions in school



## Y12 World of Work Week

### **HELP REQUIRED**

If you (or your employer) would be willing to host pupil(s) for the Y12 World of Work Week next May please get in touch with me at the school

**All details and finalised dates about the Y12 World of Work Week will be sent out in a letter next month.**



## Senior Students

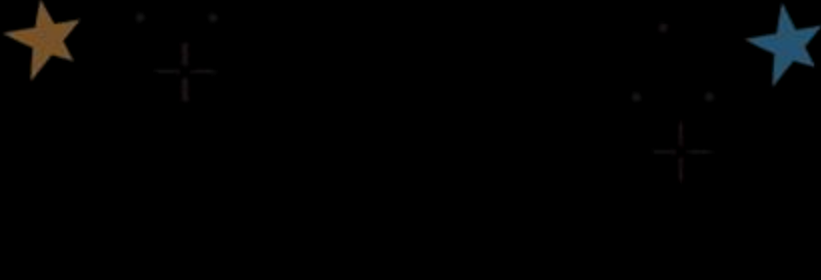
Captains of School – Nirav Kapur & Christina Jojan

Please look out for notices and information on Twitter  
[@QMGS6THFORM](#)  
[@qmgs1554](#)



# Year 12 Information Evening

Christina and Nirav



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a black pen, filling out a bubble sheet. The sheet has a grid of bubbles, some of which are already filled in. The numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are printed in circles next to the bubbles. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the sheet and the hand.

# Transition to Sixth Form

Christina Jojan

Everyone's in the same boat!





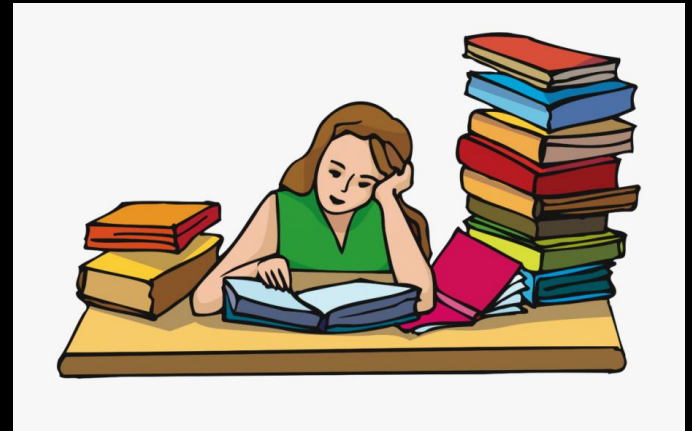


## Extra-curriculars:

- CCF
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Hockey
- Girls' Games
- Debate society
- Events e.g. TOTW or Burns Night

# Studying for A-levels

Nirav Kapur



# The Jump

- Change in the number of subjects
- Depth of content
- Application of content In questions
- Independent study



# Study Skills

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- Blurting
- Flashcards/mindmaps
- Online resources
- Teacher resources
- Past paper questions
- Find what works for you



# Prioritise You

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- Relax!
  - Do what you enjoy
  - Get the most out of QM
- 



Everyone's in the same boat!





## Queen Mary's Association (QMA)

The QMA have played a crucial part in school fundraising over a long period of time. In recent years, monies raised from the events have gone towards the outdoor cricket nets/covers and the blue minibus. Events in 2019-20 raised money for a refurbishment of the library. In 2022-23 and 2023-24, proceeds went towards our sports fundraising project, which we are continuing to support this year.

The dates for the next events are:

Sat 7 Dec 2024

Taste of the World

Sat 25 Jan 2025

Burns Night

TBC July 2025

Summer arts festival

**Please fill in  
the interest  
forms!**



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## Communications



Website: [www.qmgs.org](http://www.qmgs.org) Email: [enquiries@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk)

Twitter: qmgs1554

