



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

September 2024

RE: Diving Trip – Lanzarote – 21st June - 28th June 2025 – Open Water Course (Beginners)

I am writing to inform you about a very exciting opportunity to learn to scuba dive and qualify as a PADI Open Water Diver. This qualification allows them to dive all over the world, PADI is the leading and most recognised diving qualification available. Our QMGS diving trip will begin in the UK with pool dives and then progress onto diving in the coastal waters around Lanzarote, in the Spanish Canary Islands. Open Water Diving Course Students will begin diving in the school swimming pool with a local, well established, diving club. Once these are completed, students will then progress onto open water diving in Lanzarote from Saturday the 21st to Saturday the 28th of June 2025. This date is after the GCSE and A-level exams are concluded. Students signing up for the Open Water qualification must be confident swimmers and in good health. Information on the requirements of the Open Water course can be found at PADI.com under the "Health Requirements" tab.

The UK diving and initial PADI online learning is run by Mrs Mehta as a separate activity. The cost of these dives (including all equipment etc) and PADI eLearning is around £150 and takes place in in the spring and summer terms of 2025. All students signing up to the Lanzarote Diving Trip will be required to complete this UK based training and will have places reserved for them to do so.

The Lanzarote diving trip is run by Mr Rendu as an overseas visit. The trip is organised with Halsbury Travel, an experienced school trip operator. The waters around Lanzarote are 23°C in June, important for spending extended time in the water and learning comfortably. Students will dive for a total for 5 days in Lanzarote with two dives per day, this will be 5 dives for the PADI course and 5 dives for refreshing skills and to make full use of their new qualifications, as well as allowing flexibility for students to ensure the best chance of gaining the full qualification. We are required to leave 24h between diving and flying at the end and intend to use some of this time taking in the sites of the island.

The cost of the week will be £1650. This covers the following:

- Return flights from the UK to Lanzarote including any coach transfers.
- Half board accommodation close to the dive site with lunches provided on diving days.
- PADI Advanced Open Water Course and online learning.
- Typical 1:4 to 1:6 dive instructor staffing ratios.
- All equipment hire e.g. masks, snorkel, BCD, tanks, fins, wet suit.
- Travel and medical insurance.

Not included:

- UK diving and eLearning – a separate trip organised by Mrs Mehta in Spring, Summer 2025.
- Passport and any documentation.
- Personal spending money.
- Evening meals at a modest cost in the resort.

We appreciate that the cost of this trip is high. We have worked very hard to keep costs down. The payment plan is shown below. Students eligible for Pupil Premium may receive funding for £100 of the cost of this trip which would be credited to the second payment. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our financial assistance form is available on our website and can be found [on the school website](#). The price of the trip is fixed save for large fluctuations in travel costs due to large fuel surcharges, currency exchanges and the like outside of our control. Parents must note that payments are used to secure places, flights etc and are therefore non-refundable.

Payment schedule:

1st October 2024: First payment and trip deposit of £250
9th November 2024: Second payment and second deposit of £250
1st February 2025: Third payment of £350
1st March 2025: Fourth payment of £350
1st April 2024: Third payment of £450

Payments can be made in smaller amounts before the deadlines shown above i.e. payments can be made over 7 months as long as payment deadlines are met. On parent mail, simply type in the amount you want to pay. Note, to secure a place on the trip a full deposit is required. However, if this is difficult, arrangements can be made by contacting Mr Rendu on the email below.

Further questions regarding this trip should be addressed to Mr Rendu by email:

m.rendu@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

M O Rendu,
Head of Science

B B Mehta
Head of Year