



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

### 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.merciantrust.org.uk](mailto:dataenquiries@qmg.merciantrust.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.



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## 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, both in school, on trips and activities, and during travel. 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
- 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.



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### School uniform and sportswear

Please remember that all uniform and sportswear should be sourced directly from Clive Mark uniform suppliers. Details are available on the [School's website](#) or directly from [Clive Mark](#). We do offer a range of support, including pre-loved uniform, for parents who require this. More information on this and other support can be found on our [website](#).

### Catering updates

Please see a welcome below from our catering partner, Innovate. All price tariffs, menus and other information will be available via the [School website](#).



We are delighted to partner with the students, teachers, and staff at Queen Mary's Grammar School, part of the Mercian Trust.

Our aim, along with the schools' is to provide all students with an **exceptional catering experience**. Our very talented Executive Chefs and our fantastic catering teams will be serving exciting menus packed with **healthy ingredients**, that are full of variety, and with loads of interesting new things to try. It's important that the food tastes as good as it looks, and we're sure you won't be disappointed.

What's on the menu?

Innovate has long been considered the most inventive school caterer and that's because we're very clear about our food. All our dishes are prepared every day using quality, fresh and seasonal ingredients that are responsibly sourced. As well as ensuring the food on the plate is healthy, we want our customers to understand the importance of eating the right foods and help them with their food and nutrition journey.

- **A huge selection of 'grab and go' items** including baguettes, paninis, burritos and salads to name a few.
- **A variety of healthy, tasty main meals prepared fresh every day** from carefully selected ingredients. The menu will follow a similar weekly pattern, so you know what to expect, providing **over 35 choices each day** in addition to the ever-popular chef specials, themed events and loyalty schemes.
- **Our Street Vibes range, global street food that tours the world.** It's always changing; from Korean fried chicken, Chinese bao buns, to Greek souvlaki, there's always something new to try!
- **A salad bar bursting with flavour**, from traditional garden salads through to composite salads with a wide variety of grains, proteins, and dressings
- **Theme days** we're travelling around the world! We'll go to different regions each half term, with 3 days of special dishes alongside Street Vibes street food for the whole half term. There are also lots of individual special days and promotions that will run throughout the year!

I have a free school meal allowance, what can I have?

We want to ensure that all of our customers have access to a healthy nutritious meal, with this in mind, we have some meal deals in place. These include the hot main meal offer, jacket potato deal, pasta pot deal, a hot wrap or chefs special with a hot dessert.

We have also developed our "Blue Dot Deal", 4 items can be purchased for the free school meal price. Selected hot items such as garlic bread, mini pizza boats, mushroom quesadilla, and selected cold items such as filled rolls, crudites, fruit pots etc. (Usually priced at £1.10 each) can be bundled together at the free school meal price.

Tell us what you think

Once you've tried our service, let us know what you think. Drop us an email at [hello@impactfood.co.uk](mailto:hello@impactfood.co.uk) to tell us about your dining experience. We also run regular customer and parent surveys which are sent out via the school: with the results being used to improve our service and adapt our menus.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours sincerely,

Ben Massey

**Regional Operations Manager**

I will write again later in the month with details of school events during the year and look forward to meeting parents throughout the year. Thank you for your support in helping us to provide an exceptional educational experience.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Langton  
Headmaster



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## Queen Mary's Grammar School

### Home-School Agreement, September 2024

**Success at school is based on a successful partnership between school, student and home.**

**This agreement explains that partnership.**

**The Value and Ethos of the School are set out on our website:**

**[Values and Ethos - Queen Mary's Grammar School \(qmgs.walsall.sch.uk\)](https://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)**

#### SCHOOL

**We aim to provide a happy and safe environment in which all members of the school community are encouraged to develop to their full potential. In doing our best to achieve this, we will:**

- Provide a broad, balanced and well-taught curriculum to meet the needs of our students
- Have high expectations of attendance, uniform, behaviour, punctuality and attitude
- Take account of any individual special needs our students may have and make reasonable provision so that students feel they are accepted, included, understood and supported
- Set, mark and monitor appropriate work and homework, according to department policies
- Monitor the progress of students against their estimated STAR grades, which are based upon GCSE Average Points Score and benchmarked against national criteria
- Ensure a fair and consistent approach to any disciplinary matters
- Keep parents informed about their child's progress and any concerns that affect your child's work, behaviour or welfare
- Provide a wide range of co-curricular activities: we encourage our students to participate fully in school life, to enjoy learning and to develop socially as members of the wider community
- Provide a safe and caring environment, looking after the welfare and well-being of all in our community, and encouraging positive attitudes towards others, in line with the ethos of our core CREDIT values and Atomic Habits
- Provide effective careers advice in support of a successful transition to the world of work

#### PARENTS/CARERS

**As part of the partnership with the school, I/we will:**

- Support the values and ethos of the school, including encouraging our child to strive for their best and to be actively involved in our community
- Respect all members of the community and be reasonable in expectations (in line with the Mercian Trust's parental code of conduct)



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- Ensure that our child attends school, is properly equipped and is punctual for registration each day at 08:45
- Inform school of any absence on each day of absence and provide written confirmation by letter or email on their return
- Provide requests for planned absence well in advance (3 days)
- Not book holidays in term time and be aware of the legal responsibilities for [school attendance](#) and the School's [attendance policy](#)
- Be aware that although students may enter from 08:00 they may not be directly supervised until school starts at 08:45. After school hours, students may only remain on the school site after 16:00 if participating in an organised school activity or at homework club
- Support a healthy lifestyle for my child by encouraging healthy exercise, eating and sleep habits
- Make support that students have digital access in the home environment and communicate with the school if there is an issue with this
- Encourage digital responsibility and be vigilant over online use, using filters and parent restrictions as appropriate
- Accept that any property brought into school, including mobile phones, are done so at our own risk
- Support the School's [Behaviour Policy](#)
- See that my child completes work set, monitor their progress, and support them in their work and organisation
- Ensure that my child wears correct uniform and that all items are clearly and permanently named
- Keep the school informed about any concerns or problems that affect my child and any changes in contact details.
- Work proactively with the school and any external agencies to resolve any issues or facilitate additional support
- Drive safely and considerately in the vicinity of the school and respect the school's neighbours when parking
- Understand there is no access onto the school site for parents except by arrangement

### STUDENTS

#### I agree to help my parents and the school. I will:

- Accept the core CREDIT values and Atomic Habits as the basis for how QMGS operates
- Strive for the highest possible attendance and come to school ready to learn in a punctual manner
- Treat all members of the school community with respect and offer help and support to any member of that community that may need it
- Wear correct school uniform, including when travelling to and from school, remembering that I am representing the school to the public
- Arrive at all lessons and activities punctually and with the correct equipment



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- Not leave the school site during the school day, unless my parents have signed me out at Reception (sixth form may use the digital sign in/out machines)
- Ensure that a member of staff always knows where I am by attending all lessons, registrations, assemblies and any other directed time
- Make the most of lessons: participate, engage, ask and answer questions
- Take responsibility for my own learning and progress and work hard to achieve my full potential
- Complete all work as directed
- Use Microsoft Teams to record and complete homework set with the support of my parents
- Check school email regularly for updates and information
- Behave responsibly and follow the school's rules and requirements about discipline and behaviour, recognising that this applies in school, whilst travelling to school, whilst on school visits or online
- Think about my safety and the safety of others and follow any specific safety rules
- Contribute to the wider school community through involvement in co-curricular activities and school events
- Keep the school environment, including the canteen, clean and tidy
- Use my locker and not carry my bag around school
- Look after any equipment or books issued to me and return them when asked.
- Positively communicate with adults in the school and tell someone if I have a problem
- Not use my phone during the school day unless authorised by a member of staff