



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, December 2024

First word

The end of the autumn term is a good time to reflect, both in terms of what has been achieved, but also in terms of being thankful for the opportunities we enjoy. I will be presenting a large amount of prizes to students in assemblies this week, recognising their amazing achievements, but I will also be asking them to reflect upon those not as fortunate. We have supported a number of good causes this term and I will be reflecting upon the work of the 'Glebe Centre' food bank in Walsall and the 'Save the Children' organisation, which we will be making donations to this month. I hope that all students at QMGS have a sense of perspective and can enjoy their achievements, whilst selflessly thinking of others.

This term has been a busy one and 2024 a year of incredible highs, with trips, exam results, sporting success, music performance and a range of events to savour. The Taste of the World showcase this month was a highlight of the year for me. Almost 500 people took part in the event, bringing together the many cultures of the school, raising over £7000 towards the work of the QMA. I am sincerely grateful to the committee and everyone who made this possible. This week, we welcomed back our class of 2024 for their awards event on Monday and were treated to some extraordinary musical talent at the Christmas concert on Tuesday. As ever, I have thanked the staff for the time and effort that goes into making such events happen.

As we go into the Christmas break, I hope that all members of the school community find time for rest and recuperation, spending time with families and loved ones. Thank you for your support this year and we look forward to seeing you in January.

The Queen Mary's Association (QMA) present Burns night

Following on from the success of the Taste of the World event, we are delighted to say that tickets are on sale for our adult only event - Burns Night (see flyer opposite).

We will be running a student raffle, with a non-uniform day in exchange for the purchase of a raffle ticket or a donation on **Wednesday 22nd January**. Details on prizes will be released at the start of the Spring term, but raffle tickets can be purchased and donations made through Parent Mail now.

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. If you are interested in supporting the QMA, please contact us via Minaxi Patel-Gill at: alumni@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk



Queen Mary's Association presents
BURNS NIGHT

WITH FUN CASINO EXPERIENCE

Scottish Piper
Four course meal by candlelight
Wine, dine and dance the night away with
ED CUSICK

Come and join us for a fabulous evening of entertainment

Saturday 25th January 2025
Tickets £45
Contact Minaxi Patel-Gill on 01922 720696
Email: alumni@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk



Scan to buy tickets

Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £7,640.70 for the school from 309 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](#)

Future Sport @ QMGS

I hope that you had a chance to read my letter earlier in the term relating to the planning permission being granted for the [Future Sport @ QMGS project](#)! This comes after over two years of hard work in fundraising, preparing plans and building our partnerships with clubs, schools and charities. We have gone out to tender and hope to appoint a contractor to carry out phases 1 and 2 (installation of the astroturf and reinstatement of the grass drainage system) in March, with work to start before the end of the academic year.

We are looking for people to give their time. We have a dedicated campaign board, made up of staff, parents and alumni. We are looking for alumni who would like to be ambassadors for the programme, organising events and advocating for Future Sport @ QMGS within their year group or community. If you are interested in this, please let us know via alumni@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

We are looking for people to contribute financially. Thank you to those who have done so already, but, if you haven't, you can do this in a variety of ways:

1. By setting up a regular payment through a standing order. Please follow this [link](#) for details of how to set up a standing order to the donations account. This includes a Gift Aid declaration which, if you are a UK taxpayer, will allow us to claim an additional 25% on top of your donations.
2. By making a regular payment to the QM Experience Fund, via Parent Mail. You can make a one-off annual payment (£60) or termly payments (£20), via Parent Mail. Please select the 'QM Experience' option
3. Just Giving – [Future Sport @QMGS - Queen Mary's Grammar School - JustGiving](#)
4. Supporting the work of the Queen Mary's Association (QMA), by attending events (Taste of the World, Burns Night and the Summer Arts Festival), and supporting raffles

FutureSport@QMGS: A Community Legacy Project



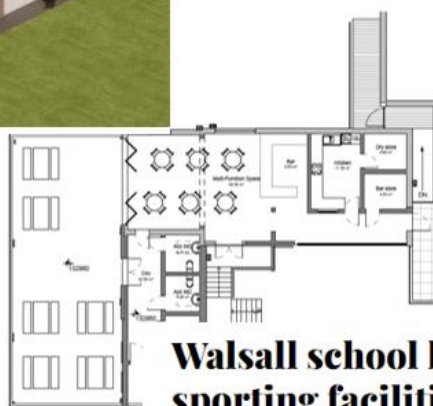
Express & Star 

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.



Proposed Lower Ground Floor Plan (NTS)



Proposed Upper Ground Floor Plan (N)

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 at the end of last year, 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.

Walsall Winter Holiday Activity and Food Programme



The poster features logos for Walsall Council, Walsall Right4Children, and the Department for Education. The title 'WALSALL WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME' is written in large, red, stylized letters. Below the title is an illustration of five children in winter clothing playing in the snow, with a snowman in the center. The children are engaged in various winter activities like sledding and snow play.

Walsall Council are offering all eligible children the opportunity to join our Winter Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF).

How do I know if my child is eligible?
For your child to take part in the programme you must live in Walsall or your child must attend a Walsall school. Your child must be eligible for income-based free school meals and be aged between 5-16 years old.

What do we offer?
It is aimed at eligible children and young people and their families to provide an opportunity to be active over the School Winter Holidays, meet other children and take part in activities they may not usually get the chance to try. Each activity is for a minimum of four hours including a healthy meal each day.

When does the Winter HAF programme start?
The activities will take place over the School Winter Holidays on: **Monday 23 December, Tuesday 24 December, Monday 30 December 2024, Thursday 02 January & Friday 03 January 2025**

Winter programme provision
Choose up to four sessions from a range of 'Pick and Mix' activities over winter.

How can my child take part?
You should receive a letter in the post with your child's unique HAF code. If you have not received a letter, you can enquire about your child's code by emailing the WR4C. Once received you will need to register your child, if not already registered, by visiting the website: www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup
Once registered, from **20 November 2024**, you will be able to go online and book your child onto the activities.

What do I do if my child/ren has not received a code?

If you want to see if you have a code, please contact the HAF team by email or by calling the team with your child's name, Date of Birth and your address. Contact details are available below.

I need support with registration

You can ask your child school for support or visit one of our many venues across Walsall – see your local connected point by scanning the QR code ▶

My child is already registered for the HAF programme

If your child is already registered on the programme at some point this year, you are able to log onto your account at anytime, and book on from **20 November 2024**.

What happens after I have registered and booked my child's activities?

Once you have booked your child's activities, you will receive an email with confirmation. The provider delivering the activity will then contact you to confirm details and discuss any practical arrangements such as arrival times and dietary requirements.

Please ensure that you let the provider know if you need to cancel or amend a booking well in advance where possible. Activities are very popular and if your child is not able to attend it is important that we are able to offer their place to another child to benefit from the programme.

My child has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – can they still take part?

Walsall Council has been working closely with local providers to ensure that where possible SEND requirements can be met on activities that are on offer – each activity has a SEND tick list, please check this when booking to see if the provider can offer reasonable adjustments for your child to attend the activity. Providers will make contact with parents / carers before the activity to discuss support needs of a child. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide up to date SEND information to the HAF providers so they can meet your child's needs. Failure to share information may lead to your child being removed from the HAF activity as providers have not been able to prepare and offer reasonable adjustments.

For any further enquiries

Details of how to contact the provider of any of the activities your child is registered on are available on the webpage www.walsall.gov.uk/children_and_young_people/haf_signup

Please email any questions to WR4C@walsall.gov.uk or call our **Holiday Activities helpline on 01922 653899** – available from Monday to Friday from 10am until 4pm.



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)

Dates for your diary

The full school calendar can be found on the [School website](#), but I have included some key dates for the end of term and beginning of the autumn below:

Mon 16 Dec	Y13 leavers' event	Wed 5 Feb	Soloists concert
Tue 17 Dec	Christmas concert	Thu 6 Feb	Y9 parents' evening
Fri 20 Dec	Term finishes at 2pm	Thu 27 Feb	Y12 parents' evening
Mon 6 Jan	Staff training day	Thu 13 Mar	Y7 parents' evening
Tue 7 Jan	Term starts at 8.45am	Thu 27 Mar	Y8 parents' evening
7-15 Jan	Y13 mock exams	Wed 9 Apr	Spring concert
Mon 13 Jan	Y11 information evening	Thu 10 Apr	Term finishes for students at 2pm
Thu 16 Jan	Y9 information evening	Fri 11 Apr	Staff training day
Thu 23 Jan	Y10 parents' evening	Mon 28 Apr	Staff training day
Sat 25 Jan	Burns night		
Thu 30 Jan	Y12 Futures evening		

Term dates for 2025-26 are also now live, via this [link](#).

Regards

Mr Langton
Headmaster