



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, January 2025

First word

We have been delighted to welcome a larger number of parents into school, this month, through our information events for Years 9 and 11, along with the Burns Night event last weekend. It is an important time for those making decisions on next steps and, as I said at the information evenings, I am grateful that we can work together effectively as a home-school partnership. We will be meeting the parents of Year 12 this week, for the 'Futures Evening' on Thursday, where a number of staff and students will be talking about life after QMGS. We have expanded our careers provision across the school over this year and I am pleased with how receptive the students have been to sessions and interviews held by Mr Sunley (Head of Careers) and Ms Pagett (careers advisor).

Members of Year 13 have sat their mock exams this month and, along with Year 11, the countdown is on to the public exam season in just under 15 weeks (or 100 days). The message in school has been one of organisation and a plan for this time, seeking support where needed. This is the time for the students to be honest with themselves and not leave anything to chance. Please do continue to work with us to support the students and reach out if you have any concerns.

There is lots going on in school as well as exams and options processes. The [Queen Mary's Observer \(QMO\)](#) has just been published for the autumn and this term looks to be just as busy. The first Farchynys trips of 2025 have taken place this month, courtesy of the CCF, and the sports teams have continued their good form, working up to the final stages of county cups. Assemblies this month have included lots of opportunities for the students to get involved in the extra-curricular life of the school and I hope they take up these offers. After all, that is what the QM experience is all about.

Music (Mr Vause)

For those who missed out on our fabulous Christmas concert, a highlights video is available via this [link](#). We have some exciting events this term, starting with the soloists' concert on Wednesday 5th February. Tickets can be bought via [TicketSource](#). We are holding the Spring Concert on Tuesday 8th April, and it would be great to see as many parents there as possible. Tickets will go on sale soon for this.

Exam invigilator vacancies

Ahead of the summer exam season, we are looking for people to join our invigilation team. Anyone looking for some casual work to join our school community is encouraged to apply for the exam invigilator role which can be found via this [link](#). You will need to select Queen Mary's Grammar School as the location.

School glasses collection (Lions Recycle for Sight)

The student council are running a house competition for students to collect used pairs of glasses. Any damaged or unused glasses can be brought in and placed in the house reception boxes. Please do not send in cases or cloths. All donations need to be received by Friday 14th February.



Queen Mary's Association (QMA)

Thank you to all parents and students who supported our Burns Night event (and associated raffle) on Saturday 25th January. The event was a huge success and saw almost 200 guests enjoy an evening of fine food and entertainment, including some traditional Burns Night touches! I am grateful to the committee for their incredible work, and we look forward to sharing news on the profits with you. The student raffle was drawn in assembly on Monday 27th January and prize winners have been notified.



Our next event is the Summer Arts festival, taking place on Saturday 28th June 2025. Please save the date and look out for publicity in the next few months

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@gmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £7,673.71 for the school from 312 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](#)

World Cancer Day – Tuesday 4th February

Members of the student council have spoken in assemblies this week about events taking place on Tuesday 4th February in support of 'World Cancer Day'.

Staff and students are invited to wear a pink accessory (e.g. tie, jumper, socks, hair band) in exchange for a donation. A raffle will also be taking place in the school canteen at break.

Students should bring change into school on this day, as the event is not on Parent Mail.

WORLD
CANCER DAY
2025



WEAR A PINK ACCESSORY

Show your support for Cancer
Research UK

TUESDAY
4TH FEBRUARY

#WorldCancerDay2025 #WearitPinkDay 

Any queries speak to the Wider Community department of the
School Council

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 will shortly be receiving tenders and hope to appoint a contractor to carry out phases 1 and 2 (installation of the astroturf and reinstallation 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

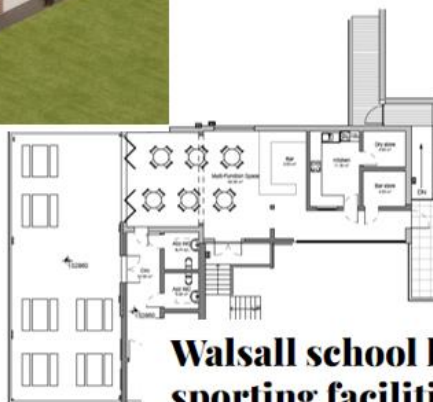
We are looking for people to contribute financially. Thank you to those who have done so already, but, if you haven't, you can do this in a variety of ways:

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. Please remember to make your Spring term donation, if you haven't already.
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



Proposed Lower Ground Floor Plan (NTS)



Proposed Upper Ground Floor Plan (N)

Express & Star

50

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.

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. Please also 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.

Mental health and wellbeing

The school continues to support staff and students with their wellbeing through the usual communication channels. We work with several 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@qmgsmerciantrust.org.uk

qmgssafeguarding@qmgsmerciantrust.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:

Thu 30 Jan	Y12 Futures evening	Thu 27 Mar	Y8 parents' evening
Wed 5 Feb	Soloists concert	Tue 8 Apr	Spring concert
Thu 6 Feb	Y9 parents' evening	Thu 10 Apr	Term finishes for students at 2pm
Fri 14 Feb	School finishes for H/T at 3.40pm	Fri 11 Apr	Staff training day
Mon 24 Feb	Return to school	Mon 28 Apr	Staff training day
Thu 27 Feb	Y12 parents' evening		
Thu 13 Mar	Y7 parents' evening		

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

Regards

Mr Langton
Headmaster