



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, October 2025

First word

We approach the end of the longest half term of the year and Speech Day is soon upon us. This week is always a time to reflect, both on the achievements of the past 12 months and upon the long history of the school. I hope that all students can engage with the themes of the week and use these to inspire them to be better versions of themselves. It has been mentioned in assemblies recently, that the small actions of each person shape the person they are becoming and taking opportunities to reflect and respect the work and achievements of others is a big part of that.

The start of term has been a busy one and it has been pleasing to see lots of students involved in a wide range of activities. The sport programmes have been busy, and students have adapted well to temporary arrangements at Walsall Rugby Club. The new Year 7s (right) are adapting well to new opportunities and hundreds of students have represented the school so far this year across the school. A combined Year 8/9 team are taking part in a tour to London this week. We look forward to hearing of their progress. Full details of the sports fixtures can be found [here](#). Updates will be posted on our [social media accounts](#). I hope you have followed the progress of the [Future Sport Project](#), as work is well underway. The aerial photograph below and recent [press article](#) gives an impression of the pitches and we hope to have the AGP in use in January. Please do consider supporting our fundraising efforts, if you are able to.



As always, we are encouraging all students to make the most of what is available through the QM experience. Whether it is music, drama, CCF, opportunities for trips or signing up for lunchtime clubs and house activities, it is an important part of character development. Please do encourage this. We recognise that these activities often come at a cost and I would like to remind all parents that we offer a range of support mechanisms, so that no student misses out. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Finally, can I encourage parents to support our fundraising ventures this year? There are details later in this newsletter on how to support or Future Sport project and other activities through the QM Experience Fund and a full listing of QMA events for the year. Thank you for your support and I hope that you have a restful half term break.

Queen Mary's Association (QMA)

The QMA run three events during the year, in order to raise monies for the school. In 2024-25, just under £18000 was raised, which will support the Future Sport project, as well a range of other projects, including the library, SEND and PSHEE departments and some extra-curricular activities.

We have set the dates for the events in 2025-26:

- Taste of the World: Saturday 6th December (family event)
- Burns night: Saturday 24th January (adults only, formal event)
- Summer arts festival: Saturday 27th June (family event)

The **Taste of the World** tickets are now on sale, via [Ticket Source](#). Supported again by Five Rivers, Chef Vijay and Innovate catering, we are looking forward to welcoming you for a fantastic night of food and entertainment. Book now to avoid disappointment.

We are always looking for support in the running of the events, but also in the donation of raffle/tombola prizes, business sponsorship, and match funding. Please do contact us if you can help 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@qmgm.merciantrust.org.uk

Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £8,219.30 for the school from 310 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](#)

QM Experience Fund

I wrote to all parents at the start of term about our 2025-26 QM Experience Fund. A large number of people have already made a contribution to this since the start of term in September, and I hope that all parents can consider a donation this year. Whether it is through sport, music, drama, language learning or one of the many other extra-curricular activities, we hope that your child will make the absolute most of the QM experience in their 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. We launched the QM Experience Fund last year and received a tremendous response, raising over £10,000 in 2024-25. Added to just under £20,000 raised through the QMA events, this was a terrific boost to the school from the parental/student body and has made a genuine difference to what we can achieve.

As I have written to you about previously, over the past three 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. Work started on the project at the end of August and we are hoping to have the astro-turf in use from January.

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 (£75) or termly payments (£25 per term), you can do this via Parent Mail. Please select the 'QM Experience' option.

I am very grateful for the support given to the school from parents. This enables us to provide extra opportunities that are not supported by Government grants. If you have any questions about the fund please contact me at the school, via enquiries@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk. I hope that you will join me in supporting the QM Experience Fund. *Thank you.*

Mercian trust parent code of conduct

The Mercian Trust have a code of conduct for parents of all schools in the group. The code can be found [here](#). We want to continue to maintain our extremely positive relationships with our parental community and ask that you are aware of these expectations.

Clive Mark uniform

We will be continuing to work with Clive Mark uniform suppliers for the next academic year. This is for sportswear and regular school uniform. The online store is available [here](#).

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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk if any items are required. Please also contact Mrs Hill at d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk if your family would benefit from a food hamper.

Is your child a young carer? Let us know (Mrs Hill)

We are proud of being a diverse and inclusive school and strive to support our pupils and their families in any way we can. As we continue to develop our support, we have been improving our knowledge and understanding of young carers. Therefore, we would be interested to learn if your child helps to give ongoing care and emotional support for you or other members of your family who may have an illness, a physical/mental disability or a mental health issue. With your help, we are looking to gather more information to help us identify and support any of our pupils who have a caring role at home and therefore could be considered a young carer.

We have had assemblies to raise awareness of young carers and asked pupils to reach out to us if they think this applies to them so that we can try to ensure the right support is given to them. Since doing this we have identified over 30 young carers but know that it is a small part of a much bigger picture.

Please follow [this link](#) to help you decide if your child might be a young carer. If you think they are, please email Mrs D Hill, Young Carer's Operational Lead d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk with the heading Young Carer. Please tell us your child's name and form with a brief overview of the caring role they provide. We will then be in touch with both you and your child to explain how they can be supported here in school (and out of school) and share information about other measures of support available.

Useful contacts: Mr G Collins – Young Carers SLT Lead:

g.collins@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Mrs D Hill – Young Carers Operational Lead:

d.hill@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Walsall Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Please look out for for Christmas opportunities. The Walsall HAF website can be found [here](#).

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@qmgsmmerciantrust.org.uk

gmgssafeguarding@qmgsmmerciantrust.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)
- Mrs Mohan (6th Form Operations Manager)
- Ms Forbes (SEMH counsellor)

Dates for your diary

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

Mon 20 Oct	Curriculum early finish (2pm)	Sat 6 Dec	Taste of the World event
Thu 23 Oct	Speech Day (finish for half term)	Mon 15 Dec	Leavers' celebration
Mon 3 Nov	School re-opens	Tue 16 Dec	Christmas concert
Wed 12 Nov	Curriculum early finish (2pm)	Fri 19 Dec	End of term (2pm)
Thu 20 Nov	6th form open evening (2pm finish)	Mon 5 Jan	Staff training day
Fri 28 Nov	School closed	6-15 Jan	Y13 mock exams
17-27 Nov	Y11 mock exams		

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

Regards

Mr Langton
Headmaster