



Queen Mary's Grammar School

A message from the Headmaster, December 2025

First word

I am writing this at the start of the final week of term before Christmas. Over the next couple of days, we will welcome back our Year 13 leavers from the summer for their prize giving and we are hosting the Christmas concert. It's a busy week, at the end of a busy and highly productive term, one filled with experiences and accomplishments.

There have been some excellent sporting achievements, with students competing well in rugby, hockey, netball and basketball. In rugby alone, 133 fixtures have been played, with a win ratio of almost 50% against some very tough opposition and the Year 10s winning the Greater Birmingham championship. It is great to see students in Year 7 flourishing in new sports that

QMGS SPORT reposted

QMGS Rugby @QmgsRugby · Dec 12

The U12 A+B teams both finished the term with strong wins vs Hab Dab this afternoon! Closing the first part of the rugby season in style. See you in the new year! 🎉

@QMGSSPORT @qmgs1554 @qmgs1554qma



they hadn't played a matter of months ago (above) and I am grateful to all the staff, across all sports, who have given up so much time for practices and fixtures. Full details of the sports fixtures coming up can be found [here](#).

There have also been a wide variety of trips and activities, with Year 10-13 French students travelling across the channel to the Christmas markets in Lille (above) and sixth formers taking part in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme in Poland. A number of trips have taken place in the UK, with cadets at Farchynys, DT students at Morgan Motors, Year 7 artists at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Year 12s at Cambridge University and those studying the Latin option in the sixth form visiting Bath. The senior mathematicians won the regional heat of the senior maths challenge and the Chess team finished 3rd in the Midlands final; both sets of students qualifying for the national round in their respective competitions. Finally, a team of Year 11 and 12 students (right) finished third in the regional Bar Mock Trial competition, performing exceptionally well and showing the value of dedicated preparation.



Thank you to all members of the community who attended the Taste of the World event and made it such a success. We sold 400 tickets, and it is looking like we will have made a profit of around £7000, which will help support projects in school. We are hugely grateful to all members of the committee who supported the event, our performers and the caterers (Five Rivers, Chef Vijay and Innovate). The student raffle has been drawn, and all prize winners have been notified. Please see below about how to support our next event 'Burns Night' in January.

The Mandarin Excellence Programme students closed the Taste of the World event and have been working hard this term on their studies, and enrichment activities (right). The Year 9s are looking forward to their trip to China in 2026, one of many international visits planned next year. You can follow updates on school event via our [social media accounts](#). 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, I wanted to pay tribute to a member of staff who is leaving us at Christmas, after almost 14 years at the school. Mr Vause joined us in 2012 as Director of Music and has transformed our provision in that time. The sheer number of students taking part in music lessons and performances is testament to his vision and dedication. Anyone who has attended a concert that he has presided over will surely agree that the quality of music has been excellent. Mr Vause is re-locating to the north-west of England for family reasons and we will miss him. We are thankful for everything he has done for the school.

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

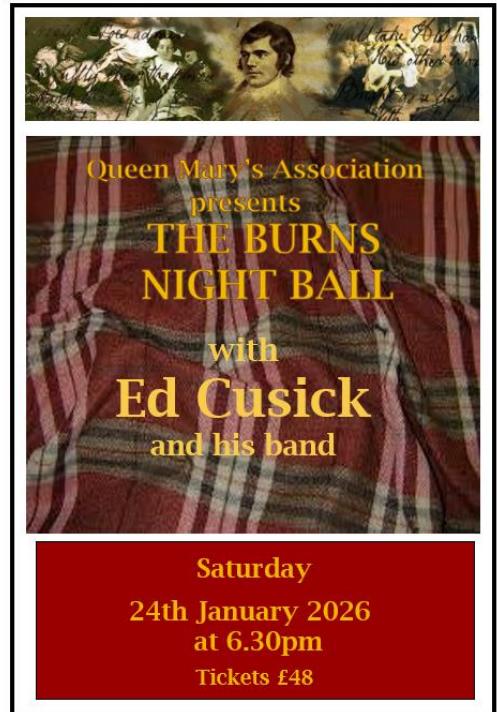
We are delighted to invite you an exciting event in the Queen Mary's Association fundraising calendar: Burns Night. The event will take place on Saturday 24th January 2026 from 6.30pm until midnight.

Burns Night is an adult only, formal evening of first-class dining and live music. We also offer a casino experience and a raffle on the night, with all money raised going to support the work of the QMA, our parent's association. Burns Night always proves to be an enjoyable and entertaining event providing an opportunity for guests to socialise with family and friends, as well as to meet other parents and friends of the school. Tickets are £48 per person and include a formal dinner, welcome drink and entertainment. Numbers will be limited, so we would recommend you buy your tickets as soon as possible via this Ticket source [link](#)

All of the money generated from profits of the night and events in school including sales of raffle tickets and a non-uniform day, raise vital funds for the school which ultimately benefit many of our children. Previous fundraising events have enabled the school to purchase a minibus, install cricket nets and covers and

QMGS reposted

QMGS Mandarin @qmgs_mandarin · Nov 22
Well done to our brilliant @QMGS_Year_7 pupils! Rain? Not a problem! Chinese Culture Day was a triumph of colour, creativity and beautiful characters. Your lanterns and fans are lovely! @qmgs1554 @MEP_Excellence

also a refurbishment of the Library. Last year we provided funds to support teacher-led initiatives such as the refurbishment of the Welfare Hub extension, which allows the school to provide targeted pastoral support to students. This year, we continue to support individual projects as well as supporting the School's Future Sports @ QMGS project. The last event held in January 2025 raised over £5,000 with a large proportion of that figure being made up from proceeds from raffles; we need your help to match or even surpass that this year! We hope that you can support the valuable work of the QMA by attending Burns Night and purchasing raffle tickets available on the night, so that we can continue to enrich our children's school experience.

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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Following Burns Night, we have one further event in 2025-26, with the Summer Arts Festival taking place on Saturday 27th June. Easy fundraising is also an easy way to support the QMA. We have raised a total of £8,339.39 for the school from 307 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](#)

Walsall Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

Please see below for for Christmas opportunities. The Walsall HAF website can also be found [here](#).



Walsall Holiday Activities & Food Programme

HAF Winter 2025

What's on offer this Winter?

This winter we lots of exciting & free activities for children and young people aged 5-16 yrs on income based free school meals. The portal will be live for you to get booked on 11/11/25.

Free activities:

- Horse riding
- Arts & Crafts
- Cooking
- Pantomimes
- Football
- Sports
- Swimming
- & much more!

To sign up scan here

For more info email WR4C@walsall.gov.uk or call 01922 653899

Walsall Council   Department for Education



How to register and book for the 2025 programme?

You will need a code to register if you have not received a code, by post. Please contact us to see if you qualify for the programme via email wr4c@walsall.gov.uk.

To register, use any of the following options:

- Scan the QR CODE below
- Visit our website www.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/holiday-activities-programme-haf
- Call us on 01922 653899
- Email us your enquiry on wr4c@walsall.gov.uk

Once you have registered you will be able to book onto activities.

Sign up now!

To find out more visit our website or sign up to our newsletter:

www.walsall.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/holiday-activities-programme-haf

Walsall Council   Department for Education 

QM Experience Fund and the Future Sport programme

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.

We have almost completed the astro-turf development (right) and we hope to be able to use this from late January. Work then proceeds on the natural turf pitches, which should be seeded by the end of the Spring. We still have significant fundraising to do for phase 3 (the refurbishment and extension of the pavilion) and would be grateful for any support. As shared in October, please follow this [link](#) to read press coverage of the work.

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. You can also support the Future Sport project via the [Just Giving website](#).

Thank you for your support!



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

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@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

gmgssafeguarding@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)
- 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 end of the autumn and beginning of the spring terms are below:

Mon 15 Dec	Leavers' celebration	Thu 29 Jan	Y12 futures evening
Tue 16 Dec	Christmas concert	Thu 5 Feb	Y9 parents' evening
Fri 19 Dec	End of term (2pm)	Fri 13 Feb	Finish for half term
Mon 5 Jan	Staff training day	Mon 23 Feb	Return from half term
Tue 6 Jan	Students return to school	Mon 23 Feb	LGB3
6-15 Jan	Y13 mock exams	Thu 26 Feb	Y12 parents' evening
Mon 12 Jan	Y11 parents' info evening	2-6 Mar	National careers week
Wed 14 Jan	Early finish for Bromcom training	Wed 4 Mar	Early finish staff CPD
Thu 15 Jan	Y9 parents' info evening	Thu 26 Mar	Y8 parents' evening
Thu 22 Jan	Y10 parents' evening	Fri 27 Mar	Finish for Easter
Sat 24 Jan	Burns night	Mon 13 Apr	Staff training day
Tue 27 Jan	Early finish staff CPD	Tue 14 Apr	Students return to school
Tue 27 Jan	Y10 futures network event		

Term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 are available, via this [link](#).

Regards and have a fantastic Christmas

Mr Langton
Headmaster