QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

6th November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #8

Remembrance 2026 – *Keeping Us Safe*



This week, students took part in our Remembrance Assembly, focusing on this year's theme, '*Keeping Us Safe*'. We explored the sacrifices made by those who have served in the Armed Forces, the impact on their families and the importance of remembering those from our own local community, including former QEGS pupils.

It was a real honour to see just how respectfully students engaged with the assembly and took part in our Act of Remembrance. The thoughtfulness, maturity and respect shown during the two minutes' silence were a credit to our school community. Remembrance gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect and show our gratitude to those who have served and sacrificed to keep others safe.
A reminder that the Ashbourne Remembrance Parade will take place in the Market Place from approximately 10.00am on Sunday 8th November. Students and their families are warmly encouraged to attend and join the local community in its Act of Remembrance.

QEGS War Memorial displaying the names of former students who lost their lives during the First World War.
Their name liveth forevermore.

We hope to see as many members of our school community there as possible as we come together to remember.

We will remember them.

Poppy Appeal 2026

Poppy Appeal 2026- If students would like to buy a poppy or poppy day merchandise, they will be available in school to buy with cash/change between until the 11th November 2026. Please bring money with you if you would like to buy anything.



Thank you for wearing a poppy during this week in order to remember the sacrifice made by those who have fought in global conflicts and for contributing to UK Poppy Appeal helps to support veterans and their families. They will be available in student services at breaks and lunch times and students will be visiting forms to give you the opportunity to buy them during form time next week. Don't forget to bring your change!



Parents and families can also use the QR code below in order to donate to the UK Poppy Appeal

The money raised through the UK Poppy Appeal helps the Royal British Legion provide vital support, care, advice and services to veterans and their families.

Thank you for supporting this important cause and helping us to remember.



Craft Club poppies
The craft club this week on Wednesday made red felt poppies.

Mobile Phones
Thank you so much for supporting the roll out of our adjusted mobile phone protocol in line with the new DfE guidance. Just a reminder that students should have their mobile phone switched off and in the bottom of their bag (not in a pocket) as soon as they enter the school gates. We are in the process of installing digital clocks on the exterior of buildings across the site to support students with their timekeeping after breaks and lunch.
Please rest assured, if your child needs to urgently contact you, we have systems in place at student services and in medical to ensure that this takes place.

Contacting School
Please use the main school number for contacting school 01335 343685, members of the Reception Team will be able to help and direct your call to the correct member or staff. Email messages can be sent via the enquiries@qegs.email address; please if known, include who the email is to be forwarded to e.g. your child's English Teacher. Thank you

ODD SOCKS & CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER!
Next week is **Anti-Bullying Week**, and we will be celebrating this year's theme by encouraging all staff and students to wear their **ODD SOCKS on Friday 13th November!**

Odd Socks Day is a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique, remind ourselves that it's okay to be different and reinforce the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion. At QEGS, we want everyone to feel that they belong and that differences should always be celebrated.

Friday 13th November is also **Children in Need!** We will be raising money to support this fantastic cause and would love students to get involved.
There will be:

- 🎯 Fun fundraising stalls in the hall at lunchtime.
- 🧁 Cakes and sweet treats available to buy.
- 💛 Opportunities to donate and support Children in Need.

Please bring some cash if you would like to take part. We also now have a **card machine** available, so there will be options for everyone!
Let's make Friday a fantastic day of kindness, community spirit and fundraising. Thank you in advance for your support!
#TeamQEGS

Sixth Form updates
Year 13 University Applications – Next Steps
Today marked the internal school deadline for Year 13 students who are applying to university to submit their personal statements and applications. Thank you to everyone who met this deadline! Over the next 5–6 weeks, the Sixth Form Team will be carrying out thorough checks of personal statements and the other sections of students' application forms. Students who met the internal deadline will be prioritised during this process.
All university applicants will then be invited to a one-to-one session with Mrs Fletcher, our KS5 Learning Coach. This will give students a final opportunity to review their application independently, receive feedback from the checks undertaken and make any necessary amendments before being supported to click 'send' and submit their application to UCAS.

Our aim is to have as many applications as possible submitted by Christmas, giving students plenty of time ahead of the final UCAS deadline in January. A fantastic milestone in the Year 13 journey!

Year 13 Reports
Year 13 reports have been published this week and are now available for parents/carers and students to view. Please take some time to read through these for an update on your child's progress and achievements this term.

Exploring Apprenticeships
Year 13 students also took part in an assembly this week exploring the apprenticeship route, including degree apprenticeships and advice on how to research and source opportunities. The presentation has been shared with all students via email for future reference.

Over the coming weeks, we are also looking forward to welcoming some of our former students, who are now undertaking degree apprenticeships, back into school. They will be sharing their experiences and offering valuable first-hand advice to our current Year 13 students as they consider their next steps.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal
This year we are again supporting the **Christmas Shoebox Appeal**, which provides gifts and essential items to children in Eastern Europe who may otherwise receive very little during the festive season.

We would be extremely grateful for any donations of new items that could be included in the shoeboxes. Suggested items include:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Flannel
- Hairbrush/comb/accessories
- Hat/Gloves/Scarf
- Coloured pens/pencils
- School supplies
- Notebook/Colouring book
- Small toy
- Doll
- Toy car
- Pack of cards
- Puzzle or game
- Soft toy

All items should be **new and unused** and suitable for a child.

Every donation, no matter how small, will help bring joy and practical support to a child in need. We hope that, as a school community, we can work together to make a real difference.

Please send donations into school by **Wednesday 18th November.**

Down on the farm this week with the agriculture students
The proportion of female farmers according to DEFRA stands at only 16%. We have had increasing interest from girls for the agriculture qualification over the years and our current cohort in year 10 is 25% girls. I visited Isla today being mentored by Anna. They were ear tagging. This is one of the skills that has to be evidenced on the course. She did a great job. Well done Isla!



PE Updates:

U14 Rugby Team

A huge well done to the U14s rugby team who beat Uppingham school in the national cup 47-5 on Wednesday afternoon. Well done to all involved. Player of the match - Eddie. They will now be playing Oakham school (Away) in the next round, date TBC.



Year 7 Ruby practice change of day

Year 7 rugby practice has been permanently moved to Tuesdays instead of Thursdays moving forward, starting next week **9th November**. Year 11 rugby will now be on Thursdays.

Next week's rugby national cup fixtures:

Monday 9th November - u15 v King Eds Aston (A)

Wednesday 11th November - u18 v Shrewsbury school (A)

We also have games booked in for Year 7&8 in the coming weeks, against Lady Manners and Ecclesbourne. Information on dates/times will be confirmed next week.

Celebrating Musical Excellence – George R

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding musical achievements of George R in Year 9, one of our talented KS3 students.

During the October half-term, George performed two pieces on the organ at a recital concert held at St Anne's Church in Derby. George is not only an accomplished Organ Scholar but also holds the prestigious position of Head Chorister at the church. Adding to his remarkable achievements, George has already attained Grade 8 with Distinction in both piano and saxophone – an exceptional accomplishment at such a young age!

George's dedication, talent and passion for music are truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing his musical journey continue. Congratulations, George, from everyone in the Performing Arts Faculty!

Christmas Advent returning for December

Please find information with the bulletin about the 'QEGS Christmas Advent' taking place during December and how individuals and businesses can support and share kindness to students.

'Being Us Together' Activity Groups

Please find information with the bulletin about the 'Being Us Together' Activity Groups for residents of South Derbyshire taking place at Hilton Village Hall.

TAKE CARE AT FIREWORKS DISPLAYS!

Once again, our community knows how to put on some spectacular fireworks displays! We hope you enjoy the celebrations and displays happening across the weekend.

A little reminder to stay safe, look out for one another and be considerate of younger children and anyone who may find fireworks overwhelming.

A few important safety reminders:

- Always watch fireworks from a safe distance.
- Never go near, climb on or play around bonfires.
- Follow instructions from event organisers and marshals.
- Be mindful of pets and those who may be sensitive to loud noises.
- Never bring your own fireworks to organised displays.

- If using sparklers, wear gloves, hold them at arm's length and place used sparklers in a bucket of water.

Let's all play our part in keeping our community safe. Please look out for one another, check in on neighbours, be patient and considerate, and help younger members of our community enjoy the celebrations safely. If you see someone who needs help, don't walk past – a little kindness and consideration can make a big difference.

Let's make this weekend one to remember for all the right reasons. Enjoy the displays, celebrate together and, above all, get home safely.

Look after yourselves, look after each other and look after our community.

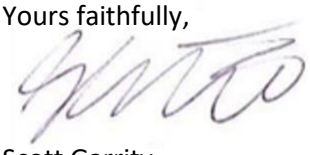
School Canteen
Menu choice week beginning 9th November will be week 3.
Prices for items purchased in the canteen can also be found on the below page:
https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/parents/canteen/

Tapestry Learning Partnership Trust Vacancies
Please keep an eye on our vacancies at QEGS and within the trust:
https://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491

Upcoming Key Dates This Term
10th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby
11th November – Year 7 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm
13th November – Odd Socks and Children in Need, raising funds to support causes
17th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby
17th November – QEGS Oscars evening, 5:30-7:30pm, https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/xmobpmpbzygo
24th November – A Level Physics, Live trip
24th November – Primary Sports, hockey
26th November – Year 9 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm
1st December – Year 13 Criminology Conference, Psychology & Sociology students
1st December – Primary Sports, basketball
3rd December – Year 11 Parent Teacher Meetings, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm
7th to 11th December – Year 13 mock exams
15th December – House swimming gala
16th December – Design & Innovation trip to Chatsworth House
17th December – Speech Day – invite only
18th December – last day of Autumn 2 term

Finally
As we near November 11th, I am always reminded how proud I am to be the headteacher of this school, in this community. Remembrance Sunday holds a special place in my heart and in my time at QEGS. Each year, I see hundreds of QEGS students in the Sunday parade and many more lining the streets with their friends and family, showing visitors to the town how special this community really is. Our Head Students, our standard bearers, our students reading in church and Miss Ward-Argument will all be supporting me this Sunday in paying our respects to the fallen. I hope to see you there too.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Enc: QEGS Christmas Advent letter, Being Us Together flier