



11th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #1

Arbor update

We are pleased to confirm that **QEGS is now fully transferred to Arbor**, and **Go4Schools is no longer being used**. As a parent/carers, Arbor gives you access to important information about your child, including:

- **Reward points**
- **Positive behaviour and achievements**
- **Behaviour information**
- **Notifications, including detention notifications**
- **Attendance information**

Please make sure you have downloaded the Arbor app

It is important that you have the **Arbor Parent App downloaded and notifications switched on**. This will ensure that you receive important alerts and notifications from school, including information about detentions and other updates. If you have not yet downloaded the app, please do so as soon as possible.

If you are having any difficulty accessing Arbor or need support with the app, **please contact the school and we will be happy to help**.

Thank you for your continued support.

#TeamQEGS

Bonjour Paris! A Y7 Trip to Remember

In July this year, our Year 7 (now Year 8!) embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Paris. On our first day, we departed early and crossed the Channel by ferry. We arrived at our hotel at a good time and were able to watch the World Cup Final!

Our second day was rich in culture. We started by going up the Eiffel Tower to the second floor, which was a real workout! We then visited Notre-Dame Cathedral before enjoying a beautiful and scenic walk from Notre-Dame, through the Tuileries Garden and along the Champs-Élysées. We had our evening meal next to the Arc de Triomphe before finishing the day in style with a cruise along the River Seine and heading back to our hotel.

The following day was the one our students were most excited about, as we headed to Disneyland! Everyone had the best time trying out multiple rides, enjoying the shopping and tucking into a great evening meal at Billy Bob's.

On our last day, we had a brief stop in Montmartre for a final photo stop and the chance to spend our last few euros before hopping back on the coach for our return journey.



A huge thank you to the 9 amazing members of staff who accompanied us on the trip and well done to our (former) Year 7s, who were a real credit to the school.

QEGS Student Wins National Sustainability Challenge



Last year, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School shared an opportunity for students aged 14-17 to apply for LEAF's *Sustainable You(th) Challenge*, a national programme promoting sustainability and agriculture.

Amy A (12S1) entered the competition alongside more than 400 students from across the country. Following several challenging stages, including essay submissions, a learning day at Harper Adams University, attendance at Open Farm Sunday, and reflective written tasks, Amy was selected as one of just 13 national finalists.

As part of the finalist programme, Amy attended a weekend event at Harper Adams University, where she engaged with an expert panel on farming and sustainability. After preparing and submitting a series of questions, she had the opportunity to interview the panel and take part in discussions with other finalists.

We are delighted to announce that Amy was awarded first prize, receiving £1,000 towards her future education, along with a range of additional opportunities and benefits through LEAF and Harper Adams University. This is an outstanding achievement and a testament to Amy's dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to sustainability. We are incredibly proud of her success and are pleased that QEGS was able to connect her with this fantastic opportunity, which was organised by LEAF in partnership with Harper Adams University and sponsored by McDonald's. Congratulations, Amy!

Sixth Form - Welcome Back!

It has been fantastic to welcome our new Year 12 students to Sixth Form this week and to see our Year 13 students return after the summer break.

Both year groups have taken part in introductory assemblies and tutor sessions to help them settle back into school, understand what is expected of them, and get organised and prepared for the year ahead. We are looking forward to a positive and successful year for all of our students!

Sixth Form - Safeguarding Reminder

A reminder that a Safeguarding letter was sent home in paper form this week. Please take some time to read this carefully, as it contains a range of important information about our safeguarding procedures and expectations for Sixth Form students.

This includes information about permission for Year 12 and 13 students to leave the school site during the school day. Please ensure that you read and complete the relevant information and return anything requested. If you have any questions or are unsure about anything within the letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Revision sessions for Art and BTEC CDM

Afterschool for GCSE/BTEC/A Level ART and BTEC CDM catch ups are Monday until 4pm in 612.

Bright Minds, Bold Pride!

Taking place this Sunday 13th September in Ashbourne Market place, a celebration of live music with local musicians and the Community Jam Band, from 2pm to 6pm



EXCITING NEWS - LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!

Come join us at the Elite Cinema on the 17th of November for a magical night of original films made by the current CDM students.

All welcome! Buy your tickets at: <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/xmobpmpbzygo>

Date: Tuesday 17th November 2026

Doors Open: 5:00 PM

Screening starts: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Venue: Elite Cinema Ashbourne

Cut! 🎬

Co-curricular Sport

Please see the attached PE co-curricular timetable.

All clubs are available to all students in the year group specified, and it would be fantastic if you could encourage your child to make the most of these opportunities available to them. QEGS PE clubs are focused on enjoyment, improvement and increasing participation in physical activity. However, we do also run sports teams and enter County and National level competitions for those that would like these competitive opportunities.

At lunchtimes, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, pickleball, sportshall athletics and basketball are available. Students just require their trainers for activities in the sportshall, but do not need to get changed into their PE kit. For the after-school clubs, students do need to get changed into the appropriate PE kit.

PE clubs will start on Monday 14th September. All information relating to clubs will be updated daily on the student notices, which students have access to through the school intranet. Form Tutors will also read out the student notices daily, to their tutor group. If a student is selected to represent QEGS in a sports fixture, the details of timings and location are shared with students via student notices and written on the team-sheet for that fixture/competition.

The PE team look forward to seeing your child at a PE co-curricular club in the near future.

Under 13 County Rounders – just before the summer break

Well done to the year 8 rounders team, who travelled to Littleover school on Tuesday 21st July to represent QEGS in the county tournament.

The girls showed some great skill throughout the afternoon in both batting and fielding and came a respectable 3rd place.

Well done girls.



Open Evening, Wednesday 23rd September

For families with a current Year 5 or 6 child looking at joining QEGS September 2027 or 2028, please see the attached flier for information about the upcoming Open Evening to discover and explore teaching and sports facilities, ask questions and speak to current students.

Pastoral Team 2026-27

Please find attached the Pastoral Team 2026-27 information.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 14th September will be week 2.

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. Current QEGS vacancy:

- Midday Supervisor

<https://mynewterm.com/trust/Tapestry-Learning-Partnership/145491>

Welcome to:



Laura Horvath, Deputy Headteacher (whilst Mr Davis seconded to City of Derby Academy)

I'm Laura, and I have been working as a senior leader in all things pastoral for 10 years now. I've also worked across Derby City in leading the attendance strategy to support schools in creating an inclusive and relational approach to attendance.

I feel so privileged to have the opportunity to spend some time as Deputy Head at QEGS. My older brother and sister attended here (many years ago!), so it has a special place in our family's story.

In my daily job, my main responsibilities are supporting the Safeguarding, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Attendance and Behaviour of our students. I love having a role in developing opportunities and ways of working that support and develop our students' character and experiences.

My subject specialism is Drama, and my absolute passion is performing; I like to think if I wasn't a teacher, I'd be an actress!

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

21st September to 25th September – Gold DofE practise expedition

23rd September – Open Evening for Year 5 and 6 students, 4:30 to 6:40pm, book via

28th September – Primary Sports, football

30th September – Year 12 University & Apprenticeship Fair trip

6th October – Primary Sports, cross country

8th October – Sixth Form Open Evening, 5pm to 7pm

13th October to 23rd October – Year 13 Peru trip

15th October – Countdown to Success, and Careers Fair, Year 10 & 11 attending, parents/carers, 4:40pm to 7pm

20th October – Primary Sport, football

23rd October – last day of Autumn 1 Term.

Finally

Over the summer we said farewell to Jenny Roper, Librarian and Erica Fretwell, Teaching Assistant.

We also say hello and welcome to QEGS to:

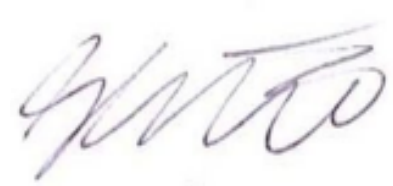
- Matt Brookes – Site manager
- Laura Horvath – Deputy Headteacher
- Rebecca Baker – Assistant Headteacher
- Gemma Newbon - Teacher of English
- Hayley Pendleton – People and Culture Advisor
- David Walker – Teacher of Music
- Chris Plant – Teacher of Design and Innovation
- Alastair Marshall – Music Peripatetic Teacher
- Ruth Higginson – Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

We have had a fantastic first week back at school. Thank you to parents and carers for your support and communication in ensuring a smooth start for all students starting or returning to QEGS. There are always lots of letters and information at the start of the new academic year. Please ensure you read them with your child(ren) and please get in touch if anything is unclear or you have questions to ask.

There is so much on offer again this term for students from clubs and activities to school trips this year and next (planning ahead!). Thank you again to the staff who offer these opportunities to students and for the time and effort it takes to organise and run them. Please share with your child(ren) and encourage them to get involved, make new friends, develop a skill or interest and enjoy themselves!

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'SG', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark.

Scott Garrity

Headteacher

Encs – PE Co-curricular poster, Open Evening Flier, Pastoral Team Poster