



18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

## Weekly Bulletin #2

### Learning through play: Level 2 Child Development students put theory into practice

QEGS students following the Level 2 Child Development course have been getting active this term, exploring the toys and resources that support children's learning from birth to five.

Working in small groups, students investigated a range of age-appropriate toys — from sensory and cause-and-effect toys for babies, to construction sets, small-world play and mark-making resources for pre-schoolers. Each group considered how a toy supports different areas of development, including physical skills, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development, and how an adult might extend a child's play.

Mrs Starkie, who teaches the course, said, 'it's one thing to read about stages of development, another to see how a simple stacking toy builds fine motor skills and problem solving. The students really engaged with it'.

The qualification gives students a strong foundation for careers in nurseries, pre-schools and primary schools, as well as progression to Level 3 study and apprenticeships.



### Sixth Form Update

As we reach the end of our second week, we hope our Sixth Form students are settling into the new academic year positively and beginning to find their feet.

Our Year 13 students have already been busy getting back into their studies, alongside exploring their post-18 options during tutor time; this week the focus was on gap year opportunities.

Students applying for Medicine or Oxbridge received a bespoke support session this week to help them prepare for their upcoming UCAS deadlines. We will continue to support all Year 13 students with their personal statements, careers research and post-18 planning throughout the coming weeks and months.

### Message from Sixth Form Council

Well done to our Year 12 and 13s for their first full week back we hope you've settled back into Sixth Form life.

Our School Council had our first meeting, where we discussed upcoming events; Sports Day and our Sixth Form Open Evening. The Sixth Form Open Evening is on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 5pm to 7pm** if Year 12/13 students are available to volunteer either in departments or around the site, we'd be very thankful. Please message Mr Walker at Sixth Form to provide your name. Good luck for the rest of half term we've got plenty of events coming up in Sixth Form to look forward to!

### Support for Year 12 and 13 Students

We would also like to remind parents and students of the wide range of support available within Sixth Form. This includes:

- Sixth Form Counsellor
- School Nurse
- SEND support and advice
- Independent Careers Adviser
- KS5 Learning Coach – including support with organisation, revision and study skills
- Pastoral support from the Sixth Form tutor team, Head of Sixth/Deputy Head of Sixth Form.

Students can access this support at any point during the year. We want all of our students to feel supported, valued and able to thrive, therefore please encourage them to speak to a member of the Sixth Form team whenever they need help or guidance.

### 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! 🎬

### Shrek, The Musical

We are so proud of our 5 students who have performed to huge audiences at Derby Theatre this week as part of Derby Youth Musical Theatre's production of Shrek. James, Michael, Bella, Ralph and Takoda absolutely shone in an all-round fantastic production in which the ensemble were a force of energy and focus. Takoda's performance of Lord Farquaad was simply outstanding.

Well done, all!

### Open Evening, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Back to School Pride event

Ashbourne's Back to School Pride event on Sunday was a great success! Thank you to Reverend Dwayne, Jamhaus, and all the entertainers for pulling together such a fun afternoon.

### School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September 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. Current QEGS vacancy:

- Midday Supervisor



**Welcome to: Rebecca Baker, Assistant Headteacher**



I feel incredibly proud and privileged to be part of the QEGS community, where I can support students and staff in achieving their very best. During my 12 years in education, I have worked in an 'Outstanding' school, gaining valuable experience in teaching, leadership, and school improvement. My teaching specialism is Science, and I am passionate about fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a love of learning in all students.

I believe that the best schools are built on strong relationships, high expectations, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Creating a culture where students feel challenged, supported, and inspired to succeed is something I strive for every day.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time exploring the Peak District with my family and four dogs.

**Upcoming Key Dates This Term**

21<sup>st</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> September – Gold DofE qualifying expedition

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

<https://www.ticketsource.com/qegsashbourne/open-evening-2026/e->

28<sup>th</sup> September – Primary Sports, football

30<sup>th</sup> September – Year 12 University & Apprenticeship Fair trip

6<sup>th</sup> October – Primary Sports, cross country

8<sup>th</sup> October – Sixth Form Open Evening, 5pm to 7pm – details to follow to Year 11 students, parents/carers

13<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Year 13 Peru trip

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

20<sup>th</sup> October – Primary Sport, football

23<sup>rd</sup> October – last day of Autumn 1 Term.

**Finally**

We say farewell to one of our longest serving staff today, Syliva Roberts has been a midday assistant at QEGS for 22 years!! Enjoy retirement Sylvia.

Please remind and share with your neighbours and family members, our Open Evening event on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September between 4:30 -6:30pm – we look forward to meeting and greeting lots of new and familiar faces.

Have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully,

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

Scott Garrity  
**Headteacher**