

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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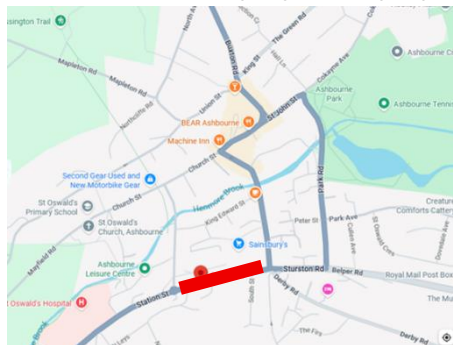


2nd October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #4

ROAD CLOSURE – 5/10/26 to 9/10/26



Please be aware Station Street, Ashbourne will be closed from Monday 5th October up to Friday 9th October for fibre installation. Diversions will be place and will add to congestion on alternative routes to school.

Term dates 2027-2028 update

Please find attached to the bulletin an update to the 2027-28 Term dates. Students will return in a staggered start:

- Wednesday 8th September 2027 – Years 7 & 11 students only
- Thursday 9th September 2027 – Years 7, 10, 11 & 12 students
- Friday 10th September 2027 – All Students return

Update to Inset Day dates:

- Monday 6th September 2027 – INSET (school opens for staff only)
- Tuesday 7th September 2027 – INSET (school opens for staff only)
- Friday 1st October 2027 – Trust INSET (school opens for staff only)
- Monday 4th October 2027 – INSET (school opens for staff only)
- Monday 24th July 2028 – INSET – school closed to staff and students.

Space & Astronomy Club Launch

Over 30 students from Years 7–13 attended our first Space & Astronomy Club meeting yesterday, focusing on the Moon.

Former student Barney delivered a fascinating talk and answered questions from the group. Students then investigated lunar crater formation and built a massive 'moonsaic', labelling key surface features and historic expedition landing sites. Although overcast weather prevented live stargazing, everyone toured the school observatory and inspected our telescope collection.

Thank you to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you at the next session!



PROUD TO BE PART OF



**TAPESTRY
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**

“Where every child and young person can succeed and flourish!”

Tapestry Learning Partnership - a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England & Wales.
Company number: 04544722. Registered office: Sherwood Rise, Nottingham Road, Nottingham NG7 7AR.

Harvest Festival – food collection

Our **Harvest Festival Assemblies** are coming up next week, and we would love your help!

- Monday – Year 11
- Tuesday – Year 7
- Wednesday – Year 8
- Thursday – Year 9
- Friday – Year 10

We are asking families to bring in **donations of dry goods and non-perishable foods** to their child's assembly next week. **All donations collected will be given to Ashbourne Food Bank**, helping to support local families and individuals in our community.

Suggested donations include:

- Tinned fruit, vegetables, beans and soup
- Pasta and rice
- Cereal
- Dried foods
- Long-life milk
- Biscuits and crackers
- Other unopened, in-date non-perishable foods

Every donation, big or small, can make a difference.

Please send donations in with your child **next week for their Harvest Festival Assembly**.

Thank you for helping us celebrate harvest through **sharing, kindness and supporting our local community**.

Sixth Form Updates:

Safeguarding

As students enter Sixth Form, we recognise that there can be an increase in social events, parties and gatherings organised by students themselves. We encourage all students to make safe and responsible choices when arranging or attending these events, and to consider their own safety and the safety of others.

Where an event is organised by QEGS Sixth Form or the school, this will always be communicated through our usual school channels, such as letters, emails or the school website. School-organised events will be appropriately planned and risk assessed, with suitable staffing and safeguarding arrangements in place.

Safeguarding and personal safety are also an important part of our Sixth Form Life Skills curriculum. We regularly cover topics around staying safe, managing risks, making informed decisions and looking after themselves and others. This is designed to support students in navigating the increased independence that comes with Sixth Form and to help them make safe and responsible choices when attending or organising social events.

Year 12 UCAS & Apprenticeship Trip

Our Year 12 students visited Leicester Tigers Stadium this week for a university and apprenticeship fair.

Students had the opportunity to speak to universities, apprenticeship providers and other organisations, gathering lots of useful information and researching the opportunities available to them after Sixth Form. It was a great opportunity to gain inspiration and food for thought about how the subjects they have just started in Year 12 could lead to exciting opportunities in the future.

We will continue to support students with this research throughout the year. Towards the end of the spring term, students will begin exploring the application process in more detail, including creating personal statements.

Sixth Form Debate Club

Our Sixth Form Debate Club started last week, and it was fantastic to welcome some of our new Year 12 students along. The club will meet every Friday and will soon begin preparing for debates and competitions with other schools. We are looking forward to seeing students develop their confidence, communication and critical-thinking skills throughout the year.

A big thank you to Miss Askey for organising and running this fantastic opportunity for our Sixth Form students.

Sixth Form Bold Voices Project Group

We are delighted to welcome some new Year 12 members to our Bold Voices Project Group, supported by an external organisation that empowers young people to lead positive change and tackle issues including misogyny and gender inequality in schools.

A huge congratulations to Ailsa S, Esme K, Ayaan I and Amy A, who will be joining our existing members Abba W and Lillian H.

The new members submitted some excellent and thoughtful applications, sharing why they feel passionate about creating positive change and tackling issues such as gender inequality. They have successfully secured their places on the team and will play an important role in the project throughout the year.
We are excited to see what they achieve together!

Sixth Form Open Evening – Next Thursday 8th October

A reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening takes place next **Thursday 8th October 6–8pm**.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our Year 11 students and their families to find out more about QEGS Sixth Form, our courses, opportunities, support and everything we have to offer.

We can't wait to showcase our amazing Sixth Form.

Year 10 portrait photography

Miss Tilley reports, our amazing the Year 10s have been using the new equipment for portraits shoots looking at colour for the new photography course.



PE updates



On Tuesday, the U14s rugby team played Loughborough Granmar School in the national cup. After a fantastic first half performance and some great tries the team battled in the second half to hold off a their opposition. Final score QEGS 38 LGS 14. MOTM Dex

On Wednesday, the U16s rugby team played Denstone. The passion and team spirit demonstrated from the boys was brilliant against a well drilled side. Unfortunately, Denstone took the win on this occasion - final score QEGS 12 Denstone 27. MOTM Lenny



Next week fixtures:

06/10/26- U15 v JCB @ home, 3:45pm KO

08/10/26- U14 (y8&9) Derbyshire cup @ Melbourne rugby club , 3:30-5:30pm

Well done, Misha

Misha K, Year 9 continues to impress on the fells of Derbyshire after his recent success and strong running in the north of England competing in Grasmere, Cumbria. (Grasmere Sports).

Most recently he competed for Matlock AC in the Chelmorton Chase. This very undulating course raising to eleven hundred feet above sea level across the fields near Buxton draws a strong field. He picked up another top 10 finish. With him being the youngest in the field and coming eighth position in this 5 mile trail race made it even more impressive.

He collected another medal for connection and lead his teammates home gaining a nice financial reward for Matlock athletic club in the process.

His efforts now turn to cross country with his first of 12 races starting in October competition in the 'Derbyshire Runners league' and 'North Midlands cross country league' against some of the top athletes here in the heart of England.

**British Champion and Dry Ski Slope Ambassador**

Florence H, Year 8 and Walter H, Year 7 are continuing their success on the slopes!



Florence is currently leading the seed points for U14 Female in her age category and on track to become the only U14s female Snowsport England Ski Ambassador for the upcoming season. This is a title Florence is intensely focused on achieving and is a direct result of her dedication to training and consistent high achievements in races throughout the UK, culminating in wins at Pontypool and Llandudno at the end of the season and also becoming 2nd U14 Female in the GBR series.

New to Year 7, Walter, shares this same passion and drive for skiing and last year attended the same training camp in Italy as Florence. This season he has achieved the ultimate triple crown becoming U12 British Dry Ski Slope Champion, U12

GBR Series Champion and U12 All English Champion, dominating the field at multiple races across the UK.

Well done!

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! 🎬

National Saturday Club at University of Derby

This year the University of Derby are supporting the National Saturday Club, which is a free extracurricular creative education programme where Club members take part in their Society & Change Club.

The National Saturday Club programme is FREE and open to 13–16-year-olds of all abilities (Years 8, 9, 10 & 11) and in particular works to engage those who may face additional barriers to success. The club will begin in October 2026 until July 2027 – the exact dates will be announced shortly, timings of the club usually runs from 10am to 1pm. More information can be found on the link below and the signing up button: <https://saturday-club.org/club/university-of-derby/>

Why join?

- Discover new talents - explore a subject you love and develop life-changing skills.
- Meet new people - it's a chance to make friends with like-minded people. All abilities are welcome!
- Explore your future - find out more about opportunities for further study and rewarding careers.
- Unlock opportunities - throughout the year there will be unique experiences and opportunities to visit inspiring places and spaces.

The Big Draw Festival 2026

The Big Draw Festival is a worldwide celebration of drawing, with events run by organisations big and small across all different sectors that bring people together through the power of creativity.

Hopton Hall Gallery in Ashbourne are running some FREE public sessions that can students (and their families) can drop in to. They have a permanent drawing table set up downstairs that students can use to doodle/sketch and admire the amazing exhibition drawings on the wall. <https://hoptonhallgallery.co.uk/events/16/>

This Saturday the 3rd they have a Big Drawing Table (au) led by local artist Liz Wellby. She will have some props for you to draw and will guide anyone who needs it.

In addition, on the 18th October they have local artist Charly Rhodes who will lead a community workshop for a nominal fee of £5. Charly was recently sketching the Big Fashion Day out and they have her sketches from that on display (see if you can recognise the locals!)

The 80 Candles Quilt and Stitching Ashbourne projects

If you took part in either the 80 Candles Quilt or Stitching Ashbourne workshops, there is a chance to see the finished pieces on display next week! They will be on display at Masson Mills on **10th October**.

The projects will be on view in the amazing setting of the historic former cotton mill, Masson Mills which was built in 1783 by Richard Arkwright and was one of the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mills. It feels like a wonderfully fitting place to bring together stories, textiles, making and community.

The festival is free, and there will be lots to see and do throughout the day. You do need to book tickets though - for information on how to book, please speak to Mrs Webber or Miss Tilley in the Art department.

Women Who Make Festival

Where: Masson Mills, Matlock Bath

When: **Saturday 10th October**

Time: **10am - 5pm**

Tickets: Free – booking required

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 5th October 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:

- Caretaker
- Level 2 Teaching Assistant
- Finance Assistant

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

6th October – Primary Sports, cross country

7th October – Schools In pop-up shop, canteen **3:30pm to 5:00pm**

8th October – Sixth Form Open Evening, **6pm to 8pm** for Year 11 students, parents/carers attendance

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

15th October – Countdown to Success, and Careers Fair, Year 10 & 11 attending, parents/carers, **5:00pm to 7:00pm**

20th October – Primary Sport, football

23rd October – last day of Autumn 1 Term.

Finally

I was just about to write this section when the fire alarm was sounded, and staff and students evacuated the Green Road campus!

Now I am back in the building I can confirm that all students and staff are safe and well and whilst there was an actual fire on the science block roof, it has now been extinguished.

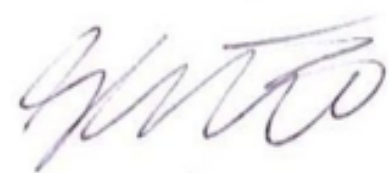
We currently have contractors replacing the science roof and we will now work with them to identify how this was started and ensure they mitigate the risk going forward.

There is some fire and water damage in the science corridor, and we will plan around this to open as normal next week.

Thank you to the fire service who arrived within minutes, some were ex-QEGS, thank you so much!

Have a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Encs: Term Dates 2027-28