

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity



9th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #5

Brailsford Ploughing Match

It was lovely to see the craft of Match Ploughing on Wednesday and so many of our students past and present supporting this rural tradition. We had students competing in hedge laying and the baking section as well as receiving coaching on Match Ploughing from experienced ploughers. In fact, one of our placement supervisors for the Level 2 Agriculture course was one of the coaches; students and parents commented on how informative it was.

It was also an opportunity for Miss Morgan to network with representatives from rural industries. She is planning a careers event focused on this sector for Year 9 in the new year. If you'd like to showcase your role or business please contact her on morgan@qegs.email.



QEGS students win National Attendance Awards

We are delighted to share that QEGS has received three national attendance awards from FFT Education, one of the UK's leading education data and school improvement organisations, recognising the exceptional commitment of our students, families and staff in supporting excellent school attendance throughout the 2025/26 academic year:

Most Improved Attendance Award 2025-26

Perhaps most impressively, QEGS has received an award for being one of the **top 10%** most improved secondary schools nationally, recognising the significant improvement in overall attendance between the 2024/25 and 2025/26 academic years.

National Attendance Award 2025-26

QEGS has been recognised for having attendance levels in the **top 25%** of all secondary schools nationally during the Summer Term 2026. This places our students amongst the very best-attending secondary school communities in the country.

Attendance Award for Similar Schools 2025-26

We have also been recognised amongst schools with similar characteristics across England. This award acknowledges that our attendance rates were in the **top 25%** of comparable secondary schools nationally, demonstrating our strong performance against schools facing similar circumstances.

These awards reflect a whole-school commitment to ensuring that every student can benefit from excellent attendance and maximise their learning. Regular attendance is one of the strongest factors influencing educational success, wellbeing and future opportunities. We would like to thank our students for their dedication, our parents and carers for their continued support, and our staff for the care and encouragement they provide every day. These achievements are a true reflection of the strength of the QEGS community and the value we place on being in school, learning and thriving together.

Harvest Festival Celebrations

This week, the three vicars, Reverend Nigel, Reverend Dwayne and Reverend Rachel, delivered our Harvest Festival celebrations to all year groups. We would like to say a huge thank you for your kind and generous contributions so far. These donations will support our local food bank and help those in our community who need it most.

Please remember that we will continue collecting donations until next Friday, so there is still time to contribute to our school's Harvest offering. Every donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated!



Sparx Maths log on information

Please find attached to the bulletin from the Maths Department a useful guide on how students can log onto Sparx Maths from home.

Sixth Form Updates:

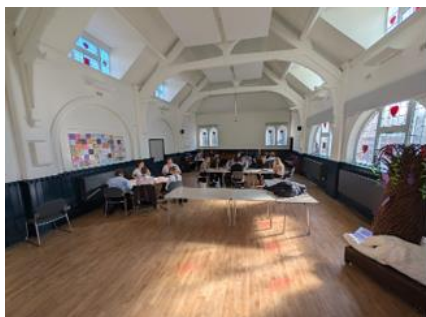
Sixth Form Council: Working with Our Community

Our Sixth Form Council members had a fantastic opportunity this week, kindly offered by Ashbourne Link Community Centre, who generously provided the use of one of their halls for our latest Council meeting.

The session gave students the opportunity to review and reflect on their goals as a Council and as individual departments, considering the actions needed to turn their ideas into reality and the positive impact they hope to make through their projects and initiatives.

It was fantastic to hear the enthusiasm and ambition behind their ideas, and our students should be very proud of the commitment and effort they are already putting into making a difference within our Sixth Form community.

The meeting also marked the beginning of an exciting ongoing relationship with Ashbourne Link Community Centre. We look forward to collaborating with them again on future Sixth Form Council events, as well as exploring opportunities for our students to get involved in volunteering and supporting the wider local community.



A huge thank you to Ashbourne Link for their generosity and support! We are excited to see where this new partnership takes us.

QEGS Sixth Form Open Evening

It was fantastic to welcome so many Year 11 students and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening this week. It was lovely to see such a great turnout and to have the opportunity to share more about what QEGS Sixth Form has to offer.

If you would like to continue your research, you can find further information about our courses, enrichment opportunities and wider Sixth Form provision in our prospectus:

<https://queenelizabethsgrammar.web06.juniperwebsites.co.uk/attachments/documents.asp?id=69>

As a reminder, Sixth Form applications open on 1 December. Over the next couple of weeks, we will also be asking students to express their initial interest in Sixth Form during tutor time.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Allen or Mr Walker at any point. We are always happy to help and can also arrange individual tours or walkarounds if you would like to come back, have another look around or meet with us to discuss your options.

We look forward to continuing to support our Year 11 students as they begin making these exciting decisions about their next steps.

Music Announcement

🎤 New Singing Teacher Starting After Half Term! 🎤

We are delighted to announce that we have successfully recruited a new singing teacher who will be joining us after half term.

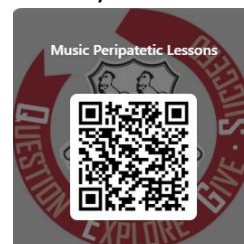
Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced vocalist looking to develop your skills, singing lessons are a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, improve technique, and enjoy making music.

Students interested in taking singing lessons are invited to sign up using the link below. Once we receive your registration, we will be in touch with further information regarding lesson arrangements and availability.

Interested in singing lessons?

Please complete the sign-up form here: [Music Peripatetic Lessons – Fill in form](#)

We look forward to helping more students discover and develop their singing talent!



Nightwatch – Exciting Creative Writing Opportunity!

We are delighted to offer QEGS students the opportunity to take part in Nightwatch, an exciting community arts project celebrating Ashbourne's history, people and heritage. Students with an interest in creative writing, poetry or spoken word are invited to participate in workshops led by professional writer and director Dave Coggins. They will create original pieces inspired by Ashbourne, with the opportunity for their words to feature in a spectacular Son et Lumière (light and sound) event in the town centre on 4–6 December 2026.

No previous experience is needed – just enthusiasm and creativity!

Interested? Students should speak to their English teacher for further information about getting involved - workshops will be running on **Friday 23rd October**, please see posters around school.



Library Competition – win tickets to author event!

AUTHOR EVENT
Moira Buffini - Flarestorm
 Thursday 29th October 6pm
 Venue: Yew Tree Records




We are thrilled to welcome Moira Buffini to Ashbourne to celebrate the epic finale of the hottest dystopian trilogy of the decade.

QEGS Library is running a competition to win pairs of tickets to the Brown Onion Books author event taking place on Thursday 29th October from 6pm at Yew Tree Records. Author, Moira Buffini is a celebrated Young Adult writer of the *Songlight Trilogy*, and the release of the final book, *Flarestorm*.

To enter – students are to write the opener of their own dystopian story and submit 250 words to Mrs Bramwell, Librarian by end of **Tuesday 20th October** for a chance to win one of the three pairs of tickets.

PE updates

Well done to the U15s who beat JCB 20-17 in the national cup on Tuesday afternoon. An improved second half performance allowed the boys to sneak the win on this occasion. Onto the next round!

The U14s were in action again over at Melbourne rugby club on Thursday afternoon, playing Chellaston & Anthony Gell school. Results: QEGS 29 Chellaston 0 & QEGS 51 AGS 7. A great afternoon of rugby! Players of the matches - Andrew & Felix



Upcoming Rugby fixtures:

13th October - u14s v Uppingham (H) 3:45pm KO

Unfortunately, there has been a clash of school events with the Year 7 rugby tournament on 15th October, meaning we can no longer attend the planned tournament next Thursday. There will, however, be 2 training opportunities next week on both Tuesday & Thursday afterschool. We are also in the process of arranging friendlies with other local schools.

Primary Sport Events

On Tuesday 29th September we held our first primary event- year 5&6 football. We have over 240 pupils taking part and it was a fabulous afternoon. A big thank you to our Year 9 sports leaders who ran the event.

On Tuesday 6th we held our primary cross-country event for Years 3,4,5 and 6 with around 600 runners taking part. The event was a fabulous afternoon, and we were delighted to welcome our local Mayor- Mr Phil Chell who started all the races and handed over the medals to the top three runners in each race at the end.

A huge thank you to our Year 9 sports leaders, the Year 8 helpers, our Sixth Form helper and our hares Freddie, Sam, Lexie, Scarlett, Freya & Noah.



Under 19 Derbyshire County Netball Tournament – 3rd Place!



QEGS travelled to Repton on Tuesday to compete in the annual Derbyshire County U19 Netball Tournament, getting off to a fantastic start with convincing wins against Ecclesbourne (15–2), Lady Manners (13–1) and Woodlands (12–5).

The team then faced two very well-drilled sides in Repton and Trent. In two closely fought games, QEGS narrowly missed out on victory by just two goals, meaning they unfortunately missed out on qualification for the regional round.

Despite this, the team can be incredibly proud of their performance, finishing a respectable 3rd place in Derbyshire!

A special mention to Sophia M and Olivia B, who were voted Players of the Tournament. Well done to everyone involved — a fantastic achievement!

Cricket success for Penny

Penny T, Year 11 recently took part in the 2 weeklong England u17 at indoor cricket's Junior World Series, held every 3 years, this time in Pretoria, South Africa.

Penny received her 2nd England cap playing up an age group. England played multiple games against South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Though not victorious, they won 3 matches against New Zealand and South Africa and Penny was player of the match in each. She was also topped the England u17 team table with her batting and bowling contributions. Well done Penny!



Congratulations George!



George R, Year 9 and has been a feature of the school music scene since starting at QEGS two years ago. He has won a national award and many local awards over the last three years. He has been playing at grade 8 level for a few years, and he took his Piano Grade 8 and saxophone grade 8 and passed both with distinction within a few days of each other at the end of last term.

Choral Scholarships, St Oswald's Ashbourne

Are you a soprano, alto, tenor or bass singer in Year 10 or above? Please take a look at the attached poster from St Oswalds introducing the opportunity of a Choral Scholarship.

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

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.

School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 12th October 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:

- Caretaker
- Level 2 Teaching Assistant
- Finance Assistant
- Midday Supervisor

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

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

14th October – Year 13, Careers Drop Down Day

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

26th October to 30th October – half term break

2nd November – Autumn 2 Term starts

2nd November to 6th November – Year 11 Core Mock exams

10th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby

17th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby

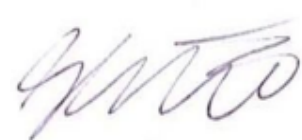
17th November – QEGS Oscars evening, 5:30-7:30pm, <https://www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/xmobpmpbzygo>

Finally

I would like to update you on some additional work that will need to take place on the roof of the Science Block at our Green Road Campus. During the last two days, part of the roof has started leaking. We are in the process of seeking further advice from external specialists on how best to resolve the issue. As soon as we have more details on that, and any potential impact on the use of that part of the building, I will let you know.

In the meantime, thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Scott Garrity
Headteacher

Encs: Term Dates 2027-28, Logging onto Sparx information, St Oswalds Choral Scholarships poster