

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1EP
Tel: 01335 343685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email
Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr S Garrity



16th October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Weekly Bulletin #6

Countdown to Success

A huge thank you to all the Year 10 and Year 11 students and families who attended our Countdown to Success event last night. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging with subject staff, exploring future pathways with Post-16 providers, universities and employers, and collecting resources to support their studies.

The enthusiasm, ambition and commitment on display were a real credit to our students, with many showing they are already locked in and leaving nothing to chance as they work towards success in Key Stage 4.



Sixth Form updates:

Year 13 Careers Drop-Down Day

Our Year 13 Careers Drop-Down Day was a great success! Students took part in mock interviews with volunteer employers, alongside assessment centre activities designed by JCB and led by Severn Trent. They also explored how to research employers and prepare effectively for interviews.



These valuable experiences gave students the opportunity to engage with industry professionals, gain feedback and develop the skills and confidence needed for their future pathways.

Peru Trip – Wishing Year 13 Bon Voyage!

This week, we said farewell to our Year 13 students, alongside Mr Walker, Mr Simnett and Mrs Kaul, as they set off on their trip to Peru! We're delighted to report that everyone arrived safely and has had a fantastic week so far. Follow our Sixth Form Instagram page (@qegssixthform) to see more photos and updates from their adventures!

Bold Voices – Taking Action on Gender Inequality

A group of our students – Abba W, Lillian H, Esme K, Ailsa S, Amy A and Ayaan J, have begun an exciting programme with Bold Voices, an external organisation working to address gender inequality.

The group took part in their first online session on Monday evening and are now looking ahead to the next stage of the programme. They will be developing their own action plan, generating ideas to tackle gender inequality and exploring ways to raise awareness across our school community.

We're excited to see what they develop and the positive impact their ideas could have within QEGS!

China 2027 trip

Exciting times are happening next year with the Year 12s starting to put their deposits down for a 10 day China trip! Last day to pay deposits is **Thursday 5th November by 3:15pm** at the latest.

Please email tilley@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk if you have any problems with letters or payments and please read the letter carefully before securing your place.

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 **4th – 6th 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 poster attached to the bulletin for more information.

Library Competition – win tickets to author event!



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.

The Shrovetide Players Committee needs your help!

We are looking for a talented student to create the design for the Official Shrovetide Hoodie 2027!

This is your chance to leave your mark on one of Ashbourne's most famous traditions and have your design seen by the whole school community. Your design must include:

Either Sturston or Clifton

The year 2027

The slogan:

"For the game to stay, put your phones away!"

Students can be as creative as they like. Think bold, eye-catching and full of Shrovetide spirit!

Whether you're an artistic expert or simply have a brilliant idea, we want to see your designs.

Could your artwork become this year's Shrovetide Hoodie?

Please send all entries to Mrs Vernon Room 203 by Friday 23rd October.



School Canteen

Menu choice week beginning 19th October will be week 1.

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
- Midday Supervisor

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

Upcoming Key Dates This Term

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

11th November – Year 7 Parent Teacher Meeting, in person in school, 3:45pm to 6pm

17th November – Primary Sports, tag rugby

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

24th November – Primary Sports, hockey

Finally

As we approach the final week of what has been a brilliant half term, there is so much for us to celebrate and be proud of.

A huge thank you to all the staff involved in organising and delivering our fantastic Countdown to Success event, and to the many students and families who attended. Your continued support and commitment to working together is invaluable in helping our students achieve the very best possible outcomes.

It has also been wonderful to hear that our students in Peru are having an amazing experience, with the exciting China trip on the horizon. We are incredibly proud of our wider co-curricular offer and the opportunities we continue to provide for our students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you to all our staff, students and families for everything you do to make QEGS such a special community.

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone. Let's make the most of our final week together before a well-deserved half-term break!

Yours faithfully,



Matt Walker

Deputy Headteacher

Enc: Nightwatch Poster