

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Head of School, December 2017

Dear parents/guardians

It has been a pleasure to fill the role of Head of School for the past year and, following the interview process at the beginning of December, I was delighted to accept the role of permanent Headmaster from January 2018. I am very grateful for the support of all parents and have been humbled by messages since my appointment.

I am sure that you agree it has been an exciting and invigorating autumn term and that we are all in need of a rest. Following the highlight of Speech Day, we have seen our students appear in the House of Lords and take part in an international speaking competition in China. The joint music concert (with QMHS) was a thrilling end to the term and showcased the talent we have at the school and within the Mercian MAT.

You should have already received the list grades (full reports in 6.1) for your son/daughter. Please take the time to consider these in detail.

### End of term circulars

As with previous years, a number of the usual end-of-term circulars are not being printed and there are some important attachments in this e-mail for you to consider:

- The autumn edition of the QM Observer (printed copies are available from reception)
- A QMA newsletter
- An important information sheet

### Online material

In addition, form tutors have given out an enrichment donation letter and the usual returns slip (of which we need a 100% return). The returns slip also requests that you consider a number of important documents which are available on the School website:

- The School calendar:  
[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=114](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=114)
- The House Trumpet blog:  
<https://qmgshousetrumpet.wordpress.com/>
- The School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy:  
[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017\\_nov\\_safeguarding\\_policy.pdf](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017_nov_safeguarding_policy.pdf)
- E-safety information, including the School's E-safety policy:  
[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017\\_nov\\_esafety\\_policy.pdf](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017_nov_esafety_policy.pdf)
- The School's policy on 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation':  
[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017\\_nov\\_radicalisation\\_extremism\\_policy.pdf](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/policies/2017_nov_radicalisation_extremism_policy.pdf)

### H/W policy

As mentioned in my November update, we have launched the Year 7-9 homework extension tasks and independent learning opportunities for each subject. The booklet is a real opportunity for student to expand their horizons and consider their areas of interest in genuine depth. It is, of course, relevant to those students in Years 10-13 who are, naturally, more focused on exam syllabi. The booklet is available on the curriculum page of the school website:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=144](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=144)

### QMA

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As set out in their newsletter, we are delighted that our new minibus was delivered at the start of December. This has been possible due to the hard work of the QMA and to all members of the community who have supported our events.

Please follow the QMA twitter page [@qmgs1554qma](https://twitter.com/qmgs1554qma) and look out for future events, such as the **Burns night** dinner on **Saturday 27th January**. The QMA are also promoting the **Easy Fundraising scheme** – a great way of raising money for the school with very little effort. Make sure you register, if you haven't already, at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenmarysgrammar/>

## Road safety and parking

I am increasingly concerned (following reports from staff, local residents and members of the public), of the health and safety issues caused by inconsiderate driving and parking on the Sutton Road, particularly at 4pm. We will be working with Walsall Council in 2018 through their road safety programme and I have requested that we receive a greater volume of visits from traffic enforcement officers and community policing. We need to work together to make the school (and its surroundings) a safer place for everyone.

## The Green Bus

Please see the message at the bottom of this email from the Green Bus about their National Express Term Plus season ticket offer.

## Key dates for the diary coming up

Wed 20 Dec	End of term
Mon 8 Jan	Staff training day
Tue 9 Jan	Term starts for students (10am)
Thu 18 Jan	Year 10 parents' evening
Wed 24-Fri 26 Jan	Year 11 academic reviews
Sat 27 Jan	QMA Burns night dinner
TBA	Re-arranged Year academic reviews

Finally, I hope that you enjoy a restful Christmas break. The new term starts for students at 10am on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. It will be week 2.

Warm regards



**Richard Langton**  
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From: **The Green Bus** [www.thegreenbus.co.uk](http://www.thegreenbus.co.uk)

Subject: National Express Term Plus season ticket: exclusive offer

We have recently been working with National Express West Midlands (NXWM) to develop a bus pass which is valid both on The Green Bus services and on the NXWM bus network. Such a pass has been requested by our customers and partner schools for many years.

We are pleased to say that we will shortly be offering an NXWM Term Plus pass to our annual season ticket customers for a special "add-on" price of £95 for the remainder of the 2017/18 academic year.

The Term Plus pass will be added to your existing smartcard. Once upgraded, the pass will be valid on NXWM services until 31 July 2018: it includes travel at any time, including evenings, weekends, and school holidays.

We hope that the Term Plus pass will be very useful to pupils who stay late for activities in school, or who have differing journey requirements during the week, or who use NXWM buses at weekends and during school holidays. The Term Plus pass will also be valid on NXWM buses if you happen to miss The Green Bus to or from school.

We will be sending an email to all our annual season ticket holders later this week which gives full details of the offer, including how to purchase the Term Plus top-up pass.

Kind regards

Ian Mack  
Managing Director