

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, March 2018

Dear parents/guardians

The spring term seems to have passed us by very quickly as we found ourselves arriving at the Easter holidays. You should receive a set of grades (full reports for Year 13) this week, which should give sharp focus for areas to work on ahead of the summer exams/assessments.

You will also receive a return slip and Lift Fund letters with these grades. The important information sheet has been updated and is on the school's website:

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018_mar_important_information.pdf

We finish for the holiday at **2pm on Thursday 29th March**, so please be aware of this for early transport arrangements. The Green Bus will do any early pick up on this day, but the homework club will not run.

There has been a huge amount going on this term and I'm sure that you have followed some or all of the following on twitter:

- Joint ski trip with QMHS to Italy https://twitter.com/QMGS_Snowsports
- Physics trip to CERN, Switzerland <https://twitter.com/QMGSGeneva>
- CCF Field Day and biennial review <https://twitter.com/QMGSCCF>
- Higher Education fair <https://twitter.com/QMGS6THFORM/status/974365869269749766>

The QM Observer will be distributed by email at the end of the week and gives a fuller flavour of the term. It is unsurprising, with so much going on, that we have welcomed record numbers to our new Year 12 welcome events this month: the school continues to be a vibrant place.

Parent governor election

I am delighted to announce that, following a vote, Mr Hamel Patel has been elected as a parent governor. I look forward to working with him over the next four years. I attach a letter to this email regarding the election from the clerk to the governors.

Mental health events

As a follow up to the mental health awareness week, there is an event for parents on Thursday 19th April at QMHS. Please look out for further information on this

QMA

The termly QMA newsletter is attached and I am grateful to all of the volunteers who continue to support the school, from serving refreshments at school events, to giving up time to spring clean at Farchynys.

The next QMA fundraiser is a Quiz night on Wednesday 18th April. Booking forms can be found on the website: http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018_qma_quiz_flyer.pdf

Please follow the QMA twitter page [@qmgs1554qma](https://twitter.com/qmgs1554qma)

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/>

H/W club

A reminder of the new arrangements for H/W club:

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- It will only run Monday-Thursday (due to a lack of demand on Fridays)
- It will run from 4-5.30pm (due to a lack of demand after 5.30pm)
- The charges will change to £1 for 4-4.45pm and £2 for 4-5.30pm
- Please continue to use Parent Pay to make your bookings

On the topic of H/W, please remember the KS3 extension booklet. This has been discussed at each of the KS3 parent events and it is pleasing to hear of its increasing use.

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=144

The School's policy is that students should receive one hour of H/W per subject per fortnight (Years 7-11), with a minimum two day turnaround. This can be supplemented at KS3 by the tasks in this booklet, or by revision preparation at KS4.

Exams

Arrangements for study leave are:

- *Year 11* – lessons finish Friday 11th May, revision programme runs in school until Friday 25th May, study leave begins thereafter
- *Year 12* – study leave from Monday 14th May through to Friday 25th May during Year 12 exam period
- *Year 13* – lessons finish Friday 11th May; some organised revision sessions from Monday 14th May; leavers' celebration Friday 25th May

For years 9, 10 and 12, there are links on the website (under the exams tab) to timetables.

Term dates 2018-19

There has been a very slight change to the previously published term dates for 2018-19. The training day at Easter will be on Friday 12th April, not Monday 29th April 2019. The full dates can be seen on the website:

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=198&Itemid=134

Other key dates for the diary coming up

Thu 29 Mar	School finishes for Easter at 2pm
Mon 16 Apr	Staff training day (school closed to pupils, except those on revision courses)
Tue 17 Apr	Term starts for all students at 10am
Wed 18 Apr	QMA quiz night
Thu 19 Apr	Mental health awareness for parents event (at QMHS)
Wed 2 May	Spring concert

In all, I hope you all have a restful Easter and look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Warm regards



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