

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, October 2018

Dear parents/guardians

I hope this email finds you well, at the end of very busy half term. I hope you have been following the life of the school on twitter, including an excellent CCF field day last week and a number of events at Farchynys (including the open day for new parents). It has also been great to welcome the parents of students in Year 11 and 13 over the past couple of weeks to discuss progress.

Speech Day

As you will be aware, we hold our annual speech day on Thursday 25th October. The half term holiday starts at the end of the evening event on Thursday. Please take a note of the arrangements for the day, which were sent out in letter format last week:

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

QMA and cricket awards

I was delighted to see the turn out for the inaugural cricket awards evening last Friday. Organised and spearheaded by Mr Gibbons, the event raised nearly £1300, which kick-starts our effort to raise money for cricket facilities this year (which the QMA are looking to support through their events in 2018-19). We are looking to purchase outdoor practice nets and covers, which will further enhance the quality of cricket in the school.

The QMA events for 2018-19 are:

Saturday 10 th November	Fireworks (including anon-uniform day for raffle returns on Tuesday 6 th November)
Saturday 26 th January	Burns night dinner
Saturday 29 th June	Summer ball (in conjunction with QMHS)

It would be great if you could support these events and the raffles which take place before them. If you are interested in being part of the QMA, please contact Judy McCoy at postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk

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

As we approach the Christmas shopping season, 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/>

Drop everything and read (DEAR)

You may have spotted me at the back of a photo tweeted from the English department's account last week, as we dropped everything to read on Friday. I hope all of the students have plans for their reading over half term:

<https://twitter.com/QMGSEnglish>

PSHEE and Wellbeing

The new academic year has brought with it the establishment of a new initiative to add to our extensive mental health work: the QMGS Wellbeing Group. Coordinated by Mrs McPhee, with support from Mr Farnell and Mrs Smith, groups of pupils across the age range meet every other Monday in the Lecture Theatre to plan projects designed to boost the wellbeing of all in the school community. Please follow the Group's Twitter feed at [@QMGSWBC](https://twitter.com/QMGSWBC).

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The school have also been chosen to feature in a new book by the acclaimed educational author Ross Morrison McGill, showcasing the work we have done in the area of mental health. I am extremely grateful to Mrs McPhee for all of her work on this, including with the 'Change your mind' team who are preparing to start their primary school visits.

November

I have agreed to be part of a staff initiative to promote 'Movember'! It's a great charity, which seeks to tackle some of the biggest health issues faced by men: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention. Please visit our page to sponsor us and look out for updates:

https://uk.movember.com/team/2317532?utm_medium=share&utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=copy-clipboard

Road safety and parking

I am grateful for the co-operation of parents with members of the leadership team who have been on duty at the end of the school day this term on the Sutton Road. We need to continue to work together to make the area around the school a safe place. Do consider, as I asked in September, whether pupils could be dropped off/picked up further from the school.

Building work

The building work gathers pace and the third floor is appearing on the science block. There will be some room changes after half term as Q1-3 are renovated.

Changes to email arrangements

After half term, we will be discontinuing the postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk email address and replacing this with a series of direct addresses for different aspects of school life. When you email the postbox account in future, you will be given the new addresses. I will communicate more details after half term.

Other news and upcoming events

Please continue to keep an eye on the letters page of the school website:

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=233

We have also published a list of key school events for 2018-19:

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

The following are upcoming, which you may be interested in:

- **Speech Day** – Thursday 25th October
- **Half term** – starts after Speech Day on Thursday 25th October; return to school Monday 5th November at 8.45am
- **Remembrance Sunday parade** – Sunday 11th November
- **Year 8 parents' evening** – Thursday 22nd November
- **Sixth form open evening** – Thursday 29th November
- **Year 7 academic reviews** - 10th, 11th and 12th December
- **Christmas concert** – Tuesday 18th December (Walsall Town Hall)

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Thank you for your continued support for the school

Regards

R. J. Langton



Richard Langton

Headmaster

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