

# Queen Mary's Grammar School



## A message from the Headmaster, December 2018

Dear parents/guardians

It seems a long time since the term began back for me with the results days in August and I am ready, as I'm sure everyone is, for a restorative Christmas break. As ever, a huge amount has gone on within the school community and, on reflecting upon full school assemblies during the term, I am proud of what has been achieved by the students. I have paid thanks this week to all of the staff who have done so much (as ever) for the opportunities they have provided.

We welcomed back the class of 2018 on Monday for their prize giving event and it was great to catch up with them after their first term away. I was taken aback by the quality and variety on show during the music concert on Tuesday and am grateful to Mr Vause, Miss Onako and all the staff involved in putting together this event.

You may have heard already, but I am delighted to announce in this forum that the school was successful in securing funding through the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46429040>

A key element of this bid is our increased commitment towards promoting social mobility and I have spent a lot of time already this term in primary schools around Walsall promoting the school. I will be meeting with parents of primary school pupils in the new year, along with staff and students from QMGS. If you are interested in being a bit of our social outreach, please drop me a line at the school.

### End of term circulars

You should have already received the list grades (full reports in Year 12) for your son/daughter. Please take the time to consider these in detail. 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

In addition, form tutors have given out a *Lift Fund* donation letter, Burns night raffle tickets 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, such as policies, letters to parents and the school calendar.

### QMA

*The remaining QMA events for 2018-19 are:*

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns night dinner
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> 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 [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

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

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Finally, you can contribute through 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

You may have noticed this term the presence of members of the senior leadership team on the Sutton Road at the end of each school day. I am pleased to say that there has been significant co-operation with our requests for safe and considerate parking/manoeuvres. I am still receiving some complaints from residents concerning parking on private property around the school and I must ask for all parents to comply with the signage on display. We need to continue to work together to make the school (and its surroundings) a safer place for everyone.

## Queen Mary's Swimming Club

If you are an adult who would like to swim regularly in an informal and friendly setting, then Queen Mary's Swimming Club may provide the incentive you need. The Club operates at Q.M.G.S. swimming pool on Wednesdays from 6.00 p.m. till 7.15 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. till 12.00 noon. A lifeguard is on duty at each session. To arrange a free taster session or ask for further information then please contact the Hon. Secretary Kay Farrington. Her email address is: [kay.farrington67@btinternet.com](mailto:kay.farrington67@btinternet.com)

## Changes to email arrangements

Remember that we have discontinued the [postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk) email address and have replaced this with a series of direct addresses for different aspects of school life. Please see the details at:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=133](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=133)

## Key dates for the diary coming up

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

- **End of term** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm
- **Teacher training day** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January (students not expected in)
- **Start of spring term** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January (registration at 9.45am)
- **Year 11 academic reviews** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 10 parents' evening** – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January
- **Non-uniform day** – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January (for return of Burns Night raffle tickets)

All key school events for 2018-19 are listed at:

[http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018\\_sep\\_calendar\\_of\\_events.pdf](http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/2018_sep_calendar_of_events.pdf)

Finally, I hope that you enjoy a restful Christmas break. The new term starts for students at 9.45am on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January. It will be week 2.

Thank you for your continued support for the school

Regards



Richard Langton

Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

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