

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, January 2019

Dear parents/guardians

First of all, may I wish everyone a slightly belated happy new year? The Christmas break seems like a distant memory and our students, particularly those in the upper year groups, have their eyes on the academic challenges ahead.

It was good to meet with parents of the Year 11 for the academic reviews at the start of term and I really hope this has sharpened the minds of the students. Similarly, the Year 13 have some really important weeks ahead and a lot of revision/support classes have already begun. I have asked the staff to minimise the amount of time Year 11/13s are required out of lessons and also to make sure that as few sessions are covered as possible. Can I ask that parents work with the school to make sure that students are in attendance as close to 100% of the time as possible?

Farchynys spring clean weekend

We are planning a Spring cleaning/maintenance weekend at Farchynys from **Friday 15th-Sunday 17th March**. I will be attending, along with Mr Hudson and various other staff/volunteers. If you would like to be part of this for all or part of the weekend, your help would be much appreciated. Whether you're an expert with a strimmer or drill, a dab hand with a paint brush or just want to get involved and have a laugh doing so, give us a call. Let Mr Hudson know via the school email at enquiries@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

QMA

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Burns night dinner last weekend. Photos can be seen on the QMA's twitter account at [@qmg1554qma](https://twitter.com/qmg1554qma)
<https://twitter.com/qmg1554qma>

Seema Sikka has done an amazing job as chair of the committee and I am very grateful for her commitment. We will miss her enthusiasm, but we are lucky to have now the committee in the capable hands of Jackie Lewis.

The remaining QMA event for the year is the re-formed Summer ball (in conjunction with QMHS) on **Saturday 29th June**. We are just putting the committee together and are looking for new members. If you are interested in being part of this, please contact Judy McCoy at enquiries@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

Please also support the school through the **Easy Fundraising scheme** – a great way of raising money with very little effort. Make sure you register, if you haven't already, at:
<https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenmarysgrammar/>

SEND arrangements

Conrad Bourne (Social Mobility Director for the Mercian MAT) has taken over the SEND responsibility for QMGS until further notice. Mr Bourne (assisted by Mrs Swain) will be contacting parents and students over the coming weeks to arrange reviews and confirm access arrangements for the summer exams. An updated version of our exams policy is available on the policy section of the school website (link below). Please note that the school doesn't accept non-school commissioned assessments for access arrangements. Please contact Mr Bourne at the school with any questions.

http://www.qmg.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=108&Itemid=255

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Mental health week

Please see attached a list of the events taking place as part of mental health week. I have also attached a leaflet for the Walsall Happier You (WHY) programme, well-being initiative aimed at over 35s by Walsall Council

Building work

The building work continues, but the end is in sight for the main project. The new English classrooms are in use and will soon be followed by those in maths. The new third floor of the science block is due for completion in March, which will see several departments re-housed. Last weekend saw the demolition of S12 after a decade of service as a mobile classroom. This is the beginning of the DT/art project, which will run through to the summer. I am grateful for the co-operation of all people through this period of disruption.

Changes to website and email arrangements

We will shortly be launching a new QMGS website. The design is much fresher and more user friendly, with greater compatibility on tablets and mobile devices. Please let us know if there are any issues with this.

Please also remember that we have discontinued the 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

Key dates for the diary coming up

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

- **MEP intensive learning day** – Saturday 2nd February
- **Mental health week** – 4th-8th February
- **Year 12 futures evening** – Thursday 7th February
- **Year 9 parents' evening** – Thursday 14th February
- **Orlando trip** – 14th-19th February
- **Canada ski trip** – 15th-23rd February
- **Finish for half term** – Friday 15th February
- **Return from half term** – Monday 25th February

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

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

Thank you for your continued support for the school

Regards



Richard Langton

Headmaster

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