

5 September 2017

Dear Parents

The first day back has gone well and I would like to thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your son/daughter has returned to school looking smart. I hope new pupils have enjoyed their first day at Queen Elizabeth's. I send a letter home to parents (via email) each Tuesday and it is also available on the school's website.

Students from Y9 upwards received **public examination results** over the summer holiday. I was really pleased with both the GCSE and A Level results this year. At GCSE, over half of the grades were at A\*/A and almost all students gained 10 GCSEs at A\*-C with over a quarter of the students attaining at least 10 A\*/A grades. 15% of students gained the new grade 9 in English Language, intended to differentiate amongst the most able. Results which particularly stand out are:

**Hugo Fry** who gained 10A\*s (with a 9 in Maths) and 2 As with an A\* in Extended Project AS and an A in Accounting.

**Freddie Lawie** who gained 9A\*s (with 9s in Maths and English Language) and 3 As with an A in AS Accounting.

**Sid Morris** who gained 12 A\*s (with 9s in Maths, English Language and English Literature) with A\* in AS Extended Project and A in AS Accounting.

**Jessica Norridge** who gained 9A\*s (with a 9 in Maths) and 3 As with an A\* in AS Extended Project.

**Orla Parr** who gained 12 A\*s (with 9s in English Language and English Literature) and As in AS Extended Project and Government & Politics.

**Darcie Radford** who gained 11A\*s (with 9s in English Language and English Literature) and A in AS Extended Project.

**Rebecca Vernon** who gained 9A\*s (with 9s in Maths and English Literature) and 2 As.

**Jamie Walters** who gained 11 A\*s and 2 As.

Twenty two students (including the above) met the criteria for Outstanding Attainment Speech Night Prizes. Congratulations also to: Frances Bates, Ed Betteridge, Leo Blockley, Joe Dowling, Amy Hancock, Alice Hockham, Oliver Hull, Laura Muns, Harriet Oliver, Rebecca Patchett, Arya Pilani, Ethan Scott, Heather Smith and Tom White.

There were also some pleasing results for Y9, A\*'s were achieved in the **AS Extended Project** by Lara Lewis, Macey Stables and Phoebe Willey and A's by Emily Barker, Florence Baxter, Fergus Bluff, Eleanor Collingwood, Lottie Fry, Emma Norridge and Rosa Smith. All of the selected group of Y9 pupils taking the Extended Project AS (3 years early) passed with A\*-B grades, which is very impressive.



### Some of our GCSE Top Attainers

*Pictured (Back Row L-R):* Oliver Hull, Orla Parr, Rebecca Vernon, Amy Hancock, Darcie Radford, Heather Smith, Laura Muns and Sid Morris.

*(Front Row L-R):* Freddie Lawie, Ethan Scott, Tom White, Ed Betteridge, Jamie Walters and Hugo Fry.



Also, Daisy Evans (11C) got an A\* French, Neizan Diaz Gomez Limon (9C) an A\* in Spanish and Dylan Twigg (7C) a grade 9 in Maths.

**At A Level** our students also attained exceptional results. All students gained at least 3 good A Level passes with 70% of grades at A\*- B, which placed us second in the county. The following students gained 3 or more A\*/A grades:

Sophie Brackenbury	1 A* and 2 As
Ollie Burbidge	1A* and 2 As
Scott Cooper	2 A*s and 1 A
Miles Davies	1 A* and 2 As
Billie Early	2A* and 1 A
Emily Philpot	3As
Ashleigh Ponder	4As
Timothy Powell	3 A*s and 1 A
Olivia Renton	1 A* and 2 As
Elle Smith	3 A*s
Maya Taylor	2 A*s and 1 A

Current Y13 students intending to apply to **university** should be preparing their personal statements under the guidance of Mrs Daniels (Head of Sixth Form), Miss Allen and their tutors. For potential Oxbridge candidates the deadline for these is Friday 22 September, so that Mr Claxton (Lead Teacher for Gifted & Talented) and I can check them before the deadline for applications of 15 October. Those applying for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry also need to submit their applications by this date. All other applications need to be in by Tuesday 31 October 2017. If you have any queries about the process please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Daniels or Miss Allen.

With the drastic financial cuts that we have experienced over the past few years it has become necessary for sixth formers to buy some of their text books. This does have the advantage that they can notate them and keep them for future reference. Financial help is provided through the **16-19 Bursary Scheme** for students in Y12 and Y13 who are experiencing financial difficulty. Bursaries of up to £1,200 per year can be awarded, payable in three instalments of £400 at the end of October, February and May. This money can be spent on transport, school meals, books, school trips, school uniform and equipment. Further details are set out in the attached letter to sixth form students. Applications must be returned to me by Friday 22 September.

**Home Learning** timetables are available via the intranet. As a rough guide, Y7 & Y8 will be expected to spend about 1½ hours each evening on home learning and Y9-Y11 between 1½ and 2½ hours each evening. Students in Y9-11 will often receive longer tasks and are therefore required to organise their home learning time appropriately and also carry out regular revision and wider reading. Y12 and Y13 in particular need to take greater responsibility for management of their time outside lessons and, in order to succeed, they should spend about 3 hours per day in independent study.

Some of our A Level students celebrating their results



Details of all home learning tasks are available to pupils and parents via the intranet. Please contact us if it appears that your child is spending very little time at home on school work or, alternatively, is spending an excessive amount of time in the evenings on home learning. We would also be grateful for your support in ensuring that when your son/daughter is completing home learning they do not have distractions such as social networking sites. It can often appear that students are spending a significant time on home learning when in fact they are communicating with friends. We are keen to discourage this as it means that the quality of students' learning suffers. We are also encouraging pupils to spend 15 minutes a day reading as this will enhance their vocabulary and support their wider learning.

This year we will have a whole school literacy focus each term. This term's is capital letters and its/it's.

**Whole School Literacy Focus: punctuation**  
**Term 1 – capital letters**

Capital letters should be used on the following occasions:

- At the start of every sentence;
- On acronyms e.g. QEGS, NHS, NASA;
- On subject names which are also languages e.g. English, French, German, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese;
- On proper nouns (words which name people, places, days and months, events) e.g. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar; John Smith; Mexico; Monday; April; Christmas.

**Whole School Literacy Focus: easily confused words**  
**Term 1 – its / it's**

- **Its** is a pronoun of possession e.g. the dog chased **its** tail.
- **It's** is a contraction of the words **it** and **is** e.g. **it's** raining again.
- **TIP:** if you are unsure which one to use, try saying / writing the sentence replacing its/it's with 'it is' to see if it makes sense e.g. 'the cat drank it is milk' doesn't make sense so you would use **its** but 'It is my birthday' does make sense so you would use **it's**.



This week, parents of students new to the school should receive our **Home-School Agreement**. I would be grateful if you could sign it and return it to your child's form tutor. We will then take a copy for our records and return the original to you. This agreement represents the partnership of you, your children and the school, and our commitment to do our very best to ensure your child fulfils their potential.

We are committed to providing a high quality education for all our pupils and they all benefit from regular **attendance**. Please try to avoid your son or daughter missing school unnecessarily and contact the school on the first day of any absence and on any subsequent day. If you have phoned us rather than emailed then a letter or email will be required on your child's return to school. If leave of absence is needed for any reason, it must be requested well in advance of the event by a personal letter or email to me, clearly stating the reason. As grounds for authorisation, we will only accept those situations where the absence could not reasonably have been avoided. As you will be aware I am not able to authorise family holidays during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The loan system in the school library uses a unique **biometric measurement** taken from a student's finger (not a 'fingerprint'). The information is stored in a highly secure database and is only used by the school, it cannot be used by any other agency or for any non-school purpose. Under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 we need parental permission to use biometric data. I attach the consent form for new pupils to the school. I would be grateful if you would complete it and return it by **Friday 22 September**. When your child is no longer a student at Queen Elizabeth's, the relevant biometric data will be permanently deleted.

We welcome several **new members of staff** to Queen Elizabeth's this school year:

Mrs N Daniels – Head of Sixth Form and Teacher of Mathematics

Miss L Pafomow – Teacher of English

Mr G Teasdale – Teacher of Business Studies

We also welcome back Miss Barton – Teacher of French and Spanish

Sadly, **Mrs Steele** had a stroke at the beginning of the school holiday. She is recovering well and is hoping to be back part-time by half-term. We send her our very best wishes. In her absence Mrs Hull will be acting as form tutor for 7C. Whilst we have tried to cover her exam classes with specialist teachers this has not always been possible. Her classes progress will however be carefully monitored.

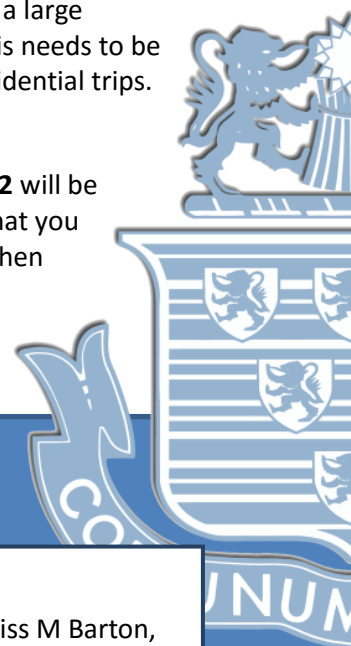
I would be grateful if you could complete the attached **Trips Consent Form** which will cover a large number of visits and sporting fixtures that go out from the school, thus saving you time. This needs to be updated **each year** and a more detailed consent form will need to be completed for any residential trips. Please return it to the school office by **Monday 11 September**.

Please note that to help cover the cost of coaches for away sports fixtures, a **match fee of £2** will be charged for all away matches. This will be waived for those on Free School Meals. I hope that you will understand the necessity of increasing this charge and continue to support your child when representing the school.



#### **New Staff at QEGS**

Pictured (L-R): Miss L Pafomow, Miss M Barton, Mr G Teasdale and Mrs N Daniels



In Y7, pupils take **Cognitive Ability Tests**. These provide us with additional information about our pupils' strengths and weaknesses. They enable us to offer support for each individual and to set appropriate targets for them. Y7 will be taking these on **Tuesday 19 September**. No revision is necessary for these tests. If you have any queries about the tests, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Felton (Head of Lower School) or myself.

If you collect your child from school by car I would be grateful if you could avoid **parking** on both sides of the road or directly either side of the school entrances. It causes difficulties for the buses and large vehicles to pass and it is potentially dangerous for pupils who need to cross the road, as visibility is poor. We have also noticed that a few parents are driving into the school grounds in order to drop off pupils at school in the morning and collect them in the evening. This is causing congestion and is creating a safety issue for pupils who are moving around in the school grounds at this time of day. I would be grateful if you could avoid driving into the school car parks unless there are special circumstances.

I appreciate that some pupils need to stay **after school** in order for you to pick them up after your work commitments. We are willing to offer this facility (until 5.30 pm) but do require a letter (addressed to me) requesting this and ask that pupils work quietly in the ICT room during this time. They should sign in and out at the school office, and should meet you either in the reception area or outside school.

The **termly calendars**, with dates and deadlines, will be with you in a few weeks. I thought it would be helpful to give you prior notice of some forthcoming events:

- Open Evening: Thursday 5 October (5.30-8.30 pm)
- Y7 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents only*: Tuesday 10 October (5.00-8.00 pm)
- Y10 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Tuesday 17 October (6.00 pm)
- Y11 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Tuesday 17 October (7.15 pm)
- Y12 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents and students*: Thursday 2 November (5.00-8.00 pm)

This year we have decided to support **YoungMinds** as our **charity**. We are starting our fundraising efforts earlier in the year to enable us to achieve our ambitious target of raising £10,000. YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional well-being and mental health of young people. There will be a number of events throughout the year together with our traditional Charity Week (Monday 22 – Friday 26 January 2018). Dates for the diary include Tuesday 10 October which is World Mental Health Day and we will be supporting #HelloYellow awareness with a Non-uniform Day, Tuesday 17 October when we will be having a Fun Run and Sunday 26 November when we will be holding a 12 hour Spinathon.

I have included a **price list for the canteen** as an attachment with this Tuesday Letter. The weekly menu is available on our website.

I have also attached a flier for the Alford Scout Group who are relaunching the 14 to 18 year old explorer scouts.

# YOUNG MINDS

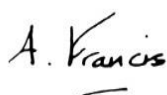


**Congratulations to:**

- **Elliot Cooksey (9C)** who has maintained an unbeaten record for his golfing season playing for Kenwick Golf Club. His team has also won the league and went forward to play in the Lincolnshire Junior League Finals where they came second.
- **Nadine Hartzenberg (9C)** and **Emily Barker (10T)** who have secured places in the Lincolnshire Youth Concert Orchestra.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will try to deal with them as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Francis  
Headteacher



**Y10 GCSE Textiles Group** whose entry came second in the schools' section of the National Exhibition of Quilts in the summer holidays.

