

10 September 2019

Dear Parents

First of all thank you to all the parents and carers of students that I have already met for your welcome to the school. I have been overwhelmed by your kind words and best wishes for the continued success of this amazing school.

The first week 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 and ready for the year ahead. I hope in particular that new pupils have enjoyed their first week at Queen Elizabeth's and that this is the first of many successful weeks to come. For your information I intend to continue to send a letter home to parents (via email) each Tuesday and it is also available on the school's website which has been a tradition of the school for several years.

In terms of parental links with school, on a day to day basis, I hope that you continue to feel able to approach me directly on occasion should you need to and very much am looking forward to talking to you at various events over the coming months and years. I believe that only by continuing to work together as a triad of parents, students and school that we provide the best opportunity for the young people we all work with to flourish, both academically, but also more widely. We hope to best prepare them by not only attaining the best possible qualifications, but also to furnish them with the necessary skills to be as successful in their chosen careers and lives.

On that topic students from Y9 upwards received public examination results over the summer holiday. I was delighted with both the GCSE and A Level results this year and look forward to many more years of continued success for our students.

As in previous 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 April. 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 20 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



### Some of our GCSE Top Attainers

*Pictured (Back Row L-R):* Oliver Betteridge, Emily Barker, Hannah Webster, Fergus Bluff, Phoebe Willey, Jack Leverton, Dani Grantham, Eleanor Collingwood, Macey Stables, Aimee Blows

*(Front Row L-R):* Lara Lewis, Sadie Stevenson, Leilani Sydenham, Teddy Young, Tim Cook, Lottie Fry, Daisy Holt, Georgina Olivia, Sophie Gatenby

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.

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 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 (**at least 4 weeks** before the proposed absence) 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. You should then only remove your children from school if the absence has been authorised, and you have been notified of this in writing.

If you should choose to take your child out of school during term time and it is **not** deemed to be exceptional circumstances and/or has not been approved by the School, then this will be coded as an unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for the period of absence. Failure to pay the Fixed Penalty may result in further legal action being taken against you.

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 16 September**.

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

Some of our A Level students celebrating their results



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 5.15 pm) but do require a letter 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.

There is a talk for **Y9 pupils and their parents on Tuesday 17 September** at 6.00 pm in the hall, giving general information and guidance about starting GCSE courses. I have attached a reply slip to be returned to the school office by this Friday, 13 September.

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 3 October (5.30 - 8.30 pm)
- Y7 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents only*: Tuesday 8 October (5.00 - 8.00 pm)
- Y10 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Wednesday 16 October (6.00 pm)
- Y11 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Wednesday 16 October (7.15 pm)
- Y12 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents and students*: Tuesday 29 October (5.00 – 8.00 pm)

The County Council have informed us that applications for **free school meals** now need to be made direct to the council using a parent portal. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please use the following link: [lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal](http://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal). The school regularly checks the council's eligibility reports. If your child was entitled to free school meals at their primary school this should have been forwarded by your child's previous primary school.

We often use photographs of pupils to promote the school and to highlight achievements, but are unable to publish photographs of any pupil for whom we do not have consent. **I have attached a photo consent form** which I would be grateful if you could complete and return to the office by Friday 13 September.

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



Mr G Thompson  
Headteacher



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

In addition to myself, we welcome the following new members of staff to Queen Elizabeth's this school year:  
Pictured L- R: Mr N Stone (Head of Middle School and PE), Miss L Meakin (Teacher MFL) and Mr B Lazenby (Part-time Teacher of Computer Studies).

