

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, April 2018

Dear parents/guardians

The past month

In glimpses it has started to feel like summer after a long winter! The first few games of cricket have been played and it is good to see a full fixture list. I am also looking forward to the Spring Concert next week (see flyer below) and I encourage you to come along to see the outstanding work being done across the music departments at QMGS and QMHS.



Easter saw students visit the USA with the Geography department and RAF cadets on camps in the UK and in Europe. I am grateful to the staff who took these visits and look forward to hearing more in forthcoming assemblies.

The 'Change your Mind' mental health team (under the guidance of Mrs McPhee) were highly commended in the Mayor's annual awards. The team have now worked with 14 different primary schools! We also hosted a 'Mental Health First Aid' training course for staff and the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust staged a joint event at QMHS for parents.

We have had success in the regional rounds of the UKMT competition in maths and the Salter's Festival of Chemistry. On top of this, the 1st XV followed up their 7s success with a convincing victory in the Staffordshire Shield.

Exams

The summer inevitably means we turn our attention to exams and I hope the students involved in these have used their time productively over Easter. We will be supporting all year groups and, as I mentioned in my last email, the study leave arrangements are:

Arrangements for study leave are:

- Year 11 – lessons finish Friday 11th May, revision programme runs in school until Friday 25th May, study leave begins thereafter
- Year 12 – study leave from Monday 14th May through to Friday 25th May during Year 12 exam period

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- *Year 13* – lessons finish Friday 11th May; some organised revision sessions from Monday 14th May; leavers' celebration Friday 25th May

For years 9, 10 and 12, there are links on the website (under the exams tab) to timetables.

QMA

The QMA hosted a quiz night at the start of term, raising around £250 for the school and have announced a date for the summer event.

The summer BBQ (with entertainment provided by the The Bierkeller Schunklers Bavarian German Oompah Band) will take place on Saturday 23rd June, as an afternoon/early evening event. Please look out for further details on this.

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

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/>

First aid and concussion awareness

We have recently trained more school staff to be official first aiders and have issued new guidance on treating injuries. I attach a guidance document for head injuries and provide a link below to some resources through the RFU:

<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/players/player-health/concussion-headcase/schools-and-colleges/#>

School day consultation

I have been speaking to students and staff about some proposals for a slight change in the school day. You will receive a letter over the next few days and I would be grateful to receive any feedback.

Finally, Mrs Mehta has brought to my attention the valiant work carried out by the Blood Cancer charity DKMS. Please see her message at the bottom of this email.

Warm regards



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SWAB
TO BE A
LIFESAVER

We are teaming up with DKMS in a bid to raise awareness of blood cancer, blood stem cell donation and to register potentially lifesaving blood stem cell donors. DKMS is an international based charity organization helping to delete blood cancer.

We will be holding an event to register as many donors as possible at QMGS on Wednesday 2nd May, from 4pm – 6:30pm.

- Every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer such as Leukemia, Lymphoma or Myeloma
- This cancer can be treated if a matching donor is found
- The window in which to find a donor can be very short
- Only 30% of patients find a compatible bone marrow donor within their family
- The likelihood of finding a life-saving match would be 1 in 3 for white patients but is just 1 in 125,000 for those of Asian or Afro-Caribbean descent

The initiative gives everyone the opportunity to make a genuine difference to the lives of those affected by blood cancer.

At present there is a big drive to find a donor for a young 11 year old boy who was diagnosed with Leukemia and for whom the traditional treatments are not working. You can look up the story on line by typing in match4Rajie.

People aged between 17 and 55 can come and register to be a potential lifesaver. You can register as a potential blood stem cell donor either online (<https://www.dkms.org.uk/en/register-now>) and complete your swabs at home, or register at a donor recruitment drive which is taking place on Wednesday 2nd May between 4-6:30pm at the schools main reception. It takes just 10 minutes.

Mrs Mehta