

Queen Mary's Grammar School



A message from the Headmaster, February 2018

Dear parents/guardians

It has been a short, but busy half term and I have enjoyed the opportunities to meet parents at a range of events we have held.

The Year 11 academic reviews have hopefully sharpened the focus of the students ahead of the push for exams in the summer and parents in this year group should expect a written report this week.

The feedback from parents who attended the re-scheduled Year 7 reviews was most pleasing, as was that we collected at the Year 9 and 10 parents' evenings. The turnout for the Year 12 Futures evening was very impressive and I hope both the students and parents found this to be an informative experience.

Copies of some of the presentations can be found on the school website:

Year 12 Futures evening

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

Year 9 parents' evening (including information on options)

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/content/letters/2018_feb_yr9_gcse_info_evening.pdf

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

Mental health events

I was extremely pleased with the events we hosted in the mental health awareness week. I am grateful for the hard work of all staff and students involved, particularly Mrs McPhee, who co-ordinated the week.

Coverage of the events can be found on the PSHEE twitter account:

https://twitter.com/qmgs_pshe

QMA

Thank you to everyone who supported the Burns night event in January, both in attending the evening and through the purchase of raffle tickets. Early signs are that the profits are around £10,000, which, along with the amount raised from the Fireworks event, have virtually paid for the new minibus!

Mr Paul Lee, the chairman of governors for the school writes:

"I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Queen Mary's Association (QMA) who have over the past year raised enough money to fund the purchase of a brand new School minibus for the use of pupils to enable them to go to sporting activities, school visits and Farchynys in comfort and safety. This is no small achievement; the minibus cost in excess of £20,000. The parents and staff who gave their time and efforts for the benefit of others are to be applauded for their commitment and drive. This is an example of what makes Queen Mary's such a rewarding place to work and study and embodies the School motto (It is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches).

I hope that more parents will consider joining in fundraising activities as this amount has been raised by a relatively small number of volunteers. Just imagine what we could achieve if more parents were to get involved in some small way. There are opportunities to help on a variety of committees whether you have a lot of time to give or only very limited time. You may have a valuable skill or connection for matched funding for example."

The next QMA fundraiser is a Quiz night on Wednesday 18th April. More is to follow on this, but please save the date and contact the school at postbox@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk if you would like to enter a team.

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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/>

Parent governor vacancy

Letters have been sent out this week to inform you of the vacancy we have for a parent governor. I have attached a copy of this letter for your information if you have not received this.

H/W club

A reminder of the new arrangements for H/W club:

- It will only run Monday-Thursday (due to a lack of demand on Fridays)
- It will run from 4-5.30pm (due to a lack of demand after 5.30pm)
- The charges will change to £1 for 4-4.45pm and £2 for 4-5.30pm
- Please continue to use Parent Pay to make your bookings

On the topic of H/W, please remember the KS3 extension booklet. This has been discussed at each of the KS3 parent events and it is pleasing to hear of its increasing use.

http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=144

The School's policy is that students should receive one hour of H/W per subject per fortnight (Years 7-11), with a minimum two day turnaround. This can be supplemented at KS3 by the tasks in this booklet, or by revision preparation at KS4.

Key dates for the diary coming up

Fri 16 Feb	Finish for half term
Mon 26 Feb	School re-opens (9am)
Thu 22 Mar	Year 12 parents' evening
Thu 8 Mar	Year 7 parents' evening
Wed 18 Apr	QMA quiz night
Wed 2 May	Spring concert

Warm regards



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