

11 September 2018

Dear Parents

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. I hope new pupils have enjoyed their first week at Queen Elizabeth's. For your information 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 very pleased with both the GCSE and A Level results this year. At GCSE **100% of our pupils gained 5 or more passes, including English and Maths.** Nearly half of all grades were the very top grades 9-7 (A*/A) and 93% of students gained eight or more good passes (9-5/A*-C).

Results which particularly stand out are:

Imogen Reeves who gained seven grade 9s, one A* and 4 8s
Harry Chambers who gained six grade 9s, one A*, four 8s and two 7s
Archie Rainbow who gained four grade 9s, one A*, five 8s and two 7s
Sam Angus who gained four grade 9s, one 8 and six 7s
Owen Brabbs who gained four grade 9s, three 8s and three 7s
Charlotte Evans who gained three grade 9s, one A*, five 8s and 3 7s
Oliver Goolden who gained three grade 9s, five 8s and two 7s
Max Kurczewski who gained two grade 9s, eight 8s and three 7s with an A in Polish AS
Eleanor Gower who gained two grade 9s, three 8s and seven 7s
Oak Scotney-Spencer who gained two grade 9s, two 8s and eight 7s
Anja Gut who gained one grade 9, three 8s and eight 7s
Charlizé-Li Clark who gained one grade 9, five 8s and four 7s
Keira Mager who gained one grade 9, four 8s and five 7s.
Tarik Mallick who gained one grade 9, one A*, five 8s and three 7s
Isabel Carr who gained six grade 8s and five 7s.
Kitty Dewick-Eisele who gained seven grade 8s and four 7s.

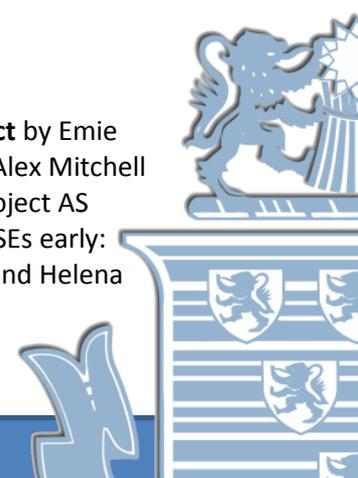
There were also some pleasing results for Y9, A*'s were achieved in the **AS Extended Project** by Emie Mettam, James Gilliatt and Nadine Hartzenberg and A's by Analise Taylor, Laura Thackray, Alex Mitchell Alicia Otter and Laura Dexter. All of the selected group of Y9 pupils taking the Extended Project AS (3 years early) passed, which is very impressive. There were also a few pupils who took GCSEs early: Jack Moczarski (7S) gained a Grade 8 in Mathematics, Kitty Evans (10C) Grade 8 in French and Helena Kurczewska (9S) A* in Polish.



Some of our GCSE Top Attainers

Pictured (Back Row L-R): Max Kurczewski, Charli Clark, Isabel Carr, Keira Mager, Anja Gut, Kitty Dewick-Eisele, Imogen Reeves, Charlotte Evans, Oak Scotney-Spencer.

(Front Row L-R): Sam Angus, Harry Chambers, Archie Rainbow, Owen Brabbs, Oliver Goolden.



At A Level our students also attained exceptional results. 74% of grades were at A*- B, which placed us **top in the county**. The following students gained 3 or more A*/A grades:

Cameron Foster: A*s in Applied Business and Business Tech-Marketing, with A in Sport & PE
Emma Gatenby: A*s in French, German and Psychology, with A in English Literature
William Handley: A* in Maths, and As in Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry
Andrew Lowes: A* in Business Tech- Marketing, and As in Economics and Maths
Claire Nash: A*s in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology
Chloe Skinner: A*s in Psychology and Applied Business Studies, and A in Maths
Jack Stephenson: A*s in Applied Business and Business Tech-Marketing, and A in Economics
Ben Stevenson: A*s in English Literature and History, with A in Maths
Charlie Young: A*s in Art and Geography, and A in Economics

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 21 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.

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.

Some of our A Level students celebrating their results



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.

This term's whole school literacy foci are commas and practice/practise.

Whole School Literacy Focus: punctuation

Term 1 – commas

- **Commas** can be used to separate items in a list e.g. In my pencil case I have a pen, two pencils, a rubber, a ruler and a troll.
- **Commas** are also used to include extra information in sentences e.g. The cat, which was black and white, sat on the mat. If we take out the information between commas, the sentence will still make sense.
- **Commas** should also be used before certain connectives – for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (FANBOYS) e.g. the ice cream was tasty, but I ate too much.
- **Commas** should also be used after certain longer connectives such as however and nevertheless.

Whole School Literacy Focus: easily confused words

Term 1 – practice / practise

- **Practise** is a verb meaning to do something repeatedly in order to become more skilful at it e.g. I will practise for my guitar recital". As a verb, it can take different endings e.g. he practises, we are practising, she practised.
- **Practice** is a noun meaning (1) use of a plan or method e.g. It works well in practice; (2) habit or custom e.g. It was his practice to work late on a Thursday; (3) repeated practice to develop a skill e.g. I must do my piano practice; (4) the work undertaken by a professional such as a doctor or lawyer or the building where this happens e.g. the doctors' practice was closed because of a water leak.

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 17 September**.

Please note that to help cover the cost of coaches for away sports fixtures, we will continue to ask for a **match fee of £2** to be paid for all away matches. This will be waived for those on Free School Meals.

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.

There is a talk for **Y9 pupils and their parents on Tuesday 18 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, 14 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 4 October (5.30 - 8.30 pm)
- Y7 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents only*: Tuesday 9 October (5.00 - 8.00 pm)
- Y10 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Wednesday 17 October (6.00 pm)
- Y11 Information Evening *for parents and students*: Wednesday 17 October (7.15 pm)
- Y12 Meet the Tutors Evening *for parents and students*: Tuesday 30 October (5.00 – 8.00 pm)

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

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. 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.



New Staff at QEGS

We welcome the following new members of staff to Queen Elizabeth's this school year:

Pictured L- R: Mr P Lavender (Teacher of Business Studies); Mrs L Shoubridge (Part-time Teacher of PE); Mr A Webber (Teacher of English).

As you will be aware, the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** which is designed to enable individuals to control their personal data more effectively was enforced from 25 May 2018. It strengthens and unifies the safety and security of all data held within an organisation and replaces the Data Protection Act. We have a duty of care to ensure that data, regardless of what form it is retained, is kept safe and secure, and GDPR increases this responsibility to ensure this information is managed in the right way in compliance with this new regulation. Our policy is attached for the benefit of parents with children new to the 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. **If your son/daughter is in Y7 or Y12 or is new to the school**, and you are happy for them to be included in photographs, please see the attached Data Consent guidance for photographs and biometric information.

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. For this first Tuesday letter I would be grateful if you could briefly **confirm by return email that you have received the letter and its attachments** for each of your children at the school.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Francis
Headteacher



Future Burghley contenders?

Congratulations to **George Hendry (9C)** and **Laura Jeanes (9T)** who competed at the Pony Club Regional Championships at the weekend.

