



Our ref: MF/VCL

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Ashfields, Bromyard, Herefordshire, HR7 4QS
T:01885 482230 F:01885 485822 www.qehs.co
E:admin@queenelizabeth.hereford.sch.uk
Headteacher: Martin Farmer BEd (Hons) NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers

As the term draws to a close and we all look forward to a well-deserved break over the festive period it falls upon me to update you on a few items.

Firstly, we say goodbye today to Miss Paisey. Miss Paisey joined QE at the same time I did in September 2014 as girls PE teacher and has served us well over the last 4 years. She leaves us to join a school in Bristol as Head of PE and we know she will be fantastic. She will be missed by staff and students alike and we wish her every success.

We welcome Miss Jinks to QE from January as she takes over from Miss Paisey in PE. We are sure she will quickly get up to speed with working in a small rural school and know she will become a firm favourite with students over the coming months.

And what a momentous achievement it is to complete 42 years of service to QE, that is exactly what Mrs Champken has achieved as a cleaner with us. She leaves us today to enjoy retirement, thank you for your hard work and service Freda, enjoy the well-earned rest.

I also wanted to take a moment to make one final plea for a small donation if you are able to towards our "Quad Project". We want to take an area of the school that is not used for a great deal and really brighten it up, bringing in a variety of items but most importantly a small animal care element. We will begin after Christmas with our first additions where some Year 10 and Year 9 girls will be deciding on Guinea Pigs before extending to other small animals. The aim of this is to enable students to understand proper care requirements for animals, to assist them with career aspirations they may have in working with animals and to assist the mental health and well-being of students through caring for the animals. We have set an ambitious target of £5000 for this project and have already received support from a number of parents as well as separate donations from the Bromyard Grammar School Foundation and the Christmas Tree Festival. Where we would really like to see a little more traction is in parental support. If you are able to donate as little as £10 it really would help us to complete the project to a high standard over the course of this year. You can donate by visiting <https://donatemyschool.com/project/1670> and if you are a UK tax payer please kindly tick the gift aid box which will increase your £10 to £12.50. Thankyou in advance and a huge thank you to those of you who have already given generously.

We have been doing a lot of work with Year 11 on their potential this year and in the main students are working hard to secure the best grades and future for themselves. Mock examinations begin immediately we return and we would encourage you to speak to your child about what they are doing, be positive and encouraging of their efforts and remind them that if they want to achieve success they do need to work for it. An assembly was held yesterday where your child was issued their Attainment 8 and Progress 8 predictions. Please ask them to share and explain the data with you, as we will be updating it after the mock results are in and putting into Year 11 student reports for Parents Evening taking place in February.

Our termly Awards Assembly took place yesterday and each time we make the awards there is a lot of competition, it never gets any easier to decide. Worthy praise indeed for the winners of the awards as they have proven to be at the very top of the list in the face of strong competition.

We have found that the very best way of getting information to parents and carers quickly is our Facebook presence. We have an established page where we continue to post items of interest which can be accessed from our website, but we also have a dedicated group now restricted to parents and carers, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2191349007851716/> to sign up and to stay informed.

A reminder for parents and carers of a few of the basics, which we are hoping you will reiterate to students before their return in January. We have quite probably the best and fairest way of ensuring mobile phone usage at school that I have seen, it is the envy of many schools. Students should hand their phones in when they arrive at school and will be issued with a token. These are then secured in locked cupboards until the end of the day at which time they are reclaimed by students. This means the phone is safe and is not being used for anything it should not be whilst giving parents and carers the peace of mind that their children are contactable outside school hours if needed. Parents and carers are advised that where a student blatantly avoids this fair and sensible system, phones are normally confiscated by the school for a period of 7 days in line with our school Conduct Policy.

Additionally, a word on uniform. As always the vast majority of students are exceptionally well presented showing pride in their uniform. That said we still have a few that are trying to circumvent the systems which have been fairly put together. A reminder that; shoes should be black, that they should have no visible logos, trousers must be school trousers and not jeans or canvas material, that shirts ties and blazers are to be worn and these should be clean with ties free of writing and that skirts should be either school skirts in Year 7 and voluntary in other year groups or should be of a length that is appropriate and not tight. Finally, on facial piercings, if you remember we listened to students and put back in place the ability to wear a small clear acrylic retainer if required, no facial piecing's should be worn over and above what is permitted in the ears in line with school policy. Parental acceptance of this is appreciated and required.

Can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and remind you all that school opens again to students on Wednesday January 9th at 8.40 am.

Yours faithfully

Martin Farmer
Headteacher