



Queensbury Academy September Newsletter

Update from the Principal:

This is the first edition of the 2019/20 e-newsletters that we will be publishing once a month. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about the latest developments within our school community and to celebrate the many successes that we hope to enjoy together over the coming academic year. Please do let us know if there is anything else that you would like to see featured in this regular newsletter.

A happy academic year to all! Welcome to all new students and those returning for what we fully expect will be another rewarding year at Queensbury Academy.

The start of term has seen several changes to rules and procedures to ensure that expectations are even higher and that students are following our CARE values (Cooperation, Aspiration, Respect, Endeavour). I am proud to say the students have responded really well to this as they have understood that it is improving the environment for learning which they are enjoying without mobile phones. The noise level at break and lunchtime has increased as students are now talking to each other more which is lovely to witness.

The change to a year group pastoral system has also started to make a huge impact. Students are getting more targeted support which is helping them feel safer and more confident. We have seen a big decrease in incidents of behavior and bullying as with more pastoral staff recruited and a clear focus on values, the Academy is calm, with students ready to learn.

I and the Queensbury team look forward to working with you this year to give the encouragement and support to make the children here 'fly' so they leave with opportunities open to them and the character to make the most of these.

Examination results:

Year 11 students and teachers were celebrating tremendous success in their GCSE exam results at Queensbury in the summer. Top performing students have achieved some of the best results nationally and across the board all subjects have seen a significant increase in students achieving and exceeding their targeted grades. Students are now well placed to progress to the post-16 study of their choice.

Some standout individual performances include:

Tegan Ingram: 3 grade 9s, 5 grade 8s, 1 grade 7 and an A
Olatunde Odu: 3 grade 9s, 4 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s and an A
Kerryn Alderson: 2 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s, 4 grade 7s, 1 grade 6 and an A*
Harsil Dixit: 2 grade 8s, 6 grade 7s, 1 grade 6 and an A

Congratulations Year 11 for another great set of results. It is very good to see that many have come back to continue their studies in the 6th form.

There was also good news for Queensbury Academy Sixth Formers who achieved a good set of A level results. These include some exceptional individual performances and more than one third of grades being A*-B. This has given our students the opportunity to access some of the best universities and high-quality apprenticeships locally and nationally. This included students going to Imperial College London and Oxford University.



Some particularly impressive individual performances include:

Sam Graham: A*, A*, A*, A, B

Prithvi Dixit: A*, A, A, A, B

Callie Ferrari: A*, A*, B

Liza Vesko: A, B, B

Jeremy Baiden: B, B, B, B



We wish all our students' success with their continuing studies and thank our staff for their hard work and relentless commitment to ensuring that every student achieves their very best.

Academy communication with Parents and Carers:

As an Academy we communicate with parents and carers in a variety of ways throughout the year. This includes:

- Progress reports
- Letters
- Parentmail
- Texts
- Academy website
- Edulink
- Parents Consultation Evening
- Academic Review Day
- Parent Forum
- Curriculum Evenings
- Academy social media pages
- Academy & Department newsletters



However, there are times when parents and carers may need additional contact with staff and we value the opportunity to work in partnership with you, whether that be to share successes or address any concerns, in order that every student is supported effectively and achieves success.

On these occasions whilst we welcome communication by telephone, we need to advise that most staff have full teaching timetables during the school day, run lunchtime and after school clubs, and do not have access to direct lines. Additionally, some staff are part-time and therefore not in school every day or may be out on training courses to support their teaching role. It is therefore highly likely that a message will need to be left asking the member of staff to get back you, and it must be accepted that this may not be on the day you call for the reasons stated above.

In the same way arriving at school without an appointment is unlikely to enable you to meet with the correct person for your concern. Meeting with parents and carers is important to us, but it must be acknowledged that all staff have full timetables and are spending their school day prioritising teaching and learning with the students themselves. Therefore, if you feel you wish to meet with staff, please ring and make an appointment in advance so that we can give your concern the quality time it deserves and that you meet the appropriate staff.

Staff may also be contacted by email or letter. Senior staff email addresses are available on the school website. If you wish to contact any other member of staff, please contact (admin@queensburyacademy.com) who will forward your email to the appropriate member of staff.

On receiving communication from parents, the Academy works hard to keep the following timescales:

- Letters will receive either a verbal response within 2 working days, or a written response within 10 working days*
- Telephone concerns will be addressed within two working days*
- Emails will receive an email response within 2 working days. Emails received in the evening, at weekends or during holiday periods will be replied to within two working days of receiving them *

*for part time staff, two working days may not be the same as two school days

Who will deal with my concern?

Your child's Form Tutor has oversight of your child's academic, social and emotional wellbeing, as such they are the first person most communications should go to. If there are ongoing or very serious concerns this may be dealt with by the Head of Year or a Senior member of staff. The names of the Heads of Year and the Senior Staff Link for each year group are below, so any email contact can be made via the Senior member of staff or e-mail (admin@queensburyacademy.com)

| | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year11 | Year 12 &13 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Head of Year | Mr Needham | Mrs Butchart | Mr Jones | Ms Bolton | Mr Dumbleton | Mrs Sides |
| Senior Link | Mr Raw | Mrs Sides | Mr Tate | Mr Brown | Mr McGroary | |

What should my child do if they are worried, upset or unhappy in school?

The person who oversees your child's pastoral care is their tutor, so they should make sure they see them and tell them how they feel. This can be done during tutor time, break and lunchtimes.





The tutor will support your child with strategies and contact you as necessary.

What if I have concerns of a Safeguarding nature?

The Academy's Safeguarding procedures are a strength of the school and staff are highly trained and experienced in keeping children safe. Queensbury Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Rachel Mason (rachelmason@queensburyacademy.com) and she is supported by the Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Janette Bright (janettebright@queensburyacademy.com)*. These staff can be contacted direct and will reply as soon as possible. There is also a 'Report a Safeguarding Concern' button on the Academy's website which will forward information straight to these staff.

Community Focus:

As an Academy we want to engage with the community more, so it has been pleasing to see that Luton Celtic football club are using our facilities for their youth teams. We would like to engage parents and families more with the Academy so we are looking to start up a Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) so we can raise more money to support the children who attend the Academy. If this is something that you would like to be part of then please contact the Academy using the email admin@queensburyacademy.com

Travelling to and from School:

If your son/daughter does ride to school, then please remind them that they need to cycle safely whilst wearing a cycling helmet and be careful of the busy traffic at that time of day. All students should have a bike lock. We will be checking that all students do have one so please arrange for them to bring a lock if they do not at present. Please also, if dropping off your son/daughter, be careful where you drop them off as directly outside the school can be an unsafe place when it is in rush hour traffic. In addition to this, please avoid driving into the car park by the central building to pick up or drop off students as this becomes too congested. Thank you for your help with this.

Staff joining our team

We are delighted with our recruitment which took place last year and has meant we are fully staffed with experienced teachers who have already shown a great deal of passion for our students. The new colleagues who we welcome to our team are:

- Mrs Ahmed – Teacher of Business Studies
- Miss Bacon – Teacher of Design & Technology
- Mr. Bent – Teacher of Maths
- Miss Bolton – Teacher of Dance/Drama and Head of year 10
- Miss Danaher – Teacher of PE & Geography
- Miss Elve – Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages
- Mrs Franklin – Art and DT technician
- Mr. Hake – Teacher of Maths





- Mrs Laurent – Teacher of English
- Mrs McLean – Teacher of Design & Technology (Food)
- Mrs Patel – Teacher of Science
- Miss Robson – Cover Supervisor
- Mrs Sides – Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form
- Mrs Soliven - Teacher of English

Mrs McQuade, Head of Computer Science will be starting in January 2020

Charities & Foodbank:



The Christian Meeting Group (CMG) are a volunteer group of students across the years. They are kind, compassionate and dedicated individuals who regularly give up their own time to help others. Many have made firm friendships through the CMG. We meet every Wednesday lunch time to share in community, eat together and plan our termly projects. Last year the group ran school wide events per term, such as house quizzes, Christmas decoration competitions, raffles, bake sales, and an egg and spoon race.

These events have helped raise money for a variety of worthy causes. Last year the CMG raised money for the Kings Arms project, NOAH, and the Salvation Army in Dunstable. This half term we are taking action to aid a food bank supply crisis in our local community. CMG members will be collecting non-perishable food items over September and October. In November we will head a shoe box collection for operation Christmas child in association with the Samaritan's purse. These are the start of many projects the CMG will run this academic year. I am very proud of the CMG members and all they have achieved so far. It has been a privilege to get to know and lead such a strong group of charitable young people.

Any and all questions about our projects or new memberships can be directed to me at rebeccakilgallen@queensburyacademy.com. Please contact me at this address for a parental permission letter, which must be signed due to the Christian values that are the core of this group. New members are welcome regardless of existing belief, denomination, or lack thereof.

God bless you all,

Mrs Kilgallen.





Extra-Curricular Clubs:

Please encourage your son/daughter to join the many extra-curricular clubs we do here as this so important in furthering their learning in subjects but also helps them to meet new people and to feel like they belong to the community.

Sports

| | | MON | TUE | THURS |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| YEAR 7 | After school | Netball (CT & GD) <i>EAST</i> Rugby (DN) <i>WEST</i> | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) <i>EAST</i> Football (DN) <i>WEST</i> | Girls Football (MG) <i>NW3</i> |
| YEAR 8 | Afterschool | Netball (CT & GD) <i>EAST</i> Rugby (DN) <i>WEST</i> | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) <i>EAST</i> Football <i>WEST</i> | Girls Football (MG) <i>NW3</i> |
| YEAR 9 | After school | Netball (CT & GD) <i>EAST</i> Rugby (DN) <i>WEST</i> GCSE Club (MG) <i>NW2</i> | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) <i>EAST</i> Football (GJ) <i>WEST</i> | Girls Football (MG) <i>NW3</i> |
| YEAR 10 | After school | Netball (CT & GD) <i>EAST</i> GCSE Club (MG) <i>NW2</i> | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) <i>EAST</i> Football (BD) <i>WEST</i> | Girls Football (MG) <i>NW3</i> |
| YEAR 11 | After school | Netball (CT & GD) <i>EAST</i> GCSE Club (MG) <i>NW2</i> | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) <i>EAST</i> | Girls Football (MG) <i>NW3</i> |



Other Extra-Curricular Clubs:

| Subject | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| ART | | Key stage 3 Art Club KO W90 | | GCSE and A-Level ZM/BE W90 | |
| Before School Breakfast club 7.30 – 8.30 | | Year 11 Revision club BD 6 th Form common room | | Year 11 Revision club BD 6 th form common room | |
| Careers | | | | | Opportunity to look through personal careers folder BD W20 |
| Chess Club | | All Year Groups NM - Library | | | |
| Christian Meeting Group | | | Lunch time RK E51 | | |
| Dance | | | | Lower School Dance Club company 3:10-4:10 Upper School Dance Company 4:10-5:10 East Hall MJ | |
| Design & Technology | | Design and Technology Homework club VC W73 | | | |
| English | | Lunch time Reading club Years 9/10 KAG Library Week A Reading club, Years 7/8 CH Library week B | Lunchtime Debate club CS E66 | English Club (competitions, support, writing and BBC School Report) CH Library | |
| Equality Team | Lunch times LO W41 | | | Lunch times LO W41 | |
| Geography | | | | Geography Rocks SH W44 | Lunch times Geography Film Club SH W44 |
| History | | GSCE Revision club MO W45 | | | |
| Homework club | | | Year 7 & 8 W31 | Year 7 & 8 W31 | |
| Languages | Lunch Time French club E53 SO German club E56 MS | | | | |
| Maths | Maths club – All ages W53 ANB | | | | |
| Music | Lunch time String Group E20 After School After School Show rehearsal | School Show rehearsal E20 AJ | | Lunch time Brass Group E20 AJ Guitar Club 3:20-4:00 PR Upper School Choir 3.10-4.00 School Band 4-5pm | Lower School Choir School Show Band E20 AJ |
| PE | Netball (CT & GD) EAST Rugby (DN) WEST GCSE Club (MG) NW2 | Netball League Matches (GD & CT) EAST Football (DN/GJ) WEST | | Girls Football (MG) NW3 | |



Library

English Club:

Hey!
Like being creative?
Enjoy using your
imagination?
Want to make new
friends?
Come along to English
Club



Thursdays, after school
In the library

Queensbury Student Book Group:

For Years 7 & 8

Every Tuesday on Week B

At Lunchtime in the Library – please bring the book you are currently reading with you.



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Music Clubs and Dance Autumn 2019:

| Day | Lunch | After School |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| Monday | String Group | School Show Rehearsals |
| Tuesday | | School Show Rehearsals |
| Wednesday | | |
| Thursday | Brass Group | Guitar Club – 3:20-4:00 Upper School Choir 3.10-4.00 School Band 4:00-5:00 Lower School Dance Club 3:10-4:10 – East Hall Upper School Dance Company 4:10-5:10 East Hall |
| Friday | | Lower School Choir School Show Band |

GCSE Music trip to watch **WICKED** – Date TBC!

*Date for your diary: Christmas Concert Monday 16th December 2019
Coming soon.....



Thursday January 30th/ Friday January 31st / Saturday 1st February 2020
See Mr. Jackson for more exciting music news!



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Science Club – Tuesdays of Week A in E88 starting 1st October 2019



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