



7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you to wish you all a good Half Term break with your daughters and families. The sunshine today belies the very cold spell we are experiencing but hints at the unfolding seasons ahead of us before the end of this academic year.

The girls have been working very hard in lessons and in terms of mock exams and assessments across year groups. Staff have been feeding back on all of that at a number of Parents' Evenings this half term.

In terms of extra-curricular activity, the school has been busy on all fronts during this half term with girls involved in athletics, team sports, the UK Maths Challenge, the school production of Peter Pan, Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Barnet Final, premieres of the girls' short films at the Curzon, Mayfair, through Film Skool, and the global Rock Challenge competition to name a few activities.

On Monday, ahead of the centenary on 6<sup>th</sup> February of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which gave some women the rights to vote (those over 35 years of age who were married), the school had a very special visit. We were asked to shroud the visit in secrecy until after 3pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, yesterday. We were honoured to be chosen as the public venue for the Minister of the Constitution (Parliamentary Secretary in the Cabinet Office), Chloe Smith MP, to announce a Youth Democracy Ambassadors programme, to mark the Suffrage centenary. The Minister was accompanied by the MP for Chipping Barnet, Theresa Villiers. The school was chosen because of its recent outstanding success in terms of student progress and in recognition of it being the highest achieving non-selective all-girls school.

During the course of the visit the Minister was able to talk about ways the government will be celebrating the centenary of the enfranchisement of women throughout the year and in particular she spoke to us about National Democracy week to be held in July. I was very proud of the eloquence of the students with whom the Minister met. The girls across all key stages were able to share what they learn in school regarding government and the electoral process and also to hear their ideas on how young people can be encouraged to engage with politics. Some were able to draw on their experiences and learning during a visit to Parliament organised by Ms Myatt and Ms Piper for members of the School Council.

You can read the Government Press release by typing the following in your browser:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/youth-democracy-ambassadors-to-celebrate-suffrage-centenary>

Over the course of the coming days there will be an article about the visit in Barnet Society (newsletter and online).

Some future social dates for your diaries:

QEGSA Quiz Night: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

QEGSA Indulgence Evening: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May

QEGS Guild Commemoration Lunch: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May

QEGSA Summer Fete: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Please continue to browse the website for all school news and information. You can access it by typing the following in your browser:

<https://www.qegschool.org.uk/>

Scroll down on the school website homepage or use the Menu icon in the top right hand corner of the homepage to access relevant pages to your search. On every page of the website opened through the menu, there are further selections to enable you to open new pages, on the left hand side. You can access QEGSA's pages through the main website from the Parents and Carers page using its left hand side subpage index. I will be giving you news on how QEGSA has supported the school this term when I write to you at the end of the Spring Term. I am of course appreciative of the support shown to the school by our families and friends, co-ordinated through the QEGSA Committee. I am taking this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and share my personal appreciation for the work of one of our Parents, Fiona Stephens, who after many years has now retired from her role as Chair of the QEGSA Committee. It is through her hard work and dedication in leading and supporting the great work of QEGSA, that the school has been able to benefit from the generosity of our community through all types of events and fundraising activities. I am grateful to Ms Stephens for all she has done and I would like to thank her on behalf of our whole community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our girls and staff involved in school visits away from home over the Half Term break, in Iceland and in Surrey here in the UK, an enjoyable and memorable experience with a safe journey home. To you all and every other member of our school community, I wish a restful and enjoyable break and that you all keep warm and safe.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker  
Headteacher