



Tuesday 4th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be writing to you at the start of an exciting school year ahead for all of our students and staff. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break with your families and friends.

This morning we have welcomed our new starters in Year 7 and our new sixth form students in Year 12. Year 7 students enjoyed a treasure hunt around the school this morning. Year 12 and Year 13 students will be off site in Central London tomorrow, completing their own team building exercises while in school, we will welcome back all of our students who were with us last year; our new Year 8 – 11 students. We are looking forward to monitoring the academic progress and personal development of each and every one of them during their time in our care. We know they are assured of developing skills and talents and achieving qualifications to support their wellbeing and to support themselves financially long after they have moved on to the next stage on their learning pathway or directly into employment.

This summer has seen another set of record results for our students both at A Level and at GCSE Level. There have been remarkable achievements for students at both levels. Overall life chances for students of our school have improved in terms of the attainment of 5 GCSE passes including English and Mathematics; important indicators for further education and employers. The figure has risen from 79% last year to an initial figure of 84% this year, prior to re-mark request outcomes. Pleasingly for our students, one in five GCSE Level results achieved was at grade 9 / 8 (A* equivalent on the old grading system) and well over a third of all results were awarded grade 9 / 8 / 7 (A* / A equivalent on the old grading system).

At A Level, initial results show that 25% were graded A* / A and 55% results were graded A* / A / B, both improved from last year. Students leaving our sixth form this year are about to begin university courses in diverse subject areas including medicine, veterinary medicine, astrophysics, pharmacy, mathematics, engineering, law, history, English, product design, dance performance and physiotherapy.

I am very proud of our students' commitment to learning and of our professional staff body who continually motivate and inspire our students to excel through a love of learning. This happens with every year group, not just the exam entry year groups. Of course success in Public Examinations is the culmination of all the work that has been achieved in the years leading up to Year 11 and Year 13.

We are all very excited to be offering Sociology at GCSE Level this year. To reflect our growing sixth form and the constant review of our broad and balanced curriculum, we are also introducing Economics, Photography and Government & Politics at A Level, together with Health and Social Care at BTEC Level 3 (equivalent to three A Levels), building a vocational pathway from the qualification we already offer at Level 2 (GCSE Level equivalent). I look forward to sharing news of student progress in these subject areas as the year progresses.

Contrary to recent communications in news media, regarding schools having difficulty in retaining and recruiting specialist teachers, we are fortunate to have recruited high quality teaching specialists to posts in

our new subject areas, to replace staff on maternity leave and to fill vacancies. We are therefore beginning our school year with a full complement of qualified, teaching subject specialists and specialist support staff, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our summer works began as scheduled. As often happens with such projects, they have not been completed. Due to a number of factors, work will continue at times when the school is not in use over the coming weeks. Of course all the immediate priority works were completed on time.

A reminder that your daughter's School Planner contains much of the information you will need to support her daily timetable and is also the first line of contact with school, via a note to your daughter's Form Tutor in the appropriate space for each week. By signing the Planner on a weekly basis, you support a dialogue with school that can raise early awareness of any matters you wish to bring to our attention and vice versa.

All school letters are available on the school website together with the school's **News and Events** items, **Twitter Feeds**, the school **Calendar** and much more besides. Please take the time to check the website regularly for information and updates. You can find it at

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


Apart from letters home, the website is our main source of news and information shared with families and friends of the school. Notable dates this week and next:

Thursday 6th September: Leavers' Graduation Ceremony and Prize Giving Evening (information letters went out to relevant families last term)

Thursday 13th September: Open Evening (information letters to all families to be sent out shortly)

As usual, to all our new families, I extend a warm welcome to our school community. My staff and I look forward to meeting you all, together with families of our returning students, on many occasions throughout the coming academic year.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker
Headteacher