



May 14th 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We do hope that you are well in what have been and continue to be the most challenging of times.

Under normal circumstances this week would have been the final week of lessons for Year 13 before exams the following week. We could not have imagined that instead we would all be working remotely and that there would be no national examinations taking place. As you will be aware, since the school closure teachers have been delivering lessons virtually via Google Classroom. We have been impressed with the resilience and engagement that Year 13 have shown throughout this time. The effort that has been invested recently will support the transition into further study or employment and suffice to say everyone has learned to be more resourceful and independent.

At this time, we would usually be holding our Leavers' Assembly for Year 13 and looking forward to celebrating the end of the examination period at the Sixth Form Dinner. Whilst circumstances mean that we cannot hold the usual events as planned, we are very much committed to reuniting as a year group when it is safe to do so. If possible we would like to still be able to organise the Leavers Dinner albeit at a different time once the need for social distancing has been removed. For now, our focus will move towards supporting students transitioning into further study, apprenticeships or employment. Therefore, teachers will begin to stop setting work via Google Classroom from this week. Teachers will be providing feedback to students on the work that they have submitted. They will continue to be available to support with any queries and further work that students would like to complete, as would be the case during normal study leave.

We will continue to send out the weekly wellbeing email to students every Monday which provides 'Thoughts for the Week', Votes for School Debates as well as updates and resources to access. There will also be important updates that will be sent via email and, therefore, it is vital that students continue to check their school email accounts. Many universities are now offering transition materials to Year 13 to prepare them for university study. Students should check the specific university websites for details. It is important that students engage with these materials to ensure they make a smooth transition to degree level study.

All students in Year 13 are now part of a long history of QEGS Alumni and we would strongly encourage all students to join the Guild. The Guild is an association for former students and staff. It has existed since 1927 and continues to flourish. It provides regular newsletters for school alumni together with a platform for maintaining contact and networking. The Guild, under normal circumstances, hosts an annual Commemoration Lunch on a Saturday in May close to the actual Founding Day. It is a chance to reconnect with friends, tour the school and grounds, access the archives and historic memorabilia, as well as meet other 'old girls' and share fond memories of QEGS. The Guild is especially important to the Sixth Form as it enables us to keep in contact with you. We are always keen to invite you back to the school to support current students with careers advice, interview techniques, networking and mentoring. For more information about joining the Guild please see the following section on the school website www.qegschool.org.uk/guild

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say how much we have thoroughly enjoyed working with Year 13 over the past two years. They have been a wonderful year group and an asset to the school community as role models and examples of confident, articulate, wise, hard working and resilient women. We in turn are positive that, whatever their next steps are, they will continue to flourish and succeed.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Miss L. Southwell
Head of Sixth Form

Mr D. Jones
Deputy Headteacher

