



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

Thursday 21 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy term we have had at school! We even managed to experience a new unprecedented event this week with a Red Alert for the weather in London and temperatures over 40 degrees in England. I am always impressed with our students' response to such challenges which are generally either seen as an unwelcome nuisance, interrupting the welcome routine of their school day or are seemingly dismissed as if perhaps not worthy of a second thought. Either way on Monday and Tuesday this week, the students needed little reminding of ways to keep themselves hydrated and out of the sun.

Since we returned from the half term holiday, among many varied other things, Year 11 and 13 students have completed their Public Examinations, Year 12 students have been out of school experiencing the world of work, Year 10 students have attended our Careers Fair, our Sixth form taster days and have completed Duke of Edinburgh Award training along with students in other year groups. Happily the Year 11 Prom returned this year in all its glory, with shocking pink coloured coaches to transport the students to their celebration marking the end of their GCSE exams and their graduation from Key Stage 4. Year 13 students marked their graduation from school with a dinner dance, their erstwhile celebration of choice. Yesterday the school was off timetable to celebrate our International Day. It truly was a celebration, with a carousel of various events and activities for students and staff to share and celebrate our diverse cultures through traditional dress, music and dance at a fashion show best described as performance art and in smaller group sessions practising diverse cultural pastimes, art forms, learning about the United Nations organisation and its work and learning about the displacement of peoples around the world for example.

We enjoyed welcoming Year 6 students, our new intake for Year 7 in September earlier this month and also their families when they came to school last week for an information evening and to meet their daughter's Tutor. We were delighted that our new uniform providers joined the information evening with pop up shops at the back of the hall. Earlier this month, surprisingly John Lewis communicated to us that they will no longer provide uniforms for any school. They say they have stock of our main uniform which they will continue to offer until September. They do not have any stock of our PE kit.

We have two new uniform providers who will work jointly to give a bespoke service to our families, covering several areas. These providers are Uniform4Kids in Temple Fortune, Mill Hill and Enfield and Smiths Schoolwear in Cockfosters and Enfield. Both will provide the same brands of uniform as John Lewis, at prices which are lower than those at John Lewis. Both providers supply at the same price and can deliver items ordered to school, free of charge; they also offer an online service. Uniform4Kids and Smiths Schoolwear are waiting to hear from manufacturers when they will have our uniform in stock but they say it will be available for the start of the year and they have already started taking orders. I will update you as soon as we have a date. A great benefit of using either of our two new providers is that they will support the school in its aim to formalise collecting, storing and passing on preloved uniform and



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buying items of uniform as appropriate. Please be aware that two other local stockists are selling counterfeit copies of our uniform. The garments are of lesser quality, colours are different and the school badge on their items is not the same as ours; as such their clothing stands out in a crowd. Our logo and school name are both registered marks and only John Lewis, Uniform4Kids and Smiths Schoolwear are legally authorised to use our marks.

Our most recent school performance event was our summer concert showcasing the orchestra and soloists on a variety of instruments. Our students had already performed to great acclaim at the Barnet Arts Festival a few weeks before our concert. It was a real treat to welcome families back into school and also to enjoy the poised performances and necessary discipline of our musicians. We look forward to welcoming more families at school next term.

We were proud to hear that two of our finalist STEM teams won awards at the annual national Big Bang competition; a Year 10 team and a Year 11 team. Their projects found ways to support conservation of the sea and to support visually impaired persons to see. Clearly the judges, eminent in STEM fields, thought our students had achieved more than a degree of success and the Year 11 team were advised to patent their work.

During the summer holidays work will start to improve ventilation in the main building, our oldest on campus. The work on the lower long corridor and on the maths corridor above will be funded through a successful bid for a Government grant. At the same time work funded in the same way will be undertaken to improve security at the main entrance gate by the school's Reception. This specific project will be contentious. A second gated area will be created from the current gate extending up to the end of the reception block to stop unwelcome tailgaters entering the school and gaining access to all areas. The school and the Board of Trustees agree it will be an eye sore and it is somewhat sad to have to create the semblance of a fortress to achieve peace of mind and compliance. Our thoughts have already turned to aesthetic planting to disguise the excrescence.

My work as Joint President of the Association of State Girls' Schools in the UK comes to an end on 30 July since for the last 18 months at ASGS we have been working on a merger to form the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS). As a founding member school we have already shared benefits in areas of staff professional development, research on girls' development and education, global networking and advocacy for girls' education. We are working toward supporting our students to network with their peers and to take opportunities to learn together in various virtual ways. With over 350 member schools in 17 countries representing over 300,000 students in girls' schools, opportunities abound. In some months, approximately 200 girls' schools, in 6 Australasian countries, currently members of the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia, will also merge with the International Coalition of Girls' Schools. I believe this global collaboration will be a step forward in our own school's mission to educate women of the future and a timely step for girls and young women everywhere when in 2022 there are girls in the world who are banned from receiving secondary education.



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We have been successful in our application to work with the organisation Bertha Earth next year. Bertha Earth is an environmental organisation looking to grow a diverse network of young environmental leaders. The programme is a year long extra curricular project for a group of students in Year 7 and I look forward to sharing unfolding news of the work over the course of next year. I am also pleased to share news with you that I was contacted by Sir Anthony Seldon, educator and contemporary historian known for his political biographies to invite the school to be part of a UK pilot programme promoting wellbeing classes for students in Year 9. The programme has been successful in other countries and we are looking forward to working with our students to support the research and at the same time taking further opportunity to focus on wellbeing.

Next term starts for Years 7 and 12 on Monday 5 September at 8:30am. Year 7 should arrive in full school uniform ready for their school photograph. They should also bring a water bottle, breaktime snack and a packed lunch as Wisepay accounts need to be set up and biometric scans completed. School starts for Years 8 - 11 and Year 13 on Tuesday 6 September at 8:40am. Lessons for Years 7 - 11 start at Period 5 on Tuesday 6 September after induction to school and the planned year ahead. The Sixth Form will have an off site induction in Central London and they will receive details separately from my letter.

Information, news and announcements are always available from our website at www.qegschool.org

and please follow us on our twitter feeds @VioletWalker13 and @qegsbarnet

As always I am appreciative of your support of the school and wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully

Violet Walker
Headteacher