



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

Educating Women of the Future

18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to the new school year!

It is a real privilege to be writing to you at the start of my first term as Headteacher of Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School. Since taking up post on 1 September, I have been struck by the warmth of the welcome I have received and by the energy, character and ambition of our students. I am enormously excited to be here.

I am also very conscious that I am joining a school with a long history, a strong identity, deeply held values and a great deal to be proud of. I have not arrived believing that everything needs to change simply because the person in the Headteacher's office has changed. One of my most important jobs this term is to listen and learn: to understand what makes QE Girls special, what our community is proud of and should fiercely protect, and where a very good school might become even better.

Although I am a new Headteacher, I am not new to education. I have been teaching for 26 years and, despite the change of job title, I still think of myself first as an English teacher and I am delighted to be teaching this year. Being in classrooms matters to me because it keeps me close to the extraordinary daily work of a school: young people discovering what they know, what they can do and, increasingly, who they might become.

Belong. Think. Become.

In my opening address to staff, and again in my first assemblies with students, I shared three words that have helped to organise my thinking as I begin at QE Girls: *Belong. Think. Become.* Although these words are not a new school motto, they capture something important about the education I hope we will continue to build together.

I want every student to know that she belongs here: that she is known, understood and that her contribution matters. I want QE Girls to be a place where young people think deeply, where they are curious, ask good questions, challenge assumptions and become absorbed in learning. And I want us to remember that education is not simply about achieving something; it is also about becoming someone.

As you know, qualifications matter enormously. They open doors, create choices and change lives, and we will be unapologetically ambitious for our students. There is much to celebrate already. This summer, four in every ten GCSE grades were grades 7–9. At A Level, students achieved a positive value added of +0.23, rising to +0.33 for disadvantaged students. Our internal Key Stage 3 information also shows strong progress, with Pupil Premium students performing particularly encouragingly. Increasing stretch and challenge, particularly for our highest prior attaining students at Key Stage 3, is one of the areas on which we will keep a close focus.



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However, I want more for our students than a collection of excellent grades. I want them to leave QE Girls wise, courageous, creative, resilient and respectful; with integrity, with the confidence to use their voices, and with the ability to recover when life does not go according to plan.

Sharing more of life at QE Girls

As well as the regular programme of events, I am keen for parents and carers to find out more of the everyday life of the school, not only the headline results, but the learning, performances, trips, clubs, competitions, friendships, creativity and countless small successes that sit behind them.

We have therefore launched a new official QE Girls Instagram account: [qegs.barnet](https://www.instagram.com/qegs.barnet)

Our aim is to use this platform purposefully: to celebrate our students and give families another window into school life. Please do take a moment to follow us! Essential notices and important information will continue to come through our usual school communication channels.

Looking up

Students who have heard my opening assemblies may already have mentioned two words at home: *Look Up*. I have been asking them to think carefully about what deserves their attention. In a world of notifications, algorithms and constant demands on that attention, the ability to choose where we direct it is increasingly important.

At school, that means having time to talk, read, think, laugh, notice other people and become completely absorbed in something difficult. It means being curious about the world and noticing when somebody else needs to be included or encouraged. It also means being careful about the labels we give ourselves. I have asked students not to decide too early what they are capable of: they are still learning, changing and becoming, and one of the great joys of a school year is discovering something new about yourself.

This connects directly with our expectations around smartphones and smartwatches, which are not allowed in school. This is not because technology is inherently bad - far from it - but because we want our students to have protected hours in which their attention belongs to them and to the people and learning immediately around them.

Working together

The partnership between school and home matters enormously so please do note the dates listed below that provide opportunities for you to visit and connect with the School. I want our communication with families to be open, useful and positive, and I look forward to opportunities during the year to meet more of you and hear your views.

I would also like to explore how parents and carers might play a more active part in the life of the school. In particular, I am keen to re-establish a Parent Association that can bring families together, strengthen our community and help raise funds for projects that directly enrich the experience of students at QE Girls.

I would love to hear from parents and carers who might be willing to give some of their time, energy, ideas or expertise to help us get it off the ground. You do not need previous experience of being involved in a parent association, nor does expressing an interest commit you to a particular role. At this stage, I am simply hoping to bring together a small group of people who would enjoy helping us think about what might be possible.



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Whether that eventually means supporting events, developing fundraising ideas, drawing on the skills and connections within our wider community, or helping us fund particular resources and opportunities for our students, I hope we can create something that is enjoyable, purposeful and makes a visible difference to school life. **If you would be interested in helping to establish the association, please click on this Google form link to register your expression of interest:** <https://forms.gle/xSRyvniF2XEEZiev9>

Finally, some small but important practical reminders as the term gets underway **please take particular care when dropping off or collecting students and observe the parking and waiting restrictions around the school.** Double yellow lines mean no waiting at any time unless signs specifically indicate otherwise, and waiting restrictions apply to the carriageway, pavement and verge. Thank you for helping us keep the area around school safe and considerate for students, neighbours and other road users.

Additionally, we are a **nut free school**, which means no food containing nuts should be brought on site. This is a critical health & safety requirement. Lastly, thank you for your ongoing support to ensure the students continue to wear the correct uniform in the correct way and they maintain appropriate hairstyles at all times.

With very best wishes,

Stephanie Rodgers
Interim Headteacher



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Dates of forthcoming parent information evenings

Year 12 Information Evening (online)	Wednesday 16 September 2026
Year 11 Information Evening	Tuesday 22 September 2026
Year 7 Information Evening	Thursday 24 September 2026
Open Evening (Whole School; 1pm school finish)	Monday 5 October 2026
Open Evening (Sixth Form)	Wednesday 14 October 2026
Year 12 Parents' Evening (online)	Wednesday 18 November 2026
Year 7 Parents' Evening (in person; 1pm school finish)	Wednesday 25 November 2026
Year 13 Parents' Evening (online)	Tuesday 8 December 2026
Year 11 Parents' Evening (online; 1pm school finish)	Wednesday 13 January 2027
Year 9 Parents' Evening (in person; 1pm school finish)	Thursday 28 January 2027
Year 8 Parents' Evening (in person; 1pm school finish)	Wednesday 24 February 2027
Post-18 Information Evening (online)	TBC March 2027
Year 10 Parents' Evening (online; 1pm school finish)	Tuesday 23 March 2027

Special Educational Needs – Parents & Carers event

Barnet SENDIASS are holding an online information session for parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability attending a Barnet educational setting.

This is a **FREE** event hosted by **Dr Sophie Driver (Senior Educational Psychologist)** who will be giving a presentation on **Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)**. There will be an opportunity to ask general questions.

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2026

Time: 10.00am – 12.30pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Presenter: Dr Sophie Driver

Theme: Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) exploring:

- What is EBSA? With reflections on terminology and prevalence
- Risk and resilience factors for EBSA
- How EBSA might present differently across contexts with consideration of masking
- Tools which can be helpful for gaining children's views at home
- Considering entrenched/long term EBSA
- Considering how to effectively work with schools
- Considering ways of effectively supporting anxiety at home
- The importance of transitions for C/YP experiencing EBSA
- Signposting tools, guidance and organisations at different ages

To register please [click here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: sendiass@barnet.gov.uk