Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School
Founded in 1888
Educating Women of the Future

2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and positive week in school, and I wanted to begin by thanking everyone who has expressed an interest in becoming involved with our **PTA**. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm from parents and carers who would like to play a more active part in school life. Our first meeting will take place after half term and I am very much looking forward to working together and sharing further details with you soon.

We are also putting the finishing touches to our **new school website**. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase much more of what happens at QEGS every day, from the achievements of our students to the many opportunities available beyond the classroom. We are looking forward to launching the new site in **early 2027** and giving current and prospective families a much better window into life at our school.

October also brings two important opportunities to welcome families into school. Our Open Evening takes place on 5 October, followed by our **Sixth Form Open Evening on 14 October**. I would particularly encourage our Key Stage 4 students and their parents and carers to attend the Sixth Form evening and discover the excellent opportunities available to students as they take their next steps. We are very proud of what our Sixth Form has to offer and look forward to sharing this with you.

As part of our increasingly outward-looking approach, I am delighted that more than 130 people are now following us on **Instagram,** although I am sure we can do even better! We want to use the account to celebrate our students, share school news and give families a flavour of the many things happening across QEGS. If you haven't already, please follow us at **@qegs.barnet.**

For your peace of mind, we have robust filtering and monitoring systems in school, but we are increasingly supporting students with issues arising from **social media and group chats outside school.** We would be grateful if parents and carers could regularly check in with their daughter about her online activity and encourage her to step away from large group chats, which can quickly become difficult or overwhelming. For families who would like further guidance, YoungMinds provides a helpful Parents' Guide to Social Media. Students who are worried about something they have seen or experienced online can also access support through Childline's Report Remove tool or CEOP. Our Safeguarding Team also recommends Barnet Early Help, which supports families with children and young people, and Kooth, which provides free and confidential mental-health support.

We are delighted to invite you to an **online safety briefing** on Tuesday 13th October at 6pm via https://meet.google.com/tfk-bfhv-irr and hosted by Mr Ali. The session will help parents and carers navigate the online world available to young people, including the apps and social media they use, how to protect their privacy, the risks to look out for, what to do when something goes wrong, and how to have positive conversations about online safety at home.

A reminder about mobile phones

Smartphones are prohibited in school. Students may bring a basic "brick phone" without a camera or recording capability, but smartphones, iPads, smartwatches and other recording devices should not be brought onto the school site. If your daughter needs to contact you during the school day, she can do so through the school office. Keeping these expectations clear helps us protect students' privacy, reduce distractions and keep the focus where it belongs: on learning, friendships and making the most of school.

Finally, please find below and attached details about **Met Engage**, a free platform from the Metropolitan Police that helps people stay informed about what is happening in their local area. It is a two-way communication tool, allowing you to receive updates, crime prevention advice, and information directly from your local neighbourhood policing team. If you are not already signed up, the police are currently encouraging more people to join so that as many people as possible can stay informed and connected. You can sign up here: Home Page - Met Engage

Thank you, as always, for your support. I hope you and your families have a restful weekend

Kind regards,

S. Rodgers

Stephanie Rodgers
Interim Headteacher