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

13 November 2026

Dear parents and carers,

On Wednesday, we gathered as a school community to join people across the country in remembering those who have served, those who have lost their lives in conflict, and the families whose lives have been changed by war.

As you will see from our school programme, it was a moving opportunity to share letters and poems, hear a choral tribute, witness flower-laying by our cadets and then hear the sounding of the Last Post, followed by the two minute silence. I was also privileged to be able to read a letter written by my grandfather on 1 December 1943, which can be found in the programme. An article on the ceremony was also published in **The Barnet Society** on 11 November, and can also be found here. I would like to thank everyone involved, especially Mrs Campbell for coordinating this special event for the school and community.

We would also like to extend an invite to our whole community to join us at our **annual Christmas Carol Service which will take place between 6.00pm - 7.00pm on Thursday 3 December** in the Chipping Barnet Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Wood Street, Barnet, EN5 4BW, by kind permission of the Rector and Churchwardens. While we remain a non-denominational school, this largely traditional event is being held in our Church of England parish church which represents the national religion and has been associated with the school since its foundation in 1888. For these reasons we very much hope that everyone will feel welcome. It will primarily be an opportunity for our school community, family and friends of all faiths to enjoy a spiritual experience, or for any of us with no faith, to enjoy time for reflective contemplation in a beautiful architectural setting with a magnificent organ and fine acoustics.

We have also been asked to publicise the **upcoming Light + Flight Festival,** a free, family friendly weekend of art, music, performance, and creative activities taking place at Finchley Lakeside this weekend. Presented by Barnet Council as part of the Mayor of London's Cultural Impact Award, the festival will transform Finchley Lakeside into a vibrant cultural destination, with an exciting programme of activities for visitors of all ages.
Dates: Saturday 14 November (12–9pm) and Sunday 15 November (11am–7pm)
Location: Finchley Lakeside, Squires Lane, N3 2QT
Admission: FREE! Reserve your free spot here: Light + Flight Festival Eventbrite
Walk-ups and drop-ins are welcome!
The festival should be a wonderful opportunity for families to experience arts and culture together, discover something new, and take part in a major celebration of creativity in Barnet.

This week, you may have seen in the news that the government intends to impose stricter rules around mobile phone guidance from September 2027: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c51kdk422w8jo.

Having been smartphone free since 2017, QEGS has always been ahead of the curve. However, we know that **some girls do bring smartphones into school, despite knowing this is against our rules** As well as asking for the support from parents and carers to prevent this happening, this week we have installed a new mobile phone detection arch on site, which we will be using for randomised checks on a more regular basis, alongside the current 'wands'. We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that, if a smartphone is found, it will be confiscated for 10 school days, and this includes the SIM card, in keeping with our updated policy.

Finally, a reminder to complete the survey we launched last week on the new **two week October half term arrangement**. We are grateful for the high numbers of responses already received, but if you would still like to contribute, the deadline is Monday 16 November at 9am.

With all best wishes for an enjoyable and restful weekend,

S. Rodgers

Ms Rodgers
Interim Headteacher