QEGS
BLACKBURN

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, West Park Road, Blackburn, BB2 6DF
Telephone 01254 686300 **Fax** 01254 692314 **Email** head@qegsblackburn.com
Head **Mrs CY Gammon**
www.qegsblackburn.com

19th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust you had a peaceful and relaxing break and that your children have returned ready to work hard and enjoy the wide variety of activities the school offers. I hope that those pupils who were engaged in serious revision over the vacation were able to have some time off as well and that they have returned refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead. It is a very busy term for so many of our children with external assessments and examinations in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13. I wish them all luck during this term with hard work always rewarded.

Parental Survey

Thank you for those of you that responded to the parental surveys that were sent out at the end of last term. It was very pleasing indeed to receive 200 responses and the information you have provided is useful in helping the school to further reflect on its own practice and target areas that require an extra push. I have summarised the results below for your interest using those answers that replied strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree. As a School we will continue to work on ensuring that we provide the best education possible. As always, if you do have any concerns, please do feel free to raise them with your son/daughter's class teacher/form tutor.

Question	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
My child is happy at this school.	88%	12%
My child feels safe at this school.	92%	8%
My child makes good progress at this school.	79%	21%
My child is well looked after at this school.	88%	12%
My child is taught well at this school.	81%	19%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	80%	20%
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	78%	22%
This school deals effectively with bullying.	77%	23%
This school is well led and managed.	83%	17%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	78%	23%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	81%	19%

Question	Yes	No
Would you recommend this school to another parent	75%	25%

QEGS Blackburn Academy Trust Limited - Registered in England Number 08331789
Registered office as above
Founded 1509

We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

Celebration Assembly

We ended the Lent term with celebration assemblies in all phases of the School. It is striking how much has been going on this year and how many achievements our pupils make. I awarded certificates for all sorts of achievements, including Team Maths Challenge, DT Rotary Competition (in which we came first in the Intermediate Competition) and a plethora of sporting distinctions for both teams and individuals in a wide range of sports including skiing, fencing, swimming, cricket and many more. Particular congratulations do need to go to our Year 10 and Year 11 Netball Squads who are Blackburn with Darwen Champions, the Year 10 Rugby Squad, who are the Emerging Schools Plate Champions, Year 7 Girls Athletics team, who were Blackburn with Darwen Junior Girls Sports Hall Athletics Champions, our cross country runners, who became Blackburn with Darwen Town Individual Champions for Year 7 Girls, Year 8/9 Boys and Sixth Form Girls, and Blackburn with Darwen Town Team Champions for Sixth Form Boys. In addition, the QEGS Ski Team enjoyed considerable success at the North West Ski Federation Dry Ski Slope team event with a year 8 pupil achieving 2nd in their age group and 3rd fastest slalom competitor across all age groups. It was also extremely pleasing to be able to formally recognise that Queen Elizabeth's has been awarded 'Quality Mark with Distinction' for demonstrating outstanding commitment to improvement in Physical Education and Sport by the Association for Physical Education. Positive behaviour points, with some spectacular totals, were also recognised, as well as achievements by our School Librarians, actors and musicians and, of course, considerable interest was shown in the current House standings.

Class Charts

Thank you for the many positive comments we have received regarding Class Charts. This system will continue to evolve and hopefully you are finding the information to which you now have access to useful and informative. We have extended this system to include homework so that, as parents and carers, you know what homework has been set and what date it is due to be submitted. This is not intended to replace the pupil planner as it is still important that we allow our pupils the independence to organise and record their work, but I do hope that you find it a useful addition. If you are having any difficulty logging on to the system then please do contact Mr L Hilton at the email address lhilton@qegsblackburn.com.

School Improvement Action Plan

The School continues to follow a detailed Improvement Action Plan, based on 44 main objectives and it is our aim to improve in those areas that were highlighted in the recent Ofsted Report. This plan is closely monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors and clear progress is being made. Faculty Reviews continue to take place and good practice is being shared through frequent Heads of Faculty meetings. Class Charts behaviour data is discussed at Heads of Faculty meetings and at Heads of Year meetings and Mr Nick Vyse (Deputy Head Pastoral) has intervened, alongside the relevant Head of Year, in those few cases where the behaviour of a pupil or student falls below our high expectations. Management meetings between all phases of the School continue to take place to ensure that we have consistency in managing all phases and that we have one clear vision – to ensure we provide the best possible education for our pupils and students. We underwent a mock inspection last term and its report validated our internal judgements and evidenced that we have made good progress since the introduction of the plan. Our external data for last year has been fully validated and clearly shows that the results at all key stages were strong and/or an improvement on the previous year and any blips have been rectified. We are expecting our Ofsted Monitoring visit between May 2018 and December 2018, and all the teachers are preparing extremely hard for this visit to ensure our evidence base is strong. I have also

attended a meeting last term at the Department for Education where it was acknowledged that the School has shown, and continues to show, improvement. The School Improvement Action Plan will continue to be reviewed each week by the Senior Management Team.

Condition Improvement Fund Bids

I am delighted to be able to report to you that we have been successful in our bids to the Condition Improvement Fund which means that, since 2015, we have received £2,267,542 to assist us in improving the condition of our school buildings and site. We were the only Blackburn with Darwen School to be successful with our bids this time and the money we are receiving is to upgrade our boiler and heating systems and also to redesign areas at the front of the school in order to provide separate Reception facilities for visitors. This work will begin at the start of the summer holidays.

Reports

By and large, the reports I read (and wrote) for Years 7, 8 and 11 last term were most encouraging; I am particularly pleased to note how well the vast majority of newcomers have settled in and how many pupils are getting close to their aspirational target grades which are set deliberately high.

Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to restate the importance of pupils being at school during term time. Surprisingly perhaps, I still receive requests for pupils to be excused school in order to go on holiday. There is far less tolerance of this nationally now than there used to be and while it is something on which we have been consistent over the years, it was not until we became a Free School that this was one of the key indicators of the school's performance. I would urge all parents, please, to keep attendance at school to the absolute maximum and not to arrange holidays in term time under any circumstances. I always publish our term dates well in advance so there should be no confusion about this and I have included the most recent dates with this letter for your convenience. Please note that the dates supplied direct from the school and published on the school website are the only ones on which you can rely. If in doubt, please contact the school direct.

May I remind you that the requirement is for parents to write to me when requesting absence in relation to special circumstances, usually a wedding or funeral or a genuine emergency of some sort and permission will only be considered in genuine circumstances and for the minimum amount of travel time. I am not permitted to authorise absence retrospectively for which travel arrangements have already been booked, so please do ask before confirming any bookings.

School Transport & Congestion

I would like to remind parents of the availability of school transport which, were more pupils to use it, would both be cheaper for all and would reduce congestion at the school, which can be particularly tiresome for everyone. If you have not considered using our bus service up to now, please get in touch with Mrs Hallam at the school to discuss routes. If this service is to be sustainable in the long term, it requires more people to use it.

Senior Prefects

I am delighted to be in the position to announce the new Senior Prefects for the next academic year. This year, as well as the traditional roles of Heads of School and Deputy Heads of School, we have extended the senior prefect body to include four Pastoral Leaders. These

new roles are designed to further support the younger year groups within the Senior School and they will be specifically trained to deal with a wide range of pastoral issues such as safeguarding, anti-bullying and prevent strategies. All our Year 12 students will, over the next few weeks, be issued with lanyards and identification cards that they must wear each day, with the Senior Prefects wearing lanyards which are easily identifiable so that younger pupils can access student support readily.

Head Girl:	Sara Hussain
Head Boy:	Matthew Fenton
Deputy Head Girl:	Joanna Sleigh
Deputy Head Boy:	Alistair Keys
Pastoral Leaders:	Raya Alshatari
	Hannah Cookson
	Aadil Diwan
	Jamal Hussain

I would also like to congratulate the 20 Year 12 pupils who applied and were accepted to be School Prefects. These roles of responsibility are vitally important for the School and I look forward to working with them in their new roles.

As usual, a list of the key events to which you can expect to be invited this term are included with this letter. I look forward to seeing you at these events

Yours sincerely,

Mrs CY Gammon

Year Group	Date	Event
Year 8	26th April 6.00pm	Year 8 Options Evening
Year 7	2nd May 5.00pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Year 13	25th May 12.45pm	Year 13 Leavers' Presentation Assembly and Lunch
Junior School	13th June 1.30pm	Key Stage 2 Sports Day
Infant School	20th June 1.30pm	Key Stage 1 Sports Day
ALL	22nd June 1.45pm	Founder's Day Service at Blackburn Cathedral
Senior School	27th June 1.00pm	QEGS Sports Day
ALL	27th and 28th June 7.00pm	Senior School Production – 'Great Expectations Part 2'
ALL	5th July 4.30pm	Art and Design Exhibition
Junior School	5th July 6.40pm	Junior School Production
Junior School	10th July 4.00pm	Junior School Prize Giving

Date	Cycle	Week	
			APRIL
Mo 16			**0840 Start of Term** NSPCC Visit to Primary in Main Hall (morning)
Tu 17			Year 8 Parents' Evening
We 18			Y2 Trip to Chocolate Factory EYFS Trip to Blackpool Sea Life Centre 1600 Heads of House Meeting in Garstang Room
Th 19			Year 12 Examinations Commence (until 24 Apr inc) 1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 20			
Sa 21			0930 Cricket vs Hulme Grammar School: U14, U13 & U12 (h)
Su 22			
Mo 23			1315 Shakespeare's Celebration in the Library 1400 Cricket vs Hulme Grammar School: U15 (a) Golf: Lancashire U18 Championship at Bolton Golf Club
Tu 24			Year 10 GCSE DT Trip to Blackburn Museum 1400 Cricket vs Ripley St Thomas: U14 (a) 1600 GDPR Twilight Session in Library Annexe
We 25			Y7/Y8 Chemistry Salters Visit 1000-1500 UK Team Maths Challenge: Y8-Y9 at Lancaster Royal Grammar School 1400 Cricket vs Stonyhurst: 1st XI (a) OldCo Meeting 1830 Sports Award Presentation at Blackburn Rovers
Th 26			0900-1000 UK Junior Maths Challenge: Y7-Y8 in Main Hall Year 10 Vaccinations (3 in 1 Booster & Meningitis C) 1400 Cricket vs Merchant Taylors': U14 (h) 1600 Heads of Year Meeting in Garstang Room Year 8 Options Evening
Fr 27			Year 13 Grade Sheet (Internal Use Only) 1330 Food Committee in Garstang Room 1400 Cricket vs Lancaster A&B: U12 (h)
Sa 28			0930 Cricket vs Hutton Grammar School: U14, U13 & U12 (h)
Su 29			
			MAY
Mo 30			
Tu 1			GCSE Art Examination 1400 Cricket vs Ripley St Thomas: U15 (h)
We 2			1330 Cricket vs 40 Club: 1st XI (East Lancs) 1600 Audit Committee Meeting in Garstang Room 1730 Remuneration Committee Meeting in Garstang Room Year 7 Parents' Evening
Th 3			GCSE Art Examination 1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 4			Year 12 Examination Grades Published 1400 Cricket vs Merchant Taylors': U13 & U12 (h)
Sa 5			
Su 6			
Mo 7			**Bank Holiday**
Tu 8			1630 Finance, HR & Site Committee Meeting in Garstang Room
We 9			1400 Senior House Swimming Gala
Th 10			Author Visit: Sufiya Ahmed in Annexe 1130 Cricket vs MCC: 1st XI (East Lancs) 1400 Cricket vs Ripley St Thomas: U13 (a) 1600 Heads of Year Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 11			Year 9 Reports Published A Level Art Examination 1550 Year 11 Stand Down
Sa 12			0930 Cricket vs Westholme: U14 (h) 0930 Cricket vs King's Chester: U13 & U12 (h)

Su 13			
Mo 14			Year 6 SAT Examinations (until 17 May inc) Year 11 GCSE Examinations Commence (until 29 Jun inc) A Level Art Examination Year 10 DT Trip to London 1400 Cricket vs Tauheedul IBS: U15 (h) Golf: Lancashire U15 Championship at Gathurst Golf Club
Tu 15			A Level Art Examination (morning only) 1400 Cricket vs Tauheedul IBS: U14 (h)
We 16			1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room
Th 17			1500 Education Committee Meeting in Garstang Room 1630 Risk Committee Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 18			1400 Cricket vs Tauheedul IBS: U12 (h)
Sa 19			0930 Cricket vs 20/20 Rossall: U15 & U13 (h), U14 & U12 (a)
Su 20			
Mo 21			Examination Week: Year 3, 4 and 5 (until 24 May inc)
Tu 22			
We 23			1400 Cricket vs Stonyhurst: U13 & U12 (a)
Th 24			1315 New Book Promotion: Nicola Morgan in Library 1400 Cricket vs Lancaster: U14 (a) 1600 Heads of Year Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 25			1400 Cricket vs Ripley St Thomas: U12 (h) 1550 Year 13 Stand Down
			HALF TERM 28 MAY – 01 JUNE
			JUNE
Mo 4			Year 12 Work Experience (until 8 Jun inc) Year 13 Examinations Commence (until 29 Jun inc)
Tu 5			1330 Cricket vs Eden Park: U14 (h)
We 6			1400 Cricket vs Stonyhurst: U15 & U14 (a)
Th 7			1400 Cricket vs Tauheedul IBS: U13 (h) 1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 8			Year 10 Reports Published Year 8 Examinations Commence (until 12 Jun inc)
Sa 9			0900 Cricket vs Bury Grammar School: U15 & U13 (h), U14 & U12 (a)
Su 10			
Mo 11			1400 Cricket vs Hutton Grammar School: U15 (h) 1800-1830 CERN Parents' Meeting
Tu 12			Cricket vs Rossall Super 6's Comp: U12 1600 GDPR Twilight Session in Library Annexe
We 13			Y9 Pupils Anne Frank Visit 1600 Heads of House Meeting in Garstang Room
Th 14			Year 7 Examinations Commence (until 18 Jun inc) 1330 Cricket vs Eden Park: U13 (h) 1600 Heads of Year Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 15			1330 Cricket vs Eden Park: U12 (h)
Sa 16			0930 Cricket vs AKS Lytham: U15 & U12 (h), U14 & U13 (a)
Su 17			
Mo 18			1000 U13 BwD Cricket Competition at Darwen 1315 Carnegie Medal Celebrations with Year 6 in Library
Tu 19			Year 10 Examinations Commence (until 21 Jun inc) BwD Sports Day at Witton Park Golf: Regional Individual Golf Competition at Houghwood Golf Club 1630 Finance, HR & Site Committee Meeting in Garstang Room 1800 Aachen Trip Parents' Meeting in Annexe
We 20			
Th 21			1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room
Fr 22			Founder's Day 1000 U13 BwD Cricket Competition Finals at Darwen 1345 Cathedral Service
Sa 23			0930 Cricket vs Kirkham Grammar School 20/20: U15 & U12 (a), U14 & U13 (h)
Su 24			

Mo 25			Year 9 Examinations Commence Year 11 Book Return Day 1000 U15 BwD Cricket Competition at QEGS
Tu 26			Year 9 Examinations Year 13 Book Return Day 0910-1550 Rehearsals for Senior School Production in Main Hall
We 27			QEGS Sports Day at Witton Park Year 6 Robinwood Residential Trip Departs (until 29 Jun inc) 1400 Rehearsals for Senior School Production in Main Hall 1700 OldCo Meeting in Garstang Room Year 11 Prom 1900-2100 Senior School Production of Great Expectations Part 2
Th 28			Year 9 Examinations 0930 Y7 & Y8 11-a-side House Cricket at Lammack 1315 New Book Promotion: Cathy Cassidy in Library 1600 Heads of Year Meeting in Garstang Room 1900-2100 Senior School Production of Great Expectations Part 2
Fr 29			Year 12 Trip to Edge Hill University UCAS Fair Year 8 Examination Grades Published Year 7 Water Aid Day 1000 U15 BwD Cricket Competition Finals at QEGS
			JULY
Sa 30			0930 Cricket vs Ormskirk Grammar School: U15, U14 & U12 (h), U13 (a)
Su 1			
Mo 2			Year 10 Work Experience (until 6 Jul inc) Barbados Netball Tour Departs (until 10 Jul inc) 1800 Full Governors' Board Meeting
Tu 3			0930 Year 9 girls' HPV Vaccinations Primary School Reports Published
We 4			Whole School Colour Fun Run - No to Bullying!
Th 5			1010 Year 7 & Year 8 House Cricket at Lammack 1600 Heads of Faculty Meeting in Garstang Room Annual Summer Art and Design Technology Exhibition 1900 Key Stage 2 Production
Fr 6			Year 7 Examination Grades Published Year 12 Reports Published Aachen Trip Departs (until 10 July inc)
Sa 7			
Su 8			
Mo 9			CERN Trip departs (until 11 Jul inc) Year 10 Examination Grades Published House Singing Competition
Tu 10			Year 9 Examinations Grades Published Activity Days Primary School Prize Giving
We 11			**1550 END OF TERM**
			AUGUST
Th 16			Declaration of results: AS/A2 modules
Th 23			Declaration of results: GCSEs