



Queen Elizabeth II High School



Summer 2023 Newsletter

Special points of interest.....

- Welcome!
- Parking at school
- Anti-Bullying
- Record of Achievement Ceremony
- Young Nature Writer
- Radon Survey
- You said. We did.
- Senior Games News
- QEII High School Association News
- Important Dates
- School Day Consultation

Welcome!

Welcome to our June Newsletter.

This term we welcome several new members of staff – Miss Bradbury joins the RE Department, Mr Hennessy joins the PE Department and Miss Nickson joins the English Department. Mrs Booth also joins us as a Technician in the Design and Technology Department and Mrs Leary joins us as Cover Supervisor.

We would like to introduce Kitty Ayres and Josh Bull who will be our new Head Students for the forthcoming year. We are certain that they will represent the school admirably.



We would also like to extend our best wishes to Mr Callister on the recent birth of his baby daughter, Ms Thompson on the birth of her son and Miss Withey who has also recently had a baby son – congratulations to you all!

Please see the 'Important Dates' on the final page of this Newsletter. The full school calendar can also be found on our school website by visiting -

<https://qe2.sch.im/>

The website is updated daily so please do take time to visit it as you will find lots of useful information which may be relevant to your child.

Also, remember to follow the school on Facebook –

www.facebook.com/QE2IOM



Douglas Road, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1RD

Telephone – 01624 841000

Student-related email – 7054003@sims-communications.co.uk

General email – qe2enquiries@sch.im

School website – <https://qe2.sch.im/>

Facebook – www.facebook.com/QE2IOM

Headteacher – Mrs C Clarke

Parking at school

We urge parents dropping off or collecting children from school to do so **before 8.30am in the morning or after 4.00pm in the afternoon.** There are a number of parents driving in while the buses are there, or just before, and then trying to drive out which blocks the main road as well as putting children at risk.

PLEASE ALSO OBSERVE THE LINES IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AND DO NOT PARK IN THE BUS LANE.

Also, just a polite reminder that the accessible parking areas at the front of the school are reserved for Blue Badge holders only. Thank you.



Anti-Bullying

Queen Elizabeth II High School is committed to creating and sustaining a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and parents/carers.

More information about our Anti-Bullying Policy can be found on our school website –

<https://qe2.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/100/Anti-Bullying>

Our online Bullying Report Form can also be found on this page or by scanning the QR Code below with your mobile device -



UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man

Young Nature Writer

Aged 21 or under

Win a Manx Wildlife Trust family membership and other prizes.

Explore our UNESCO Biosphere this summer and write about Manx nature and wildlife.

You can illustrate your entry with photos or drawings.

Send max 500 words to:

biosphere@gov.im

by 5th September 2023,

see www.biosphere.im

for full information



Manx Wildlife Trust
Treisht Bea-Feie
Vannin



Winning entries will feature in the Isle of Man Examiner and Manx Wildlife Trust's magazine

Isle of Man Examiner
Briatzagh Eilan Vannin

Record of Achievement Ceremony



Just a small selection of photographs from our Record of Achievement Ceremony which took place recently.

Our Guest of Honour for the event was London based Costume Designer, Samantha Keeble, who gave an inspiring address to our students, sharing many fabulous stories of working with famous actors on Blockbuster movies!



We would like to extend our best wishes to all of our students for their exams and in whatever they go on to do.

More photographs from the Ceremony can now be found on our school website -

<https://qe2.sch.im/>



You said.

We did.

Year 7 2023

| Concern | Actions |
|---|---|
| Amount of homework and the time taken to complete it. | Transition period of homework during the first half term, working up to 20 - 30 minutes per subject per week. KS3 Team to liaise with all staff. |
| More valuable information needed about student progress and achievement points. Explanations of reporting grades and achievable targets. | Results of survey to be shared with data/reporting working party and taken into account during their current review. Clarity of levels to be reviewed 2023/24. |
| Organisation of Parents' Evening. | Online booking system to be investigated. Calendar to be reviewed. |
| Increase awareness of how to access online learning resources, should the need arise. | Assembly was delivered to increase awareness (another will be delivered). Tutor scheme of work delivered to work through concerns. Staff encouraged to support students on how to access Google Classroom and set homework on their Classroom. ICT lessons with year 7 students. Videos on our website. |
| Low-level disruption in lessons. | Working party to review the Behaviour Policy and create a toolkit. Behaviour Policy was amended and agreed by School Governors. Staff inset has taken place. Launch to stakeholders. New 4R in-class behaviour system introduced after TT Week for Years 7 and 8 and other year groups in September. |

Year 10 2023

| Concern | Actions | Date |
|--|---|----------------|
| Greater communication to parents with regards to student progress. | Research undertaken shows that contact made termly has similar benefits to contact being made more frequently. Parents to receive calendared progress reports. If parents have concerns, they are advised to contact the staff member involved via QE2Enquiries@sch.im. | September 2023 |
| Further information about how to understand levels/grades within the reporting system. | Information disseminated to parents at the start of the academic year and published on website. | September 2023 |
| Lack of teachers attending Parents' Evening. | Ongoing Action Short of Strike Action. We will continue to build time into teachers' timetables to ensure more frequent contact with parents/carers. | |
| Building of the STEM block. | QEII High School and DESC remain committed to this project. | |
| More options for children who don't cope with attending school. | Introduction of an outreach provision to support our most vulnerable students. | Easter 2023 |
| Clarity over percentage attendance at school. | Parent App to be introduced which will contain up to date information on attendance. Tutors can be contacted to gain this information. | September 2023 |
| Resolution of teacher strikes. | Ongoing talks with the DESC and Joint Unions. | |
| More homework. | A review of homework and action research to be undertaken. | September 2023 |

You said.

We did.

Year 11 2023

| Concern | Actions | Date |
|--|---|------------|
| Enrichment week to be reinstated. | We will look at reinstating an enrichment programme for the academic year 2023/24. There is a possibility of having an enrichment drop-down day during the Summer Term of 2023. | June 2023 |
| Introduction of more 'vocational' GCSEs. | Our curriculum is reviewed yearly in relation to specific needs of the cohort, budget and staffing constraints. | July 2023 |
| Focus on reducing disruptive students in the classroom. | Working party to review the Behaviour Policy and create a toolkit. Behaviour Policy was amended and agreed by School Governors. Staff inset has taken place. Launch to stakeholders. New 4R in-class behaviour system introduced after 'TT' Week for Years 7 and 8 and other year groups in September. | March 2023 |
| All teachers to attend Parents' Evening. | Ongoing Action Short of Strike Action. We will continue to build time into teachers' timetables to ensure more frequent contact with parents/carers. | |
| More frequent contact with parents regarding student progress. | Research undertaken shows that contact made termly has similar benefits to contact being made more frequently. If parents have concerns, they are advised to contact the staff member involved via QE2Enquiries@sch.im . | |
| Students to receive appropriate amounts of homework. | A review of homework and action research to be undertaken. | 2023/2024 |

Senior Games – Spring Term

Throughout the Spring Term there has continued to be an outdoor activity option for Senior Games.

January and February saw the conclusion of the rock climbing sessions, with 12 students opting to brave occasional cold hands to explore differing venues around the Island, ranging from high and exposed rock faces of the Chasms, to the 120ft cliff abseil in Maughold.

Several students opted to use climbing as part of their GCSE PE too, collecting video evidence together to show varying skills and techniques. All gained really good marks towards their overall GCSE.

March and April saw a set of paddlesport sessions, again run in conjunction with the team at the Venture Centre. Students had a go in a variety of crafts, gaining skills in canoes, kayaks and paddleboards. We had a trip up Sulby River and also a session on controlling beach landings in surf conditions to finish off.



Radon Survey in Manx Schools

Please see information below regarding the radon survey currently taking place in school -

Dear Parents/Carers,

All schools on the Isle of Man will be tested for radon during the summer term to bring the Isle of Man in line with other parts of the British Isles.

The simple test will see a handful of plastic detectors placed in ground floor rooms and basements during the summer term before the data is analysed.

This test was last carried out in 1989 and no problems were found.

The action is part of the Government's legal obligation to limit people's exposure to radon and is being supported by the UK Health Security Agency. If you have any questions, this might help – link to FAQs

Your radon questions, answered.

| | |
|---|---|
| What is radon? | Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, which is found - in some quantity - in all buildings. Exposure to high levels over a long period of time can lead to health issues. |
| Why test schools? | Simply to check that no children or staff are being exposed to high levels of radon gas. A similar survey carried out in 1989 found no problems at that time. |
| How does the test work? | A number of coaster sized plastic detectors will be placed in ground floor rooms and basements for three months, before the data is analysed. |
| What happens if an issue is found? | If a problem is found it could necessitate some small scale remedial work. |
| Why is it happening now? | DEFA has a legal obligation to take a series of actions to limit people's exposure to radon due to recently updated health and safety legislation. |
| Are children at more risk than adults? | No. The general pattern is broadly similar to that in adults. |
| What is the harm or risk from radon? | There is compelling evidence that long-term exposure to radon can increase the risk of lung cancer. |
| Got another question? This should help - https://www.ukradon.org/faq/# | |

QEII High School Association News and Events

(Isle of Man Registered Charity Number 799)

Once again a very big **THANK YOU** to all of our loyal supporters!

QEII High School Association plays a vital role in raising money for additional school resources and equipment. Through money raised at quizzes, musical evenings, Christmas Fayres, and so on, funds have been available to buy many additional items that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

To keep up to date with our fundraising events, please keep an eye on our **Facebook** page -

<https://www.facebook.com/QEIIPeel>

Dates for your diary.....

Wednesday 20th September – our next Meeting will be held from 5.30pm in the School Library.

Friday 13th October – we are delighted to announce that we are hosting another evening with fabulous local band 'Retrospect'. Those of you who have joined us before will know what an amazing evening this is. If you haven't yet seen them perform, this is definitely an evening you won't want to miss.

Tickets for this evening are now available from school Reception priced at £20.00 each. Please note that this is an ADULT ONLY event.



Wednesday 29th November – SAVE THE DATE for our 2023 Christmas Fayre! More details will follow in the Autumn term.

Are you a member of our 100 Club?

If not, please be sure to pick up a leaflet from school Reception or, alternatively, you can find the form on the QEII High School Association dedicated website page. For just £12.00 per year you will have three chances each month to win.

<https://qe2.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/62/Fundraising>

Please remember to let the charity know if you change your contact details so that we always know where to send your winnings 😊

Email admin@qe2hsa.im



Important dates...

June

Monday 19th – Tuesday 20th June – New Intake Days

Monday 19th – Tuesday 27th June – Year 12 Mock Exams

Thursday 22nd June – New Intake Open Evening

July

Wednesday 5th July – Tynwald Day

Thursday 6th July – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Monday 10th July – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 18th July – Sports Day

Friday 21st July – School closes for Summer Term

Consultation - change to the school day

We are looking to make some changes to the school day from September 2023, in order to:

- Provide additional time at the end of the school day for students to engage in enrichment clubs;
- Provide time for more regular opportunities for staff to engage in Continued Professional Development after school, in order to promote a culture of learning, collaboration, evidence informed practice and innovation.

The proposed changes include starting the school day 10 minutes earlier, reducing tutor time by 5 minutes, and moving to a 50 minute lunch break. No lesson time will be affected by these changes.

Proposed times for September 2023 are as follows:

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 8.45 | Bell 1 Registration |
| 8.50 | Bell 2 Assembly |
| 9.05 | Period 1 |
| 9.55 | Period 2 |
| 10.45 | Break |
| 11.05 | Period 3 |
| 11.55 | Period 4 |
| 12.45 | Lunch |
| 1.30 | Moving bell |
| 1.35 | Period 5 |
| 2.25 | Period 6 |
| 3.15 | CLOSE |

Initial research indicates that all bus routes could be adapted to support this change as well as continued KS5 collaboration lessons with Ramsey Grammar School and Castle Rushen High School.

As always, we value your feedback. The consultation will run for one month until **Friday 16th June** and any feedback can be emailed to QE2ParentConsultation@sch.im