

# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

Spring 2026



gleck dty share dy kinjagh  
always strive to do your utmost

## Welcome!

Spring is always a rewarding time in school, and this term has been no exception. Recent lesson walks and student voice discussions have shown a strong learning culture across the school, with calm classrooms, high expectations, and students engaging positively in their learning. This reflects the commitment of our staff and the excellent attitudes of our students.

Alongside this, it has been wonderful to see the breadth of enrichment opportunities on offer for students. These experiences play an important role in developing confidence, creativity, and a sense of belonging.

We are incredibly grateful for the strong support shown at recent events. The brilliant turnout at parents' evenings and school performances truly demonstrates the commitment of our families and the value we place on working together to celebrate our students' achievements.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued encouragement and support. As always, your partnership is invaluable.

At the end of the Autumn Term we said thank you and farewell to Miss Riley, Mr Kennish and Ms Wright. We are very grateful for the contribution that they made and we wish them all the best for the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce several new members of staff – Ms Gilbertson joins us as KS4 Pastoral Officer, Miss Green joins us as KS3 Pastoral Officer, and Mr Hadman joins the Support for Learning Team. Mr Jelly will be moving roles within school from September and will become the new Director of KS5, Ms Lunn joins us as Cover Supervisor, Mrs O'Toole joins us as our new Attendance & Family Liaison Officer and Mr Whittle joins us as our new Assistant Site Manager. We hope that your time here will be happy and successful. We also wish Mr Coole well as he is taking a sabbatical for a year from September, and Mrs Edge has been appointed to Director of SEND, Inclusion and Safeguarding for that year.

We wish all students the very best for the term ahead. Good luck to students sitting examinations this year, you have already demonstrated real determination through your effort and perseverance.

Continue to work hard, believe in what you have learned, and remember that your teachers and school community are here to support you throughout this period.

Mrs C Clarke  
Headteacher

## What's inside:

- Our School Vision
- Spring Showcase
- Rugby Success
- MFL Taster Day
- Maths Olympiad
- 'Lest we Forget'
- New school logos
- STEM Success
- Life Curriculum Update

And much more...





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## *Our School Vision – ‘Always strive to do your utmost’*

- We will strive for excellence, be a forward thinking, inclusive and nurturing school which enables our students to achieve well, enriching their lives.
- We believe that high quality teaching, learning and leadership are fundamental to our success. We will create a culture of learning, collaboration, evidence informed practice and innovation.
- We will embed ambition in our students to enable them to lead a balanced life as adults, capable of contributing to society.

### QEII YEAR 1 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES



**ROBUST QUALITY ASSURANCE**



**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**



**LITERACY STRATEGY INCLUDING INTERVENTION**



**DIGITAL TOOLS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING NEW MIS**

This year, our priorities focus on:

- strengthening quality assurance to ensure consistently high standards of teaching and learning,
- improving attendance and punctuality so every student benefits fully from school,
- embedding our literacy strategy with a strong emphasis on reading and targeted intervention.

We have also recently moved from SIMS to Arbor, which will improve how we manage information, communicate with families, and support students more effectively.

## *Are your details up to date?*

We would be grateful if you could remember to let us know if you change your address or contact details during the year, as it is vital that we have up to date information at all times.

Please make any changes in the Arbor Parent App or email in to:

[qe2enquiries@sch.im](mailto:qe2enquiries@sch.im)

Please remember to include your child's full name in any communications with the school so that they can be easily identified by the Admin Team. Thank you.



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## *Dance Showcase - February 2026*

We are incredibly proud of every single student who stepped onto that stage. Their dedication, confidence, teamwork, and passion shone through in every performance. From the first step to the final bow, they demonstrated not only talent, but also courage and commitment.

The Tech Team was amazing, running their first big event, so professional.





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## *Rugby success at QEII*

It has been another hugely successful rugby season for QEII, with our teams once again performing superbly across all age groups.

Both the 1st XV and the U15s were crowned Isle of Man champions, recording impressive victories over RGS in their respective finals. These titles represent back-to-back championships for both the senior side and our current U15s, underlining the consistency and quality of rugby at QEII. This success also adds to last season's Rugby 7s title, making it a particularly memorable period for the school.

A particular highlight of the season was the Senior Rugby tour to the North West, where the squad took on strong opposition from St Mary's College Crosby and St Ambrose College, returning with one win and one defeat after two highly competitive fixtures.

The tour also included an unforgettable trip to watch Sale Sharks take on Glasgow Warriors in the European Champions Cup. The boys formed the guard of honour before kick-off, while Mr Crabtree represented the school in the half-time kicking challenge. To round off the experience, the squad even had the opportunity to meet England fly-half George Ford, who kindly posed for a photo with the players.

Our Year 7 rugby players have just returned from an exciting trip to the North West, delivered in partnership with Western Vikings. The boys faced strong opposition from St Ambrose, St Mary's and St Anselm's, three well-established rugby schools, gaining valuable experience and rising to the challenge. A particular highlight was a well-earned victory in one of the matches against St Ambrose.

A huge thank you must also go to the sponsors of our new Senior Rugby Kit, which looks incredibly smart and has been proudly worn this season. We are extremely grateful for the support of Prime Plastering, Simcocks, JHD Construction, and Serenity.

The season was rounded off with a lovely joint awards evening celebrating both Senior Rugby and Hockey. Congratulations to all prize winners, and particular thanks must go to our Year 13 students, who have represented the school superbly and truly left the shirt in a better place.

Well done to all players and staff involved in making it such a successful and memorable rugby season for QEII.





## STEM at QEII

This year has been an exciting year for STEM with many opportunities for students across the school.

Since September, two groups of KS4 teams have taken on the Conrad Challenge (a prestigious international STEM event). Students designed an innovation within STEM and had to create a business plan, presentation, and website. We would like to thank River Advisers, who kindly sponsored our entry into this event.

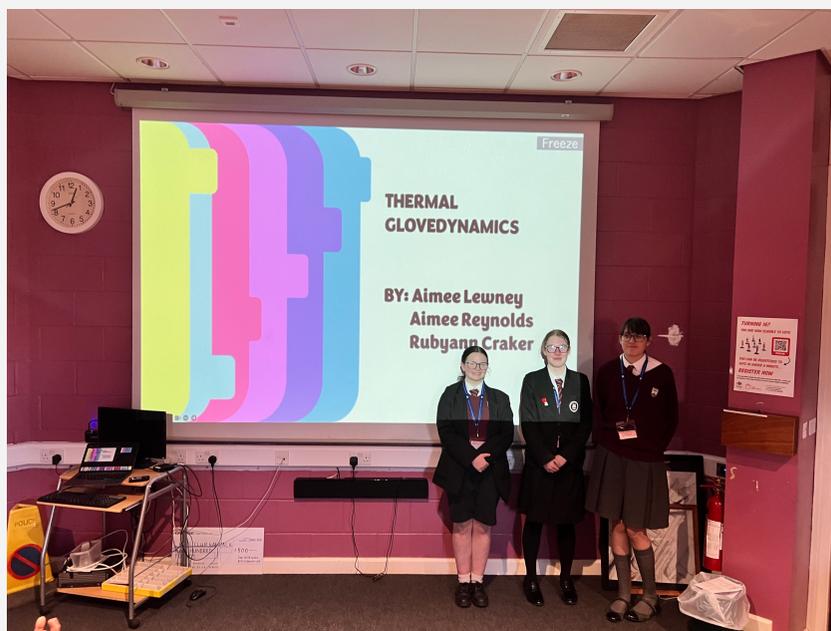
The KS3 STEM club has continued to grow and inspire. Students have taken part in egg drop challenges and have researched and created ideas for the Mars exhibit at the Peel Cathedral. This work will be presented to all the Year 5 students across the Island during their visit to the exhibit. Again, we would like to say a massive thank you to River Advisers for their support in creating the resources.

Building on our work with the Mars exhibit, we took all our Year 7 students down to the cathedral on 9th February, giving students an opportunity to see the red planet from a perspective they would not usually get to. In the afternoon, 28 of our sixth form students competed in a challenge in which they had to design a rover mission to Mars designed to search for evidence of past microbial life on Mars. This was supported by Jennifer Stone (Chief Strategy Officer) and Rachel Beattie (Chief Financial Officer) of River Advisers, who worked on the task with the students during the event.

We have also been busy with our 6th form STEM mentorship program. Sixth form students have had the opportunity to speak to professionals in industry. Most recently, we were honoured to host Dr Louisa Kermeen, who spoke to our prospective veterinary students.

The rest of the year presents exciting opportunities. QEII will be hosting our first All-Island 6th form Stem Conference. Year 7s will take on the QEII STEM challenge in the summer term and aspiring KS3 students will get take on a mock Conrad Challenge.

We look forward to updating you on this in future newsletters, and if you would like to collaborate with us on any STEM events, please get in touch.





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## *Lest we Forget*

QEII students performed awesomely in the WWII play “Lest We Forget” in late February. It was certainly a poignant and dramatic production, and the students did the subject matter proud with their excellent acting and teamwork. It was wonderful to also have a super design and tech team which enhanced the play greatly.

It is sad for the rehearsals to come to an end as it has been a pleasure to work with such dedicated and talented students – it has been a fun and exciting rehearsal process and the students really engaged and tried their best. We also showed the piece to Year 6s and Year 7s.

Of course, staff members helped the process run smoothly and may I thank Mrs Lewis, the SLT team, admin and the School Association for their support in the run up to the show. Mr Coole made the larger props and Mrs Patterson encouraged students to make props in her club. Mrs O'Connor Challis accompanied singers with her beautiful viola playing. Also a big thank you for staff who gave up their time to support the students back stage and in the creation of the piece.

A huge thank you and well done!

Mrs Greenlees





## Jigsaws

At QEII, we are committed to supporting our students' mental health and emotional well-being. We are currently looking to enhance our "Time Out" and regulation space, i.e. The Hub, with activities that help students de-stress and refocus during the school day.

### Why Jigsaw Puzzles?

Research shows that jigsaw puzzles are a powerful tool for emotional regulation. They offer a "digital detox" from screens and provide a meditative, low-pressure focus that can lower stress and anxiety levels. For many students, the repetitive and structured nature of puzzling helps ground them when they feel overwhelmed, fostering a sense of calm and accomplishment.



### How You Can Help

If you have any jigsaw puzzles at home that are no longer being used, we would be incredibly grateful for your donations.

### We are particularly looking for:

- A variety of sizes: Puzzles ranging from 100 to 1,000 pieces to suit different needs and timeframes.
- Good condition: Puzzles with all their pieces intact are preferred to ensure a positive experience for the students.
- Engaging themes: Landscapes, animals, or complex patterns that provide a healthy level of challenge.

### Where to Donate

Donations can be dropped off at Reception during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a supportive environment where our students can thrive both academically and emotionally.

## Inclusion Quality Mark

Using the IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) to Strengthen Our Practice at QEII, we are committed to continually reflecting on and improving the learning experience we offer every child. We are using the IQM framework as part of our ongoing cycle of self evaluation and development.

The IQM provides a structured way for schools to look closely at how well they meet the needs of all learners. It encourages staff to reflect on classroom practice, whole school systems, and the culture we create for students, families, and the wider community. By working through the framework, we can celebrate what we already do well while also identifying meaningful next steps.

Engaging with the IQM is helping us deepen our understanding of inclusive practice, strengthen collaboration across the school, and ensure that every decision we make supports the success and wellbeing of all pupils. This process is an important part of our commitment to continuous improvement, and we look forward to seeing how it helps us continue to grow as a connected, supportive, and inclusive school community.





## Illness and School Attendance Guidance

If your child is ill (e.g. vomiting or diarrhoea), please keep them at home until they are feeling better. For sickness and diarrhoea, children should remain off school for **48 hours after the last episode** to prevent the spread of infection.

At this time of year, coughs and colds are common. If your child has **mild cold symptoms** (such as a runny nose or slight cough) and is otherwise well, they **can attend school**. We will support them throughout the day and monitor their wellbeing.

If symptoms worsen or your child has a high temperature, is very unwell, or you are unsure, please seek medical advice and keep them at home until they have recovered.

Please also remember to advise the school as early as possible of any absences by **telephone or email**.

## Year 7 Transition News

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting students during our recent transition visits to Western primary schools before half term.

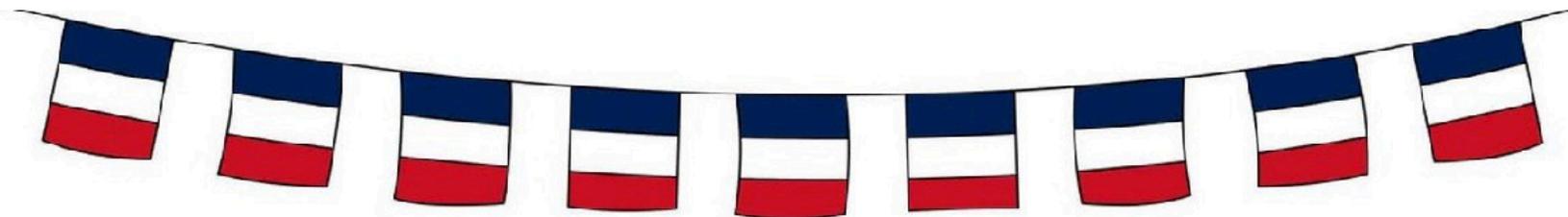
We were delighted that five of our Year 8 Transition Ambassadors returned to their former primary school, Marown, where they took part in a Q&A session with Mr Chalk, his class, and a number of parents.

The ambassadors spoke confidently about life at secondary school and were excellent role models, answering questions thoughtfully and honestly.

## Lost Property

During term time, lost property can be collected from the school between 8:00am and 4:15pm, Monday to Friday.

As a reminder we would be grateful if you could ensure that all of your child's property is clearly labelled with their full name. That way, if anything does get lost and is found and handed in, we can return it to them.



On 18 January, QEII's MFL department hosted an A Level French taster afternoon for Y11 students.

After enjoying crêpes, madeleines and hot chocolate, 26 students from QEII, RGS and CRHS enjoyed

Ms Jago's French music quiz — many singing along in French, word-perfect (thank you TikTok!)

With Ms Courmont, they explored music, lyrics and the #MeToo movement in contemporary French songs, including Angèle's 'Balance ton Quoi', before finishing with the trailer and soundtrack of the

A Level film 'La Haine'.

We hope they enjoyed the afternoon and look forward to welcoming them in lessons next year.



## *Singing under Mars*

The School Choir were delighted to accept an invitation from Peel Town Commissioners to perform at their Celebration Concert in Peel Cathedral on Sunday evening, which showcased some of the town's outstanding musical talent. The choir performed two pieces, This Little Light of Mine and Can You Feel the Love Tonight from The Lion King, and sang with great confidence and musicality.

It was a particularly special occasion to sing beneath Mars, the temporary art installation by Luke Jerram suspended in the nave of the Cathedral, creating a truly atmospheric performance space. The choir enjoyed sharing the stage with the Rowles Family Band, whose singer and violinist, Cara, is a student at QEII. In addition, there was some wonderful singing from former student Holly Macrae, who performed two of her own original compositions.

Sincere thanks go to Miss O'Connor Challis for her help in organising the concert and for singing with the altos, and to Mrs Kelly for returning to sing with the choir.  
Mr Moore



## *Children's Mental Health Week*

### *Pocket Hugs by Ed Space*

More than 6,000 'Pocket Hugs' containing mental health support information have been handed out to secondary school students across the Isle of Man as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

All the island's secondary schools are taking part in the initiative, led by mental health charity Ed Space, which aims to put key contact details and a simple message of support directly into students' hands.

Each Pocket Hug includes a small card listing essential mental health contacts along with a green bracelet displaying the message "It's ok not to be ok". The card will easily slip into a lanyard, phone cover or pencil case.

The project has been months in the making and was made possible by a donation from the National Farmers Union. It has also been endorsed by Public Health Isle of Man.



It is hoped that Queen Elizabeth II High School students might use the card to access support, which can give them the courage to speak to a family member, friend, or teacher.

It is vital our young people feel able to talk openly about their mental health and understand it's ok to ask for help.





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## Wind Orchestra Concert

Friday 6th February saw over 70 musicians entertain an enthusiastic audience in the tenth annual concert performed jointly by the QEII High School Wind Band and the Isle of Man Wind Orchestra.

Both bands played a short programme each during the first part of the evening that featured music from Camila Cabello, Dr Who, Kate Bush, Dimitri Shostakovich and Gustav Holst amongst others. The bands then combined to perform together which this year included music from the film 'Chicken Run' (complete with the QEII Band providing a 'choir' of kazoos (!)),

The Finale from Stravinsky's 'The Firebird' and a medley of music by The Beatles. The evening was a great success and raised just under £600 for the QEII School Association. The band's next appearance will be at the Spring Showcase on the 1st April 2026, details to follow.





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## House Points Update



4th Foillan 4730

3rd Caaig 5125

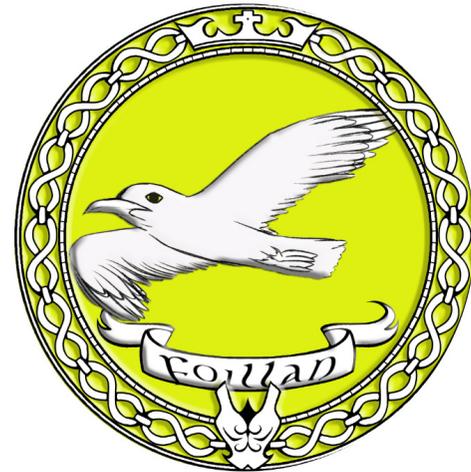
2nd Shirragh 5865

1st Threshlyn 6236

## New House Logos

We are absolutely blown away by our new House logos. Even more exciting — these amazing logos were designed by our talented Sixth Form student, Julianne.

We celebrated Julianne's hard work and creativity in our last Afternoon Tea event.





## *Punctuality matters!*

At QEII, we are committed to ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity to make the most of their education. We believe that a positive and encouraging atmosphere begins with regular and punctual attendance, which helps set the tone for a successful day of learning.

Punctuality is not only a key life skill, it also reflects reliability, respect for others, and a readiness to engage in the school community.

### **Top tips to support your child in having a positive start to their day:**

- Encourage your child to prepare everything they need for school the night before.
- Establish a consistent bedtime routine to ensure they get a good night's sleep, limiting device use before bed. Recommended sleep hours: Ages 11–12, 9 to 12 hours and ages 13–18, 8 to 10 hours.
- Support your child in setting their own alarm to build independence and responsibility.
- Reduce distractions such as TV and gaming before school.
- Take advantage of our hot and cold breakfast options available in the school canteen from 08:15 to 08:45.
- If you need support or would like to discuss any individual barriers to punctuality or attendance, please contact your child's tutor as early as possible—we're here to help.

### **A few reminders:**

- **Tutor period** (Line-up for Years 7–9) begins promptly at **08:45**.
- Students arriving between **08:45 and 09:00** should go directly to their tutor to be registered.
- Students arriving **after 09:00** must sign in at **Reception** and have their planner stamped.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality. Your partnership plays a vital role in helping our students start each day feeling prepared, supported, and ready to learn.

## *Enrichment Clubs*

We have a fabulous selection of enrichment clubs available, both during and after school, meaning that there should be something to suit everyone! The full list (including sports clubs) can be viewed on our school website –

<https://qe2.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/23/Co-Curricular>

Please note that the PE Department has its own Facebook page, celebrating sporting successes and giving details of fixtures and other useful information. Be sure to follow them –

[https://www.facebook.com/Queen-Elizabeth-II-High-School-Sport-139995876459199/?fref=pb&hc\\_location=profile\\_browser](https://www.facebook.com/Queen-Elizabeth-II-High-School-Sport-139995876459199/?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser)

If your child is celebrating any achievements, either sporting or otherwise, please send details through to [qe2enquiries@sch.im](mailto:qe2enquiries@sch.im) and we will be happy to share their success with the wider community.



## Life Curriculum Update

Our Life Curriculum continues to provide students with meaningful, real-world learning experiences that support their personal development and wellbeing. Working in partnership with a range of local organisations and professionals, we are proud to offer valuable opportunities that help students engage with real-life issues and build the skills, knowledge and confidence needed for life beyond school.

November and December have been busy and impactful months in our Life Curriculum programme...

In November we hosted our Year 9 Drop Down Day, welcoming professionals from a range of Island agencies including the Isle of Man Constabulary, Isle Listen, St John Ambulance, Motiv8, The Children's Centre and the School Nursing Team. Students took part in a series of workshops focused on healthy lifestyles and personal safety, designed to support them in making informed decisions and keeping themselves safe.

Also in November, our Year 11 students attended the annual DESC Employability and Skills Fair at the Villa Marina. This event gave students the opportunity to meet professionals from a wide range of sectors, explore potential career pathways and training routes, and gain valuable insight into the skills and qualities needed for life beyond QE2.

In December, the Drive Safe, Live Long team delivered a powerful presentation to Year 11 students about road safety on the Isle of Man. The multi-agency input highlighted that while driving offers independence, it also brings significant responsibility and risk - particularly for young and inexperienced drivers. The presentation focused on the 'Fatal Five': drink/drug driving, seatbelts, speed, carelessness and mobile phone use.

Year 10 students also took part in a workshop with Junior Achievement through their Get A Job programme. Volunteers from the business community supported students in understanding the recruitment process, exploring what employers look for in applications, and developing key transferable skills. Students learned how to search and apply for jobs, build an effective CV, prepare for interviews, use positive body language, respond to questioning and follow up professionally after an interview.

### Looking ahead...

Year 9 students will participate in Junior Achievement's Challenge for Change event next month, while Year 10 will take part in their own Drop Down Day, focusing on personal safety and decision-making skills.

We are proud of how positively students continue to engage with these valuable Life Curriculum opportunities.





# QUEEN ELIZABETH II HIGH SCHOOL

## Maths Olympiad

We were delighted to host the Annual Western Maths Olympiad for our partner primary schools. Ten teams competed in four challenging rounds, supported by our fantastic Year 7 helpers.

The standard of mathematical thinking and teamwork on display was outstanding, with scores incredibly close throughout.

Congratulations to St John's, who claimed the trophy for the third year running, with Marown A as runners-up and Marown B in third place.

Thank you to all students and staff involved for making it such an enjoyable and successful afternoon!



## 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 this QR Code with your mobile device.

## QEII High School Association

### Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores. By selecting Queen Elizabeth II High School as your chosen cause, whenever you shop online, and at no extra cost to you, the charity will receive a donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make.

Please sign up via

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/qe2hs/>  
or scan the following QR code to take you directly to our link–



QEII High School Association has its own Facebook page. For useful information please be sure to follow us – <https://www.facebook.com/QEIIPeel>



## Communications

For those of you who are new to the school, our newsletters will be published each term, however, you can receive regular updates via our school Facebook page and website. Please ensure that you visit these sites as they may have important information which is relevant to your child.

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

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/QE2IOM](http://www.facebook.com/QE2IOM)

Please send all student absence related emails to:

[qe2absences@sch.im](mailto:qe2absences@sch.im)

All other enquiries can be sent to:

[qe2enquiries@sch.im](mailto:qe2enquiries@sch.im)



You can also scan our QR code with your mobile device to take you directly to our website.

## Uniform Standards

At QEII, we believe that our uniform policy found [HERE](#) helps foster a sense of belonging, equality, and pride within our school community. Our uniform reflects our CARE values and supports a learning environment where all students can thrive.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of families in helping us maintain uniform standards, ensuring every student feels prepared and ready to learn.

We understand that the cost of uniform can be a concern for some families. QEII is committed to supporting our community, and we offer assistance through our QEII Hardship Fund. If you require any support, please don't hesitate to email the school, marking your email for the attention of the headteacher. Additionally, families may be eligible for further support through the Department for Education, Sport and Culture via the following link: [School uniform assistance](#)

Uniform reminders:

- Trousers must be tailored and grey or black in colour. Jeans, leggings, tight-stretch or flared style trousers are not permitted.
- Skirts must be of a practical style (not bodycon/lycra) and no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.
- Tailored shorts are permitted and should be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.



# Important Dates...

## March

**Monday 9th – Friday 13th March –**  
Year 10 Mock Exams

**Tuesday 17th March**  
Year 10 Drop Down Day

**Thursday 29th March**  
Year 9 Challenge 4 Change Day

**Tuesday 31st March –**  
Year 10 Parents' Evening



## April

**Wednesday 1st April –**  
Spring Showcase

**Friday 3rd – Friday 17th April**  
– Easter Holidays

## May

**Monday 4th May –**  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th May –**  
CSI Days

**Wednesday 20th May –**  
Heats Day

**Friday 22nd May – Inset Day**  
(School closed to students)

**Monday 25th May –**  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 26th May –**  
**Friday 5th June – Half Term**

## June

**Wednesday 10th June –**  
Reserve Heats Day

**Thursday 18th June –**  
New Intake Day

**Monday 22nd – Friday 26th June –**  
Year 12 Mock Exams

**Thursday 25th June – Year 10 UCM**  
Taster Day

**Monday 29th – Friday 3rd July – KS3**  
Exams

## July

**Thursday 2nd July –**  
Year 11 Prom

**Monday 6th July –**  
Tynwald Day

**Thursday 9th July –**  
CARE and House Reward Day

**Friday 10th July –**  
Sports Day

**Monday 13th July –**  
Year 7 STEM Challenge

**Tuesday 21st – Thursday 23rd July –**  
Enrichment

**Thursday 23rd July –**  
School closes for Summer Term

## August

**Tuesday 4th August – SQA Results**

**Tuesday 11th August – CIE AS Level**  
and A-Level Results Day

**Thursday 13th August – AS and**  
A Level Results

**Tuesday 18th August – CIE IGCSE**  
Results Day

**Thursday 20th August – GCSE Results**

