



Queen Elizabeth's School

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Headteacher: Mrs Katie Boyes

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of a busy half term I would like to congratulate all of our Year 9 students for the fantastic transition they have made to being members of the QE Family. We are very pleased with the way that they have approached their studies and have really embraced all of the opportunities on offer across the school.

Students and staff have been very busy in every curriculum area during this half term. This includes visiting speakers in Business, Field trips in Geography, Theatre trips, University visits for Sixth Form students and visits to local Industry to name just a few. We have also held our annual Open Evening and Open Mornings for prospective parents. Both the evening and the visits during the school day attracted record numbers of visitors.

As we move into the second half of the Autumn term there is some key information and events that I would like to make you aware of;

Michael James Bursary Winners' Concert

You are invited to attend our annual Micheal James Bursary Winners' concert in The Minster. This year the concert takes place on Wednesday 23rd October at 7.30pm. This event is a fantastic opportunity to hear some of our wonderful musicians performing in the inspirational setting of the Minster.

Remembrance

We are holding our annual Remembrance Service at school on Monday 11th November at 10.30am.

We welcome parents to attend this event to join with staff and students in the act of remembrance. If you would like to attend then please confirm your attendance to Mrs Dean on the following email office@queenelizabeths.com

Parents' Evenings

We have completed a successful trial of an online booking system for parents' evenings and therefore will be moving to use this for all future parents' evenings as we move through this academic year. You will receive email notification ahead of your child's parents' evening detailing how to access the system and book appointments. To help ensure that this runs smoothly we require email addresses to be up to date. If you have changed your email address recently please could you contact your child's tutor with the updated contact information.

Knowledge Organiser Homework - Year 9 and 10 students

The homework tasks for all students in Year 9 and 10 are based on self quizzing using Knowledge Organisers.



Allenbourn Middle School Colehill First School Emmanuel Middle School Hayeswood First School Hillside First School Lockyer's Middle School Merley First School Queen Elizabeth's School St John's First School St Michael's Middle School Verwood First School Witchampton First School

Research suggests that equipping students with the skills to be able to learn, retain and recall knowledge is key to the examination success. The newly reformed GCSEs and BTECs are more rigorous and increasingly challenging. Nearly all subjects have lost their controlled assessments or coursework and these have been replaced with additional exam papers. The focus of these exams is the retrieval and application of knowledge to a range of different contexts. This puts increasing pressure on our students to know and retain even more information for longer. Typically, when students leave their revision until a few weeks or even days/hours before the examinations and tests, this presents a problem.

Our short term memory has limited capacity and students find themselves unable to retain the information. The secret to success is to regularly revisit the knowledge to be learned, known as 'spaced retrieval'. This helps transfer the knowledge from the short-term memory to the long term memory. This not only helps to make 'learning stick' but it also frees up our short-term memory for day to day learning and experiences.

Students will use their Knowledge Organisers to carry out self quizzing. This is a way in which students using the Knowledge Organiser using the Look, Cover., Write, Check system to learn the key information. The key here is that students are not just copying the information but are trying to remember small sections at a time. A video summary of the self quizzing process can be found on the school website at <https://docs.google.com/file/d/1p41ip3GXWqLgyode2AS8U9aUvKx58rUT/preview>

Students are expected to complete 30 minutes of Self Quizzing each evening and this will be checked by tutors every morning during registration and subject staff will link back to the homework during lessons.

School Uniform

Thank you for all of your support with uniform since the start of term, particularly with ensuring that students are following the policy with regards to shoes. For the vast majority of students they look incredibly smart and both staff and members of the community have commented on the improvement in the appearance of our students.

Unfortunately there are some students who have shortened their skirts or who are rolling their skirts to an inappropriate length. Please could we remind you that the school skirts should not be altered or rolled. Your support with checking before students leave for school would be much appreciated. Staff will be contacting home during next half term where we have concerns over very inappropriate length of skirts.

As we move into the colder weather students are able to wear a suitable coat over the top of their blazers. They can wear this to and from school and when outside at break times and lunchtimes. Students will be asked to remove their outdoor coats when inside of the school buildings.

If you are purchasing any new items of uniform for students over the half term holiday then please refer to the information on the website which details the expectations with regards to uniform. <http://www.qe.dorset.sch.uk/dress>



Student Yoga

Lauren, our resident Yoga Teacher, is starting a new Yoga club which is open to any student.

Each session consists of;

- Breathing techniques
- Information about keeping the body injury-safe
- Yoga poses for balance, strength and flexibility
- Affirmations
- Guided relaxation

The sessions encourage healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy hearts. Slowing down and listening to the body helps young people to connect with themselves. It also allows them to process retain and remember information, making learning easier.

The sessions will take place on Monday afternoons from 4th November (3.30-4.30pm) and cost £4 per session. If you would like any further information or you would like your child to take part please email lpetch@queenelizabeths.com

Key Dates for next half term;

- Year 11 Exam Success Evening - 7th November
- Remembrance Service at School – 11th November
- Year 10 Parents' Evening - 21st November
- Carol Service in Minster - 4th December
- Year 11 Sixth Form Open Evening - 5th December
- Year 11 Parents' Evening - 17th December
- End of term - Thursday 19th December (1pm finish)
- Start of Spring term - Monday 6th January

Further information about each event will be available on the school website.

On behalf of everyone at the school we wish you a good half term holiday and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 4th November. If you have any questions or causes for concern then please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Head of House.

Yours sincerely

Katie Boyes
Headteacher