

KEB/cl

4th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you all had a restful half term break. Life within school continues to be very busy with students working very hard in lessons together with a large number of other events taking place across the school. These include the ongoing preparations for the school musical Shrek which takes place in the Spring term. You will be able to purchase tickets for this later this half term.

At this stage in the half term I wanted to update you on a number of areas and forthcoming events.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 11 pupils to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 10th November from 5.30-7.30pm. The evening provides an opportunity to hear about our Sixth Form offer and the developments we are making around our new Sixth Form Centre. There will be a presentation from the Sixth Form team at 6pm and 6.45pm followed by time to meet with faculty staff to discuss the wide variety of courses available for students.

Updating Contact Details via SIMs Parent App

Following the data collection letter which was sent recently, please can we remind you to check that the contact details we hold are up to date and make any necessary changes.

Year 11 PPE Exams

Year 11s first round of PPEs start on Monday 14th November and run for 2 weeks. Thank you to all parents that attended the Exam Success Evening last night. It was a great evening and hopefully you found all the resources useful. For those that could not attend please see the website to access the information.

Sixth Form students and part-time work

Please can we remind parents and carers that students should only be carrying out their part-time work outside of the school day (8.30-3.15pm). Also, please do remember that students should not be working more than 10-12 hours a week. More than this will have a detrimental impact on their academic studies and their well-being.

Unifrog

unifrog The Complete Destinations Platform

All students now have access to this excellent award-winning, online careers platform Unifrog, which was launched during our pastoral drop-down day on 20th October 2022. Students were given the opportunity to log into Unifrog, completing their initial set up and then given time to explore many of the features of this fantastic website.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), Further Education, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

Students access the platform via the website www.unifrog.org/ using any computer, tablet or smartphone. They login by entering their school email address and the password that they chose during setup. Students who were absent during the pastoral day will need to use the default password of **QESchool** the first time they log on and follow instructions to change their password when prompted. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next steps.

We have also set up a parent/carer login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process. The sign up code you need is: **QUELparents**, it will be active for 90 days allowing you time to sign up via the link below www.unifrog.org/code

To find out more, click on the following link to watch a short 3 minute video
<https://www.loom.com/share/1d856c8220f444faa653fd7f719db5c8>

Any further questions please don't hesitate to contact the Careers Team
Mrs Hayley Jones hjones@queenelizabeths.com or
Mrs Nadia Gribbins ngribbins@queenelizabeths.com

Visits - payment reminder

The Media Studies students wishing to attend the Harry Potter Studios Tour and workshop trip will need to ensure that the payment is made by Monday 7th November at the latest to secure their place.

The Drama Department's trip to the Fortune Theatre to see The Woman In Black for years 11, 12 and 13 Drama, Performing Arts and Theatre Studies Students payment deadline is fast approaching. Please can payment be made by 9am on Monday 7th November to secure their places.

Uniform

Thank you for your support with ensuring that students have the correct uniform. As we move into the colder months students can wear a coat over their blazers. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted in school in place of a coat. Full uniform checks are taking place. Please can we remind you of some key points linked to uniform;

- School shoes should be black leather style shoes not trainers. Leather Vans or any trainers are not allowed.
- Skirts should not be altered or rolled.
- Students are not permitted to have false nails or any type of facial piercing whilst at school.

The dress code can be found at [Uniform Information](#)

If your child has lost an item of uniform or requires a different size then we would like to make you aware that we have a varied amount of Second Hand uniform available in Student Services which is open to Years 9, 10 and 11. Items include; shirts and blouses, skirts and trousers, blazers and PE Kits, all in various sizes.

If you are interested or feel that you need some assistance with uniforms, please contact studentservices@queenelizabeths.com and we will be able to help you. We ask for a small donation, which can be paid via ParentPay, or a swap in items if they are in adequate condition.

Homework Club

Mrs Leach is running a homework club on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in C206. This will be a quiet space for any students to complete homework with help if needed.

Toilets

We encourage all students to use the toilets during break, lunch and lesson changeover time to ensure that they are not missing valuable learning time in lessons. However, we understand that occasionally some students will need to visit the toilet during lessons. This will be logged by teaching staff using SIMS so that we know where students are and also to track any patterns. Whilst this appears under the behaviour section of students within the SIMS app we would like to reassure you that this is not logging any behaviour points.

Vapes/E-Cigarettes

Please can we draw your attention to the following regarding both vapes and E-cigarettes. These items are illegal for under 18's to buy and it is illegal to smoke/vape in all public enclosed and semi enclosed areas and workplaces. As a result these items are banned from school. If students are caught with vapes in their possession or are caught vaping while on the school premises they will be issued a suspension and the vapes confiscated and destroyed. There is also a significant health risk attached to the use of vapes and E-cigarettes. Over the year we will be addressing the impact of vapes and e-cigarettes through our C4L PSHE programme. We ask that you support us by ensuring these items do not find their way into school.

Parent Line 5-19 text message advice line for parents

We are pleased to let you know that the NHS School Nursing Team has launched **ParentLine 5-19**. This is a new live text messaging service for parents of children and young people that may require support with their child/young person's health, wellbeing or development.

This will be available between 9am and 4pm during school term times and a member of the NHS school nursing team will be on hand to provide advice and support. **Please text 07312263131.**

Christmas selection box house challenge

From Monday 14th November, students will be able to donate Christmas selection boxes to their house drop points based at reception in aid of Wimborne Food Bank.



E-Scooters

The local police have asked us to remind families of the following information around the use of E Scooters

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#). Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax. It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized by the police.

Finally I have included below the Wimborne Academy Trust Term Dates for 2023-2024 for your information.

If you have any questions or concerns then please make contact with your child's tutor who will be able to support or direct your concern to the correct member of staff.

Yours sincerely



Katie Boyes
Headteacher

Key Dates

Thursday 10th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 11th November	Remembrance Service at school
w/c Monday 14th November	Year 11 PPE exams (run for 2 weeks)
Wednesday 7th December	Carol Service at Wimborne Minster
Thursday 15th December	Last Day of Term (early finish at 1pm)
Friday 16th December	Staff Training Day - no students in school
Monday 19th December	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 3rd January 2023	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 4th January	First day of term - all students in school
Thursday 5th January	Year 11 Parents Evening (face to face in school)
Thursday 12th January	Year 9 Options Evening
26th, 27th & 28th January	Shrek the Musical Performances
Thursday 2nd February	Year 9 Parents Evening (face to face in school)
13th to 17th February	Half Term
Monday 20th February	Staff Training Day - no students in school
Thursday 23rd February	Year 13 Parents Evening (online)
Thursday 23rd March	Year 11 Parents Evening (online)
Friday 31st March	Staff Training Day - no students in school
3rd to 14th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 17th April	First day of term - all students in school

Communication and Information

The first point of contact for parents in all instances is your child's tutor.

You child's tutor is supported by the Head of House:

- Lancaster: Mr J Mead** jmead@queenelizabeths.com
- Stuart: Mrs T Mynard** tmynard@queenelizabeths.com
- Tudor: Mr C Finean** cfinean@queenelizabeths.com
- Wessex: Mrs G Heighway** gheighway@queenelizabeths.com
- York: Mrs C Taylor-Gallop** ctaylor-gallop@queenelizabeths.com

Our school website contains all of the key information about school and is updated regularly.
www.queenelizabeths.com

We are also using our social media platforms to communicate key dates and events with parents

- Facebook www.facebook.com/qedorset/
- Twitter twitter.com/QESDorset
- Instagram www.instagram.com/qesdorset/

