

TN/kw

5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Start of term letter

Welcome to the new academic year. We have so much to look forward to and I am excited for new and returning students to be part of the journey. I've already been able to spend some time at the school since my appointment as Headteacher in the spring, and would like to thank students, staff and parents for making me feel so welcome.

All of our staff are committed to ensuring that students receive the very best education and opportunities in the year ahead; in this letter, I'll highlight some recent successes, priorities and key dates in the coming weeks and months.

Recent successes

Our summer expedition to Cambodia was a fantastic experience for all of our students and staff involved. They spent four weeks working in local communities meeting some wonderful people and gained important life skills. Our A Level and GCSE exams results saw some significant successes and I hope you enjoyed reading about these and seeing the pictures in the Dorset Echo.

QE News will continue to be published fortnightly; look out for the September edition next week which will showcase all of the fantastic events and activities that have been taking place in the school since the last edition. We also look forward to introducing a year group newsletter which will focus on your child's specific year group and provide you with more information about their curriculum and learning.

Attendance

We firmly believe at QE that academic success and personal wellbeing are supported by effective learning habits and routines. Attendance is the most important of these: evidence shows that if students are not in school then they are simply unable to make as much academic or social progress as their peers. The Department for Education has recently introduced a national attendance framework, and schools are now required to consider a fine (penalty notice) when a pupil has been recorded as absent for ten sessions within ten school weeks. The school day is split into two sessions: one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school. Ten sessions is therefore equivalent to five school days.



There are only a few occasions where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance.

A penalty notice may be given if students are absent in the following circumstances for ten sessions in ten weeks:

1. When the pupil is absent without leave for the purpose of a holiday (Code G)
2. When the circumstances of the pupil's absence have not been established (Code N)
3. When the absence is unauthorised (Code O)
4. When the pupil attended but only after the register closed for the session (Code U). The QE morning registration period ends at 08:55am and students will be marked 'U' if they arrive after 09:30am. or 2:00pm for the afternoon session. Afternoon tutor time begins at 1:50pm.

How to report an absence

We operate a simple method to report your child's absence using our [student absence form](#) which is linked to our website. Please use this for all year groups, we request that an absence is reported before 8am. This can also be used to notify the school of any future appointments that your child may have. Alternatively, please call the main school number on 01202 885233 and press 1 to leave a message.

Report and Support

Our updated [report and support](#) button is accessible on our website. This is for all students in school to complete should they wish to discuss something in confidence with our safeguarding team.

Uniform

A reminder of equipment and some key uniform requirements for years 9-11:

- Black shoes (not trainers)
- Blazer
- Navy skirt/black trousers
- Shirt/blouse
- Tie
- Pencil case (to include pens, pencils, ruler)

Parent Pay

Please contact finance@queenelizabeths.com should you have any questions in relation to your child's parent pay account.

Sims Parent

We recognise that the start of a new school year is a busy time for our parents and you may need assistance with

your child's sims parent app. Please contact simsapp@queenelizabeths.com for any questions or support you may need.

School bus timetables

Please find a link to the most up to date [school timetables](#) which details collection points, times and any changes to routes.

Car park

The sports facility car park at the side of the school should be used to drop off and pick up students. Please be aware that the main car park must be kept free in the morning and afternoon due to the school bus service.

Year 9 homework

After a successful first day for our year 9 students, we wanted to share with you a [video](#) from Ms Detterick on how to support their homework and learning. Further support and content will follow for years 10 and 11.

Key calendar dates this term

Friday 6th September- All students in school

Thursday 19th September- Open Evening 5.30-8pm

Thursday 26th September- Exam Success Evening for years 11 and 13. 4-7pm

Thursday 3rd October- Tutor evening for years 9, 10 and 12. 3.30-6.30pm

Wednesday 16th October- Careers and Apprentice Fair

Monday 28th- Friday 1st November- Half Term

Monday 4th November- Inset Day

Yours sincerely



Mr Thomas Neill
Headteacher