Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Beginning of term notices, September 2026

28th August 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had a good summer. Welcome to those students who are joining us for the first time and welcome back to those returning; I hope that the summer has reinvigorated you and you are ready to make a success of this year. We have been delighted to celebrate the successes of our GCSE and A-level students over the break, the headlines of which can be seen on our website and Bluesky account.

Beginning of term arrangements.

- Tue 1 Sep – staff training day (no students in school)
- Wed 2 Sep – Year 7 and 12 induction day (see separate instructions for those year groups)
- Thu 3 Sep – return to school for all students (school starts at 8.45am); students register in form rooms and normal lessons start from p3 onwards. Details of form rooms are below and will be on display in the canteen.

Form room arrangements

- Year 7 – Q1-3, M1, M2, M7 (mainly English corridor)
- Year 8 – Q7-11, L3 (mainly MFL corridor)
- Year 9 – H5-10 (humanities block)
- Year 10 – H1-4, M9, S16 (mainly humanities block)
- Year 11 – M4, M5, Q4-6, S14 (mainly maths corridor)
- Year 12/13 – S1—18, M3, C1, 6LR (mainly science block)

Attendance requirements

School attendance is a legal requirement. Absence negatively impacts a child's academic potential and performance and denies them the opportunity to interact socially with their peers and build experiences beyond the classroom. All pupils should aim to attend school 100% of the time. Attendance and punctuality continue to be monitored rigorously and as of September, we will maintain the approach from the previous two years, in line with the mandatory guidelines published by the Department for Education. This includes:

- The daily sharing of attendance data with the Department for Education.
- Updated fine rates for unauthorised absence.
- Clear thresholds for penalty notices.
- Clear support and challenge to address any punctuality issues

Term-time holidays will not be authorised. We are obliged to consider issuing a penalty notice to parents if a child misses five days of school due to unauthorised absence. Where attendance or punctuality causes concern, appropriate levels of challenge and support will be implemented. If a child's attendance falls below 90%, they are classed as persistently absent. In such cases, the school will liaise with the Local Authority and an Education Welfare Officer, who may initiate legal proceedings if parents/carers are not meeting their legal obligation to ensure their child attends school. Our priority remains to take a 'support-first' approach, working with students and families to overcome any barriers to attendance.

Parents can continue to monitor their child's attendance and punctuality via EduLink. If you are unable to access this system, please contact Mrs Johnson at dataenquiries@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Behaviour expectations

At Queen Mary's Grammar School, we are proud of the respectful, ambitious and purposeful culture that characterises our community. High standards of behaviour enable our students to thrive academically, develop positive relationships and make the most of the opportunities available to them, both in and beyond the classroom. We are committed to maintaining these high standards in lessons, during educational visits and enrichment activities, and while travelling to and from school.

We ask all students to uphold our CREDIT values and embrace our Atomic Habits (p3), which underpin our expectations for conduct, character and personal responsibility. Atomic Habits are the small actions and routines that, when practised consistently, lead to positive outcomes over time. By focusing on these daily behaviours, we create an environment in which students feel safe, supported and able to achieve their very best.

Over the past year, we have further strengthened our behaviour systems to ensure expectations are clear, consistent and fair for all students. These approaches will continue this year:

- A structured response to classroom disruption. Following a warning and behaviour point, students can expect to receive a Same Day Detention if disruption continues. This helps minimise lost learning time and maintains a positive learning environment for all.
- Where disruption becomes persistent, we implement a range of appropriate consequences alongside targeted support to help students successfully re-engage with school and learning.

We continue to take a clear, consistent and supportive approach to behaviour. While we will always work with students who require additional guidance, we remain unwavering in our commitment to the high standards that define our school community. We greatly appreciate the continued support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations.

Mobile phones and devices

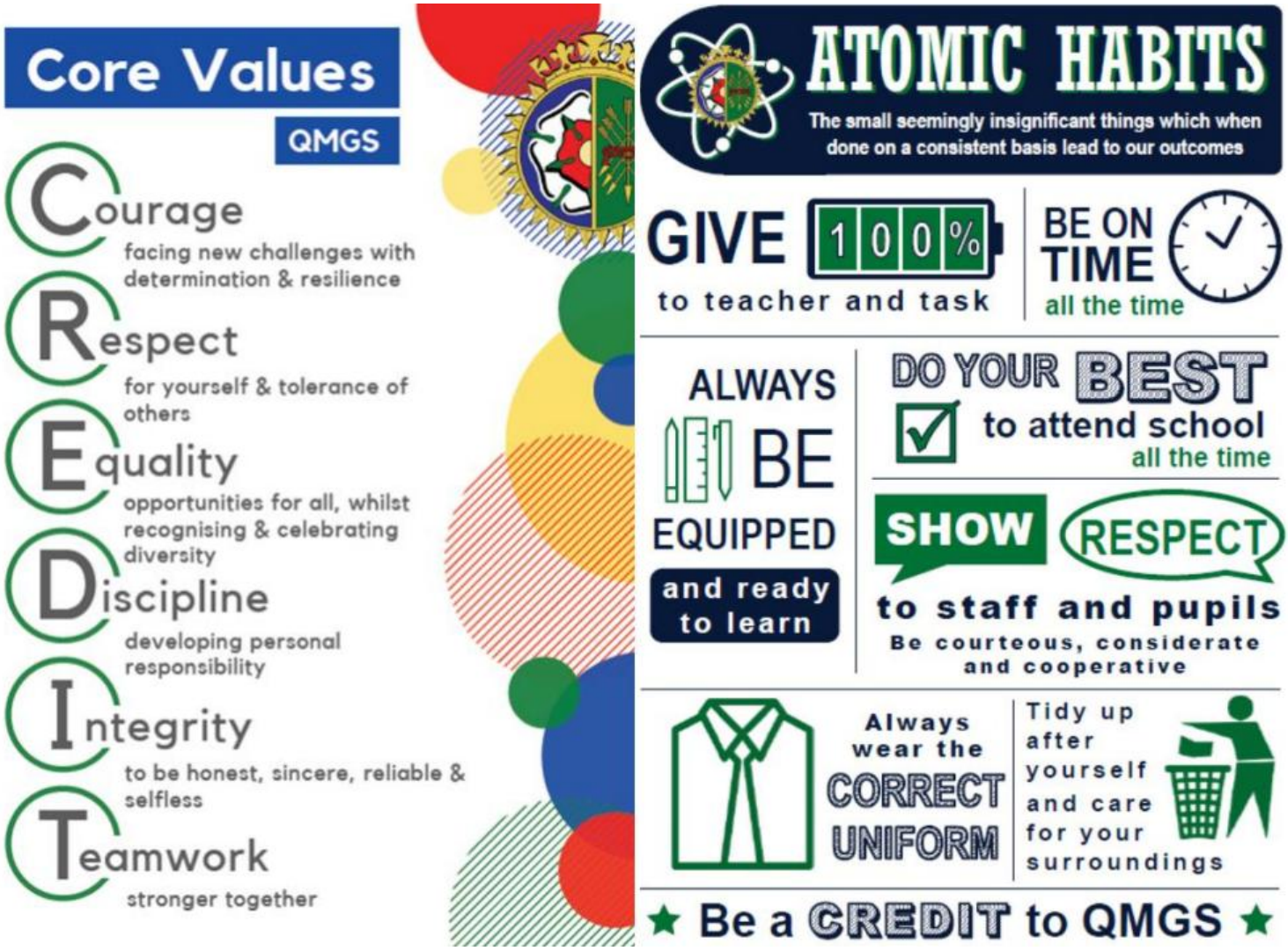
To support learning, concentration and positive social interaction, following DfE guidance, the school now operates a clear "devices away, all day" approach. Mobile phones and other smart devices should be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day, including during lesson changeovers, break and lunchtime. Please refer back to the letter sent to parents in the summer term, which is available on the letters page of our website.

Research consistently shows that reducing access to devices improves focus, engagement and wellbeing. By removing unnecessary distractions, we create an environment where students can fully participate in lessons, build meaningful relationships and engage positively in school life.

Students who choose to bring a smart device into school do so at their own risk and are expected to adhere to these expectations at all times. Any unauthorised use of a device will result in an appropriate sanction and, where necessary, further action to support students in meeting the school's expectations.

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A



Home-School agreement

At QMGS, we believe in providing the best educational experience for our students in an inclusive environment that fosters personal growth and academic success. Staff work incredibly hard to provide the opportunities that your child benefits from. We hope you will support us in your child's journey. We are keen to work in partnership with yourselves and ask that all parents respect the professionalism of staff and are realistic in demands around communications. A copy of the home-school agreement can be found at the end of this letter.

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

School uniform and sportswear

Please remember that all uniform and sportswear should be sourced directly from Clive Mark uniform suppliers. We have worked hard with our suppliers to integrate the new national guidelines on affordable school uniform. Details are available on the School's website or directly from Clive Mark. We do offer a range of support, including pre-loved uniform, for parents whop require this. More information on this and other support can be found on our website.

Parking & Driving around the school site

My Senior Leadership Team are on duty outside the school on Sutton Road at the beginning and end of each school day to keep our children safe. Regrettably that job was made difficult last year due to the dangerous driving and parking of a small but significant number of parents. Similarly the school regularly receives complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking preventing them from accessing their properties, and from others about the poor standard of driving.

May I therefore reiterate the following points which have been made previously on several occasions:

- We encourage students to walk or cycle to school. This sustainable form of travel also promotes health. The school has secure cycle storage facilities
- We strongly encourage use of public transport. We are well served by the local bus network. West Midlands Travel offer good value termly bus passes for students which can be used for any journey, not just for school.
- If you do drive your child to school, you should arrange to drop and collect them away from the school site and let them walk the final part of the journey. This will alleviate the pressure of traffic immediately around the school.
- If parking in the local area you must follow the highway code. Parking on yellow zig-zags, in bus stops, across crossing areas, within 10m of a junction or in front of an entrance to a property are all prohibited. Please show consideration and respect to our neighbours and other road users.
- You must not stop in flowing traffic to allow passengers to get in or out of your vehicle. My staff see this extremely dangerous practice happening daily.
- You should not perform U-turns immediately outside the school as this causes obstruction to other vehicles.

We already work with the Local Authority to promote road safety and sustainable travel amongst our students. You should be aware that we proactively invite the police and parking enforcement teams to visit the school at peak times and issue penalties to drivers who are breaking the law.

I realise that the majority of parents already drive safely and considerately. Unfortunately the behaviour of a significant minority of parents is currently placing the safety of all students and staff at the school at risk. As we enter the darker winter months it is important that this situation is addressed.

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Catering updates

Please see a letter below from our catering partner, Innovate. All price tariffs, menus and other information will be available via the School's website.

There are a few updates/reminders for September:

1. **Free school meals** – the allowance is £2.75 per day and rolls over each day, re-setting at the end of the week. There should be clearer labelling of meal options.
2. **Pre orders** – we would like to encourage greater uptake of pre-orders this year. Students can make their choices up to breaktime and collect their food, without queuing, at lunchtime. Please encourage this, especially for students taking part in lunchtime activities.
3. **Breakfast bagels** – these will continue to be available from 8-8.30am each day in the canteen, free of charge for all students

Dear Parent/Guardian

IMPACT FOOD GROUP

IFG proudly serves over 800,000 students nutritious meals each day. Our award-winning teams are dedicated to serving vibrant, appetising food, freshly prepared on-site using quality ingredients. To enable us to continue doing this, our **meal tariff will be increasing by 3% and Free School Meal Allowance to £2.75** from September 2026. The great news is that we have frozen all our fruit, yoghurt, and salad dish prices for another year. Below, we have outlined some of the cost pressures which have driven this increase.

Food Inflation: We buy British and support our local economy where possible, but due to global unrest, we have seen **food inflation of 3.7% with predictions of food inflation to reach 9% by the end of the year**. The increase is not only in the cost of delivering to our sites but also in the products we purchase. We have robustly negotiated and mitigated with our suppliers, ensuring we maintain quality; however, increases have persisted across all products and ingredients we buy.

Employee Funding & Retention: In April, the **Government increased minimum wage by 4.1%**, a positive move which will ease cost pressures for many of our colleagues. Alongside this, to retain and attract a high standard of leadership, we have increased wages for supervisory and managerial roles. Despite these positive advancements, the combination of these factors has led to significant ongoing cost demands across our industry, many of which we have absorbed.

We continue to seek ways of mitigating the costs associated with these challenges; however, we refuse to compromise on ingredients or service standards. We remain proud to serve a home-cooked main meal and dessert, as well as other options. We truly believe we offer students innovative dishes which rival the high street, whilst providing families with great value for money.

Through partnering with schools, we continue to see more students enjoying our services. Whilst this is great news and tells us our menus are popular with students; we are always looking to encourage more young people to dine with us. If you have any feedback, we would love to hear from you.

We hope you understand our position and that your family can continue to enjoy our services. We remain open and honest about our challenges and will continue to seek your input. Should you wish to discuss this letter, or anything else relating to your catering service, please get in touch.

Kindest regards

Bryan Lygate
Chief Operating Officer

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Future Sport

We have completed phases 1 and 2 of the project, but our main field will remain out of bounds for much of this year, as the grass grows and establishes. We will continue with similar arrangements to last year:

1. The assembly point for fire alarms will be on the QMHS field (next to the main car park). We will hold a drill early in the term
2. There will be a rota for the use of the QMHS field during lunchtimes
3. All rugby during games afternoons and fixtures will take place at Walsall RFC. Students will be walked to the rugby club and dismissed from there. More information will follow from the PE department.

QM experience fund

We launched the QM Experience Fund in 2024 and received a tremendous response over the past 2 years, raising almost £20,000. Added to just under £20,000 raised through the QMA events in 2025-26, this was a terrific boost to the school from the parental/student body and has made a genuine difference to what we can achieve.

As I have written to you about previously, over the past four years, we have been fundraising towards the Future Sport @ QMGS project: an ambitious initiative to revolutionise our facilities for the benefit of our students and the wider community. Any donations to the QM experience fund will initially go towards this, but will support a wide range of other opportunities once we have completed the project. We are still fundraising to pay off the completed phases 1 and 2 (all weather and grass pitches) and will be launching phase 3 (pavilion renovation) this year.

I hope that you will seriously consider making a regular payment to the QM Experience Fund. We are grateful for a regular contribution as it enables us to plan the best ways in which to support our young people. Please follow this link for details of how to set up a standing order to the donations account and a Gift Aid declaration which, if you are a UK taxpayer, will allow us to claim an additional 25% on top of your donations. Alternatively, if you would prefer you can make a one-off annual payment (£75) or termly payments (£25 per term), you can do this via Parent Mail. Please select the 'QM Experience' option.

I am very grateful for the support given to the school from parents. This enables us to provide extra opportunities that are not supported by Government grants. If you have any questions about the fund please contact me at the school, via enquiries@qmgs.merciantrust.org.uk

Lockers and bags

Lockers are again available to rent, but will not be compulsory. For students without lockers, we are requesting that they carry a small plain bag (20 litres), containing only what they need for that day. Parents should have received correspondence directly about renting lockers, but please contact the school if you have any questions.

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Key dates for your diary (autumn 2026)

I have set out a series of key dates below for the first half term. Parents with children in the stated year groups will be written to separately with arrangements for each event. The full school calendar can be found here.

Tue 1 Sep	Staff training day
Wed 2 Sep	Y7/12 induction day
Thu 3 Sep	School opens for all students
Wed 9 Sep	Y7 parent info evening
Thu 10 Sep	Y12 parent info evening
Sat 12 Sep	Entrance exam
Tue 15 Sep	Y10 parent info evening
Thu 24 Sep	RSHE info evening
Sat 26 Sep	QMC dinner
Thu 1 Oct	Y11 parent info evening
Thu 8 Oct	Y13 parents' evening
Wed 14 Oct	Staff training day
Thu 22 Oct	Speech Day
Thu 22 Oct	School closes for half term

Please be reminded that we are implementing the new staff CPD model on week 2 Wednesday afternoons from September. School will finish at 2pm for students on these days. Full details are set out in the 'Consultation Feedback' letter on the 2025-26 letters page of the school website.

Thank you for your support in helping us to provide an exceptional educational experience.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Langton
Headmaster

Queen Mary's Grammar School
Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Home-School Agreement, September 2026

Success at school is based on a successful partnership between school, student and home.
This agreement explains that partnership.
The Value and Ethos of the School are set out on our website:
Queen Mary's Grammar School - Values & Ethos

The Mercian Trust also recognise the importance of home-school relationships and set this out in their Code of Conduct for parents, which can be found here.

SCHOOL

We aim to provide a happy and safe environment in which all members of the school community are encouraged to develop to their full potential. In doing our best to achieve this, we will:

- Provide a broad, balanced and well-taught curriculum to meet the needs of our students
- Have high expectations of attendance, uniform, behaviour, punctuality and attitude
- Take account of any individual special needs our students may have and make reasonable provision so that students feel they are accepted, included, understood and supported
- Set, mark and monitor appropriate work and homework, according to department policies
- Carefully monitor the academic progress of all our students and work with parents to address any concerns
- Ensure a fair and consistent approach to any disciplinary matters
- Keep parents informed about their child's progress and any concerns that affect your child's work, behaviour or welfare
- Provide a wide range of co-curricular activities: we encourage our students to participate fully in school life, to enjoy learning and to develop socially as members of the wider community
- Provide a safe and caring environment, looking after the welfare and well-being of all in our community, and encouraging positive attitudes towards others, in line with the ethos of our core CREDIT values and Atomic Habits
- Provide effective careers advice in support of a successful transition to the world of work

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

PARENTS/CARERS

As part of the partnership with the school, I/we will:

- Support the values and ethos of the school, including encouraging our child to strive for their best and to be actively involved in our community
- Respect all members of the community and be reasonable in expectations (in line with the Mercian Trust's parental code of conduct)
- Ensure that our child strives for 100% attendance at all times, is properly equipped and arrives well-ahead of the start of the school day at 0845
- Inform school of any absence on each day of absence and provide written confirmation by letter or email on their return
- Provide requests for planned absence well in advance (3 days)
- Not book holidays in term time and be aware of the legal responsibilities for school attendance and the School's attendance policy
- Be aware that although students may enter from 08:00 they may not be directly supervised until school starts at 08:45. After school hours, students may only remain on the school site after 16:00 if participating in an organised school activity or at homework club
- Support a healthy lifestyle for my child by encouraging healthy exercise, eating and sleep habits
- Make support that students have digital access in the home environment and communicate with the school if there is an issue with this
- Encourage digital responsibility and be vigilant over online use, using filters and parent restrictions as appropriate
- Support the school rules on mobile phone use, following the "devices away, all day" approach
- Accept that any property brought into school, including mobile phones, are done so at our own risk
- Support the School's Behaviour Policy
- See that my child completes work set, monitor their progress, and support them in their work and organisation
- Ensure that my child wears correct uniform and that all items are clearly and permanently named
- Keep the school informed about any concerns or problems that affect my child and any changes in contact details.
- Work proactively with the school and any external agencies to resolve any issues or facilitate additional support
- Drive safely and considerately in the vicinity of the school and respect the school's neighbours when parking
- Understand there is no access onto the school site for parents except by arrangement

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

STUDENTS

I agree to help my parents and the school. I will:

- Accept the core CREDIT values and Atomic Habits as the basis for how QMGS operates
- Strive for the highest possible attendance and come to school ready to learn in a punctual manner
- Treat all members of the school community with respect and offer help and support to any member of that community that may need it
- Wear correct school uniform, including when travelling to and from school, remembering that I am representing the school to the public
- Arrive at all lessons and activities punctually and with the correct equipment
- Not leave the school site during the school day, unless my parents have signed me out at Reception (sixth form may use the digital sign in/out machines)
- Ensure that a member of staff always knows where I am by attending all lessons, registrations, assemblies and any other directed time
- Make the most of lessons: participate, engage, ask and answer questions
- Take responsibility for my own learning and progress and work hard to achieve my full potential
- Complete all work as directed
- Use Microsoft Teams to record and complete homework set with the support of my parents
- Check school email regularly for updates and information
- Behave responsibly and follow the school's rules and requirements about discipline and behaviour, recognising that this applies in school, whilst travelling to school, whilst on school visits or online
- To follow the school rules on mobile phone use, following the "devices away, all day" approach
- Think about my safety and the safety of others and follow any specific safety rules
- Contribute to the wider school community through involvement in co-curricular activities and school events
- Keep the school environment, including the canteen, clean and tidy
- Keep my bag organised with the things I need for me during the day. Keep it with me throughout the day, or use a locker if I have one.
- Look after any equipment or books issued to me and return them when asked.
- Positively communicate with adults in the school and tell someone if I have a problem
- Not use my phone during the school day unless authorised by a member of staff