



QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018

NEW THIS TERM:

Boarding School Arrangements Booklet
2018/2019

A Guide to Life in this School Community
Booklet 2018/2019

Note from the Head

Travel Info Request form

Diary of Events - Autumn/Winter Term

Rugby Fixtures 2018/2019

Hockey Fixtures 2018/2019

Parent/Teacher Meeting details

Reporting Schedule
2018/2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 21st August -
**AUTUMN/WINTER TERM
BEGINS** - Pupils return by
2000 hours

Wednesday 22nd August -
NEW PUPILS ARRIVE

Saturday 15th September
OPEN MORNING for
prospective pupils and their
families.

Sunday 17th September -
**BATTLE OF BRITAIN PARADE
SUNDAY** - Reviewing Officer
- Wing Commander Mike
Duffy, HQ Air Command

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 5th October

Parent/Teacher Meeting all
year groups 1330 - 1800hrs
**MID TERM BREAK BEGINS -
PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL
SUNDAY 21st OCTOBER**

FORTHCOMING PARADE DATES 2018:

Sunday 28th October -
**BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR
PARADE**

**SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER -
REMEMBRANCE PARADE**

**SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER -
ROOKIES PARADE**

Madison Robb, Senior Monitor 2017/2018
hands over the reins to Josh King, Senior Monitor
2018/2019

GRAND DAY 2018





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NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

There are two major things on my mind as we approach the next academic year.

The first one is the structure of the boarding houses. I'm keen to move to a more 'horizontal' structure where we have Trenchard House as normal, but then boys and girls are able to move to a Junior Boarding House up until the end of S3, before moving on to a Senior Boarding House for S4-S6. There are advantages and disadvantages to both, of course and so I will be opening up a major consultation on the proposed changes in the new term. Any changes we do make will take place from session 2019/20 onwards.

The second issue is prep. I've recently surveyed all students and all staff on how effective our prep system is and it is clear that we need some changes. We want to create autonomous learners, capable of self-motivation and able to work independently on their own. Our current system creates learners who, in the majority of cases, only do prep when we tell them to do it! In other words, many seniors see prep as being only from 19:00 – 20:30 every night when, particularly in the run up to exams, they should be doing a lot more. Again, consultation will take place on that and I am hoping to put some changes in place over the course of the next term. Interestingly, we did some work with a group of boys on this last week and they stated clearly – 'take all our devices away from us and supervise us in a classroom, that's the only way we will do prep'. I'm not certain that's the right solution in the long term but it certainly might work in the short term.

Here is a wee reminder of our arrangements for weekends. Students in S3 and S4 will be allowed day passes to Stirling at the weekend, with parental permission sent to HoMs.

Students in S5 and S6 continue to have the opportunity of day passes to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Students in S3-S6 will be able to travel to and from home on their own, with parental permission sent to HoMs. You should contact me on head@qvs.org.uk if you wish a student in S1 or S2 to travel independently - although the default position is that P7-S2 students should be picked up.

Students in S5 and S6 will be allowed to arrange, in groups, independent trips out for a meal or the cinema etc. on Friday and Saturday evenings, always returning by 10p.m. Again, parental permission must be received by HoMs to allow this.

We continue to move from strength to strength as a community and I'd like to thank you for all your support over the last year.

Donald Shaw
Headmaster



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BOARDING SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS AND A GUIDE TO LIFE IN THIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY BOOKLETS SESSION 2018/2019

These booklets are revised yearly and have recently been issued to parents of new pupils arriving in August. I would remind you of the importance of both of these documents and would urge you to familiarise yourself with them in the company of your son/daughter. In particular may I draw your attention to the following points:

1. All items of clothing/belongings must be clearly labelled and marked with a name and school number.
2. Your son/daughter should arrive back at School with all items required as stated on the lists within the BSA booklet. Please ensure classroom materials are provided.
3. Please note carefully the arrangements regarding pocket money and for handing money and passports over to the Housemaster/Housemistress for safekeeping.
4. Procedures for going out at weekends: school functions, activities and in particular sporting fixtures and Parade Sundays take priority and weekend passes should not be requested if there are other commitments. Requests to miss Saturday morning school should only be made in exceptional circumstances.
5. All P7-S2 pupils going out at weekends must be collected from the House by parents after reporting to the member of staff on duty in the House.

The "Guide to Life" is a very important code of rules as well as explaining aspects of behaviour expected within the School. You will see the section on bullying features prominently. I would be grateful if you were to read over this booklet with your child and go over this section carefully. Other important areas you may wish to cover with your child are the school rules with regards to alcohol, mobile phone and internet use. It is important that we work together and take a strong stand on these issues, which are an increasing problem in today's society. Thank you for your help in all of this.

Donald Shaw, Headmaster

HAIRCUTS AND COLOURS

Pupils should return to school after the holidays with suitable haircuts.

The School will organise a hairdresser to come in before the first weekend to rectify any unsuitable haircuts. Inappropriate hair colour will result in a pupil being given one week to address the issue. If not rectified, then a pupil may be sent home to sort out with immediate effect.

Hair should not be dyed or coloured unnaturally. Hair extensions should not be worn during the school day. Peroxide blond is not acceptable.

No hair should be cut or dyed by the pupils during school time.

During term time, if the colour or style is deemed to be inappropriate, the individual concerned will be sanctioned with a Level One Gating, until the matter is resolved.

Suitability of hair style and colour will ultimately be at the discretion of Deputy Head Teacher (P&G) Please refer to the Boarding School Arrangements, Session 2018/2019 booklet, for more information re dress code and standards of dress.

Thank you for your assistance with this.



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OPEN MORNING -

SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Timings for this event are 0900 for 0930hrs, ending 1200 approximately with a buffet lunch. All prospective parents are invited to attend. If you know of any parents interested and who meet our entry criteria - please pass on this information. Please contact Mrs Macfarlane, Admissions Secretary (0131 310 2927) for more information.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETING, ALL YEAR GROUPS - FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER 1330-1800HRS

Pupils will be issued with a proforma in order to approach their teachers for appointment times. It is important that pupils and parents liaise with each other to ensure that pupils know whether parents are attending or not, which teachers they wish to see and preferred timings. Once proformas are completed, Mrs Morea will post a copy to parents with the set timings.

We would be grateful if parents would adhere to the timings set.

Thank you.

OCTOBER BREAK

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

School closes after breakfast on Saturday 6th October, but pupils may leave from 1300hrs or after the Parent/Teacher Meeting on Friday 5th October. Those pupils who stay overnight on Friday 5th will travel on the first available train or bus on Saturday 6th.

Pupils return to School on Sunday 21st October and should arrive no later than 2000hrs. A meal will be available in School at 1700hrs if required, with supper at 2000hrs. Unless absolutely necessary because of travel arrangements, pupils should not arrive back before the Sunday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS, WHO MUST MAKE APPROPRIATE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS.

WELMET

Welmet are a small, friendly organisation, founded in 1981, ready to meet and escort children whenever necessary. QVS parents have used them successfully in the past. Please find below details of the QVS representative, Mrs Gina Riley

Tel: +44(0) 1243 82333 Mobile: +44 (0) 7958 550368

Email: gina@welmet.co.uk Website: www.welmet.co.uk

END/BEGINNING OF TERMS

Your support is greatly appreciated in adhering to term dates. Early leavers/late returners cause disruption to the general running of House and School. The holidays are generous and family holidays should wherever possible be organised to fit into these dates.

Thank you for your cooperation.

NB: YOUR SON/DAUGHTER MUST SIGN OUT IN THE HOUSE BEFORE LEAVING IN ORDER TO SATISFY ALL SCHOOL PROCEDURES INCLUDING FIRE REGULATIONS.



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RUGBY/HOCKEY

FIXTURES 2018/2019

A copy of the Rugby and Hockey fixtures is attached, up to and including the end of the Spring Term 2019. As mentioned earlier, sporting fixtures do take priority and weekend leave before the end of a fixture should be avoided if your child is involved.

PLEASE NOTE: Venues and times may change but will be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

PLEA FROM P.E. DEPT

Could parents/carers please ensure pupils return to school with correct sports kit.

Pupils should have all of the sports items listed on the clothing list of the Boarding School Arrangements Booklet (page 28). This includes plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms and a plain navy blue hoody that fits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember to let us know of any change of contact details whether it be a change of email address or of mobile phone number. It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details for every parent/guardian, especially in urgent situations. Please email any changes to either: alison.morea@qvs.org.uk or head@qvs.org.uk Many thanks for your assistance with this.

PERMISSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

As per previous correspondence on the matter of approval to photograph etc, we will continue with the working assumption that you are content with this approach unless you advise us NOT to use photographs of your child/children in any publications.

SCHOOL BILLS

When settling the school bill, you should pay the whole amount at the start of each term. The School's preferred method of payment is internet banking. Our bank details are:

**Payee Name: Public Sub Account –
HMG4800 (Queen Victoria School is acceptable)**

Account No: 10027890

Sort Code: 60-70-80

N.B. This is a new account and the old details must NOT be used.

Should you have any problems with settling the full amount, please contact the Finance Office on 0131 310 2905/2914/2994, in the first instance. Alternatively, you can email the team on admin.office@qvs.org.uk

Parents/guardians with outstanding school bill amounts are requested to settle them immediately, unless an alternative payment plan has been agreed in accordance with the School's debtor policy.

PAYMENTS OF ADDITIONAL POCKET MONEY /ADDITIONAL ITEMS

When paying for any additional pocket money or items not included in the school bill, parents/guardians should pay the sum direct to the appropriate boarding house via cheque. These additional amounts should not be added to any school bill settlement and should not be paid through internet banking.



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PARADE SUNDAYS

Forthcoming Parade Sundays are as stated earlier and all pupils are expected to be at School on those Sundays for the Pipe Band/Highland Dancing before the Service, Chapel itself and the Parade immediately after Chapel. Parking at School is difficult on Parade Sundays and the square outside Trenchard House should be utilised where possible.

END OF TERM AND END OF HALF TERM LESSON AND TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Taught lessons will end at the following times:

October - 1110 Friday

December - after Christmas concert c.11am

February - end of Period 6, Friday, ie 1625

March - 1110 Friday

June - lunchtime Thursday; please note that Grand Day is the following day.

PLEA FROM MATRONS RE PERSONAL LAUNDRY & FOOTWEAR

Matrons would like to remind you that ALL items of clothing need to be named. Staff are not responsible for personal clothing, which needs to be named, and to be claimed once laundered. Personal items laundered are done so at owners' risk and unclaimed/unnamed clothing will be donated to charity shops as there is no capacity to store in Houses. Wardrobe space is limited in rooms so please set a limit on the items of clothing brought back to school. Could we also ask that clothing needing specialist cleaning not be brought to School, and lastly, could you please ensure your child is sent back to school with footwear for going to and from the showers. Many thanks for your help with all of this.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nolwenn Rebbilard returns to France after a year as Foreign Language Assistant, and in Trenchard House. We thank Nolwenn for all of her hard work.

Mr Porter retires from his post as Teacher of Computing and Mr Smith leaves us to take up a new appointment. We wish both of them good luck in the future.

We welcome Mr Lewis McGeechan as our newly appointed Teacher of Computing and Ms Kirsty Taylor as our newly appointed Teacher of Spanish.

RULES ON USAGE OF PERSONAL AND QVS ICT EQUIPMENT

This Agreement is signed by pupils in School, and kept on file here. If you would like to see the Agreement, please refer to the Boarding School Arrangements booklet page 36.

***BEST WISHES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SUMMER 2018
BREAK. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING PUPILS BACK ON
TUESDAY 21ST AUGUST, AND OUR NEW INTAKE ON WEDNESDAY
22ND AUGUST.***