



# QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

## NEW THIS TERM:

Note from The Headmaster  
Note from The Academic Deputy Head  
Arrangements for end of this term  
Travel Info Request Form  
Supported Study Timetable  
SCIS Personal Accident  
Insurance for Pupils &  
members of staff

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember to let us know of any change of contact details - day/evening telephone numbers, mobile numbers and email addresses. It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details for every parent/guardian, especially in urgent situations. People who live outside Scotland MUST appoint a 'guardian' (family member or trusted friend) in Scotland for their child. Please also let us have their updated contact details. Please email any changes to [alison.nicolson@qvs.org.uk](mailto:alison.nicolson@qvs.org.uk) or [head@qvs.org.uk](mailto:head@qvs.org.uk)  
Many thanks for your help which will ensure communication between families and the school is as efficient as possible.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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

### Reviewing Officer:

Rear Admiral R Lockwood  
CB

Sunday 11th November -  
**REMEMBRANCE PARADE  
SUNDAY** -

### Reviewing Officer:

Major C B Innes  
(late Black Watch)  
Morning Music 1015  
Chapel Service 1050  
followed by Whole School  
March Past & Salute

Sunday 2nd December -  
**ROOKIES' PARADE** - 1030  
hrs followed by Chapel  
service involving all  
Primary 7 pupils.

Friday 14th December -  
**END OF TERM.**

Term will end with a  
Christmas Concert in the  
Chapel from 0930 - 1100hrs.  
Pupils are free to leave  
after this event. Family  
members are very welcome.

## FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 8th Jan - **SPRING  
TERM BEGINS**

Friday 8th February - **MID  
TERM BREAK BEGINS** -  
**PLEASE NOTE LESSONS END  
1625**

Sunday 17th February -  
Mid-term break ends, pupils  
return

## FORTHCOMING PARADE DATES 2019:

Sunday 3rd March  
Sunday 5th May  
Grand Day 28th June  
Sunday 15th September -  
Battle of Britain  
Sunday 6th October - Battle  
of Trafalgar  
Sunday 10th November -  
Remembrance  
Sunday 1st December -  
Rookies'

## PERMISSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

As per previous correspondence re 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.



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## NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are on our half-term break already – it feels like the academic year has only just started. Our new students have settled in remarkably well this year; they appear to be a strong and confident group of youngsters, with many reading at chapel already, led by the first student to do so, Alexia McIlwraith. Seeing the Primary 7 students up in the pulpit has also been good for the S1 girls, who have responded by doing many readings too – both groups are putting the older students to shame with their confidence and enthusiasm for getting involved in chapel every morning.

There has been lots happening throughout the first half term – the Rugby and Hockey teams have been in action, with some good results to show for their efforts. Some younger hockey players have had the opportunity of 'stepping up' to join the top teams and have given a great account of themselves at the highest level. It's also been good to have a boy in the hockey team this year and I'd encourage more boys to take up Hockey and more girls to take up Rugby – QVS is a place for equality on all fronts.

Students have also been working with Scottish Opera, culminating in a recent concert at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow – they have been ably led by Mr Breingan, who has given up lots of time to ensure this project has led to positive experiences for all.

Mrs Adams and a team of three students had the opportunity to meet Princess Anne at Strathcarron Hospice in the last week of term; students were chosen based on their own fundraising exploits and all enjoyed the experience. QVS has been involved in several big events for the local community as well this term, most notably in a Dementia Friendly event and the annual Contact the Elderly afternoon tea, which we hosted in Wavell House this year. Students have also volunteered at the Dunblane centre and always make a good impression on others.

We were proud to take part in the Commemoration ceremony for James Palmer Huffam VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his brave actions on 31 August 1918. Exactly 100 years later, this was marked by the unveiling of a memorial in the centre of Dunblane; one of our students led the Colour Party and our band and dancers gave a stirring display in Victoria Hall.

I'll finish with a note on our exam results this year. The Scottish Government now focus on 'end-point' statistics – exam results when a student leaves school – and our end-point statistics were absolutely superb, in some cases more than doubling the national average. As an example, 63% of our leavers left with 5 Highers or more, compared to a national average figure of 30%. We are not all about Higher results though, and we have introduced new pathways through the Senior Phase, in order to meet the needs of more learners.

I hope you are enjoying the October break and I'm sure we will all have a very positive term ahead.

With best wishes,

Donald Shaw  
Headmaster



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## ROOKIES' PARADE

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2018

The Rookies Parade and Chapel Service will take place on Sunday 2nd December. Tea & coffee will be available in Central Hall afterwards. Family and friends are warmly invited.

NB no parking on the Chapel Square 2nd December.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please note the format for the end of this term. On the last day of term (14th December) there will be a Christmas Concert in the Chapel from 0930-1100hrs - pupils will be free to leave thereafter. Family members are very welcome.

School resumes on Tuesday 8th January and pupils should return no later than 8pm that evening (P7 pupils by 7pm please)

## END/BEGINNING OF TERMS

Your support would be 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.

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

Thank you for your cooperation with this.





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## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have several new members of staff who joined us at the start of this academic year. We welcomed Mrs Taylor, teacher of Spanish and Melissa Wright, Modern Language's Department Assistant. We also welcomed Mr McGeechan as teacher of Computing. Ms Phipps has reduced to a three day working week in preparation for retirement. Mrs Jill Adams has taken on the role of Acting Dep Head Pupil Support on the remaining two days, and Mrs Borthwick has joined the English department to cover Mrs Adams absence from there.

It will be time soon to say goodbye to our 2018 GAP student - Kate. We thank Kate for the support, energy, cheerfulness and commitment that she has brought to QVS, and wish her every success in the future.

## YOUNG SCOT CARD

In the past, Young Scot representatives have visited Queen Victoria School in order to set up cards for our incoming Primary 7 pupils. At the same time they also dealt with replacement cards/outdated photos. Unfortunately they no longer offer this service and no longer come out to schools.

Young Scot cards can be arranged by calling into Wolfcraig, Dumbarton Rd, Stirling or you can find information about making an application on the Young Scot website.

Although this facility is no longer available at school, we would encourage pupils to apply as this is a very useful card to have.

## SCHOOL BILLS

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

Payee Name: Queen Victoria School

Account No: 02019219

Sort Code: 30-00-02

**PLEASE NOTE: WITH EFFECT FROM 26 OCT 2016 NO PAYMENT CAN BE PAID FROM THIS ACCOUNT AND WILL CHANGE TO THE FOLLOWING WHEN MAKING A PAYMENT FROM 1 NOV 16:**

Payee Name: Public Sub Account - HMG 4800

Account No: 10027890

Sort Code: 60-70-80

Should you have any problems with settling the total amount due, please contact our School Finance & Business Manager, Nigel Cunningham, on 0131 310 2902 as soon as possible. Alternatively, Nigel can be e-mailed on [admin.office@qvs.org.uk](mailto:admin.office@qvs.org.uk)

Parents/guardians with outstanding school bills are requested to settle these straight away, unless an alternative payment plan has been agreed with the School.

## PAYMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL POCKET MONEY AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

When paying for pocket money and miscellaneous items additional to those included in the school bill, parents/guardians are requested to pay the child's boarding house pocket money account direct, with a cheque made payable to the relevant boarding house. Additional amounts volunteered should not be added to the settlement of the main school bill, and should not be paid by internet banking.



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## NOTE FROM THE ACADEMIC DEPUTY HEAD,

On completing my first full year as Academic DHT, I'm not quite sure who was more nervous about the exam results in August - the pupils or me. However, I am delighted to report that they were extremely pleasing with our S6 Leavers' End Point statistics being particularly impressive. In addition, the S5 5+ Highers have slowly been on the increase over the past few years and continued to improve with the highest percentage in recent history.

In order to continue to improve academic attainment at the school there will be several opportunities for those in the senior phase to engage with additional support. Firstly, supported study will be run Monday - Thursday evenings (time-table attached) by Teaching Staff. This is an opportunity for students to consolidate previous learning with the help of their teacher, to seek help with new work and also to collaboratively work with their peers. In addition to supported study there are several subject specific revision classes running during lunch-times and after school. These are not compulsory; however, those who do attend are gaining the benefit of revising with their class teacher and focussing on specific development needs.

We have also been running supervised prep since the beginning of term. Myself and other members of the SLT supervise prep in the teaching block from Monday-Thursday. This helps pupils who find it difficult to concentrate in their rooms and, therefore, not completing prep to the best of their ability. After the recent round of tracking results additional students will be 'invited' to attend, to assist them in keeping focus for the duration of prep and producing a better standard of prep.

Working in conjunction with the Tutoring system we also have an Academic Mentoring programme running for pupils in the senior phase. This was extremely successful last year and with staff, pupils and parents on board it seems to be making an impact on those we feel would benefit from the programme.

Mentors will meet with the students at least 5 times per year, giving advice and support as well as a gentle push in the right direction when required.

In the Broad General Education there are several Departments who have chosen to teach single gender classes. This was trialled in English (S2) and Maths(S3) last year and was found to be very popular by both staff and students alike. The students felt that they were more confident when answering in class and able to maintain greater focus.

This term sees the restriction of mobile phones in the Teaching Block come into force. I strongly believe this can only be of benefit to all of our pupils - though I don't think pupils are quite so sure! The mobile phone policy has been sent to you by email.

Could I please remind you to ensure your child comes back to school fully equipped with the stationary required for effective learning. There is a comprehensive list of the items required in the Boarding School Arrangements booklet. We are finding it increasingly more common that pupils are not prepared for class, which obviously lessens teaching time. It would, therefore be much appreciated if your child, no matter what year, had a full pencil case, calculator (preferably Casio) and a schoolbag on returning from the October Holiday.

I hope you have an enjoyable break with your child/children.

Kind Regards

Janette Scott Laing



# QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR END OF THIS TERM



**Sunday 2nd December** – following the Rookies' Parade, there will be a Chapel Service involving all Primary pupils. Rookies' Parade begins at 1030, Chapel is at 1100. Family and friends are warmly invited. Tea/coffee will be served in Central Hall thereafter.

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**Sunday 9th December** – there will be no morning service in Chapel, but instead a candle-lit service of readings and Carols at 1830hrs.

Families are warmly invited to attend the service and to stay for mince pies in Wavell House afterwards.

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**Tuesday 11th December** - The Primary Department Christmas Musical will take place in the school Theatre at 1020hrs.

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**Wednesday 12th December** - Junior Christmas Dinner & Ceilidh.

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**Thursday 13th December** – Senior Christmas Dinner followed by rehearsal for the Christmas Concert 1930-2030hrs.

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**Friday 14th December** - As last year, there will be a Christmas Concert in the Chapel from 0930-1100hrs - pupils will be free to leave thereafter. Family members are very welcome.

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\*We look forward to seeing you towards the end of term if you are able to be with us. \*



**HAPPY HALF-TERM BREAK,  
EVERYONE**