



QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

NEW THIS TERM:

Note from the Headmaster

Travel Info Request form - Summer 2019

Diary of Events - Summer Term

Parent/Teacher Meeting details -
Friday 24th May

Exam timetable/
SQA Study Leave arrangements
and permission form
(S4/S5/S6)



We give gratitude for the Centenary Bench pictured above, which was commissioned in Belfast and paid for by over 50 Old Victorians to commemorate the fallen 17 Victorians from WW1.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 23 April - **SUMMER TERM BEGINS** - Pupils return by 2000 hours

Sunday 28 Apr -
CCF Beating Retreat Rehearsal, Redford Barracks

Sunday 5 May -
PARADE SUNDAY - Inspecting Officer: Major G M Rowan, Director of Army Bagpipe Music

Sunday 19 May - **CCF Beating Retreat Rehearsal, Redford Barracks**

Wednesday 22 May -
Drill & Turnout Competition Dress Rehearsal 1800hrs

Thursday 23 May -
Combined Bands CCF Beating Retreat, Holyrood Palace

Friday 24 May -
**Parent/Teacher meeting for P7 & S1 1430-1630hrs.
Drill & Turnout competition P7-S3 inclusive - 1800hrs
parents/guardians welcome**

Sat 25 & Sun 26 May -
Sleep-in weekend - no Chapel

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

W/c Mon 3 June - **Activity Week (P7-S3)**

W/c Monday 3 June - **Work Experience Week (S4)**

Friday 28 June - **GRAND DAY & END OF SUMMER TERM**

Tue 20 August -
AUTUMN/WINTER TERM BEGINS - Pupils return by 2000 hrs

Wednesday 21 August -
New intake arrive

FORTHCOMING PARADE DATES 2019:

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER - BATTLE OF BRITAIN

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER - BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER - ROOKIES



QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

John Swinney visit

On Wednesday 9th January 2019, we were delighted to welcome Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education in the Scottish Parliament, Mr John Swinney to QVS. He was welcomed by a performance from our Pipers, Drummers and Dancers and was very impressed with the high quality of the performers on show. Ben, Rachel, Rhys, Chris and Sam played the Pipes and were ably supported by Cameron and Alex on the drums. They were joined by Leoni, Mirren, Mackenzie and Irena, who gave an outstanding display of dancing. Mr Swinney then answered questions from four students who are studying Higher Modern Studies. Christian, Alex, Josh and T-Beau quizzed him on subjects ranging from Brexit to the new National Qualifications available in Scotland. He was even asked about the future of QVS in the event that Scotland became independent. He also heard from the students on the positive impact QVS has made to their young lives, including the importance of stability in their education and the high level of individualised support they have received.

After a meeting with the Head and Chair of HMC, Mr Swinney was very much in favour of helping to achieve increased collaboration between QVS other Scottish schools.

Mental Health First Aid Training

13 staff have now been fully training in dealing with Mental Health First Aid. This is an area of increasing significance at QVS and to have so many staff give up a full weekend in January to be trained in this area was superb.

Links with the Dunblane Centre

Expanding on our Friday night provision, we now have links with the Dunblane Centre which allows a number of our students to attend as Volunteers at the Youth Club on Friday night.

Ski trip

Mr McLay and his team ran a highly successful ski trip to Aosta during the February break. Mr Gilhooly and the CCF team have an extraordinarily high numbers of applicants for next year. The PE trip runs again in February 2021.

Date changes in 2020

A reminder that, in 2020, we are reducing the Easter holiday to 2 weeks in order to get students back earlier to prepare for exams. This will mean Grand Day is a week early in the summer, on June 19th 2020. Grand Day 2019 is on Friday June 28th.

Revision

Revision for S4-S6 students – all examination students should be working very hard over the Easter break but some students struggle to create a revision timetable – the easiest way to help them with this is simply to ask them to revise following their school timetable. When they normally have Maths, study Maths. When they have English, study for English. This leaves plenty of time for breaks and all their evenings would be free for relaxation and socialising.

I hope everyone has a great term and best of luck to all those taking SQA exams.



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EXAM LEAVE/SCHOOL ENGAGEMENTS

If your child is required for a School engagement - sport or band - then exam leave will need to be cut short and he/she will be expected to return to School. As always, we thank all of our team and band members for their commitment.

EVE OF GRAND DAY SUMMER CONCERT

The end of session Summer Concert will take place on Thursday 27 June at 6.45pm and will be held in the Chapel. All parents and carers are warmly invited.

GRAND DAY ARRANGEMENTS

All parents are invited to attend the Prize-giving Ceremony in the morning as well as the Parade in the afternoon. We would like to remind parents that the whole school is expected to attend the Prize-giving and NO pupil should be outside the marquee after 9.50am. Everyone must be seated by 10am. If you are not attending Prize-giving, please avoid the area around the Marquee while the Prize-giving is in progress. Thank you.

The format for Grand Day is as follows:

9.50am - Parents, guests and the whole School seated

10.00am - Prize-giving

2.00pm - Parade

Time may be fairly tight and it is regretted that we do not have catering facilities for lunch for everyone. However, if you would like to bring a picnic, you are welcome to use the School grounds. In addition, the School caterers will be providing a cafeteria service in the CCF building where snacks can be purchased from 11am onwards.

Parents unable to come to the Prize-giving may wish to attend the Parade along with relatives/friends. Those attending are asked to be seated prior to the Parade.

We should like to remind everyone that any pupil found to be out of their Houses during the night/early morning before Grand Day will not be allowed to take part in the Grand Day Parade. We very much hope, however, that lessons have been learned by the necessity to invoke such sanctions in previous years.

NB: YOUR SON/DAUGHTER MUST SIGN OUT IN THE HOUSE BEFORE LEAVING IN ORDER TO SATISFY ALL SCHOOL PROCEDURES INCLUDING FIRE REGULATIONS. PUPILS IN YEAR GROUPS P7-S3 INCLUSIVE SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM AND RETURNED TO HOUSES BY PARENTS / CARERS.

HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE REMINDER

Please remember that the School Medical Centre needs 6 weeks' notice for holiday immunisations. A travel form can be downloaded from the Dunblane Medical Practice Website:
dunblanemedicalpractice.co.uk

This can be completed and returned directly to the Practice at Well Place, Dunblane, FK15 9BQ. Please ensure the 'home address' is completed as Queen Victoria School.



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STAY SAFE IN THE SUN ... YES, EVEN IN SCOTLAND!

Spring has finally arrived and with that in mind, can we please ask that you sit down with your son/daughter and explain the dangers of not protecting their skin in the sun and ensure that they return to school at the start of the summer term with the following items:

Sun cream ~ Hat ~ Sun glasses

If you would like further information about this there are many websites you can access for information, such as The Teenage Cancer Trust. The web address is below.

<https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/support-us/spread-word/sunburn-stay-safe-sun>

SUMMER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Summer Term 2019 ends after Grand Day, Friday 28 June.

Pupils going home after Grand Day may do so after the Parade ends.

Pupils who are staying at School overnight on 28 June should make arrangements to travel no later than Saturday 29 June.

Parents are asked to forward any travel tickets/documentation for safekeeping to the School, along with the enclosed travel info request form, by no later than Wednesday 5 June.

Autumn Term 2019 begins on Tuesday 20 August. Pupils should return no earlier than 2pm as House staff will be involved in In-Service training, and no later than 8pm (7pm for P7 pupils). A meal will be available in School at 5pm with supper at 8pm.

New pupils arrive at School on Wednesday 21 August.

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

LAUNDRY PLEA

Personal clothing is the responsibility of each pupil, and we have a vast amount of laundered items that are un-named and unclaimed. We do not have the storage facilities to hold on to these items for any length of time, and so unnamed and unclaimed laundry has been donated to local charity shops recently.

Could you please remember to name or add a school number to your child/children's personal clothing or encourage them to do so to help alleviate this problem. Thank you.

HAIR CUTS & COLOURS

Generally our pupils are reasonable and understand that the Ceremonial aspects of QVS life demand a conventional hairstyle and hair colour. Occasionally, however, we find that pupils return to School after a holiday with an unnatural hair colour or without having their hair cut. We would ask that you support and encourage your sons and daughters to respect the requirements, and ensure that they have an acceptable haircut before returning to School. Hair must be worn off the collar when in Ceremonial uniform. Thank you for your support in this.



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MENTAL HEALTH

Here at QVS we have begun a journey this year to support the Mental Health of everyone at QVS in a more visible way - through training staff and students in Mental Health First Aid and appointing a team of Mental Health champions to help stamp out stigma, and open up conversations about emotional wellbeing in a more positive way.

Some of our Mental Health Champions pictured above, supporting 'Time to Talk Day 2019' on 7th February - a day when everyone was encouraged to have a conversation about mental health.

Below, Scottish Mental Health First Aid Certificates were awarded to 13 members of staff on completion of an in-house Mental Health First Aid weekend course held on the 19/20 January.

Well done to everyone who recognises and supports such an important initiative.



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

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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QV PUPILS SHINE - AGAIN!

On Sunday 24 March, pupils from the MAD group willingly gave up their Sunday afternoon to host a #MarchMatinee and Daffodil Tea for the Senior Citizens of Dunblane. This ties in with the Inter-generational work they have been doing with #AlzheimersAwareness #DementiaFriendlyDunblane and the #BraeportMemoryCafe within the local community.

Currently all of S3 and S5 are trained Dementia Friends and by September we have planned that all of S4-S6 will have this qualification. Many of our guests have no family nearby and absolutely loved being entertained by such convivial hosts. Well done to everyone who supported and took part in this event.

#MakeADifference



SPONSORED WALK

Following on from the success of last year's sponsored walk where £870 was raised for Scottish Autism, the P7 to S3 pupils will be taking part in another walk this year. The walk will form part of the Activity Week and take place on Friday 7th June. The pupils will set off in their tutor groups with their tutor and complete the walk in around two to three hours.

This year, the S6 pupils have chosen the Scottish Association for Mental Health, known as SAMH, to benefit from the proceeds of our sponsored walk. SAMH currently "operate over 60 services in communities across Scotland providing mental health social care support, homelessness, addictions and employment services, among others". They also provide national programmes to influence positive social change such as See Me, respectme and suicide prevention.

As always, the pupils and school appreciate your support and we would be grateful if you could help us seek sponsorship for the event and for this worthwhile cause. Please share our Just Giving website with family, friends and work colleagues to help us raise as much as possible for SAMH.

The Just Giving page is available at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/queenvictoriaschool.