

Monday 21st October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy half term everyone and what an exceptional half term it has been. It is hard to believe eight weeks have already passed us by.

I have two personal highlights from the last half term. October has become a significant month for our school; a month in which we explore and celebrate the diverse fabric of our school and our community underpinned by Black History Month. The month has culminated in the amazing work we have done to raise awareness of our local foodbank. Our school community came together and collected over 1000 items which were then delivered by staff and students. We also celebrated 'Hello Yellow', a campaign to raise awareness of how we all need to look after our mental health.

We return on Monday 4th November, to a busy schedule of learning and celebration. We will be marking Remembrance Day with a minute's silence, and we will sell poppies in school. We will, of course, also celebrate Children in Need and Diwali. Use the front page of our website as a great way to follow our news from Instagram as well as our in school new stories. <u>Queensbridge - Home</u>

Crucially, we also enter a busy period of mock exams for year 11. I would remind you that key dates are always on our website, including the year 11 progress evening on Thursday 21st November and the school. <u>Queensbridge - Calendar</u>

Congratulations to the vast number of students who have been in school every day and on time this half term. As mentioned in the recent Attendance letter, the winter months often bring more coughs and colds, and it is important we all play our part in doing everything we can to keep well. We are aware there are times when students are unable to be in, either through illness or unavoidable medical appointments, and we appreciate everything families do to keep us updated on these occasions. Please do contact your child's Head of Year if you require support around attendance.

As a school that champions the Arts and sports, I am excited to announce that we will hold a piano recital on Monday 25th November from 5:00 to 6:00pm. This is a new performance opportunity to try and provide a time for our many students who have piano lessons both in and outside of school to perform.

Another key date for your diaries is our Christmas concert which will be held on Thursday 19th December. This concert is always one of my favourites as it really will help us all get into the Christmas spirit.

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Pre-loved uniform

As always, we endeavour to do all we can to support our families and community. Last year we began to collect and sell pre-loved uniform with all proceeds going to the student leadership body who then directed these funds to subsidise the summer trip to the beach.

As this was so successful and we have a demand, we will continue to create opportunities for families to donate their preloved uniform, which we will then sell on, again with student leaders directing where the proceeds are spent. Drop off your old, washed uniform on Thursday 21st November between 4:00pm – 4:45pm into reception.

We will run a pre-loved sale on Monday 25^{h} November and Thursday 19^{h} December - further details to follow.

Easy Fundraising

I also encourage you all to click the link below and join easy fundraising – a great, easy, and free way to support us in school. I will work closely with students to ensure you are always informed on how much we raise and where the students wish this money to be spent. Easy fundraising is free to download, and the money raised will go directly to students and activities for students. Please do make time to download this app. easy fundraising

<u>EDULINK</u>

Please take your time over the Christmas break to check your child's details on Edulink and make sure everything is up to date, including any allergies or medical conditions. If you are not accessing EduLink please contact your child's Head of Year as soon as possible. EduLink contains essential information about your child's education and school experience, including recognition, attendance, and behaviour. We will soon be making a parent's guide available to support all parents/carers accessing all aspects of EduLink that are available.

HAPPY, SAFE HALLOWEEN/BONFIRE NIGHT – REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

Stronger Together | Letters Home (queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)

Free Family-Friendly Events During Half-Term at the Midlands Arts Centre

The ESRC Festival of Social Science is an annual UK-wide celebration of the social sciences. This year, the University of Birmingham is hosting a programme of free events from Monday 21st October to Monday 11th November 2024.

Events of Interest to Families:

- 'Eco-Explorers AI Empowered Green Adventures: Recycling, Upcycling and Consumption
- Responsible Digital Sharing: Creating Digital Artefacts

These events will take place during half-term at the Midlands Arts Centre, located in the family-friendly Cannon Hill Park, on the afternoon of Monday 28 October.

For more information about the events and their schedules, please visit: <u>ESRC Festival of</u> <u>Social Science - University of Birmingham</u>

Have a wonderful half term holiday.

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Yours sincerely Mr Singh Headteacher

Important Dates for the Autumn Term		
Monday 28 th October to Friday 1st November 2024		Half Term Holiday: School closed
Thursday 21 st November 2024	4:45pm to 7:15pm	Yr11 Progress Evening (online)
Monday 25 th November	5:00 to 6:00pm.	Piano recital
Friday 29 th November 2024	School Closed	TTD
Thursday 19th December 2024	tbc	Christmas Concert
Monday 2nd to Wednesday 18 n December 2024		Yr11 Mock Exams
Monday 23 rd December to Friday 3 rd January 2025		Christmas Holiday: School closed
You can always access the school calendar on the website; look under parents/school calendar.		