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Support. Believe. Achieve.

# Queen Elizabeth High School



"QEHS's priority is to provide our students with an environment in which they can be happy, secure and comfortable which will enable them to achieve success".

Mr M Farmer, Headteacher

# Welcome to our school

As a small rural comprehensive school Queen Elizabeth High School provides a caring and supportive environment which allows students to flourish and achieve well whatever their talents may be. Students conduct themselves with diligence and integrity and are rightfully proud of the school.

Our students progress well from their relative starting points as a result of hard work and high expectations, securing outcomes that enable them to progress successfully to further education or training.

In an ever changing society and economy, it is our responsibility to ensure we prepare our young people so that they can enjoy secure, successful and happy futures. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and even though a small school, our students have access to a full range of subjects from both academic and vocational fields of study.

Our students have a sense of belonging and know that their views and opinions are valued. They understand that in order to be successful the school must work together as a community, and in turn support the wider community beyond the school.

Our extensive and extremely attractive grounds provide a superb environment further enriching the calm and purposeful nature of the school. You are invited to visit the school by appointment at any time, we look forward to welcoming you.

Mr M Farmer

Headteacher BEd (Hons), NPQH





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"Teachers have clear expectations of what pupils can achieve, and effectively plan their lessons to provide challenge and support for pupils."

HMI Ofsted

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"Pupils respond positively to work that meets their learning needs, and a studious working environment exists. Teachers use questioning with great effect to challenge and support pupils."

HMI Ofsted

# Our Values and Vision

At QEHS we believe that creativity, aspiration and dedication are vital components of lifelong learning, enabling and empowering our students to reach their full potential. We nurture creativity and imagination throughout the school curriculum to help students discover the world, solve problems and visualise the future. Aspiration is a key component of a successful student, a commitment to aiming high is assured. We want our students to believe that they can be successful and achieve above and beyond their potential. Our standards are high so that our students appreciate the need for hard work and commitment.

We also firmly believe that a good education is the right of every young person who walks through our doors. It is our responsibility to ensure that we do everything within our power to make this a reality.

Our students are part of a house, Griffin, Pegasus or Phoenix, where they learn to work together to grow and develop into good citizens.

We want our students to leave us as well-rounded individuals, capable of making their future a reality and aware of their responsibilities to society as a whole.

# Care, Guidance and Support

Student welfare is central in ensuring our students are happy at QEHS. Our range of support services and close links with many outside agencies help ensure our pastoral care is of a high standard.

On entry to Year 7, students are placed within a vertical tutoring system where form groups are made up of students from across years 7-8. This helps to ensure that they settle into life at QEHS as they access the support that comes from fellow students.

The Form Tutor is an integral part of the pastoral support at QEHS. Often they are the first person a student will approach if they need to talk. Form Tutors know their students well and are able to give them valuable advice and direction when needed.

QEHS is well supported by outside agencies working with us to ensure the well-being of students. With regular access to all the main support mechanisms and structures, help is never far away, making sure that the safety and welfare of every student at QEHS is always our number one priority.



"Very quickly we felt we had made the right choice for our son in choosing a small school which helped him to settle into high school life."

Parent – Year 7 2016-2017





#### Curriculum

Our curriculum reflects our commitment to traditional values with our students able to follow a broad range of academic subjects, but allows for those that see their interests lie elsewhere.

Throughout their time at QEHS, students are given the opportunity to maximise their potential in English and Mathematics where they will follow an increased number of lessons, ensuring they have a firm foundation as they go forward to those key GCSE examinations. In addition to English and Mathematics, our Key Stage 3 students will also study Science, Physical Education, History, Geography, a Modern Foreign Language (currently French), Art, Music, Computer Studies, Food Technology, Resistant Materials, Drama and Religious Education.

Our students entering Key Stage 4 will make their option choices in the spring of Year 9. All students will have free choice across a range of GCSE qualifications alongside their core entitlement of English, Mathematics, Physical Education and Science. Students can continue their pursuit of the Arts or Music, study Technology and Computer Studies to GCSE or study a language. If they wish to pursue both History and Geography then this is also something that they can opt for. Triple Science is available where students can follow separate Science GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students at QEHS are set in Mathematics with mixed ability groupings throughout the majority of subjects

so that they can meet their potential. We are able to respond to the way a student evolves over their stay at QEHS so that at all times they are in the right place to maximise their learning.

Students at Key Stage 3 will have English and Mathematics homework on a weekly basis. Their study will be further supported and enriched through the completion of Independent Study Tasks (ISTs) for all other subjects as extended graded projects. ISTs will take the place of weekly homework in all other subjects and are designed to allow students to show real independence in researching and presenting their work. Students at Key Stage 4 will receive weekly homework in every subject they participate in.

QEHS is proud to support the teaching of Music to the highest levels through the use of our school staff and independent instrument teachers.

Our curriculum is further enhanced through the use of Enrichment Days where students are able to examine and explore key social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues or develop skills in such areas as personal financial skills and interview technique.

It is through these days and Form Time where pastoral education is delivered, covering such areas as Personal Health, Sex and Relationship Education and Ethics. "Being in a small school brings us all closer together, it feels like we are family."

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Year 8 student

"We understand the important part we play in creating the local community of tomorrow."

Mr M Farmer, Headteacher

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# **QEHS in the** Community

Everyone involved with QEHS understands their responsibility as part of a wider community and the part they can play in helping that community best serve us all.

Students at QEHS work hard to support a range of charitable organisations throughout the year which are decided by the student council. This ownership of charitable causes ensures that students are committed to supporting them in the strongest possible ways.

We work closely with our primary schools to ensure that the transition from primary to secondary education is as smooth as possible. We support our local primary schools and all students in them through shared resources and opportunities.

Our students work with the community in such diverse areas as helping maintain and enrich the local public space to working alongside elderly members of the community through our links with the local care home. Additionally, the services of our extremely talented Steel Pan Band are often requested to support many local organisations and events.

QEHS fully involves itself in many events including Bromyard Gala, the Christmas Tree Festival and other local events that develop the local community.

# **Enrichment** Opportunities

Enriching the education of students through wider participation is a key priority for QEHS. The benefits to our students in taking part in activities that they may not normally be able to are immense.

For those students who want to develop further their academic skills there are support sessions to enable them to achieve further still. Other students wish to pursue interests in the arts, with a range of clubs and activities to get involved in. Many curriculum areas work together in the planning and delivery of our acclaimed dramatic productions, whether it be the artists and set designers, musicians, technicians and actors : there is a place for everyone.

For the students who enjoy their sport there are a range of clubs and teams that can be joined, many of which have enjoyed great success over the past years at county level.

There are also numerous educational visits and residential experiences which include water sport activity based residentials and visits to the battlefields of France and Belgium.

Whatever their interests may be, there is something for everyone to get involved in at QEHS.







### **Becoming part of** the QEHS family

As a small school our students really do feel part of a family. Our staff know the students well and it is this that allows them to support students effectively enabling them to believe and achieve as a result.

Joining a new school, whether it be as a new year 7 student or indeed a student transferring in another year group can seem a little daunting. At QEHS we pride ourselves on making that transition as smooth as possible. In no time at all new students feel part of our school.

We hope that this prospectus has given you an idea about Queen Elizabeth High School. If you have yet to experience QEHS, please come and visit, we would be happy to see you and show you what we have to offer, what we stand for and what you can expect.

Please contact the school using the details on the rear of this prospectus and we will endeavour to address your query as soon as possible. We very much look forward to you joining us.

"The governing body is committed to ensuring that all of the aspirations of the QEHS are met so that every student can thrive in an excellent educational environment".

Cllr Jonathan Lester, Cabinet Member for Young People & Children's Wellbeing Herefordshire Local Authority



# Queen Elizabeth High School



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