



# QUEEN MARY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Academic in purpose - Generous in approach - Enterprising in spirit - International in outlook



## Information Pack

Queen Mary's Grammar School  
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# Welcome

The Mercian Trust



Queen Mary's Grammar School was founded in 1554 by Mary Tudor. We have been shaped by our past and are proud of our traditions, but we are also confident of an exciting future as we help to shape the new educational landscape.

Queen Mary's is an academically selective school. It is our aim to support pupils to achieve their full academic potential. We value the life of the mind and want to pass on a love of learning.

Outside the classroom, we offer a range of life-enriching opportunities: time at our Field Centre in Wales; membership of our thriving Combined Cadet Force; individual and team sports; foreign exchanges and travel; participation in music, drama and many other activities. We believe that achievement and enjoyment go hand in hand.

We equip our pupils to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Most choose to go on to Higher Education. Through partnership between School, pupil and parents, we aim for the examination success that will open doors to the very best HE institutions and international employers. We were rated as 'outstanding' by OFSTED and it is our mission to attain excellence in all that we do.

Our House system celebrates the four pillars of school life at Queen Mary's: an academic focus, an international ethos, an enterprising spirit and a sense of community. We enjoy our social, cultural and ethnic diversity and recognise our many privileges. We are keen to share what we have - experience, expertise, enthusiasm - both with those who live on our doorstep and those from further afield.

To do so is very much in the spirit of our motto *quas dederis solas semper habebis opes*: it is what you give that you will keep as eternal riches.

Richard Langton

Headmaster

# About us

Queen Mary's Grammar School is an invigorating and rewarding place to work: the pupils are intelligent and committed to study; the staff are friendly and forward looking. It is far more than just a place of work – it is a thriving community, proud of its past and confident of its future. In November 2008, it was recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

There are currently nearly 1100 pupils on roll, including over 400 in the Sixth Form. The School has an outstanding academic record and regularly features in the upper reaches of the national league tables. In 2018, 67% of GCSE grades were 7-9 (A\*/A) and 70% of A Level grades were A\*, A or B. Our value added scores are particularly impressive (with a Progress 8 score of +0.53 in 2018); we do not rest on our laurels, but encourage all our pupils to take up the challenge of realising their full potential.

In June 2011, the School converted to Academy status and we have undertaken a series of exciting building projects over the past 8 years, including a new Sixth Form Centre, Science labs and a Humanities wing, music and PE refurbishments, as well as a new dining room and reception. We partnered a local Charity in the founding of Walsall Studio School in 2012 and were a founding member of the Mercian Multi Academy Trust (along with five other schools) in January 2018. We are also expanding, adding additional capacity through the building of extra science rooms and improving Design Technology and Art facilities.

The School encourages an enterprising and international outlook: we have enjoyed trips, expeditions and exchanges all over the world in recent years and have many successes in national competitions but also carry out a wide range of vibrant and formative trips and experiences closer to home such as theatre visits, visiting speakers and the mental health ambassadors programme. In fact, we are incredibly proud to be appearing in Ross Morrison McGill's (aka Teacher Toolkit) upcoming book showcasing our mental health work with staff and pupils.

We want our own pupils to lead happy and fulfilled lives. Learning here is not just about passing exams, but about enjoying the life of the mind. We also encourage all our pupils to take part in a wide range of enrichment activities in sport, drama and music, in the Combined Cadet Force and at our Field Centre on the Afon Mawddach in Southern Snowdonia.

You will notice a relaxed working atmosphere as you walk round the school. Our pupils come from diverse backgrounds, but they all thrive on the sense of support, encouragement and care that characterises Queen Mary's.

# Location

Queen Mary's Grammar School,  
Sutton Road,  
Walsall,  
West Midlands  
WS1 2PG

Tel: 01922 720696  
Fax: 01922 725932

Queen Mary's Grammar School is located on the Sutton Road, in the leafy south of the town and close to the centre of Walsall. Travel to the school is very convenient, being approximately 10 minutes' drive from both junctions 7 and 9 of the M6.

There are good bus links from Birmingham to Walsall (with the 51 and X51 buses) and there is a direct train route to Birmingham from nearby stations in the town centre, Bescot Stadium and Tamebridge Parkway.

The close proximity of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Birmingham City Centre provides excellent access to shopping, leisure facilities, museums, cinemas and a wide range of nightlife.

House prices in Walsall are also very competitive compared to the Midlands as a whole and there is a range of good local primary schools and nurseries for those with young families seeking to move close to Queen Mary's.

# Benefits of working at Queen Mary's Grammar School

- The opportunity to teach outstandingly gifted and intelligent students who have a real motivation to succeed.
- A thriving and expanding school that achieves enviable examination success at both GCSE and A Level.
- Professional autonomy in the classroom – you are encouraged to teach in a style that suits you and your subject!
- A senior leadership team that is approachable and fair in its approach
- Plenty of opportunities for professional development in the school, across our MAT, and externally.
- A real sense of community, both amongst staff and pupils.
- A dedicated induction programme for new staff and NQTs to ensure you are supported.
- We take our mental health seriously, always considering work load and staff wellbeing.
- We are encouraged to organise school trips, travelling across the globe.
- The chance to play a key role in the wider life of the school, from involvement in the CCF and music, coaching of sports teams and countless other opportunities
- Career progression – many of our current middle and senior leaders are home-grown promotions from within

Some quotes from the Good Schools Guide about us:

*"...QMGS is a calm yet bright environment."*

*"There are no elephants in the rooms at QMGS - mental health and well-being of pupils and staff alike are taken very seriously."*

*"There is no 'typical' QMGS pupil. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds. This is what perhaps makes QMGS stand aside from the usual grammar schools."*

*"QMGS is rich and fulfilling for both students and staff. A school with one foot in the past and the other in the future."*

## Find out more

You can find out more about our amazing school at <http://www.qmgs.walsall.sch.uk>

Alternatively, for a real flavour of daily life at QM follow us on Twitter at @QMGS1554

# The MFL Department

The MFL Department at Queen Mary's benefits from the positive legacy of the School's Specialist Status as a Language College. Four main languages (French, German, Spanish and Mandarin) are taught as part of the mainstream curriculum. All boys take at least one language to GCSE and, although the sets are not large, we still attract viable cohorts for A Level classes in all three European languages.

The current department comprises a duo with Head of Department responsibilities: Jenny Franklin (Head of French and Spanish) and Sophie McPhee (Head of German). They are joined by Kim Wang (Head of Mandarin since September 2016), Souad Sharp (Teacher of French and Spanish), Flavien Monier (Teacher of French), Annette Liu (Teacher of Mandarin at QMGS and our sister high school QMHS) and Miao Wang (Teacher of Mandarin at QMGS and our partner school BVGS). We have also employed some experienced Foreign Language Assistants, who are all native speakers: Cecilia Dabbs (Spanish) and Christiane Swain (French).

The situation of the department is a pleasant one: it occupies a suite of rooms along one side of the main Quadrangle, facing south across our extensive playing fields. All teaching rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards.

MFL as a subject area offers a wide range of opportunities to the students outside their main studies. All pupils travel to mainland Europe during Key Stage 3 and there are established exchanges, some in co-operation with our sister High School. We enter pupils for a range of Language based competitions and we have also offered European work experience opportunities for a number of years. Teachers from the Languages department also support other colleagues in an exciting programme of foreign travel. There have also been visits to Morocco, China and the UAE in recent years. The department is an exciting and rewarding place to work.

# Mandarin Chinese at QMGS

QMGS has been offering Mandarin Chinese to its pupils since September 2007. We started small, and with the immense support from the Senior Leadership Team and the whole school community we gradually built up our Mandarin teaching capacity over the years. The Chinese department currently has two full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. We became a Confucius Classroom affiliated to IOE Confucius Institute in 2014 and are currently hosting two Hanban teachers.

Mandarin is now taught at KS3, KS4 and KS5, covering qualifications such as GCSE, GCE and HSK. Mandarin is compulsory in Year 7 and optional from Year 8 onwards. This academic year we have over 250 pupils attending timetabled Mandarin lessons ranging from beginners to A level. As a Confucius Classroom we also carry our outreach work in local primary schools and partner schools within the Mercian Trust.

## Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) at QMGS

In September 2016, QMGS became one of the first 14 secondary schools in the UK participating in the Mandarin Excellence Programme, a new intensive language programme funded by the Department for Education. Students on the programme study eight hours of Mandarin Chinese every week – including four hours of classroom taught lessons.



### Delivering the four taught classroom hours

Our Year 7 MEP students have two timetabled Chinese lessons and two afterschool sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays to make up the four hours face to face contact teaching hours. The Year 8 and the Year 9 MEP pupils this year have three timetabled lessons and one after school session on Mondays each week. All MEP taught lessons including the afterschool sessions are delivered by experienced Mandarin teachers and supported by our Hanban teachers.

### Delivering the four non-taught hours

Our MEP Students study four additional hours each week outside of taught hours. Each week we give MEP pupils booklets or project based assignments via online platforms such as Edmodo which normally take around two hours to complete.

To make up the four non-taught hours for the Year 7 MEP pupils, we run one Intensive Chinese Learning Weekend each term. At the end of Autumn term we have the Celebrating Christmas in Chinese Style weekend, in Spring Term we have the Chinese New Year Celebration Weekend, and in Summer Term we have a revision weekend before the Hurdle test. In addition to these weekend courses, Year 7 MEP pupils also participate in the Chinese Language and Culture Day at the end of Summer Term. Year 8 MEP pupils will travel to China for a two-week Chinese Summer Camp and the Year 9 MEP pupils will attend a residential course based at a University in the UK in June.

## QMGS Confucius Classroom



QMGS became a Confucius Classroom with IOE Confucius Institute in September 2014. Now it has become a regional hub for teaching Chinese and promoting Chinese culture. With great support from IOE Confucius Institute, Hanban and Hanban teachers, QMGS is able to offer a wide range of activities both at QMGS and at local schools.

To enrich pupils experience with Chinese we encourage pupils to take part in the HSBC/British Council Speaking Competition every year.



As one of three Confucius Classrooms in the West Midlands, we offer support to local schools to deliver Chinese courses, help them to find and establish links with Chinese schools, run courses for primary school teachers to help them to start Chinese at their school, carry out networking events and work with IOE and other universities to train Mandarin teachers.

Mandarin is thriving at QMGS. Through hard work and resilience our pupils will continue to face the challenges and to enjoy the sense of achievement which mastering a difficult language can bring.

# The Position

## Job Description:

The successful candidate will:

- teach Mandarin at Key Stage 3 and 4
- ideally be able to teach either French or Spanish to GCSE (although this should not deter Mandarin-only specialists from applying).
- plan and teach challenging and differentiated lessons which enable high levels of progress
- maintain discipline in lessons to ensure that learning can take place
- monitor and mark pupils' work, giving constructive feedback to aid improved performance
- communicate regularly with the Head of Department about pupil performance and achievement
- use relevant pupil data to help pupils to achieve their full potential
- make an active contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school

## Person Specification:

- You will be a well-qualified graduate in the appropriate subject discipline
- You will possess, or be working towards, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education or equivalent teaching qualification in secondary education
- You will be an innovative teacher, keen to develop Mandarin teaching in the school
- You will have a commitment to ethos of the school and a willingness to contribute to enrichment activities
- You will be positive and enthusiastic in approach
- You will have good oral and written communication skills
- You will have well developed ICT skills
- You will have the ability to work as part of a team and to develop and maintain positive relationships with teaching and associate staff
- You will be willing to be involved in the pastoral life of the school and act in the role of form tutor
- You will be suitable to work with children. This job is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure.

**Closing date:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Interviews:** Week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

# The Mercian Trust

Queen Mary's Grammar School is a Founder Academy of a Multi-Academy Trust or MAT. This is a group of schools working together for the benefit of all their pupils.

According to the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, MATs exist:

- To secure school improvement and develop people
- To encourage good governance and proper risk management
- To secure the financial health of all its academies

We sign up to those ambitions. In our MAT, the Mercian Trust, we choose to pursue life to the full in the business of education.

The name of our Trust is significant. It is both rooted in royal history and expresses a geographical identity. Mercia was an ancient kingdom comprising parts of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and, crucially for us, what we now call the Black Country. It was in Mercia that St Chad established learning communities which fostered a sense of common purpose. A thousand years ago, they spoke of bonds of kinship. Today, we want to adopt the same spirit in our approach to relationships within the MAT. So we very much hope that Y7 and Year 12 pupils joining us will feel that they are not only members of Queen Mary's Grammar School, but also of a wider family of schools.

We are convinced that we are stronger together. The Mercian Trust is already helping to shape the educational landscape in exciting ways. We welcome you to be part of that story.

The Founder Academies of The Mercian Trust are:

- Aldridge School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Studio School

Our schools prepare pupils to live life to the full by equipping them to realise their full potential as learners; to thrive in the world of work; and to make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community.

You may have heard about some MATs that seem to have turned into big businesses. That is not our view of what education should be about. That is why Queen Mary's Grammar School wanted to be right at the heart of decision making of what our MAT should look like.

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, it will foster strengths greater than the sum of its parts. Put simply, the Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise, enthusiasm and experience.

We think that is exciting ...

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background. The signature is cursive and reads "Timothy Swain".

Timothy Swain

Chief Executive Officer

The Mercian Trust