

It's been a while since we were all in school, and we are sure that, during the past few months at home, you will have been thinking about what's coming next. Before we see you all again in the autumn, we wanted to give you a little taster of what you will be studying with us from September, point you in the direction of some preparatory work you might like to complete and give you a chance to meet your teachers (in a virtual sense at least).

Despite the QM family being separated physically over the past ten weeks, we have been coming together virtually, and you've all had the opportunity, thanks to the amazing staff at school, to get involved in loads of academic and non-academic activities together. We wanted to let you know what has been going on within our school community and what you've all been doing in your own local communities and homes to keep motivated and positive during lockdown.

We are all looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Keep looking after yourselves and your families, Stay safe.

### Religious Studies

There are two specialist A-Level RS teachers: Mrs Daniels (Head of RS) and Miss Emery. Mrs Daniels teaches Ethics, whilst Miss Emery teaches Philosophy. We organise RS conferences as well as taking a trip to Coventry Cathedral to participate in a Dr Peter Vardy Conference during your KS5 studies.

To prepare for this course over the summer, we suggest the following:

- Watch the news and listen out for any moral or philosophical ethical issues. There are always plenty; from views towards LGBTQI, to changes in the law towards animal experimentation or divorce, how different religions are discussing and amending their views to the changing world around them.
- Watch discussion programmes such as *Dispatches* or even documentaries about refugees, and current affairs; as becoming more aware of the world around you will help you to inform your own opinions and become more critical in your thinking.
- You can also google PEPED. This online resource has some excellent resources that you can read about. You might want to look up and read about two questions; 'What is Ethics?' and 'What is Philosophy?' We will be looking into these key questions in the first term.

Additional transition work for RS is available on the Year 11 pastoral classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

We look forward to welcoming you to  
#TeamReligiousStudies!

### History

The A-Level course, combines students' existing grounding in **modern history** with a study of **Sixteenth-Century Europe**, allowing pupils to build on



their GCSE studies whilst also experiencing something new and exciting which is still highly relevant to today's world.

#### Component 1: The Tudors – England 1485 -1603

This is an exciting period to study, full of larger-than-life characters whose motives are still being debated over 500 years later, stimulated by recent research unearthing new details and generating re-interpretations of the era! This breadth study starts in August 1485, the Battle of Bosworth Field (Henry VII's epic seizure of the crown and his launching of the Tudor dynasty) and traces power, politics and life in England through the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII, through to the 'turmoil and triumph' of the Mary I and Elizabeth I.

#### Component 2: The Cold War 1945 – 1991

This depth study traces the origins of the Cold War through the widening of the conflict into Asia and the bringing of the world to the brink of nuclear war (including the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the crises in Poland and Hungary). In Year 13, students investigate the changes taking place from 'Détente' to the end of the Cold War (including the Vietnam War, the Brezhnev era, Gorbachev and the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the USSR).



#### Component 3: Historical Enquiry (4000 words)

Students complete piece of **independent research** in Year 13 into American Civil Rights 1865-1968, choosing a question which is of particular interest to them. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to manage their own, personal enquiry into a significant historical controversy.

We recommend the following publications to start you on your journey:

- D Murphy (ed), 'England 1485-1603', Collins, 1999
- R Lockyer & D O'Sullivan, 'Tudor Britain 1485-1603', Longman, 1993
- K Randall, 'Henry VIII and the Government of England', Hodder, 2001
- J Warren, 'Elizabeth I: Meeting the Challenge', Hodder, 2008
- K Rogers and J Thomas, 'The Cold War', Pearson, 2008

D Williamson, Access to History: 'Europe and the Cold War 1945-1991', Hodder, 2006  
John Lewis Gaddis, 'The Cold War', Penguin, 2007  
J Mason, 'The Cold War: 1945-1991' (Lancaster Pamphlets), Routledge, 1996

## Art and Design

The Art Department is looking forward to welcoming you in September, where two Art teachers and a bespoke technician work collaboratively to support you in achieving your creative aspirations through the development of outstanding practical skills across a wide range of creative disciplines including painting, drawing, photography, mixed media and digital manipulation.



In preparation for your exciting start to a new we encourage you to:

- Visit galleries/museums of interest over the Summer Holiday to gain inspiration into the cultural, historical, political and social contexts you may wish to explore through your own practical work
- Engage with artists work that you find interesting and inspirational.
- Finally, enjoy picking up that sketchbook for no other reason than to create Art! Explore materials you either enjoy or have a curiosity for, whether it be pencil, paint, biro, photography or mixed media. Remember to have fun and explore techniques and processes without the pressure of assessment.

Additional transition work for Art and Design is available on the Year 11 pastoral classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

We are excited to support and guide the new aspirational and creative ideas you wish to explore through your own practical project.

See you soon!

Mr Short, Miss Hinton and Mrs Hayes.

## Biology

Biology A-Level is a two year course. We follow the OCR specification. There are six units of work; unit 1 develops practical skills, units 2-4 are taught in Y12, 5 and 6 in Y13.

The units are as follows:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills
- Module 2: Foundations in Biology
- Module 3: Exchange and transport
- Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6: Genetics and ecosystems.

There are three exams at the end of the two-year course, Paper 1 covering units 1, 2, 3 and 5, paper 2 covering units 1, 2, 4 and 6. Paper 3 is synoptic of the whole course. We use the Pearson OCR A-Level Biology textbooks alongside the Kerboodle online resource, which includes course-guides, a digital textbook and study activities.

There are 11 taught lessons a fortnight. The level of Maths in Biology has increased to include 28 mathematical skills, including statistics. To accommodate this in Y12 one lesson a fortnight will be a "Maths for Biology" lesson.

You will be taught by two Biology specialists, one teacher focusses content on paper 1 and the other paper 2. For every topic you will receive a "prepare for learning" booklet which includes learning that needs to be done prior to the lesson so that your teacher can focus on greater deepening of understanding and application during the lesson. You will also receive a booklet for each topic containing your assessed homework, support tasks, application tasks and stretch and challenge tasks, to be done alongside your lesson learning.

We focus on developing strong independent learners, and aim to equip you with the tools to study effectively both inside the classroom and during your very important independent study.

We very much look forward to you starting biology in September, and in order for you to have a successful transition from GCSE to A Level there are things you can do:

- Address any gaps in your GCSE subject knowledge. The level of detail increases greatly in A Level so it is important that your foundation is solid.
- Reflect on your study skills. Having prepared fully for your GCSE exams, it is important that you now reflect on what methods worked well for you and also what you need to develop for Y12.
- Start wider reading. There is a lot of application in A Level Biology so the more that you know about the biological world the better. Some suggestions include *New Scientist Magazine*, and *The Biologist*. There are also some great podcasts such as *The Life Scientific* and *In our time: Science*.

In addition, take a look at the Biology section of the school website. There are loads of tasks and activities to help get you off to a flying start in the autumn term whether you're a QM students already or hoping to join us from another school. The documents are also available of the google classroom for our current Year 11.

See you in September!

Miss Bailey (Subject Leader for Biology), Miss Bayliss and Mrs Colley

## Chemistry

Team Chemistry is looking forward to starting your A-Level Chemistry course with you in September. The department consists of four teachers: Subject Leader Mrs Holland, Dr Darwood, Mr Khan and Mr Lee.



During the first year of the two year course you will cover topics in physical Chemistry such as bonding, amount of substance, energetics and equilibria.

Inorganic chemistry explores aspects of periodicity, the Periodic Table and redox reactions, whilst organic and analytical Chemistry will take you through nomenclature and chemistry of alkanes, alkenes and alcohols, and teach you how to identify them through experimental analysis.

Our tips for success in year one:

1. 'Bring your calculator to every lesson as physical chemistry has a lot of calculations'. (Mrs Holland)
2. 'Learning the charges on your ions is key' (Dr Darwood)
3. 'Review your knowledge of organic chemistry from GCSE over the summer'. (Mr Khan)

Our current A-Level students also have five top tips for you:

- Buy three different lever arch folders and some dividers
- Keep your folder organised as you go along
- Accept that you will find A-level Chemistry HARD, even if you got a 9 at GCSE
- Reading ahead will mean you get the most out of each lesson
- Buy a lab coat for your practical lessons

Chemistry is a challenging but rewarding course and we are looking forward to meeting and supporting you in achieving your very best!

To help you on your way, we suggest you complete the "Headstart to A-Level Chemistry" activity book and the A-Level Chemistry Essential Maths Skills booklet (CGP), and "listen again" to Radio 4 broadcasts such as "In their Element" and "Secrets of the Super-elements"

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/genres/factual/scienceandnature/scienceandtechnology/player>.

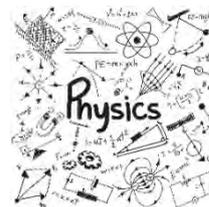
Additional transition work for Chemistry is available on the Year 11 pastoral classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

We look forward to seeing you in September,

Mrs Holland, Dr Darwood, Mr Khan and Mr Lee.

## Physics

We are looking forward to welcoming you into the Physics department here at QMHS. We are a team of three teachers all of whom have different specialisms and teach different chapters of the A-Level syllabus but each support all areas of the course to ensure the best outcomes and practical experiences.



In order to help you get prepared in advance of starting in September we recommend a few things:

1. Complete the Physics transition tasks, which include the CGP Maths Skills for A-Level Physics
2. Familiarise yourself with the [QMHS KS5 Physics website](#)
3. Watch some TED talks on A-Level topics or go through simulations on <https://phet.colorado.edu>
4. Keep up to date on any news stories/twitter feeds/podcasts on developments in the Physics world

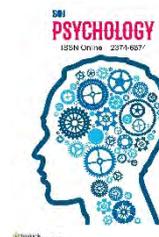
Additional transition work for Physics is available on the Year 11 pastoral classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

We look forward to meeting you in September.

Mr Hinks, Dr Bruton and Mrs Glazewska

## Psychology

We are looking forward to meeting you in September and introducing you to your study of Psychology here at QMHS. There are two of us in the Psychology department and we specialise in different areas of Psychology to enable us to give you the broadest and best supported experience of studying Psychology.



In order to help you get prepared in advance of the course starting in September we recommend a few things:

- Read Psychology articles on websites such as <https://www.bps.org.uk/> You will be expected to make links between Psychology and its relevance to events happening in the real world as part of the A Level Psychology course. The BPS website will also tell you lots about the study of Psychology in general as well as signposting possible careers in the field.
- Watch some TED talks - e.g. The Psychology of Evil (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsFEV35tWsg>) and Exploring the Mind of a Killer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2V0vOFexY4>)

Have a nice and restful summer,  
Mr Heath and Miss Ayres

## Mathematics

We hope that all your hard work at GCSE has paid off and you are now ready for the challenge of Maths and Further Maths.

We are a team of five teachers; we all love to teach A-level Maths. As the students returning already know, we are an approachable department and are always keen to help you if you have problems. For new students, please come and introduce yourselves! You can see any of us if you are stuck; we have an open door policy.

In order to help you get prepared all you need is:

- a solid GCSE knowledge
- file paper and a folder
- a pen, pencil, ruler
- and a calculator. (You won't be needing to use this very often in Year 12!) There is no need to buy a new calculator at this stage, we will discuss this later on in the year.

It is worth you making sure that you fully understand all GCSE topics before beginning A-level. The work we do in Year 12 builds on GCSE understanding, and if you did really well in your GCSE Maths and want a bit more of a challenge, why not try A-level Further Maths as a fourth A-level? It will help your Maths and provide you with an extra A-level that will really help you stand out.

Additional transition work for Maths has already been made available via google classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

We look forward to meeting you in September.

Mr Adams, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Badhan, Mr Steed and Mr Hussain.

## English

Welcome to the Queen Mary's High School English department! We are a team of seven members of staff. Language is taught by Dr Gottschall and Mr Moore, and Literature by Ms Shehata and Dr Shakeshaft.

## English Language

To prepare yourself for the course, the simplest advice is to read widely, as the more comfortable you are with a range of texts, the easier you will find it to respond to and analyse them. Examples of good writing can be found in

- *Empire* (<https://www.empireonline.com/>),
- *NME* (<https://www.nme.com/>)
- *Vogue* (<https://www.vogue.co.uk/>)
- *Guardian* (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>)
- *Independent* (<https://www.independent.co.uk>)

and

- *Private Eye* (<https://www.private-eye.co.uk/>) is a great source of satirical writing, and

- *The Spectator* (<https://www.spectator.co.uk/>) offers a lot of opinion pieces.

Thinking about the course content more specifically:

Dan Clayton's English Language Blog (<http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>) contains many useful and interesting posts, and David Crystal has made many of his articles available on his website (<http://www.davidcrystal.com/books-and-articles>).

Beyond the written word, the weekly BBC Radio 4 programme *Word of Mouth* is always interesting, and all the previous editions are freely available (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/downloads>): browse through the list and listen to some on topics which interest you.

Getting even more technical, the University of Bristol has an online grammar and punctuation course ([https://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar\\_tutorial/page\\_01.htm](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_01.htm)) which is freely available. It is possible to use the information and exercises to work on specific things, or to work through the entire course. (It is frighteningly addictive once you start...)

Finally, the British Library's 'English Timeline' (<https://www.bl.uk/englishtimeline>) provides a history of the English language with a range of examples, helpfully contextualised with historical information.

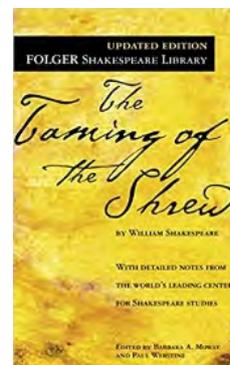
Obviously, there is no escaping language with whatever you are doing this summer, so paying conscious attention to the words you read, write, hear and say, and the way in which they are communicated is an easy way to start thinking about language. All, or any, of these resources will give you a very solid foundation to the A-Level English Language course which builds on your GCSE and develops your technical knowledge and analytical ability, and seeks to develop you as an independent thinker. Enjoy all your summer reading and writing, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Dr Gottschall and Mr Moore.

## English Literature

To prepare yourself for the course, the simplest advice is again to read, and to read widely.

However, beyond the set texts for Year 12 (William Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'urbervilles*), it would be useful for you to read some of



Hardy's short stories (<https://www.hardysociety.org/resources/short-stories>) or one of his other novels (<https://www.hardysociety.org/life/novels/>), such as *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Looking at another Shakespeare comedy (<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/>), such as *Much Ado About Nothing*, would complement *Shrew* well.

As well as drama and prose, explore a range of poetry ([https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/browse#page=1&sort\\_by=recently\\_added&topics=20](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/browse#page=1&sort_by=recently_added&topics=20)): look at the 'love' and 'relationships' topics, and choose any of the time periods from 1550 to the present day. If you want to learn more about the very technical side of poetry, Stephen Fry's book *The Ode Less Travelled* (<https://amzn.to/2XAkPsp>) is a fascinating resource.

Having the widest possible background to draw on will help you in your study of Literature, so keeping an eye out for any live broadcast events of theatre performances at your local cinema is a really good way to be able to see professional performances locally. Keeping up to date with news in the world of Literature is easily done through the *Guardian's* website (<https://www.theguardian.com/books>).

Looking backwards, much English Literature makes reference to biblical ideas, and having a basic knowledge of common stories from the bible is helpful (<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/england-and-wales/nations-favourite-bible-stories/britains-top-10-bible-stories/>). Similarly, knowing Greek and Roman myths is helpful, and Anthony Horowitz's retellings in *Myths and Legends* is an accessible collection (<https://amzn.to/2LibMyA>). The British Library's 'English Timeline' (<https://www.bl.uk/englishtimeline>) helpfully contextualises the development of English Literature alongside historical events.

All, or any, of these resources will give you a very solid foundation to the A-Level English Literature course which builds on your GCSE and seeks to develop you as an independent and critical thinker.

Enjoy a book-filled summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Ms Shehata and Dr Shakeshaft

## Economics

Hello Everyone!

What an interesting time to become an Economist. Still not sure what Economics is? If Business Studies is the study of how to run a business then Economics is the study of how to run a country. No wonder Economics continues to fill the front pages of newspapers and to dominate the news and government briefings. I am looking forward to guiding you through the complexities of Brexit and the impact of Covid-19, and to helping you to think about these events using an approach we call "the Economist's Toolkit". What makes Economics fascinating is the methodology that allows us to unpick cause and effect, and to make predictions about future outcomes. We have a huge array of possible topics to explore - some may overlap with your other A-Level subjects - the difference is the framework that we use.

To get a feel for current topics of interest to Economists, have a look at the website of the [Behavioural Insights](#) team

- a group behind many clever and successful recent government policies.

Although you will be new to the academic study of Economics, you will have certainly wondered about Economic matters. Current students love how they can immediately apply their lessons to life. Have you ever wondered:

- Which are the best paid jobs (and why?)
- Why do supermarkets copy each other?
- Will you ever be able to afford a house?
- Should we ban cars?
- Should we pay for NHS treatments?
- Why do we panic-buy?
- Is the UK better or worse than (insert country of choice)?
- What is inflation?

What can you do to prepare for September? Look at the blog topics from the [Behavioural Insights](#) team and follow issues that appeal to you in the news. At the time of writing there are posts about design of posters and choice of fonts, vaccine uptake, food delivery services, vegan diets and unicorns.

Many students start the course with the idea that Economics might be about money and banking - and the UK financial sector is very much an important topic - but we cover so much more besides. They end the course applying to study it at University.

I look forward to taking you on this stimulating and enjoyable journey.

Miss Scallan

## Modern Foreign Languages

We are looking forward to welcoming you into the MFL department here at QMHS in September.

## German

In order to help you get prepared in advance of the course starting in September we recommend a few things:

- Review vocabulary from the GCSE course and get a bit of a head start with the vocabulary for the A-Level course. You can find a lot of the vocabulary already available on [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) – look for the AQA A-Level German vocabulary (from 2018), or purchase *Wort für Wort Sixth Edition* by Paul Stocker, which includes everything you need for the current syllabus.
- Review German grammar by using your notes from the GCSE course or you can find grammar notes on BBC Bitesize and on [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk), where there are also exercises to help you practise.
- Find a German artist that you like and listen to their songs on YouTube e.g. Namika, LEA or Mark Forster or find a German blogger or vlogger.
- Watch a German film with English subtitles e.g. *Lola rennt*, *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei*, *Sophie Scholl* or an English/American film based in

Germany e.g. *Alone in Berlin* or even your favourite series in German (on Netflix).

- Take a look at the resources on the Deutsche Welle website ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)) which has a "Learn German" section with free resources to help you learn German (Deutsch Interaktiv).

Additional transition work for German is available via google classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

Enjoy your summer. Bis dann!

Frau Beer und Frau Postles

## Spanish

In order to help you get prepared in advance of the course starting in September we recommend a few things:

- Review vocabulary from the GCSE course and get a bit of a head start with the vocabulary from the A Level course. You can find a lot of the vocabulary on [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com), just look for the A Level Spanish vocabulary (from 2018). You could also purchase 'Palabra por palabra sixth edition' by Phil Turk and Mike Thacker, which covers every vocabulary you need for the current A Level syllabus.
- Review Spanish grammar by using your notes from the GCSE course and visiting [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) to practise. You should know how to form and use the main tenses accurately before you start the A Level course.
- Be curious about Spain, Latin America and their respective cultures. There are plenty of resources you can access on the internet. Cultural knowledge is exciting and extremely important.
- Find Spanish speaking artists that you like and listen to their music on Youtube. Check out Spanish speaking vloggers as well.
- Watch Spanish series, films on Netflix or Amazon prime for example. You can also change the language of your favorite films or series to Spanish on Netflix really easily.
- Take a look at International news in Spanish by regularly checking the site [www.bbc.com/mundo](http://www.bbc.com/mundo) for example.
- Find Spanish radios you can listen to via the internet, check this website <https://onlineradiobox.com/es/?lang=en> to find a list of radio stations available.

Additional transition work for Spanish is available via google classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website.

Enjoy your summer! Hasta pronto!

Señora Lovell.

## Drama

The Drama department looks forward to welcoming you with a smile in September. We have two specialist Drama teachers Miss Houlder and Mrs Rochfort delivering the course which offers a motivating, inspiring and risk taking look into theatre practitioners and conventions. We are an extremely collaborative department and both year groups of our A level cohort work very closely together to support, advise and act as audience members throughout the year. That being said you will only be creating and working within your own year group so you really do benefit from the specialisms on offer. Both teachers work with you on all elements of the practical unit as we believe this gives you the opportunity to access a variety of teaching styles and knowledge. Mrs Rochfort delivers Section A of the written exam: ***Drama through the Ages*** whilst Miss Houlder then takes the lead on Section B: ***20th and 21st Century Drama***.

In preparation for this course over the summer we recommend you try to do a number of the following:

- Watch at least two shows on The National Youtube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre>
- Have a look at the works of Frantic Assembly, Kneehigh, DV8, Volcano, Gecko and Complicite theatre companies. All of these companies have clips and useful videos on Youtube and their own websites with endless resources.
- Try to obtain and read copies of 'Our Country's Good' By Timberlake Wertenbaker and 'Servant to Two Masters' By Carlo Goldoni.
- Research in to Max Stafford Clarke and Timberlake Wertenbaker and research into Commedia Dell'Arte and Carlo Goldoni

If you have access to the internet you can try to source PDF versions of plays such as

***Bronte*** by Polly Teale

***Things I know to be True*** by Andrew Bovell

***Antigone*** by Sophocles

***Pool no Water*** By Mark Ravenhill

***The Importance of Being Earnest*** By Oscar Wilde

As stated, you do not need to do everything on this list but one or two things may set you well for September. Mostly bring a curious, energetic and eager persona to the classroom in September and you'll get along great!

Transition work for Drama has already been made available via google classroom for our internal students, and will be sent shortly to our students hoping to join us in September from other schools via email. The documents can also be accessed via the link on the school website

We look forward to working with you,  
Mrs Rochfort and Miss Houlder

## Geography

The AQA Geography A-level course is delivered by two specialist teachers, Miss Beech and Mr Roderick, and consists of three components. Paper 1 focuses on Physical geography with topics including 'Water and Carbon Cycles', 'Glacial Systems and Processes' and 'Hazards'. Paper 2 focuses on Human Geography including 'Global Systems and Global Governance', 'Changing Places' and 'Population and the Environment'. Paper 3 is comprised of a piece of independent coursework (the Non-Examined Assessment) which we'll introduce you to later in the course. It's worth knowing however, that you get to choose your own topic for this so perhaps consider which elements of geography interest you the most!

To prepare for the course over the summer, we suggest that you:

1) Complete the bridging booklet provided on google classroom/via email/on the school website. This introduces you to some of the key content and topics studied within the course. This year, this focuses on the geography of the coronavirus pandemic so there should be lots of interesting resources out there for you to consider. Bring this to your first geography lesson in September.

2) Equip yourselves with two ring binder folders, two sets of dividers, some plastic wallets and lined paper. If possible, print a copy of the AQA geography A level specification content for reference within your folder. This can be found on the AQA website. You'll need pages 1,7,8 and 11-40.

We provide textbooks, however, most people buy their own so that they can highlight etc. (or keep a copy at home and one in school as they're a little heavy!) If you wish to have an additional copy, invest in the AQA A level Geography Hodder Education Textbook and start to familiarise yourself with this. (ISBN: 1471858693)

In terms of wider reading and activities, you may consider reading Peter Dickens' 'Global Shift' or Hans Rosling's 'Factfulness'. Neither are compulsory (we talk about them in detail) but both make for an interesting read if you're looking for something extra to do in preparation for your course. As always, we also recommend that you keep up to date with the latest news and current affairs via resources such as BBC news and stay on the lookout for relevant documentaries/series on the TV (and of course, remember to share any recommendations you may have!)

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Miss Beech, Mr Roderick and Mrs Tindall

### Higher Education Conference at the NEC

In the month of June, it is usual for all of Year 12 to troop to the NEC in Birmingham, along with thousands of other Sixth Form students from across the country to attend the UCAS Higher Education Conference. Here, students are usually given the opportunity to talk to hundreds of representatives from universities, colleges and companies offering apprenticeships about the courses and possibilities available to them at their institutions.

Unfortunately, as is the case for many large gatherings, UCAS have had to cancel this year's event due to the pandemic, but all of our Year 12 students will be able to take part in the day, scheduled to take place towards the end of June by means of a virtual conference.

### UCAS preparation day

This is a two-day event designed to support QMHS students and their parents through the UCAS application process. UCAS stands for the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, and is the method by which the majority of Sixth Form students apply to higher education courses.

The two-day programme is designed to give students a comprehensive insight into all aspects of student life, including:

- Registering with UCAS Apply
- Completing the UCAS online application form
- Making good course choices and drawing up a shortlist
- Highlighting key dates in the process and deadlines for application
- Guest speakers to support students applying to medicine and dentistry and apprenticeships
- UCAT training for relevant courses (see below)
- Outreach teams to talk about student finance, accommodation and budgeting when at Uni
- Selling themselves in the perfect personal statement
- Evening presentation to parents to advise them of the process and how to support the students in their application



This annual event, held in school is really enjoyable and informative, and the end of the programme the Year 12s are usually well on their way to completing their applications to university well before their deadlines! This year, however, the way in which we are going to deliver this support is going to be very different, but equally as useful. Plans to share information virtually through Google Meet, Zoom and other live and pre-recorded means are well underway, and will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June.

### UCAT training

At QMHS we support all our students in securing a place on the university course of their dreams, and many of them aspire to careers in medicine and dentistry. This month our Year 12 students hoping to become doctors and



dentists of the future will have training to support them in the UCAT examination; an additional requirement for a successful application to many universities including Cardiff, Manchester and Leicester.

The training will be delivered virtually during our UCAS preparation days by Anna from E-medica, our usual and trusty provider. In the past our girls and boys have found this gruelling training extremely valuable and surprisingly enjoyable, leaving them much more prepared for the pressure of this challenging aptitude test.

**What the Sixth Form have been up to in Lockdown?**

We have been keeping in touch with all of the school community since we were last together on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, and we miss you all.

We have been really proud of all of the things you have been doing during lockdown; not just keeping up with your academic studies, preparing for your next steps, but also taking part in the daily activities Mrs Connell and Mrs Steed have been posting on your classroom.

The Sixth Form have also been getting involved with the quizzes, tasks and events we've been hosting virtually, in particular, the students in KS5 have shown their competitive side and got stuck in with the virtual sports day.

**Virtual Sports Day**

Mrs Turner and the PE Department worked really hard to put together a fantastic virtual sports day event during the last week of half term, which we know got loads of the Sixth Form off their sofas and out in the spring sunshine, competing for their houses.



Although we won't get to see the trophy lifted in person this year, we are sure you'll all agree that it was a fun and very worthwhile event that lifted spirits and kept the school community connected at this very odd time.

Well done to all of you that took part!

**Pass it on Challenge**

The staff at QMHS are a caring lot, and we miss being together, and miss being with our students. Check out our pass it on challenge via the link on the website, and our students' response with their own version, also on the website. Thank you for taking part- You managed to reduce most of the staff to tears with your heartfelt messages! A special thank you must also go to Michaela Kenny (Year 13) for putting the montage together!

**Work in the Community**

You may have seen the national news on ITV a few weeks ago, where the tea time broadcast focussed on the effects of the pandemic on communities and businesses in Walsall, but did you spot our very own Simria Kaur (in 12B) and her family on the very last feature? This is what she says about the experience: "During lockdown I had the opportunity to help out the vulnerable and elderly by working with my family business. I ran our delivery service at the shop and with that, I was given the responsibility of organising volunteers to both pick and drop off orders.



It was an amazing experience and I'm glad I could do my bit to help those most in need. It was eye opening to see just how many people needed the service we provided and I'm really glad I could do my bit for the community."



Trinity McCarthy in Year 12 has also been active in supporting her local community, this time in Middleton. Trinity, along with her family has been involved in raising funds to keep Aston Unity Cricket Club in Middleton running despite its threat of permanent closure due to COVID-19. Trinity appeared in the Tamworth Herald Newspaper (May 21<sup>st</sup>) after helping raise £1600 to keep the club open. Well done Trinity!

**Discovering new skills**

Since lockdown began, I have discovered that I can actually draw! I know that those of you who are privy to my sketches of test tubes during Chemistry lessons may find this hard to believe, so I have included one of my drawings to prove to you that if I can learn to draw anyone can!



I am also now a proud owner of a proper mixer, as I have turned my hand to baking! This in turn has meant that I have had to up my game in the running stakes, as I am eating far too much cake as a result!



Year 12 baking bug! and shared

recipes with us, and Meera

Tura has turned her hand to making perfect rotis and vegan katsu curry!

We're hoping cook book please send us triumphs from in the



to produce a student with the recipes, so your lock down the kitchen to include publication.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Although the summer holidays are looming on the horizon, we still have the final summer half term before we officially finish school for the summer on 15<sup>th</sup> July, and in true QMHS style, there's still plenty going on despite us being at home.

### **Head Girl Elections**

During last week the whole school community was given the chance to cast their votes for their favourite candidate in the Head Girl Elections. I hope that you have all watched the speeches that have been uploaded to Google classroom and cast your vote for the incoming Head Girl and her team (this year via a Google voting slip rather than the more traditional pencil and paper). Our candidates this year are Anisah Akthar, Destiny Dunn-Browne, Mehar Kular, Mia Pitt, Simran Sohi and Evie Towner.

Once our team has been selected, we will move onto the process of building our prefect team to support our Head Girl and deputies ready for our new academic year, which starts with induction day on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Details of our induction day will be sent out in due course.

### **Evening of the Arts**

An Evening of the Arts was due to be performed on 30 March and would have involved over 65 students, including some very helpful members of Year 12. Unfortunately, it did not go ahead because of the Coronavirus; however, this was not going to stop us! We launched an online platform so that students could upload entries of all sorts: we have had driveway drawings to piano playing. Staff have also got involved with entries including everything from singing to drawing with Mr Vaughan.

The event shows how brilliantly talented our students are, and we look forward to future showcases of their talent. But for now enjoy the video, put together by the very talented Michaela Kenny in Year 13.

I hope you are being creative and letting your imagination grow during these pressing times!  
Miss Houlder

### **Results Day**

GCSE Results Day is always an exciting day, and this year will be no exception. Details of how and where you will be able to collect your results and enrol for sixth form will be available shortly.

See you in September!  
Dr Darwood