



Sixth Form Enrichment

Headteacher: Dr Alison Bruton, BSc, Med, EdD
Chair of Governors: Mr T Normanton

Upper Forster Street, Walsall, WS4 2AE
t: 01922 721013 | e: qmarys@qmhs.org.uk | w: www.qmhs.org.uk
twitter: [@QMHSOfficial](https://twitter.com/QMHSOfficial)

Queen Mary's High School has a strong tradition of enrichment, as well as academic success, in the Sixth Form.

QMHS offers a caring and friendly environment in which students are able to develop academically and socially with the support of friends, teachers and support staff. Students joining us in Year 12 are made to feel welcome and quickly and easily integrate into our Sixth Form and school community.

Our sixth formers have an important role in the life of our community, playing their part in running the school through school council, as members of the **Prefect Team** or as a **Sixth Form Committee member**, and by **mentoring** younger students. Sixth Form students can qualify as **Youth Peer Mentors** or become **Anti-Bullying** or **Mental Health Ambassadors** to help support younger members of our school community. These opportunities provide valuable experience and allow students to develop transferable, interpersonal, and coaching skills which support their preparation for university study, apprenticeships and employment.



Become a Sixth Form Role Model

Students are able to participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular, super-curricular and enrichment activities, in areas such as sport, music, drama and art, and they are encouraged to take part in trips abroad.

A number of students take the initiative and organise events or set up clubs or societies themselves, and we support and encourage this from our students.

When joining Queen Mary's High School, students have the opportunity to sing in the **choir**, perform in the **orchestra** and become a member of various instrumental ensembles, playing in the Town Hall as well as other regional venues.



"Directing the Sixth Form Pantomime was an incredible experience. Working with my friends to put on a performance was lots of fun. It really boosted my confidence and leadership skills, and I was able to write about this on my UCAS application!"

Drama Prefect

Sixth form students can participate in a wide range of **sporting activities** at Queen Mary's. Many take leadership roles and help the PE department to organise and run House and School teams: they lead and support extra-curricular clubs and Sports Day, and some even assist in lessons with younger students.

"I have been a part of the netball team for seven years, and in Year 12 I had the opportunity to become the captain. Being a part of this team taught me leadership, teamwork and communication skills that I will take with me for the rest of my life. A-Levels are really stressful, but taking time out to do something that you enjoy is all you need."

Year 13 student

Sixth Form students have the opportunity to take part in **recreational and competitive sport** during and after school as members of the senior netball and rounders or badminton teams. Our Fitness Suite and Multi Gym is also available to use. The Sports Leadership Award is offered as part of our enrichment programme.

"I really enjoy PE. It is a good way to spend 1½ hours a fortnight, taking my mind off my studies and helping improve my fitness. After all, a healthy body means a healthy mind! We do a range of sports, from netball to dodge ball. There is something everyone would enjoy, and I would recommend doing PE"

Year 13 student

We are proud to provide our Sixth Form students the opportunity to gain a range of qualifications beyond

the academic A-Levels, for example, in **First Aid**, **British Sign Language** and becoming a **Dementia Friend**. These are offered as part of our enrichment programme which complements the students' academic studies, and widens their experience and skills in preparation for their next educational adventure after Queen Mary's.



Our sixth form students always delight in leading their respective houses as participants in, and choreographers of, the annual **House Dance Competition**. It does get a little competitive, but is a real strength of our community.

“Our group loved spending Friday afternoons rehearsing and coming up with suggestions for our piece. It was amazing to see our ideas come together into a performance that we were all proud of.”

Year 13 student

Our students are given the opportunity to explore their interests in politics, and practice their debating skills during the United Nations and debating programme during enrichment. Recent topics of debate have included the vaccination of 12-15 year olds against Covid-19, initiatives affecting education and other current affairs. A team will complete in a debating competition later in the year.

Students aspiring to a career in the **medical world** are provided with outstanding support. Our numerous aspiring medics have a platform to discuss medical ethics, current affairs and innovative research in the field of Medicine at our hugely successful **MedSoc**, which is run by prefects. Medical professionals provide seminars, lectures and workshops and we support students with mock interviews and guidance in the application process. We support students in gaining regular work experience at the Manor Hospital, and can offer opportunities to develop

students' interpersonal and social care skills at local care homes through the 'Kissing it Better' scheme.

Students with ambitions of a career working with children are also afforded the chance to volunteer at local primary schools, and to get involved with our significant **Primary Outreach Programme**.

We have a long standing relationship with the **National Citizenship Service**, which regularly visits the school to promote its programmes and schemes to our students. A number of students choose to take up these opportunities in their spare time, to enhance their skill set, and give something back to their community.

Queen Mary's students hoping to enter a career in engineering get real-world industry experience, and benefit from the expertise at ALSTOM, as they participate in the **prestigious Engineering Education Scheme**. They have the opportunity to work at a local university on a real life engineering conundrum.

Many of our students take the opportunity to build on their Bronze **Duke of Edinburgh** successes by completing their Silver or Gold awards. Some sixth formers complete both the Silver *and* Gold awards with us at QMHS! We have an amazingly supportive and well-qualified team of leaders at school to help in all the areas of the scheme, not just the map reading!



The Extended Project Qualification is highly valued by universities, as it provides a vehicle to develop independent research skills which are so important for success at degree level. The EPQ is a wonderful opportunity to produce a report or an artefact, or to organise and lead an event in an area about which individual students are passionate.

We offer a wealth of opportunities to **travel abroad**: our foreign fieldtrips include the annual ski trip (this year to Canada), visits to the Battlefields in Northern France, and an emotional and stirring visit to Auschwitz. Students may also visit Belgium, the

glaciers and volcanoes of Iceland's moon-like landscape, or Sicily.



"I have been lucky enough to go on every ski trip offered during my time at QM. Each one has left me with life-long memories and a longing to go back."

Year 13 student



"The Battlefields trip was truly emotional and amazing. It was the best trip I have ever been on. It has really opened my eyes and changed the way I think about a lot of things. So moving, so inspiring! Thank you for this life-changing opportunity."

Supporting those in need locally is an important value at Queen Mary's High School. Sixth formers are always actively involved in organising fund-raising events with younger students.



There are **countless opportunities** to use your initiative in other areas too, such as assisting with Drama productions, leading debating groups and running the school magazine, blog or **Fairtrade group**.

Developing resilience in learners is important at QMHS to both students and staff alike. Students are supported in improving their A-Level learning capacity through the **VESPA** approach to successful study.

All students attend university open days, and we also provide the chance to visit the Birmingham Higher Education Convention and the UCAS Fair each year. Our students attend masterclasses to support their learning and to help prepare them for their examinations. Our scientists regularly attend lectures at Birmingham University with our teachers to support their science learning.

"Taking part in VESPA this year was really fun and was a great experience. It helped us realise our goals and it really motivated us so we can achieve them".

Year 13 student



"As an individual I'd say that I had a fixed mind-set a few months back, so the sound of VESPA and being open-minded didn't really appeal to me. Over time, I learnt that VESPA is more than just positivity and open-mindedness. Our VESPA sessions had a different meaning to every individual. To me, it was about accepting failure and learning from it, rather seeing it as a setback. This adopted mind-set has helped me on several occasions in this past year. I would recommend VESPA to everyone as you'd definitely gain something worthwhile".

Year 13 Student

Our **support programme** provides each student with a tutor to support them throughout their time in the QM Sixth Form. We prepare students for all aspects of applying for university, from choosing courses to writing a personal statement and applying for finance.

Whether students aspire to read English Literature at Durham, History at Oxford, or want to take on a Degree Apprenticeship with a global engineering company, the staff at Queen Mary's High School will support you to achieve your aspirations.