



QUEEN ELIZABETH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PENRITH



AIMING HIGH, THINKING BEYOND, STRIVING TOGETHER

Prospectus

2023



Our Vision

AIMING HIGH

Students are encouraged to be independent, inquisitive learners and to explore ideas beyond and across their subject areas. A highly relevant, varied and challenging academic curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of our academically able student population. We passionately believe that the world our students will enter when they leave school will require them to be flexible and use their skills and expertise from a range of disciplines in order to be successful in their chosen career path.

THINKING BEYOND

We encourage students to be open-minded and engage critically with the world around them; educating them about both the opportunities and dangers that lie ahead of them. Students are offered a vast array of opportunities outside of the classroom; both curriculum linked and super-curricular. The opportunity to experience new places and cultures is an essential part of life at QEGS.

STRIVING TOGETHER

Since QEGS was founded in 1564, the school has always sought to be active in the community it so proudly serves. QEGS is also a community in itself, founded on mutual respect and personal responsibility. The student population work collaboratively alongside staff, to support each other and ensure each individual is able to be as successful as possible. Success is widely celebrated at QEGS whether it be academic, sporting, creative, cultural, personal or collective.



“We are constantly being challenged to come up with our own thoughts and arguments at QEGS. Our teachers are not satisfied by textbook answers.”





Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. As the only selective school in Cumbria, we see ourselves as a 'Beacon of Excellence' for the county, with our roots firmly placed in the local community we were set up to serve back in 1564. Today QEGS has just over a thousand students and this size allows us to offer a range of academic qualifications at GCSE and A-Level to match the interests of students while also being small enough for us to feel like one community. In addition, our committed staff offer an extensive array of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities to our students. It is vital that children have a wide range of experiences and are prepared for their next step when they leave QEGS. This is why we have such a strong focus on enabling students to become independent, autonomous learners, able to take what they are taught in the classroom beyond the curriculum, through their own wider research; creating links and developing their own understanding.

Being part of the QEGS family prepares you for the world beyond school whether that be University, Higher Level Apprenticeship or Employment – you will leave us with the skills to be successful, able to stand out from your peers and enabled to make a difference to the world around you.

Mr David Marchant
Headteacher





Our curriculum

“I love the range of subjects we have at QEGS. It makes every day exciting as there is always a mix of lessons and we normally find time where we can be creative.”



The foundations of our curriculum lay in our core, academic, subjects, with consistently strong results in these cornerstone areas of study. In addition to this, we want our students to be able to pursue a wide range of interests which enable them to gain a broad understanding of the world around them. This means that in Key Stage 3, students are offered a wide range of opportunities in the Arts and STEM subjects which also enables them to make informed choices about what they might wish to continue studying at GCSE and beyond.

It is for this reason we keep our curriculum as broad as possible, for as long as possible. Most students do 11 GCSEs and the choice that comes with this enables students to explore their interests in more depth and for longer. We expect our students to be ‘thinking beyond’ and making links within and between subjects. The experiences they gain within the classroom, complemented by their experiences outside of the classroom, challenge our students to engage with the world around them and not just learn what is in a textbook.



“Our field trips really help us understand what we are learning in class. We have great teachers and the way they explain things mean I understand it all – but its different when you see these ideas close up. You get to understand the impact on the people around us and our environment”



Extra-Curricular

At QEGS, we believe the key to success is found both inside and outside the classroom. This is why we have such a broad and ever evolving enrichment programme, tailored to meet the needs of our students. All students are encouraged to get involved and join one of the many clubs which are on offer at QEGS. We are firm believers in making sure our learners are able to apply their knowledge and understanding to the world around them. In addition to field studies, regional theatre and museum trips all students have the opportunity to undertake residential outward-bound activities, visits abroad and a wide range of sporting competitions, should they wish. We also run the Duke of Edinburgh programme at the school and a large number of students take part every year.

Learning beyond the classroom is a critical part of what we do at QEGS – our students thrive from these opportunities and we always look to support families, where possible, to ensure all our students are able to participate.



Find out more

For our full admissions policy and how to apply please visit:

<https://qegs.website/year-7-admissions/>





**Our values and
school community**



“I don’t always find school easy as I have a lot going on at home. Knowing there is someone at school to talk to always makes me feel safe and I know I can always ask for help when I need it.”

QEGS is founded on mutual respect and we work extensively with students to nurture them through these really significant stages in their lives. This means that all students are looked after and supported – we expect students to support each other – and they do. It is this collaborative culture which makes QEGS such a special place to be.

We have an extensive support network led by one of our Assistant Headteachers but supported by our Heads of Year, Form Tutors, SENDCo and our four pastoral support managers. Each of these members of staff has a key role to play in looking after children as they join the school and at each stage as they progress through. We have a fantastic Personal Development programme which is delivered by our Form Tutors and the rest of the team is on hand to support students individually when they need more help or support.

The school gets involved extensively in the local community and much of this work is led by our Sixth Form student leaders who will volunteer with local charities as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, or will take the initiative in fundraising for local good causes. We are also unique as we see value in doing things together as a community, whether this is our annual sponsored walk, the Mason Mile fun run or the fundraising events which happen throughout the year. The whole school gets involved with our Sixth Form taking leadership roles.

Transition and Admissions



“Discovery day was great – I really enjoyed the taster lesson and games at lunchtime. I met lots of new friends and the teachers were really friendly. It was such good fun and meant I knew where I was going when I started at school in September. I even walked in with some of my new friends.”

We know the move to secondary school can be daunting, whatever secondary school you choose. At QEGS, we have a comprehensive programme to support your child as they move from their primary school to QEGS. We regularly have children joining us from more than fifty primary schools, and every year we have children who join us with a number of their peers and children who are the only child from their school. Through our primary school visits to catchment schools, Discovery Day and wider induction programme, every child gets an opportunity to explore the school and make new friends before they start in September.

Our transition team liaise with every child's primary school to understand prior academic attainment and the child's wider primary education experience, including children's likes, friendships and any special educational need. Parents are also invited to share key information about their children, and this information is used to carefully construct form groups, aiming to ensure a diverse mix of children who will thrive in learning together.

An extensive support network is built within school to help children to flourish as they start secondary school. This includes our Sixth Form Buddies who act as a friendly, experienced face for the children around the school, meeting weekly with their form group. Your child's primary pastoral contact in school is their form tutor, who they will spend much of discovery day and their first day at school with. We are very fortunate to have superbly dedicated staff who go above and beyond in getting to know the students under their guidance, and who are highly experienced in helping students to overcome challenges they experience in the transition to secondary school.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School is a selective school which means children need to sit, and pass, an entrance test to be attend.

You must register for the Entrance Test by Friday 17th July 2023 for entry in September 2024.



The test takes place in mid-September with results shared in early October. This ensures that parents and children receive the results in good time so they can submit

their SA3 form to their local authority.

If a child passes the entrance test, places are then allocated on the following basis:

- Students with an Education Health Care Plan

Academic Ability Alone

- 20% places (32 places) offered according to ability alone (i.e. the top 32 students rank in the year group).

Oversubscription

The remaining 80% of places (128 places) will be allocated according to the following criteria

1. Students in Local Authority Care or Previously in Local Authority Care
2. Students with a sibling currently in the school
3. Students who have been identified as receiving Pupil Premium (10 places)
4. Children of permanent members of staff
- 5a. Students who live within catchment area (in priority according to aggregate rank score)
- 5b. Students who live outside catchment area (in priority according to distance from the school)

Find out more

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