



Newsletter

April 2025



WWW.QUEENSBURYSCH.COM



A message from the Executive Head teacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a term, with so much packed into the learning! The school had a fantastic British Science week thanks to Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Ali. The work the students produced was nothing short from outstanding. Our families and school celebrated Eid with some amazing events and activities and students experiencing different cultures.



Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher



World Book day and our drive for the 'love of reading' saw students and staff make concerted efforts to dress up and celebrate the day. Queensbury School is also supporting Bulls in the City 2025 and Birmingham Hospice. Students have designed and decorated a bull which will be located in a secret location somewhere in Birmingham and return back to the school once the event has finished. The design and art work is incredible and deserves a place in an art gallery.

Dates:

Term ends:

Friday, 11th April 2025

Training day:

Friday 11th April 2025

Return to School:

Monday 28th April 2025

Term ends for students:

Friday, 23rd May 2025

As Easter approaches our students have been working hard to be ready for their exams after the holidays. We know this can be a stressful time and we advise revision being little and often with reward breaks to help the process. Mrs McNerny is running some revision sessions in the holidays.

Queensbury school has continued to demonstrate the excellent progress the students and staff make together. This term our Progress 8 measure has been confirmed by government as -0.71. For any special school to have a value below -1.0 is exceptional. This demonstrates the excellent progress students have made from Primary School (End of Key Stage 2) attainment to the end of Year 11 (End of Key Stage 4). Queensbury School's results were the 6th best nationally when compared to other special schools across England. The staff and students need congratulating for this accolade and we hope our current Year 11's continue to demonstrate the excellent standards.

A message from the Executive Head teacher

Consultation Outcome: (<https://queensburysch.com/consultation/>)

The overarching response to the proposal was overwhelmingly positive. Here are the key findings:

- 90% (262 respondents) were in favour of the proposal.
- 10% (29 respondents) were not in favour of the proposal.

Based on the responses received the Local Governing Body and Trust Board have approved the proposal for:

1. Students' end of day arrangements on Fridays: From September 2025, Students will depart from 1.30pm.
2. Staff teams' dedicated time: Staff teams will have set class meetings and dedicated time to enhance consistency within teams and further improve communication with families and multi-agency teams due to the increased complexity of needs.

Looking ahead, we have some building works to install a new electronic gate at the front of school. This will be a sliding gate making it easier for vehicles. The ground works will be done over Easter and the Gate installed in the early part of next term.

More exciting projects see the further development of the Discovery & Quest Playground with sensory Trim Trail and Regulation Swing and hope for this to be completed for after the June half term.

On a final note Queensbury School has retained the Modeshift STARS Regional SEND School of the year for the West Midlands. Three students travelled to London for the Nationals demonstrating their travel skills, including overcoming escalator phobia's and fears. Have a EGGcellent Easter !

We wish you a Happy Easter Holidays!

Kindest Regards,

Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher

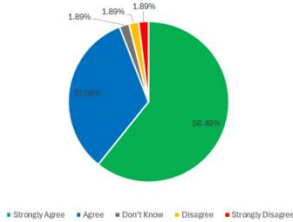


Parents Evening Outcome

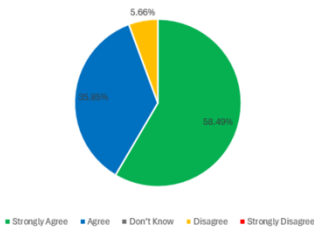
Thankyou to all those who attended Parents Evening at either Queensbury School or Queensbury New Horizons. We had over 177 families attend in person the two evenings. The engagement from families continues to improve year upon year and we are very grateful our families take such an interest in their children and young people. The feedback and comments from families is incredibly important to continue to improve the school even further.

QM Main Site

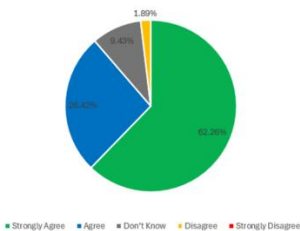
My child is happy at the school



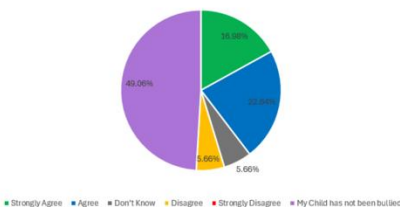
My child feels safe at this school



The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved

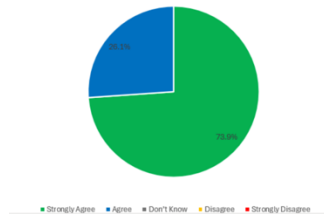


My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.

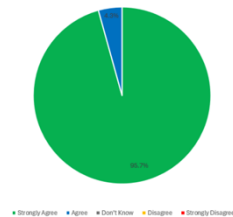


QM NH Site

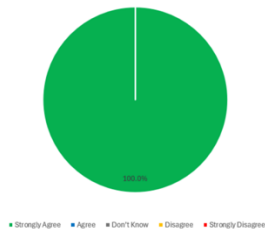
My child is happy at the school



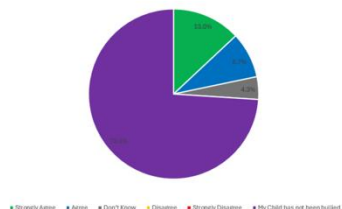
My child feels safe at this school



The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved



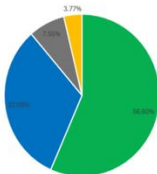
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.



Parents Evening Outcome

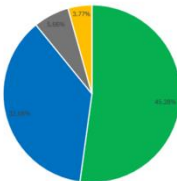
QM Main Site

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. Information can be found on the school website.



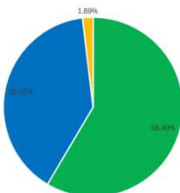
Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.



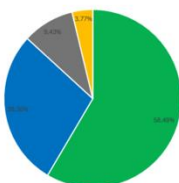
Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

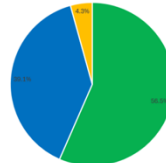
The school has high expectations for my child



Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

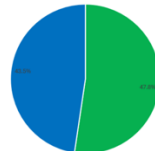
QM NH Site

The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. Information can be found on the school website.



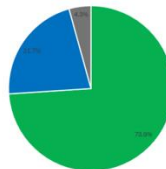
Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.



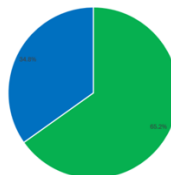
Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

The school has high expectations for my child

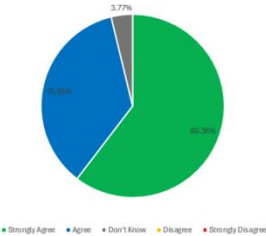


Strongly Agree Agree Don't Know Disagree Strongly Disagree

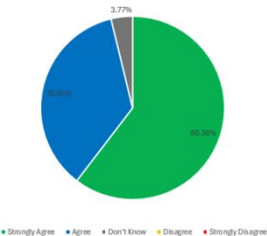
Parents Evening Outcome

QM Main Site

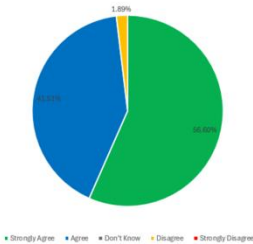
My child does well at this school



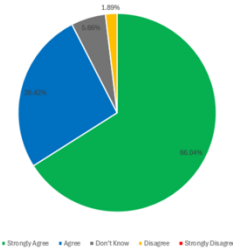
My child does well at this school



The school lets me know how my child is doing

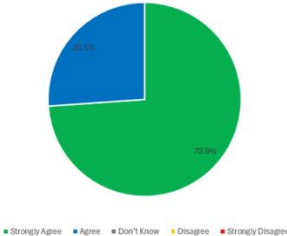


There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

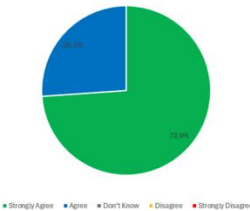


QM NH Site

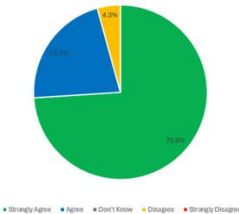
My child does well at this school



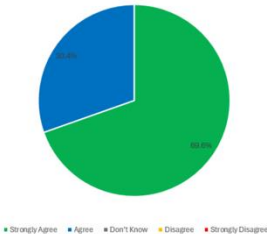
My child does well at this school



The school lets me know how my child is doing



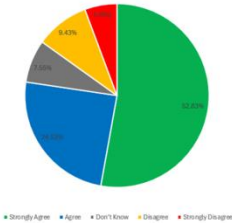
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.



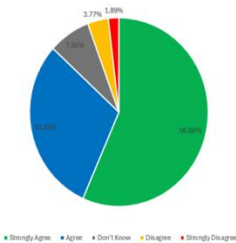
Parents Evening Outcome

QM Main Site

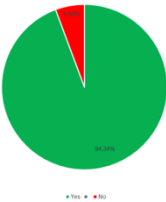
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.



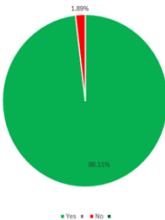
The school supports my child's wider personal development.



I would recommend this school to another parent.

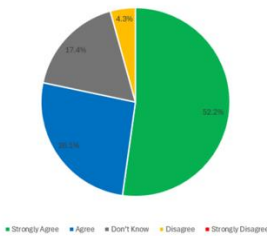


Strong school attendance is vital to support your child's learning

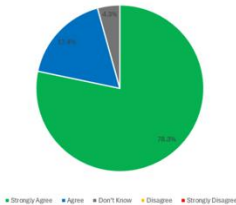


QM NH Site

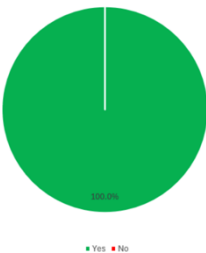
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.



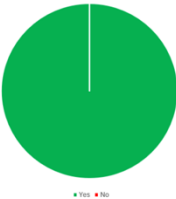
The school supports my child's wider personal development.



I would recommend this school to another parent.



Strong school attendance is vital to support your child's learning



World Book day

Queensbury Celebrates World Book day

Queensbury students and staff at both sites celebrated World Book day by wearing costumes that represented a variety of literary characters.



Careers Update

Careers @ Queensbury

Save the date! New for 2025!



On Thursday 5th June 2025 between 1.45pm and 3.45pm we are holding our first Future Options Careers fair at NewHorizons Sixth Form Station Road Erdington B23 6UB. It will be similar to those held at main school with a range of sixth-forms, training providers and special and mainstream colleges such as Juniper Training, PINC college, Sandwell college, The Hive college and SENSE college, plus many more to be announced. This event is for parents and carers from Queensbury and New Horizons. More information to follow nearer the time.



Work Experience at the Hippodrome

Following a successful interview process, five students were lucky enough to experience a placement at the Hippodrome. They had a great week and took part in a range of tasks, including scanning tickets and showing people to their seats. Well done! Thank you to David and Anam for accompanying our students all week.

University of Wolverhampton Visit

Students from 11N visited the University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus to experience a taste of student life, visiting the Student Union and Refectory to see and hear about a typical student's day at university. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were inspired to aim towards university education in the future. A big thank you to Mrs Richards and Mr Mitchell for taking them.

World of Work



The Kings Trust invited some students from 11V, 10V and 10N to take part in the 'World of Work' linking into Careers week. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions to the employers of Tesco's about their roles and responsibilities and the department they work in. They also had the opportunity to serve each other on the tills and used the self service for their lunch.



11V has successfully completed the six week programme on Virtual Decision Making on 'Exploration and Grooming'.

They have been really grown up in their discussions and completed the programme maturely.

We look forward to next term completing work around 'Adolescence' and focusing on 'Online, young people and communication'

Bulls in the City Project

Bulls in the City: A Creative Community Adventure

This term, our students had the exciting opportunity to take part in the *Bulls in the City* project — a vibrant public art initiative that brought creativity and color to our streets! Inspired by the idea of connecting art, local culture, and community pride, students helped design and decorate life-sized bull sculptures, each one representing a unique theme or story.

The project encouraged collaboration, imagination, and a deeper appreciation for public art. Whether painting bold patterns or researching the history behind the city's connection to bulls, our students put heart and talent into every detail. Stay Tuned to see the end result of this project.



Crafts Workshop



I big thank you to Julie Sanders and Nikki Cook who run a craft workshop each week at Queensbury main after school for students and parents. This is our longest running club and they help raise so much money through the PTA. Many thanks both and all who support!



Eid Celebrations

On 2nd April New Horizons School hosted an Eid celebration filled with joy, laughter, and plenty of delicious treats. Students came together to organize a vibrant day of festivities, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and community spirit. There was an array of student-run stalls, each offering a delightful selection of sweets, savory treats, and exciting games. Thanks to everyone involved!



Collaboration with University of Wolverhampton

In collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton, we hosted eight PGCE students for a special educational needs experience day. This event provided the students with the opportunity to engage with both students and staff throughout the school, enhancing their understanding of the dynamics within special education settings. @wlvuni



Pablo

Following the Easter holidays, Pablo will be joining the Therapy Dog Team at Queensbury School.

For more information about our school's Therapy Dogs, including a risk assessment, please refer to the Therapy Dog Policy available on the school website.



Edison and Henry are excited to welcome Pablo to School 😊

11V – First Aid Workshop

11V had the opportunity to take part in a First Aid workshop as part of their Personal Development lessons.

They have completed training and assessment for the purpose of:

- An unconscious casualty—Recovery Position
- An unconscious non breathing casualty— CPR
- Wounds and bleeding—Bandaging
- Choking—Adult, child and infant.

Well done 11V!



British Science Week

On the 6th and 7th of January, our staff participated in two essential training days focused on enhancing student support and safety. Key training included Team Teach, which equips staff with de-escalation techniques to manage challenging situations and regulate students' emotions. Staff also reviewed Personal Regulation Plans and personalized Crib

British Science Week at Queensbury School

Queensbury students had an exciting experience during British Science Week 2025, themed "Change and Adapt," where they got the chance to meet a variety of fascinating animals. Among the stars of the show were Millie the hissing cockroach, Cornflake the corn snake, Sarah the chicken, and Trixie the energetic sprocker spaniel.

To celebrate the week, each class was assigned an animal to research. Students delved into topics such as life cycles, adaptations, diets, habitats, and unique facts about their chosen species. They then created detailed displays to showcase their findings, which they presented to the rest of the school. The senior leadership team selected the best projects from each year group, with outstanding displays on topics like frogs, sharks, bees, turtles, kangaroos, bears, and dogs.

This hands-on event provided a fun and educational way for students to learn about adaptation in nature, igniting their curiosity and reinforcing important scientific concepts. The week was a great success, with students not only learning but also enjoying the chance to interact with the amazing creatures, making British Science Week 2025 at Queensbury an unforgettable experience!



Mobile Phones

Mobile Phones

Could we please remind students, parents and carers of our mobile phone policy, as we operate a

"Never used, seen or heard" approach in school. All students and staff should be able to come to school feeling safe and secure. Mobile phones have become an important and invaluable part of our modern lifestyle, however once in school, mobile phones/tablet devices should be switched off. Student mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day.

The school understands there are times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security, enabling urgent calls. We understand that parents would want students that travel independently or on a bus to have the safeguard of a mobile phone when used appropriately.

Please find the link to the school policy on mobile phones below and also a link to the NSPCC website, which gives information about using parental controls on mobile devices to support your child's safety:

<https://queensburysch.com/policies/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

School Uniform Information



Queensbury School Uniform Swap Shop is open for you to

pass on any good quality school uniform your child no longer needs and pick up the next size for FREE.

The shop is open to everyone—no need to donate. But if you do have any school trousers, shirts or jumpers your child has outgrown they would be gratefully received.

To book a time to visit the shop please email sch.family-support@queensbury.eiat.org.uk or call and ask for School Uniform Swap Shop.

BVSC Hardship Grant Community Fund

BVSC has announced that, from Monday 6th February, they are open to new applications for their Hardship Grant Community Fund. They are offering grants of up to £200 for families experiencing hardship, particularly with the cost of food and energy.

To apply for the grant you must:

- live in Birmingham
- be facing hardship
- and NOT have received a grant from the BVSC Household Support Fund since June 2022.

Please visit www.bvsc.org/hsf if you wish to apply.

Or, if you would like support in completing your application, please get in touch with Lynsey, Family Support Worker at sch.family-support@queensbury.eiat.org.uk

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Join the PTA!



What is the Queensbury School PTA?

Our School PTA is a group of parents and teachers who meet to organise events and activities to improve communications and experiences amongst all members of our school community: school as an organisational body of staff and teachers, parents and pupils. Our primary purpose is to raise funds for items the school would not normally be able to afford and to have fun whilst doing so. Every parent automatically becomes a member of the PTA when their child enters the school. Meetings usually take place via Zoom 1 per half term, and last approximately an hour.

Why do we do this?

Simple – for Our Children whose welfare and best interests are our paramount consideration. We try to organise fun events for them. What does the PTA do? The PTA usually gets to organise a lot of the fun stuff! Main events may include: Christmas/Summer Fetes; school discos; parents' social evenings. The PTA always welcomes feedback and new ideas.

Join Queensbury school PTA team by emailing us on pta@queensbury.eiat.org.uk
OR
Contact us on 0121 373 5731 to speak with PTA team



Useful Information

PLEASE NOTE - There is NO Staff supervision in School before 8.30am.
Students must not be in School unaccompanied before this time.

Also, if your child is being collected by a different family member/friend
please notify Reception.

Without prior permission we are unable to let your child off school
premises until we have contacted you.

Magic Breakfast

"Breakfast in the Classroom

We have re-joined the National School Breakfast Programme alongside
Fareshare-go.

This means students will be offered a breakfast of bagels, toast or
pastries in class every morning free of charge"



Happy Easter

On Thursday 10th April, Queensbury School was filled with springtime cheer as students proudly took part in an Easter Bonnet Competition! Thanks to the generous support of the PTA, form groups were provided with Easter bonnets and a variety of craft items to decorate. Students were also encouraged to make bonnets at home where they made some truly wonderful creations.

The creativity on display was absolutely egg-cellent! From fluffy chicks to blooming spring flowers, each bonnet was a unique expression of our students' imagination and effort. To celebrate the most inventive creations, the PTA also donated Easter-themed gift bags as prizes for the most creative bonnets in each class. A big thank you to our PTA for their support and to all the families who helped make this event so special! Well done to everyone who took part – it truly was a parade of creativity and colour!



A message from our CEO



Jon Harris
CEO

The Easter holidays can be a wonderful time to rest and enjoy some better weather. It is also always a reminder that exam season is coming. For those parents and carers who are supporting their children through exams, I wish you good luck! This newsletter has so much information of all of the good things happening at Queensbury. I am really pleased that staff are putting into practice the things that we are working on during training days. The fact that far more people want to come to Queensbury than we have places for is good news.





There has been an increase in joint events across EIAT and we are having a real focus in ensuring that our work on preparing for adulthood and having high aspirations is really strong. Many students will be involved in transition next term - this could be moving to The Hive College, a new place or just moving class. We will make sure that everyone is prepared. Thank you all for the high attendance and engagement at the recent parents evenings.

“Enjoy the holiday”!



We believe all students have
the ability to unleash their
limitless potential.



 @queensburysch  @queensburysch  @queensburyschuk  @queensburytv



Queensbury Main
Wood End Road, Erdington B24 8B
0121 373 5731
enquiry@queensbury.eiat.org.uk



Queensbury New Horizons
Station Road, Erdington B23 6UB
0121 373 5731
enquiry@queensbury.eiat.org.uk