



Newsletter

October 2025



WWW.QUEENSBURYSCH.COM



A message from the Executive Head teacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half-term, I'm thrilled to reflect on the vibrant energy and achievements that have defined our start to the academic year.

Modeshift Stars Regional Award – Three Years Running!

We are proud to announce that Queensbury School has won the **West Midlands Modeshift Stars Regional Award** for the **third consecutive year!** This recognition celebrates our commitment to sustainable travel and community engagement. We will proudly represent the West Midlands at the **national finals in February 2026.**

Year 7 Transition Success

Our **Year 7 students** have transitioned beautifully into life at Queensbury. Their enthusiasm, adaptability, and eagerness to learn have been a joy to witness. Staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth and supportive start, and the students have responded with confidence and positivity.

Parents Evening & Future Options Evening

October saw a **fantastic turnout** at both our **Parents Evening** and **Future Options Evening**. The atmosphere was warm and collaborative, and the **feedback from our parent survey** was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all families who attended and contributed to these important conversations about your child's future.

Halloween Themed Day

On **Friday 24th October**, we hosted a **Halloween-themed day** with form-based activities and a selection of creative events planned by staff. The day was designed to be engaging and inclusive, with visual supports and structured routines to ensure all students could participate comfortably.



Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher

Dates

Term ends:

Friday 19th Dec 2025

Staff Training days:

Friday 28th Nov 2025

Friday 5th Dec 2025

A message from the Executive Head teacher

Staff Training & Wellbeing Initiatives

Staff have taken part in several professional development sessions, including an **AV1 training session** to support remote learning for students unable to attend in person. We also engaged with **Compass Birmingham MHST**, who delivered mental health support and parenting interventions, and launched the **SilverCloud digital platform** to enhance wellbeing services.

External Engagements & Conferences

Queensbury staff have been active in regional and national networks:

- We participated in the **Midlands Regional Networking Bootcamp** at Wilson Stuart School, connecting with over 30 school leaders to share best practices.
- Staff attend the Speech and Language training at Wilson Stuart School with regional partners.
- Makaton Charity will also be visiting us in the year to help develop our provision and possibly be part of their new app.

A Note on Mobile Phone Safety

While the vast majority of our students use technology responsibly, we've seen a **small number of incidents** involving mobile phones outside of school hours. We kindly ask parents to remain vigilant and continue discussing safe and respectful phone use with their children, especially during evenings and weekends.

ParentPay

As of Monday 3rd November, payments for School Dinners, Educational Visits and most Charity Fundraising Events will be made through ParentPay.

All consent for Educational Visits will also need to be completed through ParentPay.

If you have yet to active your ParentPay account, please do so as soon as possible.



A message from the Executive Head teacher

Looking Ahead: SEND Reforms on the Horizon

As a school deeply committed to inclusive education, we are **eagerly awaiting further news on the Government's SEND reforms**. The Department for Education has confirmed that the **Schools White Paper**, which outlines the future of SEND provision, has been **delayed until early 2026** to allow for deeper consultation with families, educators, and experts.

The reforms are expected to focus on:

- **Early and local support** for children with SEND.
- **Fair resourcing** for schools to meet predictable needs.
- **Clear legal safeguards** for specialist provision.
- **Partnership working** between education, health, and care services.

Locally, we've been actively engaged in discussions and conferences, including the **BEAS SEND Conference** and regional forums, to ensure Queensbury remains at the forefront of best practice and advocacy for our students

We will continue to monitor developments closely and keep our community informed as more details emerge.

Thank you to all our staff and for your continued support and partnership. Queensbury School thrives because of our shared commitment to excellence, inclusion, and community. I look forward to celebrating even more achievements with you as the year unfolds.

Warm regards,

Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher
Queensbury School

Whisker World



Whisker World – A Huge Thank You to Venture Classes and Staff!

We'd like to say a massive thank you to our brilliant Venture students and the dedicated staff who've helped make the launch of *Whisker World* such a success. Our school rabbits, Smoke and Cinders, are loving their new home – and it's all down to the care, commitment, and teamwork shown by everyone involved.

From feeding and cleaning to grooming and keeping the area calm and tidy, students have taken on their roles with real pride. It's been amazing to see them grow in confidence, take responsibility, and work together to make sure the rabbits are happy and healthy. These day-to-day jobs have become a valued part of their routine, and the sense of ownership they've shown has been truly inspiring.

We're also incredibly grateful to the staff who've supported the students every step of the way – guiding them, encouraging them, and helping them build the skills they need to succeed. This project has been a real team effort, and it's made a huge impact on our school community.



Whisker World

What's next?

We're excited to be starting our next *Whisker World* project: growing and maintaining plants for the rabbits to eat. This will help students learn about sustainability, healthy diets, and how to care for living things in a hands-on, meaningful way.

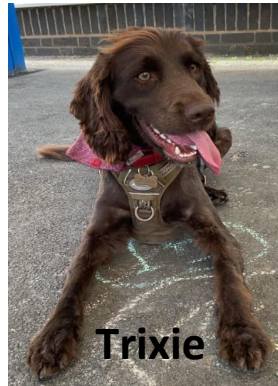
Thank you again to everyone who's helped make this such a special start!



Therapy Dogs

Therapy Dogs Update

As part of our wider animal care programme, students have also been working with our therapy dogs. Edison, Pablo, and Trixie are currently in training, and students are learning how to interact with them calmly and respectfully to help build trust and positive relationships. Henry, our fully qualified therapy dog, continues to be a reassuring and friendly presence around school. These experiences are helping students develop empathy, communication skills, and confidence in a safe and supportive environment.



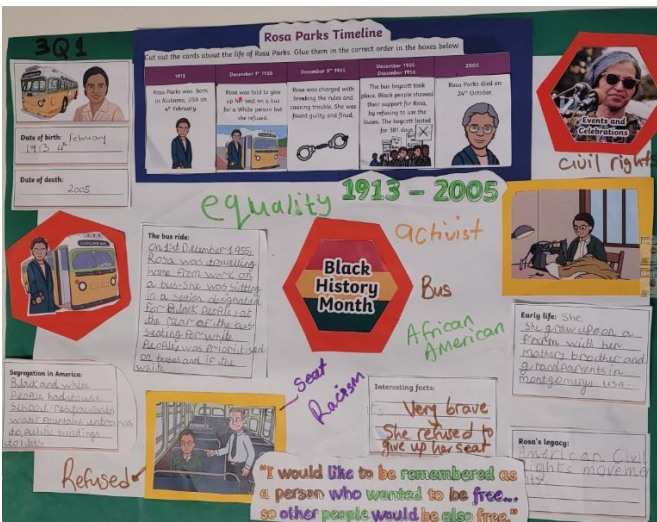
Future Options Evening



We were excited to invite students and families to our Future Options Evening, a valuable opportunity to explore the wide range of pathways available after Queensbury. Whether you're considering university, apprenticeships, vocational training, or entering the workforce, the event brought together representatives from colleges, local organisations, and career advisors Andy Mitchell and Jackie Hopkins to help guide your next steps. The event featured representatives from local colleges and specialist providers including The Hive, Sense College, HBVC, BMET, QAC and New Horizons. This was a fantastic opportunity to gather information, ask questions, and plan your next steps.

A reminder to parents/carers of young people in Year 11 and 14 to return your preference forms as soon as possible.

3Q1 Celebrates Black History Month



This month, 3Q1 took part in a special assembly to celebrate Black History Month. The class explored a range of inspiring figures who have made a difference throughout history and chose to focus on Rosa Parks. Together, they created an informative fact file highlighting her bravery and the important role she played in the Civil Rights Movement. The activity was a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn, collaborate, and reflect on the importance of standing up for what is right.

What a fantastic start to the year for 7V!

This first half term has been full of energy, growth, and teamwork. Since joining us in September, our new students have quickly formed strong friendships and shown us their unique personalities—each one bringing something special to the group.

We had the pleasure of welcoming our CPO, Duncan, and it's safe to say he's made quite the impression—there are definitely a few budding admirers of the police among us!

7V also teamed up with students from 9E to plan and host a successful Macmillan Coffee Morning, showing great initiative and collaboration.

Our weekly Community Access outings have begun, giving us the chance to explore and connect with our local area.

In a burst of creativity, the class even introduced a new “member” to 7V—though he only lasted 24 hours! His mischievous twin is set to make an appearance for Halloween...

To round off the term, the students created a vibrant display for Black History Month, learning about Birmingham-born poet and activist Benjamin Zephaniah.



Steve the Bull Has Come Home!

We're delighted to announce that **Steve the Bull** has returned to Queensbury School — and he's looking more magnificent than ever!

Steve was beautifully painted as part of the **Bulls in the City** project, a creative initiative that brought together students from across all pathways. Their collaborative effort transformed Steve into a vibrant symbol of our school's spirit, creativity, and unity.

Following his makeover, Steve was proudly exhibited at **Birmingham's Millennium Point** as part of the **Bull Trail**, where he stood among other stunning designs celebrating the city's culture and community.

Now, Steve is back where he belongs — taking pride of place at the **front of the school**, just outside **Mr Wilson's office**. His return has brought smiles, excitement, and a renewed sense of pride to everyone at Queensbury.

Welcome back, Steve!



Spooktacular Halloween Celebrations at Queensbury!

Halloween was a frightfully fun affair this year across both **Queensbury Main** and **New Horizons**, with students and staff embracing the spooky spirit in style!

Queensbury Main

The day kicked off with students arriving in **fantastic fancy dress**, showcasing everything from creepy creatures to creative costumes. The excitement continued with a **Best Dressed Competition**, judged by staff, and a **Best Window Display** that transformed classrooms into haunted havens. Students also enjoyed a lively **Halloween Dance**, and braved the mysterious **Yucky Dip** — not for the faint-hearted! Laughter, music, and spooky surprises filled the air, making it a day to remember.

New Horizons

Over at New Horizons, students took part in a series of Halloween-themed games, including the hilarious **Dress the Mummy** challenge and a **Best Window Display** competition that brought out everyone's artistic flair.

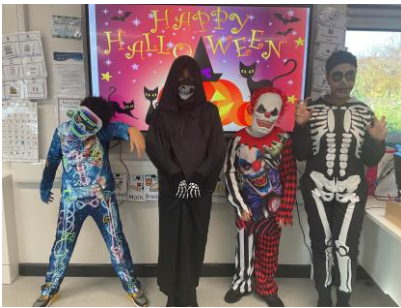
The day ended with a bang as the whole school joined in a **Just Dance session to "Ghostbusters"**, followed by a **Halloween Disco** that had everyone on their feet.

Prizes were awarded by the PTA for:

- Best Window Display
- Best Fancy Dress
- Winners of the Halloween Games

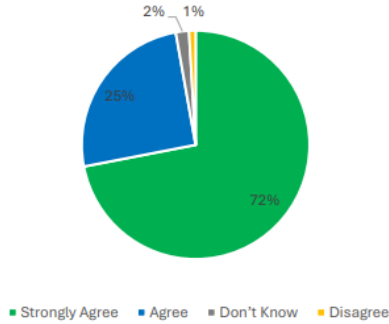


A huge thank you to all staff, students, and the PTA for making this year's Halloween celebrations so memorable. The creativity, enthusiasm, and community spirit were truly spellbinding!

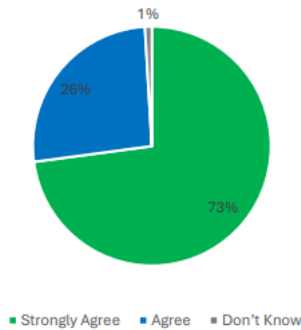


Parents Evening Results

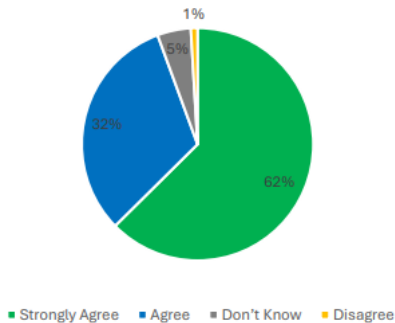
My child is happy at the school



My child feels safe at this school

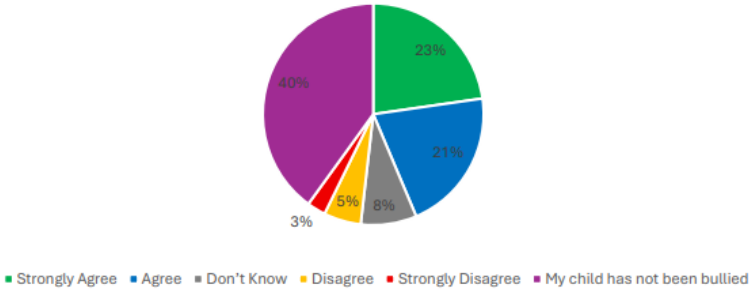


The school makes sure the pupils are well behaved

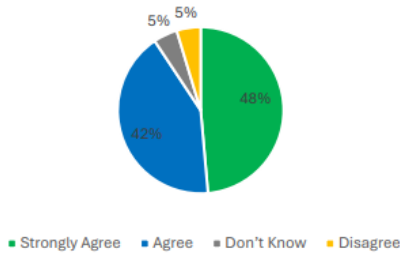


Parents Evening Results

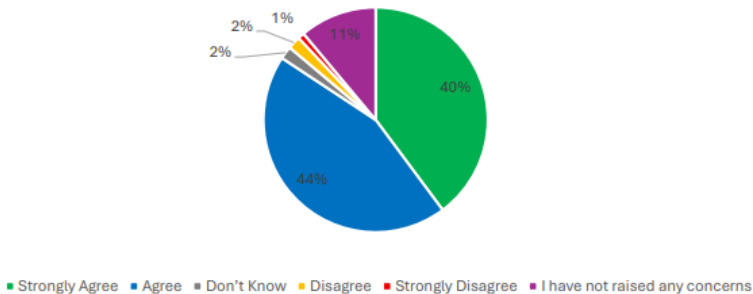
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.



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

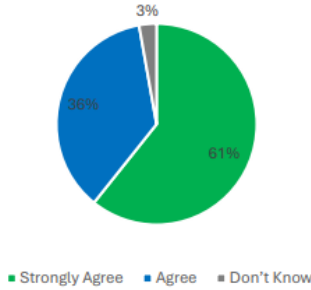


When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.

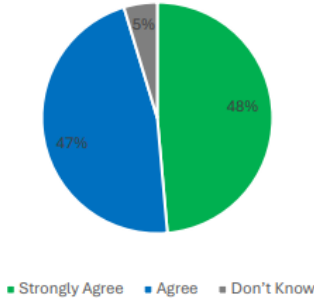


Parents Evening Results

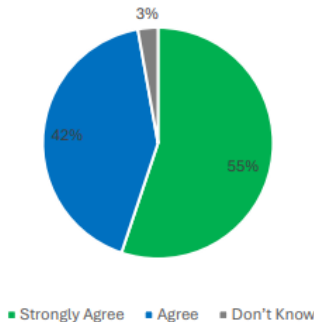
My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



The school has high expectations for my child

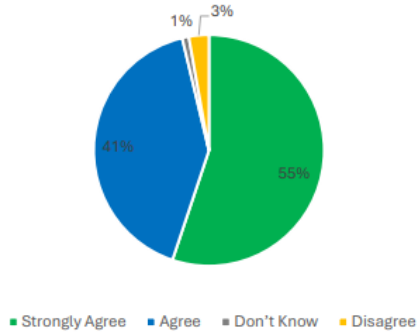


My child does well at this school

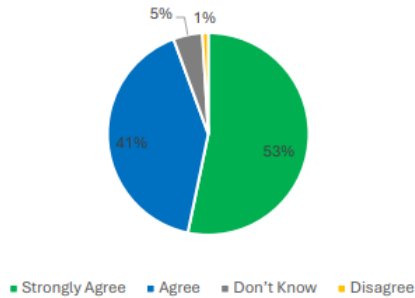


Parents Evening Results

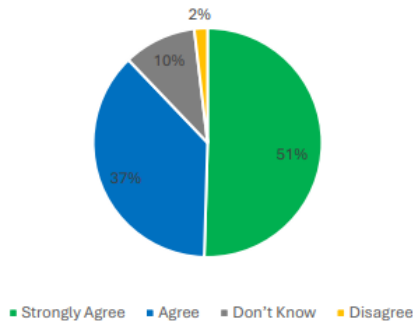
The school lets me know how my child is doing



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

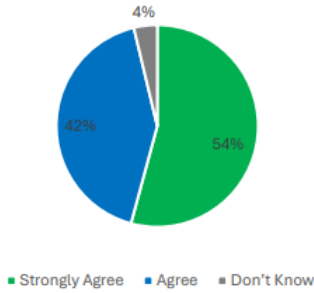


My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

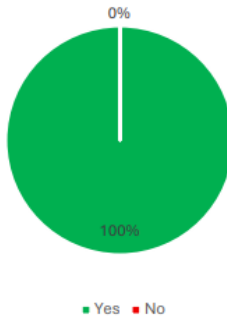


Parents Evening Results

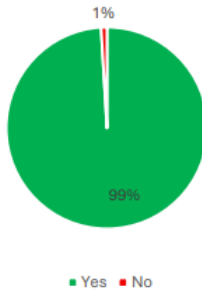
The school supports my child's wider personal development.



I would recommend this school to another parent.



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



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/>

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"



A message from our CEO



Jon Harris
CEO

The students have really benefitted from the transition work that was done by staff over the last academic year. It has been good to see how this has fed into how classrooms were set up and approaches personalised for the students. Gone are the days of people saying, 'we will give them a few weeks to settle and see how it goes'. We know the students and families better than ever. This was reflected in the parent / carer feedback that was gathered as part of the recent parents evening which was very well attended.


I enjoyed seeing the students come together to collaborate with others across EIAT for an art project. We are keen for our students to work with as wide a range of other students as possible.

Enjoy half-term

Jon

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



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