



**Happy Hanukkah to those who are celebrating this festival.  
May you have a warm and joyous Festival of Light.**

### **Thank you - Face coverings**

I want to thank everyone for the way that pupils have returned seamlessly to wearing their masks this week. As we approach the end of term it is really important that we continue with measures that keep each other safe.

Home testing is a very important strand of our safety measures. By testing your child on Sunday and Wednesday, you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep your child in school and Queensbridge School open to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

[\*\*Click to read: Face covering update letter\*\*](#)

We are currently looking at our plan for testing in January. We are also considering a live stream of our Christmas Concert - please watch this space.

### **WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP - Work Experience Placements:**

We are looking for work experience placements for our Year 10 pupils - are you or anyone you know able to offer a placement for one or more of our year 10 pupils? The Work Experience dates are Monday 14th - Friday 18th February 2022 (inclusive). Our pupils are finding it quite difficult in finding placements this year and would appreciate any help that you may be able to offer. Any potential

placements would be subject to Health & Safety checks being carried out by our school provider and an up to date risk assessment is part of that process. In the first instance please contact school.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Mrs Reeves, Headteacher**

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## Spotlight on Sport @ QB – Autumn Term 2021

### BASKETBALL

The Basketball season is finally set to get underway as Queensbridge enter the Birmingham leagues. With a strong tradition of Basketball in the school, boasting two precious England international players in our Alumni, teams from Year 7, 8 and 9 will soon begin their campaign with the first fixtures taking place on 6th December. After the Christmas break we are hopefully the Birmingham Jnr NBA campaign will begin. Queensbridge is a founder member of this league and again hold a strong tradition having lifted the National Trophy back in 2016 and travelling to London in 2018 to represent the New York Knicks at the icon Nike Regal court and being coached by Knicks legend Latrel Spreeman and NBA women's icon Elena Delle Donne. The team took on a team representing the Washington Wizards and again claimed a substantial win.

Keep your eyes on the newsletter for upcoming fixtures and results from our first round of games.

### FOOTBALL

Brilliant start to the year for the Year 7 and 8 Boys football teams! The Year 7 team came out victorious in their last game with a thumping 4-1 win over Archbishop Illesley. Meanwhile the Year 8 team beat Archbishop Illesley 3-2 and then drew with Bishop Challoner in an action-packed encounter. There have been too many star performers to list individuals - we have been so impressed with the team performances from these year groups!



Year 7 Football v Wheelers Lane

## VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the year 9 and 10 volleyball team. Their first tournament was a huge success with four straight wins. They convincingly beat Bishop Challenor and the Camp Hill A and B team to make it to the finals. With a nail-biting final game, they came back in the last minute to win 16-15. The win was helped because of the great teamwork and communication skills demonstrated throughout all the games. Well done all!



Y9 & Y10 Boys Volleyball

## NETBALL

### Y8 & 9 Netball

The buzz around Netball at QB is back! We have had good attendance to after school netball by girls in every year group. Our Y8 and 9 teams have been playing in the Kings Norton Netball league for the first time. It's been a mixed set of results so far however we have had two significant wins; Y8 beat EHS 2-12 and Y9 beat Bishop Challoner 3-18. We are really proud of all of the girls who have all put in great individual and team performances. Well done.



Y8 Netball Squad

### Roses Reunited Netball Trip

Our much anticipated extra-curricular visit to the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham to watch the England Roses Netball team play Jamaica is next Saturday. This game will be the second of the three game 'Roses Reunited' netball series.

The first game takes place this Sunday 28th November. You can watch live coverage on Sky Sports Arena, Mix and YouTube channel. Make sure you tune in to get a taste of the action!

## CRICKET

### Girls Indoor Cricket with WCB

This term we have also rekindled our partnership with Warwickshire Cricket Board who came into school to deliver three indoor cricket sessions to our Y7 and 8 girls as part of their 'Chance to Shine' programme. The girls showed lots of energy and enthusiasm, had lots of fun and learnt lots of new cricket skills along the way. As an extension of this we are offering Girls Indoor Cricket after school every Thursday starting next week. Girls need to sign up with their form tutor if they would like to take part. A group of our Year 9 girls will also be taking part in some training next term to become Cricket Leaders at Queensbridge.



Girls' Cricket with WCB

## TABLE TENNIS

Four Y11 boys entered the BC School Games U16s Table Tennis tournament, held at Moseley School earlier in November and represented Queensbridge with energy and pride, in what will be their last time representing Queensbridge in a sports fixture, before they leave us to go onto pastures new at Post-16 provision. The singles matches were played with dynamism and were tactically, a pleasure to watch. The doubles games were a lesson in team-work, communication and tight services followed up by big attacks. All games were close encounters with a mixture of hard-fought battles some ending in victory and some unfortunate losses. Queensbridge finished the tournament in fourth place, narrowly missing out on a top 3 position. We are very proud of all involved!



Y11 Table Tennis

## Extra-Curricular Participation

It has been fantastic to see so many QBers participating the vast array of sports extra-curricular clubs that are on offer after school. Participation in physical activity is beneficial in lots of different ways and this year we wanted to celebrate and recognise those students who regularly turn up to our after-school sport clubs, so we have introduced a “Passport to Play” rewards card for attendance at all sports extra-curricular clubs. Students are responsible for getting their card stamped at the end of each session and once their card is complete they can exchange it for a certificate & a surprise. Well done to those students who have already received their Certificate of Achievement / Bronze Award for outstanding commitment to extra-curricular & wider learning at QB!

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## Autumn / Spring Term 2021/22 - Dates for your diary

- Monday 6th December - **Year 11 Mock exams start.**
- Friday 17th December - **End of term.**
- Tuesday 4th January 2022 - **Pupils return to school.**
- Wednesday 12th January 2022 - **iDay**
- Thursday 20th January 2022 -**Year 11 Parents' Evening (Virtual event)**
- Thursday 3rd February 2022 - **Year 10 Parents' Evening (Virtual event)**

View all upcoming events and dates > [Calendar & Events](#)

## Updates for parents



Kooth online sessions for parents, carers and young people :  
[Eventbrite session links \(click to register\)](#)

There are a number of resources for parents and carers available through Kooth, as well as support for young people:

[FAQ's for parents](#)

[Supporting young people with exam results](#)

[Parents and Carers Support Tips](#)

[Support brochure for parents and Carers](#)

## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS



Your child's school has invested in the award winning resource, GCSEPod, to help your child reach their goals!

Join the thousands of parents/carers encouraging their children to use GCSEPod to support learning, homework and revision.

- ▶ Proven to increase results
- ▶ 28+ exam mapped subjects
- ▶ Available online and offline
- ▶ Audio visual content
- ▶ Builds confidence
- ▶ Independently accessible assessments

**Want to find out how you can support your child more with GCSEPod?** Then join one of our free webinars by registering here: <https://www.gcsepod.com/popup-presents-webinars/>

"The correlation between success and failure was made almost 100% clear by the use of GCSEPod."

**Head of MFL  
at Yateley School**

"I found GCSEPod especially useful to compliment my knowledge and I'm certain it helped me secure the grades that I have been so happy to receive."

**Student**

"My daughter used GCSEPod for her GCSEs and was very successful with her results, she absolutely loved your Pods and this style of revising."

**Parent**

### Student Activation

Please follow these instructions if your child has not yet activated their GCSEPod account

1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click 'LOG IN'
2. Click 'New to GCSEPod? Get Started'
3. Enter your child's details and confirm the name of the school they attend
2. Create a username and password

For more information please visit  
[www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents)



## GCSEPOD

As you will be aware, all Year 10 and Year 11 have accounts for GCSEPOD. This is a brilliant resource for students as they revise at home, and students who use it regularly have seen the positive impact on their progress. The parent page has lots of useful information and can be accessed through this link: [Parent Resources - GCSEPod](#)

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In supporting your child with their KS4 courses, please remind them to get into habits of using GCSEPOD effectively, including completing Check and Challenge activities after watching the pods. If students have any questions (including account details), they should speak to their tutor, Head of Year, or email Mrs. Lee.

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## Communication - Edulink One

We would like to remind pupils that moving forward, our primary method of communication between school and home will be through Edulink One. Edulink One is a web and app based application, which aims to integrate systems into one solution.

It is an instant and effective method of communication to you and allows us to attach important letters to messages. Edulink One enables an increased number of characters per message and allows us to send a more informative message to you. We also use Edulink One to share your child's successes and rewards with you. It has many other functions such as allowing you to view your child's timetable, recognition, contacts and homework.

If you have not yet logged in to Edulink One please contact the school and we can provide your username and password.

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## Sora reading recommendation for parents/carers

### Parent/Carer



Wise, funny, and heart-breaking, Persepolis is Mariane Satrapi's memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Mariane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

### Attendance letter:

- [Spotlight Whole School Letter](#)
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### College Open Days / Evenings 2021-22

- [Local Colleges - Guide to Open Days & Evenings](#)
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## School Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform and have the correct equipment at all times please refer to the Uniform letter. Please note, when your child has PE they should bring their kit in their bag to school NOT wear their PE kit to school. When your child has dance they should wear their dance kit to school on that day.

Reminder: Aprons are a required part of a pupils' school equipment.

- [Uniform letter 14\\_07\\_21](#)

Further information can be found here:

- [Uniform \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](#)
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## School Day

- [The School Day \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](#)
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## Connect: Student Newsletter

Connect is our weekly pupil newsletter. It is emailed out to all pupils every Friday through their school gmail account and contains details on recognition, reading, careers, wellbeing along with any relevant notices for pupils for the forthcoming week. We would ask that you encourage your child to engage with the newsletter each week. It is a great way for pupils to stay connected to school life.

- [QB Connect \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](#)
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## Student Wellbeing

Signposting to free Mental Health services for young people, including how to get help in a crisis and anonymous online support.

➤ View Online: [QB Website: Student Wellbeing](#)

**Other links:**

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

[Forward Thinking Birmingham | Mental Health Services](#)

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Mind - Birmingham - \(birminghammind.org\)](#)



# Online Safety: What you need to know

## This week: Yologuide

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

**YOLO**

**YOLO** is an anonymous question and answer app that works in combination with Snapchat. In May 2019 it became the most downloaded app in the UK iTunes store only a week after its release and with no prior marketing or promotion. It has become hugely popular amongst children, particularly teenagers, as it offers them the opportunity to join in anonymous Q&A without having to reveal their identities, which often encourages more honest and open peer feedback. This can offer kids a real sense of self-worth when they receive positive comments on their posts but can also have serious drawbacks if abused. At the time of writing this guide, YOLO was only available to download from the iTunes App store and unavailable to Android users.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

**What parents need to know about YOLO**

**EVERYTHING IS ANONYMOUS**

Once a user has downloaded YOLO, they will be prompted to open Snapchat and post a message to their Snapchat story which asks their friends and followers to send them honest messages. From these responses, all of which are anonymous, the user can then choose one and either reply direct to it in the YOLO app or reply via an image or video in Snapchat. This requires prior thought and care for their Snapchat story. Given the anonymity, these messages may not always be helpful or positive.

**RISK OF BULLYING**

Like previous similar apps before it, YOLO could be used to facilitate bullying given user identities are hidden. Cyberbullies may see this as an opportunity to send offensive or abusive comments to your child, especially as there is little opportunity for someone to respond prior to the message hitting your child's inbox. Children's charities, such as the NSPCC, have already voiced their concerns over the potential for the app to be misused.

**NO AGE VERIFICATION PROCESS**

Whilst YOLO recommends that the app should not be used by children under the age of 13, the iTunes store provides a recommended age rating of 17+. This means, if your child chooses to download the app and already has Snapchat, there are no age verification checks and no parental controls. As long as your child has access to an iPhone and has Snapchat installed, they have access to YOLO.

**AN INFLUENTIAL FEEDBACK TOOL**

YOLO is designed to offer children the ability to tell their peers what they think of their posts and aims to encourage positivity between friends. However, the app can also be an influential tool in shaping how your child behaves and interacts if they receive feedback from their followers which is more critical, such as in relation to their looks or their day to day actions. Children are so keen to be accepted by their friends that they may try and act on the criticism in order to do whatever it takes to fit in.

**Top Tips For Parents**

- 1 SPEAK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT CYBERBULLYING**
- 2 TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT YOLO**
- 3 TALK ABOUT BEING KIND ONLINE**
- 4 USE BOTH YOLO AND SNAPCHAT PRIVACY FEATURES**
- 5 IF WORRIED, SIMPLY DELETE THE APP**

**National Online Safety** **#WakeUpWednesday**

**Meet our expert**

Pete Badis is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

**SOURCES:**  
<https://yolo.com/terms>  
<https://yolo.com/privacy>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-48214413>

## Next week - What you need to know about online challenges

Stay involved in your child's online world, just as in their real world. It will help to protect them from its dangers. We know it can be difficult to know how to talk to your child about online safety and the following websites can provide you with some useful tips and guidance:

- [Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)
- [How to Keep Your Teen \(or Tween\) Safe Online | SafeWise](#)
- [National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)

# SEND BRIEFING PARENT WEBINAR

*December 2021*



Parent/Carer Webinars take place regularly throughout the year and cover a number of different topics. Please see the local offer website for further details. Each webinar should last approximately one hour and take the format of a presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

## Occupational Therapy

### Feeding & Mealtimes with OT

#### Speakers

**Gordon Heath & Katie Green  
(Occupational Therapists)**

This Family Webinar will look at strategies to support feeding. You will consider the impact of the environment during mealtimes and strategies to support your child to increase their food intake including expanding the variety of foods they eat.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 - 10:00am – 11:00am**

#### Feeding & Mealtimes with OT

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/feeding-mealtimes-with-ot-7th-december-1000am/>

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

#### Feeding & Mealtimes with

**OT**<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/feeding-mealtimes-with-ot-8th-december-630pm/>

All who book a ticket will be sent a copy of the presentation and a copy of the recording of the webinar.

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*December 2021*



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## SEND Speech & Language Therapy

### Language and Communication Needs in Secondary School Aged Children and Young People

Practical ideas to support your child's language and communication.  
Suitable for parents/carers of secondary school aged children

#### Speakers

Annie Loftus & Tamsin Ruane  
(SEND Speech and Language Therapists)

**Wednesday 8th December 2 - 3pm**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/language-and-communication-needs-in-secondary-school-aged-children-young-people-8th-december-2pm/>

**Thursday 9th December 10 - 11am**

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/language-and-communication-needs-in-secondary-school-aged-children-young-people-9th-december-10am/>

You will be sent a copy of the presentation after the webinar and a copy of the recording at a later date when you book a ticket.



## Coronavirus: Staying Safe

- [Covid Update Letter - Friday 15th October](#)
- [Covid Update Letter - Monday 11th October](#)

Next newsletter: Friday 10th December 2021 **Spotlight on:** QB School Hall Renovation