



### Message from the new Chair of Governors - Jo Klaces.

I have been a member of Queensbridge Governing Body for 7 years and am honoured to have taken up the role of Chair this September. The role became vacant after the resignation of Darrell Harman, the previous, exceptional and much missed Chair.

I am retired now but was formerly an A-level teacher and senior tutor in Sixth Form College, Director of the National Literacy Association and freelance reviewer of teen fiction for the Times Education Supplement. I did my PGCE training at Queensbridge. Later becoming an English teacher and Creative agent at the school.

I am delighted to be working alongside the other members of the Governing Body and the wonderful staff in school

in this testing time of 'reboot' post-Covid. It has been an extraordinarily difficult two years for pupils and staff and much has to be rebuilt – relationships, a renewed sense of community and the habits of (working together to mention but a few). I am confident pupils and staff will achieve all this and more. I attended the TIASS (Trauma Informed Attachment Aware Schools) training at the beginning of the year and was so impressed with staff responses to the teaching philosophy which invites and encourages teachers to be responsive to individual

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pupil's histories and possible traumas in order to better build resilience and relationships – which have always been the cornerstone of practice at Queensbridge .

Every year is a challenging one for those on the front line of delivering education to our young people . From March 2020 the challenge became a huge leap into the literal emptiness of school and the need to rapidly re think how education could get done, and pupils supported, across the airwaves.

I met several times with members of staff in charge of Safeguarding and Quality of Education . Ways were found, developed and refined to try and keep children safe and their education intact despite the circumstances . Ian Horgan and his admirable team have developed whole school approaches to wellbeing to ensure that vulnerable children who had reduced support networks whilst not physically at school, are picked up (metaphorically) and offered appropriate help.

I have also met with teaching staff and Jayne Ashton in charge of Quality of Education who very quickly rose to the massive challenge of developing a robust virtual learning programme . Meeting problems such as insuring pupils were actually attending their online lessons – not just turning on their mobile devices - to finding ways to engage students in online learning by facilitating breakout groups, interaction etc, to developing dress codes for attending on-line lessons. And then there was the in house assessment of student work because exams were finally cancelled...(twice). And now back in school High Impact Teaching is still the goal , alongside the pressing need for consistent attendance and the re-establishment of good routines , from wearing the correct uniform to good time keeping and organisation.

What a year. Pupils are now back in school but the challenges (and successes) keep coming. Queensbridge has proved itself resilient, caring and rigorous, still offering a both a first class education and a safe and nurturing environment for the whole school community. The school is determined to maintain its mantra for all members of the community to be 'ready, responsible and safe'. And to reinforce this for pupils through a focus on positive recognition of achievement .

As Governors we have a strategic vision 'to build a thriving and cohesive learning community .....expecting all children to grow in confidence and resilience and to achieve both academic success and personal fulfilment , while being caring and respectful'.

Of course, it is the whole staff of the school who are working towards these goals – we are merely the overseers , critical friends taking an active and informed interest in the school's pathway to achievement . As Chair I hope to work with the school whilst navigating this post pandemic , budget- restrained, uncertain educational landscape. I'm holding on – it might not be easy , but it will be exciting, and we will remain optimistic.

➤ [View online: Queensbridge Governors](#)

## Autumn Term 2021 - Dates for your diary

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

- Yr9 Blackwell Day trips - Thursday 14th and Friday 15th October
- Year 7 Form Tutor evening - Thursday 21st October

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### Updates for parents:

#### Attendance letter:

> [Spotlight Whole School Letter](#)  
([queensbridge.bham.sch.uk](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk))

### Punctuality

Attendance and Punctuality matter. Whilst the overwhelming majority of pupils are on time every day, some are late for school. Poor punctuality can lead to your child missing the beginning of vital lessons, missing important instructions for the rest of the school day and learning bad habits which could affect their employability in the future. Pupils are expected to be in form ready to learn for an 8.45am start.

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
30 mins	20.7 days

We are changing the way in which we manage poor punctuality. Going forward we will now be holding late detentions on a Wednesday and a Friday.

Wednesday detention – if your child is late once on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday then they will receive a 15 minute detention after school on the Wednesday of that week. If your child is late more than once during this period then they will receive a 40 minute detention after school on the Wednesday of that week.

Friday detention – if your child is late once on Thursday or Friday they will receive a 15 minute detention after school on Friday of that week. If your child is late twice (Thursday and Friday) then they will receive a 40 minute detention after school on Friday of that week.

## College Open Days / Evenings 2021-22

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

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Dear Parents,

**RE: Upcoming webinar for parents – *Independent Learning: How to Turn Your Child into an Independent Learner***

We're excited to announce that parents of Queensbridge School have exclusive access to Elevate Education's Parent Webinar Series this year. Elevate works with our students, delivering high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series you will learn how to better support your children at home through reinforcing the skills they learn at school.

***Independent Learning: How to Turn Your Child into an Independent Learner - 12th October @ 6:00pm***

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Register for free here

In *Independent Learning*, Elevate will show you:

- What effectively formatted notes look like;
- Effective strategies for learning and revising those notes;
- How the top students move beyond note-taking when preparing for exams.

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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 \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)

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### School Day

➤ View Online: [The School Day \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)



Connect: Student Newsletter

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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.

➤ View Online: [QB Connect \(queensbridge.bham.sch.uk\)](http://queensbridge.bham.sch.uk)

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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 - \(birminghammind.org\)](http://birminghammind.org)

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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](#)

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Next newsletter: Friday 15th October 2021