

*Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of QEGS,*

*You will have no doubt picked up on the issues facing schools nationally to do with how they are funded. As you also might imagine we are not immune to the downward pressure on funding and have been working assiduously with governors to prioritise how we spend the money we receive from government, to find ways to save money and to look at alternative ways to fund the important things. It is unlikely that government funding priorities will change much; they are directed at schools in challenging circumstances and those that, for whatever reason, are not able to provide the secure and successful learning environment that we take for granted at Queen Elizabeth's.*

*We are very proud of what we manage to provide for our students on a relatively modest budget and know that we are not extravagant; we want the best learning going on in classrooms and the widest possible range of opportunities available outside them. We feel strongly that we should not compromise on our School Aims even when times are hard.*

*With that in mind, we would like your help to sustain that all-round, excellent educational experience that has become synonymous with life at QEGS; both in and outside the classroom.*



**QEGS needs your help!**

There are **three** ways that we hope that parents and carers will be able help us:

## 1. Volunteering

***Trips and activities*** are a key part of what we do and in order for them to continue we need staff to help on those trips. Currently, we release staff from their teaching duties to go on trips and we then have to pay for a replacement to cover their lessons. We wondered if parents and carers would be willing to put themselves forward as volunteer helpers; a pool of volunteers who we could contact when a trip was being organised to check your availability. Any volunteer would be able to specify their limitations such as times, dates and year groups as well as whether they had preferences over the kinds of visits they would be interested in helping with. We would make sure that you felt confident in the role with some basic training and you were put through the appropriate safeguarding checks (DBS scheme).

***Lunchtime outdoor helpers*** – we have a large site and we would welcome regular helpers who would like to join our lunchtime supervision team. Having adult presence out on the school field and around buildings is something students value. Volunteers will be able to specify which day they can help and how often; whether that is weekly, fortnightly or even monthly. Any help would be valuable and we would provide some training to help you feel confident in the role as well as going through the appropriate safeguarding checks (DBS scheme).

***Helping hands*** – we have many roles across the school both in classrooms and behind the scenes in areas like administration. As well as being an enormous help to the school, volunteering can also provide valuable work experience if you are looking to get back into work. Please contact us if you would feel there is something you could offer and again we would provide some training so that you feel confident to fulfil the area you would be volunteering in as well as ensuring that you have the appropriate safeguarding checks (DBS scheme).

**Anything else?** If there are other ideas and opportunities you think we have missed, please get in touch and let us know!

## **2. '£1 a week fund'**

There is no doubt that our parents and carers do a lot to support our students such as the 'family taxi' service which operates free of charge at various times of the day and night including weekends! I am also conscious that everyone, not just schools, are feeling the pinch. We would like to set up a school fund called simply, '£1 a week' with the aim of building up funds that we can use to fill the gaps that the public money we receive from the government can no longer stretch to. Whether that is providing a school planner, awards and rewards or creating landscaped areas for students to enjoy around the site; these are the extras that student value and derive real benefit from. There are so many extra things that go to make up this all-round educational experience that we prize so highly at QEGS. Although it would be amazing if every family were able to make a donation of £52 per year to the fund, we make no assumptions and there will be different options on ParentPay so that you can decide what level of donation you would like to make. We just know that whatever we receive, it will make a difference; although now commonplace in many state funded schools the creation of a school fund is a new venture for QEGS.

## **3. Sponsorship, advertising and fundraising**

We have a brilliant PTA and I am very grateful for the work that they do to raise money for things like the Challenge Award Scheme; I don't know of any other school which provides grants to students to undertake personal challenges and projects. However, we need to hear from you if you have ideas about how we can access other funding streams directly into school such as through sponsorship and advertising. You might know about a scheme that the company you work for runs or your own company might be interested in providing sponsorship for specific projects or teams. Equally, you might have links with charities that provide practical support in schools such as through counselling or drop-

in schemes. Please get in touch with any contacts you have or can make on our behalf; every little will help!

*We are very proud of our school and our students; we think we have something special at QEGS and we want to sustain and enhance the kind of educational experience we offer. Things are tough but not impossible, if we work together on reducing our running costs, making the best use of all the resources we have and finding ways to access different sources of funding, QEGS will continue to offer the excellent, all-round education it has since 1571. Your help is key; we would love to hear from you about volunteering or sponsorship and fundraising and to enlist your help with the new '£1 a week fund'.*

Please return this form if you would like to get involved directly with volunteering or if you have ideas about fundraising and sponsorship.

Alternatively, you can email school with the same information; we have set up a special email address: [QEGSneedsmyhelp@qegs.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:QEGSneedsmyhelp@qegs.lincs.sch.uk)

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### **QEGS Needs My Help**

1. I am interested in volunteering (please tick)

Trips and visits

Lunchtime helper

Helping hands

Other

2. I have ideas about fundraising and sponsorship to contribute

3. There are other ways I feel I can help

My email / phone contact details are: .....

I am Parent or Carer of (Student name and form).....

**THANK YOU**