

Pursuit  
*of* excellence





# Seize *the* opportunity

A former fee-charging private school, Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School (QEGS as it is more commonly known) is now a co-educational free school for students aged 4-19 years serving a wide catchment area within Lancashire and beyond.

While we no longer charge fees, we retain an independent school ethos, placing strong emphasis on high academic standards, exemplary behaviour and extra-curricular commitment. This winning combination, as we know from our results over 500 years of experience of educating young people, is a guarantee of success.

The school is truly independent in all areas that count; we offer stability, excellent pastoral care and have very highly qualified expert staff. We are a truly integrated school which encourages tolerance and diversity within a broad Christian ethos. We have a liberal curriculum in which we strongly encourage participation in music, drama and sport. All pupils are expected to participate in these activities as we wish to help them to benefit from a broad experience that sees them working co-operatively with others, irrespective of their background or faith. We are strongly and forcefully of the view that the genders are equal and that is reflected in our expectations of collaboration and courtesy amongst pupils of both sexes. We are strongly committed to co-education

which, we believe, enables young people to grow up together in a natural environment that prepares them for university and employment.

Our curriculum is founded on high aspirations allied with academic breadth and challenge. It is accessible by all pupils and challenges them all. It encompasses the national curriculum, with a strong emphasis on oral communication.

It extends beyond the confines of the national curriculum in offering PSHEE, covering amongst many other themes, Citizenship. The introduction of French in Year 3, specialist taught science and music, and an extended programme of physical education develop early habits of co-operation, application and aspiration.

Benefiting from excellent pastoral care and good standards of discipline, our pupils thrive in a safe, caring environment from Early Years to the Sixth Form, forming stable and enduring friendships which continue well beyond school.





# A history of achievement

By joining QEGS, you will become a part of a proud history of achievement which has spanned over 500 years.

“The free gramer schole at Blakebourne” was founded in 1509 by Thomas, Second Earl of Derby. Since then the achievements of our students, past and present, have earned a national reputation.

## Reformation

The school survived the Reformation and in 1567 was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I. It thus became the “Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburn in the County of Lancaster”.

## Today

After 500 years of history, from September 2014 Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School became a Free School and continues to educate pupils to the highest academic standards, in accordance with a clear moral code.

The programme of redevelopment and improvement at the West Park Road site remains ongoing, as the school continues to offer the best possible education and preparation for life. The latest enhancements to the site include new facilities for Biology, Mathematics and Complementary Studies, all brought into use in the Autumn of 2008, and a new extension to the Sports Hall at the Harrison Playing Fields at Lammack, opened in March 2011.





# Learning *to be* of service

**The School Motto**

‘Disce Prodesse’, loosely translated as “Learn to be of service” epitomises the character of the school and remains central to our mission to develop rounded human beings through academic studies as well as an extensive programme of extra-curricular opportunities. We will unlock individual talent, encourage healthy competition and scholarship, and promote leadership and teamwork.

**Our Vision**

Our vision supports and sustains:

- a school that is true to its roots, and is enthusiastic about its role in the future of education
- high standards, social mobility, ambition and aspirations for all
- the fulfilment of the full potential of each child
- an independent style of education that is open to all
- a sense of moral purpose and responsibility in the community

**Our mission**

Our mission is to develop a large and diverse school that provides the highest standards of independent education to the local and wider community, whilst remaining true to our historical roots and original charitable purpose.

**We will build on our traditional strengths:**

- we will establish early the habits of aspiration, application, attendance, and healthy living. This will be supported by regular monitoring of individual progress, a breadth of educational and extra- curricular experiences typical of the independent sector, and the opportunity for older pupils to develop leadership qualities.
- we will continue our established House system, which enables pupils to belong to communities across the age range. The House system builds self-esteem and promotes healthy competition.
- we will remain committed to educating the whole person by providing stimulating opportunities beyond the classroom, and providing the highest standards of pastoral care.
- the curriculum will be broad and balanced, going beyond the National Curriculum. In KS3, all pupils study English, Mathematics, three separate sciences, History, Geography, Music, Art, DT, Computing, Ethics and Philosophy (which covers Religious Education), PE and Games. In Year 7, pupils study either French or Spanish for their modern foreign language, and begin the study of Classics, including Latin in the Trinity Term. In Year 8 German is taken up by all pupils. Pupils' personal, health and social education are addressed in the PSHEE programme, which runs through all year groups.
- the partnership with our alumni and businesses will be strengthened and will continue to raise aspirations and access to high quality further education for all pupils.





# An environment for success

Pastoral Care

We seek to educate the whole child here so, while academic achievement is our first priority, our commitment to first-class pastoral care is deeply embedded in the culture of the school, and is rightly commented on by parents, visitors and inspectors. This means that what emerges is someone who has benefited from myriad opportunities in music, drama and sport and has had experience of leadership in preparation for the sort of positions he or she will go on to occupy in society. In addition to the Deputy Head in charge of pastoral care, the Heads of Year and the Form Tutors have a major role to play, as does the Co-ordinator of PSHEE.

Houses

The system of “Houses” was introduced nearly 100 years. Today every pupil belongs to one of the six Houses, each named after an Elizabethan sea captain. House assemblies take place each week giving pupils of all ages chance to meet.

Community

We are proud of our place in the civic life of the borough and our strong spiritual links with Blackburn Cathedral. Pupils are encouraged to represent the school in the community, through activities such as fundraising for local charities, helping those who are disadvantaged, and taking part in civic ceremonies, public speaking and debates. We are proud of the range of fundraising activities undertaken by our pupils and the work of the Charities Committee is an important feature of life at our school.

Facilities

In addition to our outstanding academic facilities, our pupils are able to access many different areas for learning and development. Our Library has a stock of over 14,000 books, with a total of 27,000 items including online resources, and a suite of networked computers for private study and research. Sports facilities include our indoor, heated swimming pool and a fully equipped gymnasium, whilst the school's sports fields and sports hall at Lammack are a hive of activity and sporting encouragement.

Catering

We strongly believe in the value of pupils eating together socially. The school lunch menu changes daily and our prices are very reasonable. A slightly modified version of the Junior and Senior School menu, appropriate for younger children, is offered to our boys and girls in the Infant School, whilst Sixth Form students enjoy a variety of meals, snacks and refreshments in the excellent cafeteria located at the heart of the Sixth Form Centre, Singleton House.

Q-Plus

Q-Plus offers busy parents of Infant and Junior School pupils at QEGS a safe and secure environment for their children before and after the school day, through our Breakfast and After School Clubs.





# Beyond *the* classroom

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our aim is to develop rounded human beings through a broad and challenging range of educational experiences. The education on offer at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School extends far beyond the classroom. We offer a full programme of during and after-school clubs, societies and activities and children from Years 7 to 13 are encouraged to join in. There are plenty of non-sporting pastimes and pursuits, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Art Club, Debating Society, Electronics Club and the Chess Club. For sporting enthusiasts, activities range from netball to golf, and from tennis to rugby.

**Sport**

Our school has a long-standing and deserved reputation for the quality of its sports provision and for playing sport both competitively and fairly. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School pupils benefit from excellent sports facilities and the school's Playing Fields at Lammack are a hive of activity most Saturday mornings.

**The Arts**

Art is located in Hartley House where students are encouraged to work in a variety of materials. The GCSE and A-level work is displayed throughout the school and students benefit from trips abroad to study famous works.

Design Technology allows students to develop artistic flair within the product design course where the addition of the latest computer technology, including a 3D printer can aid this process.

The Music Department offers pupils of all standards the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of ensembles which perform in numerous concerts, theatre productions and events throughout the year. Many pupils have individual instrumental lessons.

Although Drama is not an examined subject, it plays an important part in school life. Pupils are encouraged to take part in the main school musical as well as plays and they also have the opportunity to study drama further through 'Little Voices' drama school, who use our facilities.



# Begin *your* journey...

The curriculum at QEGS is characterised by breadth and depth. From early years to Sixth Form, we strive to unlock individual talent, encourage healthy competition and scholarship, and promote leadership and teamwork.



# Strong foundations

The principal concern within the Infant School is to ensure that children begin school feeling safe, secure and happy in their surroundings. Only once this foundation has been established can children begin to learn, build relationships and take full advantage of the broad and rounded education QEGS has to offer.

The infant curriculum is broad and carefully balanced. The intention is to provide exciting and interesting experiences which develop each child's ability to think and learn effectively. Children will have opportunities to reach beyond the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One requirements.



# Opportunity to flourish

In the Junior School our main aim is to promote a caring atmosphere in which all children may flourish and reach their potential in a happy, secure environment. We encourage respect for others, self-respect, self-discipline and the basic virtues of honesty, fairness and politeness.

We believe in the concept of lifelong learning and that it should be an enjoyable experience for everyone. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.





# Value individuality

The curriculum offered to pupils from 11 to 16 is one characterised by great depth and breadth.

In the Senior School, pupils follow a broad curriculum incorporating English, Mathematics, the three separate and dual award Sciences, History and Geography, specialist Music, Art, Design Technology, Computer Science, Philosophy (which includes RE), PSHEE, a range of Modern Foreign Languages, Latin and Classical Civilization from Year 7, and a full programme of PE and games.

A system of flexible banding is introduced from Year 8 to enable the curriculum to be adjusted to suit the ability range, whilst keeping the full range of options open, with key points for movement between the bands. Most importantly, high aspirations will be insisted upon across all bands, including those who take fewer GCSEs and have greater time devoted to English and Mathematics. Wherever possible we operate a system of setting so that pupils have the opportunity to receive specialist teaching at a pace and level that is appropriate to inspire confidence and ambition amongst all pupils. Additional support is made available for pupils with learning difficulties, or for those whose reading age does not enable them to access the full curriculum.



# Fulfil *your* potential

Life in the fully co-educational world of our Sixth Form is - notwithstanding the hard work we expect - a wonderful experience; you need only ask those who are currently engaged on A-level study , whether they are students who have come through our own system, or whether they have come from outside; whether they are used to a single-sex or co-educational setting.

Recognising that the Sixth Form is preparation for university and life beyond, young men and women are encouraged to work well with each other in class and in directed learning and private study periods, so that they have the opportunity to grow intellectually in a balanced environment that represents the world they are likely to inhabit after A-level. Dress regulations are adjusted in recognition of the greater maturity associated with Sixth Form study but high standards of smartness and appearance continue to be required. We have a separate Sixth Form prospectus which covers subject choices, our Sixth Form offering, and details about how to apply.





# Realise *your* ambition

The list of alumni from QEGS includes success stories from a full range of academic, professional, artistic and sporting backgrounds.

Old Blackburnians are always encouraged to remain in contact with each other and with the school. Events include the annual dinner at school in December, the London dinner and many business networking events.

You can keep up to date with events at school by visiting the school website, or visiting the official QEGS Blackburn Alumni facebook page. There are a number of ways you can contact the OBA office:

OBA@QEGSblackburn.com  
01254 686308  
QEGSblackburn.com/old-blackburnians

Olivia Lalude-Haworth

Olivia decided to learn Classical Greek in her final year at QEGS, proceeding to Oxford University to read Classics, specialising in Indo-European and Greek Historical Linguistics. Olivia is looking to study Linguistics and Philology at postgraduate level, and is involved in amateur drama, with over 30 productions under her belt.

Lyndsey Wilkinson

Lyndsey was our first Blakey scholar. Currently working in Strasbourg, she is completing a translation study placement at the Council of Europe. She has been working as a French to English translator for a wide variety of things such as tribunals, Social Charter Conclusions, speeches and is thoroughly enjoying the technical challenges and the placement experience.

Nick Cooper

At 18 years of age, Nick has become the youngest person ever to complete the Haute Route cycle event. Over 7 days competitors climb 22,500 metres over 21 mountains and cover 855km from Nice on the Riviera to Geneva in Switzerland. The race is described as the toughest amateur bike race in the world.

Lucy Midgley

Currently sitting her final exams at University and researching for her dissertation in Quantum Mechanics, last year Lucy finished in the top 15% of her year with top marks in Galois Theory and Quantum mechanics.

Oliver Gill

Oliver recently graduated (2016) from St Andrews with a 1st in Modern Foreign Languages with the bonus of ‘Distinction in Spoken German’ on his degree.

Peter Murphy

After graduating from Cambridge University, Peter spent his career in law, as an advocate and teacher, both in England and the United States. His legal work included a number of years in The Hague as defence counsel at the Yugoslavian War Crimes Tribunal. He returned to England in 2007 as a judge of the Crown Court.

Chris Baldwin

Chris left the Royal Navy in 2015 and has now joined the International Marine Contractors Association as a Technical Adviser, with responsibility for marine security, vessel safety inspection, helicopter operations, Dynamic Positioning training and remote and ROV systems.

Matthew Almond

Matthew has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy - seen as the leading teaching award in Higher Education. As well as teaching he has had a very successful research career supervising around 50 graduate students and publishing 120 papers.

Craig Jackson

Craig is Hotel Manager at Northcote Manor, Blackburn, and in 2015 was awarded the Acom Award, given to celebrate the 30 most promising stars under the age of thirty in the hotel and catering profession.

Dr Imran Satia

Dr Satia, Clinical Research Fellow at University Hospital of South Manchester, has received the prestigious national James Trust award for his research into the mechanism of a cough in asthma.





# Clear support<sup>and</sup> guidance

If, having considered what sort of school we are, you think we might suit your child, we would strongly urge you to come and see for yourselves and meet our pupils, of whom we are extremely proud. You will be warmly welcomed.

To find out more about QEGS, or to arrange a tour of our school call **01254 686300**, email [reception@QEGSblackburn.com](mailto:reception@QEGSblackburn.com), or visit [www.QEGSblackburn.com](http://www.QEGSblackburn.com)

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School,  
West Park Road,  
Blackburn,  
BB2 6DF







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