



The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy



# TQEA Newsletter: Attendance Edition

## Friday 9th January 2026

Issue 13



## The Queen Elizabeth Academy

“We Can and We Will”



### Head of Academy Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing you a very Happy New Year from everyone at TQEA.

Welcome to our first weekly newsletter of 2026 and, in true TQEA style, this week has been jammed packed with fantastic achievements and joyful learning moments. Our students returned to the academy on Tuesday 6th January and were able to spend the first lesson with their tutor group and form tutors. This time allowed them to settle back into the academy, reconnect with our core TQEA values and take part in a live assembly from myself and Mrs Walker. During our assembly, Mrs Walker re-set our expectations and supported

students in understanding the importance of engaging in their lessons, being in lessons on time and helping to create a calm, safe and welcoming learning environment for all.

I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your child attends the academy in full and correct uniform. The vast majority of the academy community demonstrates our TQEA value of Pride by wearing their uniform properly every day. By the end of this week, we achieved 98% of all students in correct uniform, which was superb. We are now pushing for the final 2% of students to meet the high standards that have been set. In addition to wearing correct uniform, please can I ask parents and carers to support in ensuring that your child brings to school each day a suitable school bag and a full pencil case. In order to fully access all aspects of their curriculum, students are required to have at least two black pens, a green pen for response to feedback, a pencil and ruler. It would be beneficial to also have a highlighter and a calculator. If anyone requires any support with regards to uniform or equipment, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's Head of Year and we will be able to support.

As you will be aware, I made the very difficult decision today to close the academy due to the adverse weather that hit the area overnight. Closing the academy will always be a last resort, but we also have to put the safety of our students, staff and families as the highest priority. In making the decision this morning, I had to consider the conditions of the roads (both main and smaller roads) and pathways leading to the academy whilst also bearing in mind that staff travel from a wide area. In order to open the academy, we have to be able to ensure that the academy site is safe for opening and due to the significant snowfall overnight and freezing temperatures this just would not have been possible in order to open the academy today. We thank you as always for your understanding and support in making this decision.

Finally, before I close the newsletter for the week, please can I ask parents, carers, grandparents and anyone else who may drop off or collect your child from the academy to ensure that you are doing so safely. The safety of our community and our students is always paramount and it is important that this is considered at all times. If you do drop your child off or pick them up from the academy, please can I ask you to respect the double yellow lines on the public highway and on the main road – these areas should not be used for drop off or pick up. Instead, please do use the car park or the layby opposite the academy. If it is particularly busy, it would be worth considering arranging with your child to collect them a short walk away. This will support the safe arrival or dismissal of all students and ensure there are no accidents or potential accidents.

I wish you all a happy and safe weekend – hopefully there is still a small amount of snow left to enjoy!



Academy

## Attendance Information

Attendance remains a very high priority for us as a community. If students are not in the academy, we are not able to help to support them or teach them the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. It is vital that all children are in the academy every day. It is vital all students attend their lessons on time.

**This weeks Attendance: 92.1%**

**Top 10 Tutors groups :**

**7BXM**

**8MAL**

**11MW**

**9JXP**

**8RJG**

**7CMO**

**7DTI**

**9TMA**

**10RZC**

**8RM**

**Prioritising Attendance: Every Day Counts!**

## **Meet the Team**

A new year brings a fresh start. With this in mind we are continuing to step up our aim to improve attendance here at TQEA.

Attendance Matters to us and here is the team.



*1 - Mrs S Ressel*

*Assistant Principal & Safeguarding Lead*



*2 - Mr S Martin*

*Deputy Principal/ Attendance Lead*



3 - *"I am Mrs Sharp, I have been at TQEA now for a couple of years and have been working as a Family Liaison Officer for Attendance. I work Monday to Wednesday and offer support to families and the community."*



4 - *"Joining TQEA in 2024, from a Further and Higher education background with a splattering of hospitality management along the way, allows me to understand the importance of strong supported attendance. As an Attendance and Family Liaison Officer, I work closely with students, and families both in and out of the Academy to support good attendance and punctuality. I'm passionate about the difference strong attendance can make to our students' learning, confidence, and achievements. Allowing them, to flourish as young adults"*



**5 - We think we listen, but very rarely do we listen with real understanding, true empathy. Yet listening, of this very special kind, is one of the most potent forces for change that I know.**

**Carl Rogers.**

"Hello, I'm Sally-Ann Ellis, TQEA's school counsellor. I have been working as a counsellor in education for the past 8 years, offering a safe, supportive and confidential space for young people to explore issues that they are experiencing. I'm a compassionate, curious and adaptive counsellor who believes in the unique approach to each person and the challenges that life puts in our path. I feel privileged to be able to offer a supportive hand along the way."



6 - "Hello, I'm Cherie, the new attendance officer at QE Academy. After spending 22 years in dentistry and reaching the peak of my career as a dental practice manager, I decided it was time for a change in my career path. My primary objective is to foster positive relationships with both parents and students to achieve the best possible outcomes. I strive to provide support while maintaining professionalism and confidentiality. I'm in the process of settling in and am enjoying the opportunity to get to know my new team."

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Does my child have to come to school?

**Yes legally all children must be in education until the July after they are 16. The Government requires all children to attend school full time. It is your responsibility as a parent to ensure your child receives an education and attends school every day.**

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness



## When should my child have a day off?

Illness should be severe enough to mean that your child is unable to do normal day to day activities and will require several days recovery along with medication and possibly a trip to the doctors. If your child can watch TV then they should be in school.

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness



## When should I contact the school?

You should contact the school by 9.30am on the day to inform us of your child's absence. You must contact us everyday that your child is off to update us. Contact can be made via the switchboard 01827 712477 or on the direct attendance line 01827 737714, via the MCAS system or via email [attendance@atrust.org.uk](mailto:attendance@atrust.org.uk). If we do not hear from you for three days we will need to conduct a safe and well home visit for Safeguarding reasons.

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness



## How can I help my child attend school?

- Make sure your child has a regular bedtime.
- Limit their technology use before bed i.e Social Media, Tik Tok, Gaming etc.
- Make sure their bags/PE Kit/ Equipment are ready the night before, this reduces stress and anxiety in the morning.
- Make sure they eat breakfast so they are fuelled ready for the day - if not at home then they are welcome at our free breakfast club which is open until 8:30am everyday.

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness



## What do I do if my child has an appointment?

We would ask where possible appointments be made outside of the school day. However we do understand appointments with Orthodontists and Consultants for example are as and when they have availability, we ask in these cases medical evidence is provided.

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness



## What do I do if my child is struggling with their mental health?

Mental health wellness is important. Firstly we would say talk to your child and ascertain how they are struggling if it is school related or friendship issues for example.

Secondly talk to us, we know the hardest thing to do is ask for help but that is what we are here for. We are here to provide your child with an education and we can't do that without open communication. We have 2 Family Liaison officers in school throughout the week, we also have an onsite school counsellor who we can refer your child too these will be dependent on availability and will be on an appointment basis.

Pride ♦ Endeavour ♦ Resilience ♦ Kindness

## Acceptable and Non Acceptable reasons for not attending school



Acceptable reasons not to be in school	Not Acceptable reasons to not be in school
Hospital Treatment	A Cold
Orthodontic Appointment	Sore throat
Severe Illness	'Feeling unwell'
Initial days of a broken bone (Until Risk Assessment is completed by the school)	Tired
Bereavement	Fancy a day off to go shopping
Funeral	A bad hair day
Competing in a Sporting or Organised Competition (Requires evidence and an absence form)	Incorrect uniform ( we have a stockpile of clean uniform to borrow if required)

## Reasons for your child to attend school

**Reasons for your child to attend school**

- Building strength with knowledge your child will need to a live a life well lived
- Helping them to earn more money in your lifetime for you to build a life of great experiences. Evidence shows that gaining one extra grade in each subject equates to an increase of £207,000 average earnings over a lifetime.
- Being with friends
- Being able to take part in xtra curricular clubs and experiences we offer
- Supporting them with their mental well-being through social development
- Ensuring that they do not have to re-sit Mathematics and English when they leave school.
- Gives them options in many different careers

**Pride Endeavour Resilience Kindness**

## The Link between Attendance and Mental Health.

**Signs of Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)**

- feeling unwell
- sleeping difficulties
- separation worry
- changes in mood
- friendship issues
- Tearful, irritable or angry
- low school performance
- absence for small illnesses

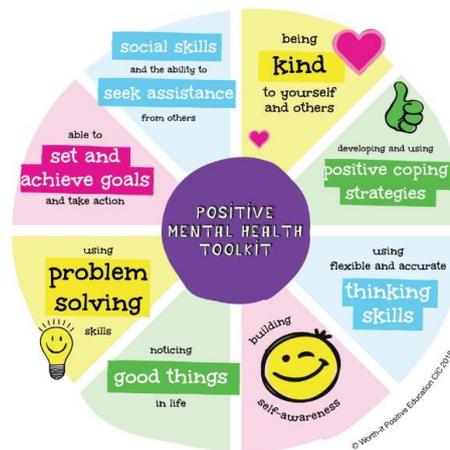
EBSA is a term used to describe a group of children and young people who have severe difficulty in attending school due to emotional factors, often resulting in prolonged absences from school. School avoidance can be seen as a coping strategy, a behaviour seen in pupils who, for whatever reason, are finding being in school difficult.

For some, an avoidant strategy might be used to miss particular lessons, whilst some might resist attending for longer stretches.

Where 'Fight or Flight' are the two most common basic responses for dealing with a threat, this avoidant type of behaviour can be seen as 'flight': a way of getting away from the source of the threat.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) or "Anxiety Based School Avoidance" (ABSA) are two phrases used to describe those students who are avoiding all or parts of school life, as a result of worry or anxiety.

## Introduction to Mental Health Support at TQEA "TQEA Cares"



At TQEA we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of both students and staff.

We recognise that Wellbeing and Mental Health is a continuum and that students and staff may move along the continuum according to their experience and personal circumstances which bring about challenge. At times, the students and staff may become vulnerable and require additional support.

Positive wellbeing and mental health are a priority and addressing it in a graduating approach which aims to equip our students with resilience and strategies to manage their mental health in the present and the future by:

- Helping students to understand their emotions and feelings
- Helping students feel comfortable sharing any concerns
- Helping students to form and maintain social relationships
- Promoting self esteem
- Encouraging students to be confident individuals
- Helping students to develop emotional resilience
- Helping students to overcome Emotionally Based School Anxiety (EBSA)

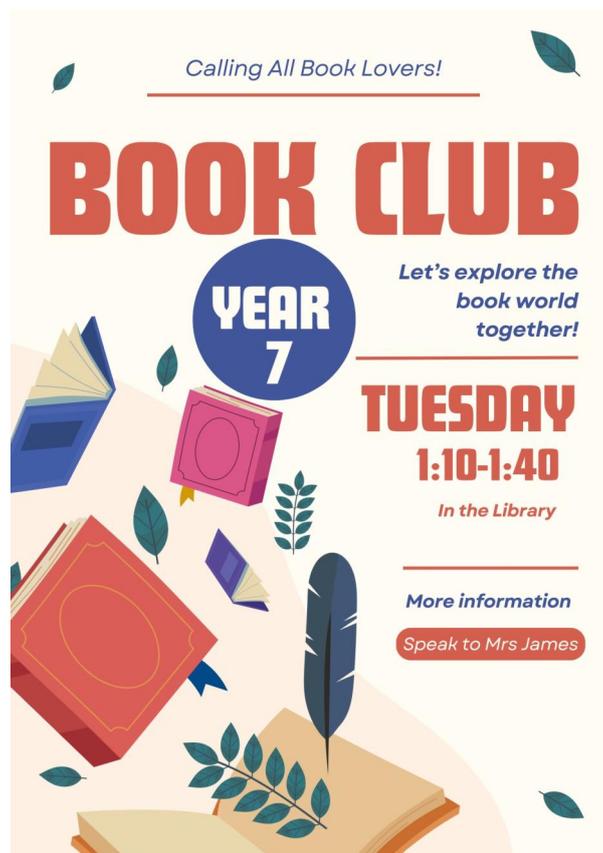
We promote a mentally healthy environment through:

- Promoting our school values and encouraging a sense of belonging
- Endeavouring to promote student voice
- Celebration of academic and non-academic achievements
- Providing reflective opportunities

We pursue our aims through:

- Early intervention in support of mental health issues before they become entrenched
- Developing resilience in the student and their families and strategies to manage wellbeing and mental health.
- Supporting mental health professionals in their work with our students

## Notices



IN THE LIBRARY

# BOOK CLUB

CALLING ALL BOOK  
LOVERS!

**YEAR  
8/9/10**

**WEDNESDAY  
1:40-2:10**

Come along  
and join in!



**SPEAK TO MRS JAMES**

IN THE LIBRARY

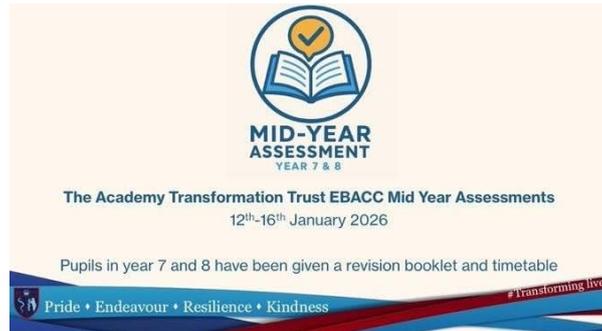
# Book Club

WEDNESDAY 1:10-1:40

SPEAK TO MRS JAMES

**YEAR II**





### 7 - Mid Year assessments Years 7 & 8



**Year 7 and 8 Mid Year Assessments**

In line with all academies in Academy Transformation Trust, our Year 7/8 pupils will sit mid-year assessments in the EBACC subjects (Mathematics, Science, English, History, Geography and Languages). These assessments have been designed to allow pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum taught so far, and they will enable teachers to clearly identify any misconceptions or gaps in the foundational knowledge pupils are learning. These exams will take place in lessons between 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January. All pupils have been given a timetable to show when their exam are, as well as a revision booklet containing important information, and revision tasks to complete, there is also an additional booklet of Mathematics work to complete.



We would like to wish all pupils good luck in these assessments and look forward to them demonstrating the new skills and knowledge they have learnt during this term.

## Upcoming Events



12th - 16th January 2026 - EBACC Mid Year Assessments begin Year 7 & 8

22nd January 2026 - Progress Evening Year 9

5th February 2026 - Year 9 Options Evening

9th - 13th February 2026 - Year 11 Mock Exams

12th February 2026 - Year 8 HPV vaccinations

12th February 2026 - Year 10 Progress Evening

13th February 2026 - Break up for half term.