



Associate
Headteacher

Scott
Garrity



Top character
qualities developed

- Leadership
- Empathy
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Reflection

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

REGION East Midlands

TYPE Secondary Academy

STUDENTS 1301 pupils aged 11-18

Youth social action is about empowerment at Queen Elizabeth's. We've made personal development and community engagement an integral part of the school while delivering a broad and balanced range of learning opportunities. **We want all our 14-19 year olds will make an #iwill pledge while the 11-13 year olds will be encouraged to make an #ican or an #iam pledge, which will encompass character work and promote youth social action.** Committed staff is the key driver - leading by example shows our children that adults also commit to making a difference.

Last year we moved to a curriculum model where the 'Futures Award' scheme and weekly enrichment afternoons develop employability skills. Students run tea parties for the elderly, become peer mentors and fundraise. Year 9's become 'leaders' and design and deliver a wellbeing program. **We came away from the event in London inspired by what was happening in other schools and colleges, so now all enrichment activities must now commit to social action;** for example, if a student chooses to learn a new language through the curriculum then they have to make a social action

commitment, such as going to a local primary school and helping them to learn it too. A third of our work experience placements are now related to social action.

It's absolutely essential young people articulate the skills they've gained and link it back into employability. **Our Futures Award scheme provides a framework for us to celebrate and monitor the social action. The 'advanced' award recognises up to 60 hours of social action.** All of our sixth form students are obligated to complete the 'bronze' level award requiring at least 20 hours of social action every year.

We're seeing significant benefits to our student community - increased leadership, interpersonal skills, not to mention improved empathy and confidence. And the wider community is engaging with the school more; local employers seem to look forward to working with our students and we always able to place students. **Businesses know that that they're getting employees of quality from QEGS and, since a significant number of our students stay and work in the area, it invigorates the economy and avoids 'brain drain'.** It's a win-win for everyone.



Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

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[www.queenelizabeths.
derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

“Morocco has been the best week of my life! It was incredible experience such contrasts, from the Atlas Mountains to the Desert to Marrakech; and to spend it with a great group means I will always have the amazing memories. It's been the highlight of my Sixth Form life. Thank you!”

Amy a student that visited the 'Education For All' project in Morocco