

The QM Experience 2024/25



Queen Margaret's
School for Girls

Escrick Park, York



QM combines a girls-only education with being perfectly sized to create the most effective environment for nurturing self-belief.

Our girls leave the school with the inner confidence and self-worth to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

An Exceptional Education

A girls-only education removes certain pressures from the classroom and replaces them instead with opportunities for growth. QM is perfectly sized to ensure no girl gets lost in the crowd; small class sizes enable more interaction and girls receive high levels of encouragement and support from teachers. A personalised timetable is created for every QM girl and they study a wide range of subjects. We believe that this breadth of education is essential if wise and informed choices are to be made for GCSEs and beyond.

Years I - III (7 - 9)

Girls follow a broad curriculum, which becomes more focused in Year III as they are guided to a balanced range of subjects for GCSE study. Departments go beyond the national curriculum and tailor their courses to the needs and abilities of the girls in ways that stimulate, challenge and excite young minds. In Years I - III, girls study English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art, Textiles, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama, Food Technology, French, Geography, History, Latin, Music, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), Religious Studies, Spanish and Sport.

Years IV - V (10 - 11)

Twenty-six subjects are offered at GCSE. All girls study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science (either as three separate sciences or as a dual award). Students whose first language is not English will study English as a Second Language instead of English Language and English Literature. The majority of girls then choose four additional subjects; although not compulsory, we advise that this includes at least one language (Classical Greek, French, Latin or Spanish). Other choices include: Fine Art, Textile Design, Business, Classical Civilisation, Computer Science, Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education and Religious Studies. Further Mathematics is also available in Year V for our more able mathematicians. Once girls have made their GCSE selections, the timetable is developed around their chosen subjects. The Higher Project Qualification (HPQ), which is worth half a GCSE, is designed to complement GCSE studies and is an opportunity for girls to develop an area of study, personal interest, or activity beyond their main academic programme.

Our One-Year GCSE Programme offers a bespoke curriculum for overseas girls joining QM in Year V. The programme acts as a springboard in the British education system for girls to go on and study A Levels at the school and, later, for entry into UK universities. For those girls simply wishing to experience the many benefits of British boarding and develop their English language skills in preparation for Sixth Form, QM also offers an unassessed Pre-A Level Programme.

LVI and UVI (Sixth Form)

A huge range of courses are available in the Sixth Form, including A Levels, BTECs and one-year AS Level options. Guided by staff, girls select their subjects and timetables are built around their choices where possible. Girls usually select three subjects to take at A Level and at least one enrichment activity. Choices include Art: Fine Art, Art: Photography, Art: Graphic Communication, Art: Textile Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Chinese (for native speakers), Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Drama and Theatre, Economics, English Literature, Extended Project Qualification, Food Science and Nutrition, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, French, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Politics and Psychology. A Life Skills programme runs throughout the Sixth Form and has been designed to complement the academic curriculum. Sixth Formers can also take LAMDA examinations, vocational dance qualifications and the National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

The academic curriculum is supplemented by a series of non-examined courses of study which are designed to help girls think objectively, widen their general knowledge, increase confidence and prepare them for their future.

Learning Support

Our Progress, Achievement and Student Support (PASS) Department has an open-door policy and is on hand to support all of our girls. Whether a student has a Special Educational Need, or simply needs additional support with socialising, emotional wellbeing or revision strategies, for example, our PASS Department offers one-to-one guidance and help. For some, this may simply be taking advantage of regular 'drop-in' opportunities. For others, it may involve weekly individual support lessons with specialist teachers. Girls are screened throughout their time at QM, so we always know when additional support will be beneficial. The goal is for all students to thrive and be the best version of themselves, whatever their circumstances or challenges. QM received a Highly Commended award for Learning Support in the Muddy Stiletto's Best Schools Awards 2024.



Personal Tutoring Scheme

In the words of The Good Schools Guide, QM's "very significant USP" is our Personal Tutoring Scheme. Each girl has their own Personal Tutor with whom they meet weekly and who oversees not only their academic progress, but their overall wellbeing too. Personal Tutors act as the main link between school and home.

A Level and GCSE Results

The results days in August 2024 brought lots of happy QM girls - the excellent grades they achieved will enable them to pursue their very individual dreams. QM once again upheld its track record for excellent results with 66% of all A Level students achieving an A* or A and 89% of all girls gaining an A*-B grade. 54% of all GCSE entries in 2024 were at grade 9-7 (the equivalent of A*-A in the former grading system). Nearly 70% of students scored at least one grade 9 or 8. The school's all-important STEM subjects recorded particularly impressive results; 96% of entries in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science achieved grade 9-7.

University Destinations

In 2024, their empowering all-girls education paved the way for QM girls to pursue life-changing degree courses at exemplary universities across the globe. Girls secured places at the Royal College of Music, Condé Nast College of Fashion, Eckerd College Florida and at many Russell Group universities. The specialist Higher Education and Careers support given to girls prepares them for life after QM. Girls are encouraged to apply for work experience opportunities, they have access to careers clinics and an Oxbridge Programme, and they are given support with UCAS applications. QM provides girls with all the tools and information they need to establish their next step.



Scan to find out more about learning at QM.





Home from Home

Our structure allows girls, both day students and boarders, to live and study as one community. Our age appropriate boarding houses create exceptionally strong friendship circles, yet enable our older girls to influence and inspire younger year groups. The design of the boarding houses allows girls to grow in independence as they move through the school, from junior boarding in the heart of the school, to more independent living in the UVI Cottages. With Bespoke Boarding options available to suit busy, modern family life, our girls have all the comforts of home whether they are here for the day or for seven nights a week. The pastoral care at QM is exceptional - our top priority is the individual welfare of each girl and our caring and committed staff ensure each girl gets the support she needs.

A Thriving Community

Boarding at QM is full of exhilarating activities and experiences. Weekends include everything from high-energy trips to the trampoline park, to more relaxed shopping and cinema trips, or simply indulging in a pamper evening in-house. Our regular girl-led Community Weekends are a highlight and were recognised for their innovation by the Boarding Schools' Association in its 'Boarding Achievement' Awards. Day Girls and Flexi Boarders have their own space in the boarding houses. They may arrive at school from 07:30 and stay until 19:30 on full school days so they can complete prep, participate in clubs, and enjoy their meals at no extra charge. This makes busy family life a little easier for parents and ensures that Day Girls and Flexi Boarders always feel part of our boarding community.

Award-Winning Food and Nutrition

Good food is important to our girls and our creative in-house Catering Team provides delicious, nutritionally balanced food every day. We've previously been awarded 'Best School Food in the UK' by Tatler, which recognised excellence in every aspect of the food provision; from the locally sourced produce to the hygiene, menu ideas, presentation and, of course, the taste. School menus change daily, rotating on a tri-weekly basis; additional specials and menus are created with input from students and staff via the School Council, so that girls' preferences and special dietary requirements can be catered for. Furthermore, there is always something new, different or special to look forward to, including themed lunches and cakes for special occasions.

Health and Wellbeing

The school has its own Health and Wellbeing Centre on site with daily surgery times and an open-door policy, where nursing support is available throughout the day and night to offer care and physical or emotional support. An Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner is available for confidential advice and, for boarders, surgeries with the school doctor take place twice a week.

Our Prefect team includes a Deputy Head Girl for Wellbeing and there are Wellbeing Champions in each year group. These roles were introduced to demonstrate the importance we place on our girls' wider physical health and emotional wellbeing. Our multi-dimensional approach to wellbeing recently earned us the title of 'Independent School of the Year for Student Wellbeing' in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards.

QM holds the Gold Standard School Mental Health Award, delivered by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools, for outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision. We are also a 'Girls On Board' school, which means we empower students to overcome any friendship problems and find their own solutions which will result in happier girls who learn more effectively. In addition, QM is a proud member of the Anti-Bullying Alliance and has achieved the United Against Bullying Bronze Award.

Transport

QM is situated just six miles south of York city centre, within easy access by car of the M62, M1 and A1. York Station is a 15 minute taxi journey away and is on the main railway line from London King's Cross to Edinburgh. Leeds/Bradford and Manchester airports are around 60 and 90 minutes away respectively. An accompanied minibus service to/from York Railway Station and pre-booked taxis can be arranged by the school for holidays and Leave Out weekends. Parents of boarders are asked to complete a short travel form on the Parent Portal in order for the school to make the necessary arrangements ahead of each holiday and Leave Out weekend.

To make life that little bit easier for our families, we run a daily shuttle bus before and after school (Monday-Friday) which collects and drops off our girls from key points in and around York and Pocklington.

Scan to find out more about living at QM.



An Experience Like No Other

Our girls each join one of six vertical Houses: Duncan, Garry, Pitlochry, QM Hall, School or St Aidan's. These enable friendships to form across the year groups and are the focus for inter-House competition in many aspects of school life. Annual Fun Song, Sports Day and MasterChef competitions are amongst the many highlights in the QM calendar.

Girls devote time to a range of enrichment activities, educational visits, study tours and voluntary work to supplement their academic studies and broaden their perspectives, with high levels of participation in Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Sport and many other clubs and societies. After academic lessons have finished during the week, the timetable includes dedicated enrichment time (16:50-17:40) which all girls are encouraged to take part in.

Sport

QM is proud of its reputation for being a first-class sporting school. The school enjoys success in many traditional sports including Hockey, Netball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Athletics, Rounders and Swimming. The QM Riding School is ideally positioned on campus for equestrians of all abilities. We support girls in reaching their potential in whatever sport they wish to try or pursue, including Horse Riding, Badminton, Cricket, Squash, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Cross Country, Triathlon and more. Girls in all years have some form of physical activity on most days, as well as numerous opportunities to represent the school across a range of sports. The Cardio Suite is very popular amongst our senior girls.

Creative Arts

QM is uniquely placed to provide specialist tuition to girls who wish to pursue the Creative Arts at the highest level and receive superb general education, whilst catering for all levels to encourage every girl to gain confidence and develop their performance skills.

The Art, Music, Drama and Dance Departments at QM benefit from excellent facilities including purpose-built Art Studios, The Chapman Theatre, Dance Studios and St Margaret's Chapel where stage productions and concerts are of an exceptional standard. A variety of Dance disciplines can be studied to examination level and QM girls are regularly accepted into high profile Art and Music schools, as well as the National Youth Theatre and the National Youth Orchestra.

Opportunities to Shine

There is a rich programme of enrichment activities on offer at QM which means girls can actively pursue their passions and have their voices heard. An annual schedule of trips takes girls across the UK and beyond; recent opportunities have included a skiing trip to Italy, a visit to the battlefields of France and a Sports Tour of South Africa. Girls can participate in schemes including The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, the Charity, Environment and International Councils, LAMDA Speech and Drama examinations, the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification, the QM Enterprise Programme, and many more. There are leadership opportunities aplenty; girls can apply for Prefect and Monitor roles, and they can run one of QM's many clubs, societies or events.



Scan to find out more about enrichment at QM.



Admissions Information

Girls who join QM benefit from being nurtured as an individual. Like QM's academic and pastoral care, the admissions process is personally tailored to each individual family. Our dedicated Admissions Team takes great care of the entire process, from the very first enquiry, right through to a girl's first day at QM.

Visiting QM

The very best way to get to know more about the school is to visit us for a chat over coffee with Head, Nicola Dudley, and a tour of our wonderful campus with some of our current students (they are our best ambassadors). Our beautiful environment at Esrick Park provides space, calm and inspiration to enhance each girl's development. Our Admissions Team is on hand to welcome you during one of our scheduled Open Days, or for a visit at another time convenient to you. Overseas families are very welcome to have a video call with the Head if a visit to the school is not possible.

Registration

The first step of the application process is to complete our Registration Form. Once our Admissions Team has received this form, as well as any supporting documents and the registration fee, they will keep in close contact, answering any questions along the way and sharing important dates such as Assessment and Scholarship Days. Registered students and their families will also be invited to events such as drama productions and music concerts, where they can begin to meet other students and the wider QM Family.

Taster Visits

Where possible, a Taster Visit will be arranged to give a flavour of life at QM. Taster Visits can include an overnight stay so girls can enjoy our home-from-home boarding experience. For girls joining our Sixth Form, we host an annual 'Day in the Life of a Sixth Former' event where lessons can be sampled and girls get a glimpse of the unique QM Sixth Form experience. For all Taster Days, our Admissions Team will create a personalised timetable which incorporates lessons, enrichment activities and time in the boarding house with current girls. Visiting students will be assigned a 'Guardian Angel' student who will accompany them throughout their Taster Day.

Entrance Assessments

The general Assessment Day for Years I - III takes place in January of the year of entry and it is expected that all registered applicants will come to QM for the day for assessments and interview. Girls are assessed in English and Mathematics, have a one-to-one interview with a senior member of staff, and complete a dyslexia screening test. Sample lessons and fun enrichment activities form part of the day, which is a great chance for girls to get to know those who may be starting at QM at the same time as them. For entrance into the Sixth Form, places are offered based on GCSE (or equivalent) predictions. We pay great attention to the interview process and how girls will fit with QM life, as well as looking at school reports and school references, before an offer is made.

Overseas Admissions

Girls living overseas sit English and Mathematics assessments, and have an interview with a senior member of staff. Girls can sit their entrance assessments either at their school or at an approved centre using one of our agents, and interviews are conducted via a video call. There is a one-week Orientation Programme before the start of each new academic year, designed to help overseas students settle in before school begins.

Termly Fees 2024/25 (excl VAT)

Day Girls	Flexi Boarding (nights per week)				Full Boarding	
	One night	Two nights	Three nights	Weekly	UK/EEA	Non-UK/EEA
£8,220	£9,325	£9,995	£10,655	£12,250	£14,560	£16,435

Additional overnight stays are charged at £100 per night. QM offers a discount of 5% off the core fees of the eldest girl when sisters are attending QM together; up to a maximum of 15% discount per family when three or more sisters are in school. We also offer generous discounts on boarding fees to supplement the CEA for children of personnel serving in the Armed Forces. For full information regarding fees please visit queenmargarets.com/fees.



Scholarships

Academic, Art, Choral, Dance, Drama, Music and Sport Scholarships at QM aim to recognise outstanding promise and may be awarded to external and internal candidates. Scholarships are awarded to girls entering Year I, Year III and Lower Sixth. Interviews, examinations and auditions will take place on Scholarship Day in January of the year of entry.

Bursaries

We are proud that we are continuing to make a QM education possible for an increasingly diverse range of girls. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing students for today's world. Means-tested bursaries are offered to allow as many girls as possible, who meet our admission criteria, to attend QM. Further information about means-tested bursaries is available in the first instance from our Admissions Team, the application deadline is 30th November of the year before entry.

Term Dates

There are three terms per academic year; Autumn Term, Spring Term and Summer Term. QM operates in three-week cycles: full boarders are expected to be in residence for two weekends and every third weekend is a Leave Out, Half Term or holiday. For more details visit queenmargarets.com/term-dates.

Stay in School for Leave Out

Girls are able to stay in school during Leave Out (Exeat) weekends. Our **Stay In For Leave Out (SIFLO)** programme combines the chance to join organised trips and visit cultural attractions with the relaxed downtime with friends that every pre-teen and teenager needs. Girls can also make the most of the wonderful setting and facilities of QM, from art exploration days in our Art and Technology Centre to creative cookery sessions and a range of fun outdoor and sporting activities.


Procedures and Policies

Our Admissions Team is here to chat through any aspect of joining the QM Family; please get in touch on +44 (0) 1904 727630 / admissions@queenmargarets.com. A comprehensive list of the school's current policies and procedures, including the Admissions Policy, is available at queenmargarets.com/our-policies.



Scan to find out more about admissions at QM.





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