

Agent FAQs



**Queen Margaret's
School for Girls**

Escrick Park, York

Frequently Asked Questions

This document is designed to answer the important questions which come up regularly for many of our applications. More information and additional documents can also be found on our Agency Page:

<https://queenmargarets.com/admissions/overseas-admissions/agency-page>

You can search this document by using 'Ctrl+F' on your keyboard, or if you cannot find the answer to your question please contact a member of the Admissions Team at admissions@queenmargarets.com.

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1. Marketing Information

Q. What is the key marketing message you wish us to get across to prospective parents?

We're more than a school
We're a home from home
A family of learning and belonging
In a truly inspirational setting.

It's somewhere each and every girl can thrive
Where they'll be happy and healthy
Grow their knowledge, skills and confidence
And make friends for life.

Somewhere that's the bedrock for success
Opens up opportunities and possibilities
Inspires them to forge their own future
And gets them ready for life, whatever their calling.

We nurture girls to fulfil their ambitions
To realise their potential
To become the best women they can be
And give them an amazing start in life.

Q. What are the main unique selling points of the school?

Our **75-acre rural campus**, which is only six miles from the historic city of York, offers girls a safe and supportive environment with all the amenities you would expect from being near to a vibrant city.

As a small school, we can offer girls a truly **personal and enriching experience** during their time here; from one-on-one Personal Tutor meetings and individual career support, to a vast range of extra-curricular clubs and activities for girls to choose from.

In October 2023, Queen Margaret's was awarded the prestigious title of **Small Independent School of the Year** in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards. In October 2021 QM was named **Independent School of the Year for Student Wellbeing** and in September 2022 we achieved Gold Boarding School Mental Health Award from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools.

Our partnership with the **QM Riding School**, whose stables are based on our campus, provides horse riding lessons to all students who wish to sign up either with their own horse or with a horse liveried at the stable.

2. Registration

Q. What is needed to register for a place at QM?

Applicants need to complete and return a copy of our International Registration Form, together with the Registration Fee of £175 and the following documents:

- Current school report
- Current passport
- Birth certificate (original and translated where applicable)

The passport and birth certificate may be substituted for alternative identification documents if necessary, however the applicant may still be asked to present these at the point of applying for a [Child Student visa](#) should their application be successful.

Q. Is there a Registration Fee?

Yes: we require a non-refundable Registration Fee of £175 for international students to begin the application process. Without a paid Registration Fee, students will not be permitted to sit the QM assessments.

Q. Do you accept registration throughout the year?

Overseas applicants are assessed on a rolling basis, therefore we cannot guarantee availability in popular year groups towards the end of the year. Please enquire at admissions@queenmargarets.com if you are unsure.

3. Assessments

Q. What is the typical assessment process for an international student?

QM is a non-selective school, however we require all international students to sit the following assessments as part of the admissions process:

Years 7 - 9 QM Year I - III (Ages 11+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● EAL Grammar Test (20 minutes)● EAL Writing Task (30 minutes)● Mathematics Test (Non-Calculator) (40 minutes)
Year 10 QM Year IV (ages 14+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● EAL Grammar Test (25 minutes)● EAL Writing Task (40 minutes)● EAL Reading Comprehension (30 minutes)● Mathematics Test (Calculator) (60 minutes)
Year 11 QM Year V (ages 15+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● EAL Grammar Test (25 minutes)● EAL Writing Task (40 minutes)● EAL Reading Comprehension (30 minutes)● Mathematics Test (Calculator) (120 minutes*)
Year 12 - 13 QM LVI and UVI (ages 16+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● EAL Grammar Test (25 minutes)● EAL Writing Task (60 minutes)● EAL Reading Comprehension (30 minutes)● Mathematics Test (Calculator) (120 minutes*)
<p><i>Each applicant will also attend an interview, either online or in person, with a member of the senior leadership team.</i></p> <p><i>*Students who are applying for a short-stay in Year 11, or who are not choosing a STEM subject at A Level in Years 12-13, may be permitted to take a 60 minute Mathematics Test on request.</i></p>	

These tests must be set under examination conditions and be invigilated by a non-family member, such as an agent, teacher, lawyer or administrator. We do not accept UKiset reports in place of these tests.

We can begin the assessment process twelve months in advance of a school year, meaning that assessments for September 2024 may start from September 2023 and so on.

The final part of the assessment process will be a video interview with the Head or a member of our Senior Leadership Team, which will be approximately 30 minutes and take place via an online video call (either Zoom or Google Meet). Interviews are recorded for safeguarding purposes and this should be communicated to the applicant in advance.

If the applicant has already had an interview, during a recruitment fair or a school visit for example, then this may be accepted in place of a video interview. **We will ask to see the applicant's passport at the beginning of this interview, so make sure that the applicant has this document to hand.**

Q. Can the UKiset test be sat in place of QM's assessments?

No, whilst UKiset results are useful to have as supporting evidence for a student's application, it is a requirement that all applicants sit the QM assessment papers as described above.

Q. Can agency assessments be sat in place of QM's assessments?

We do not accept agency assessments in place of our own assessments, nor do we accept the agency registration form in place of our registration form.

4. Joining Information

Q. When can parents expect to receive joining information after accepting a place at Queen Margaret's?

After a place has been accepted and the Acceptance Deposit has been paid, parents can expect to receive joining information in the term before their daughter is due to arrive at QM. For students arriving in September, this will be between June and July. Parents will also begin to receive our weekly e-newsletter, the *Weekly Window*, every Friday where they can read about the latest news and activities at school.

Q. What is the Parent Portal?

The [Parent Portal](#) is our online platform for parents to access important information about their daughter's time at QM, including calendars, letters and parental forms. These forms are particularly important when joining, as they include:

- Medical Information Form
- Education Guardian Details
- Travel and Visa Details
- Consents for Student
- Enrichment Activities

Each parent has individual access to the Parent Portal, and can also grant access to an [Education Guardian](#) to use the Portal on their behalf.

5. Subject Choices

Q. When do we need to submit subject choices for GCSE and A Level?

We begin to gather subject choices during the Spring Term: once an offer has been confirmed and the Acceptance Deposit has been paid, we will be in touch with a Subject Choice form alongside the rest of the joining information. Once GCSE and A Level option blocks have been set, subject choices can only be made within these blocks.

Q. What are the available subjects at GCSE?

Alongside the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, English as a Second Language, Mathematics and Sciences, students in Years 10 and 11 (Years IV and V) are encouraged to select up to four subjects from the list below:

- Art: Fine Art
- Art: Textile Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Food Preparation
- French
- Geography
- Higher Project Qualification
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish.

Q. What is the One-Year GCSE Programme?

The One-Year GCSE Programme offers a bespoke curriculum for girls in Year 11 (Year V). The programme is tailor-made for each girl, enabling her to prepare for Sixth Form at QM, or simply to spend a year experiencing all the benefits of QM whilst enhancing her qualifications.

Girls studying the One-Year GCSE also have the option to abstain from the examinations at the end of the year, using the time as an opportunity to prepare for studying A Levels in the UK.

The number of subjects chosen will depend on each girl's ability, level of English and plans for the future. Girls will receive up to 26 hours of teaching time each week, depending on their choices.

If you have an applicant who is considering applying for this programme, please let us know as early in the process as possible which subjects she is interested in and whether she is looking to take external (GCSE) examinations at the end of the year. As well as the usual English and Mathematics entry assessments, One-Year GCSE applicants will be assessed in Science. They will also have an additional interview with the Head of Year 11 to discuss her subject choices before an offer is made.

Q. What are the available subjects at A Level?

Students are encouraged to select up to four subjects from the list below:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Classical Greek
- Drama and Theatre
- Economics
- English Literature
- Extended Project Qualification
- Fine Art
- French
- Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3)
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- History
- Latin
- Chinese (for native speakers)
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Textile Design.

Q. What are your GCSE/A Level results for this year?

You can find our GCSE and A Level results for the past academic year on our website [here](#). Recent university destinations can be found [here](#).

6. Travel to QM and Visa Applications

Q. Which type of visa will students need? What about EU students?

Students who are studying at QM for longer than six months will need to apply for a [Child Student visa](#) in advance of their travel, regardless of their EU or non-EU status.

EU students who are studying at QM for less than six months will be able to apply for a [Standard Visitor visa](#) instead of a Child Student visa. A Standard Visitor visa does **not** require a CAS number or an online application in advance of travel.

Please speak to the Admissions Team if the family would like to choose the Standard Visitor visa, as this is only intended for a short course of study and will limit the possibility for a student to extend her time at QM.

Q. Do you accept students who are moving to the UK on a BNO visa?

We can accept students who are entering the UK on a BNO visa; please make the Admissions Team aware of this at the start of the application, together with any effect this will have on the applicant's boarding status.

Q. Will you help families with their Child Student visa application?

We have engaged [Newland Chase Education \(NCE\)](#) to carry out all administrative work in relation to the issue of Child Student CASs (see below) and to ensure our complete compliance with the UK Home Office requirements.

Once a signed Acceptance Form is received, the Admissions Team will forward the family and the agent's details to Newland Chase in order to begin their Child Student visa application process. The earliest that this process can begin is six months prior to the student's start date.

This means that students joining QM in September can expect to hear from Newland Chase between May and June.

Q. Which supporting documents are needed to process a visa application?

To be compliant with UK Home Office requirements, we will ask for the following documents at the start of the admissions process:

- A high-quality colour photocopy of the student's passport
- A high-quality scan of the student's birth certificate (both the original and translated)
- A high-quality scan of the student's translated school report

Newland Chase will be in touch to request any additional documents for the visa application, should an offer of a place be made. These additional documents will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Identification documents for both biological parents, ie passports or birth certificates

- A signed copy of the parental consent letter provided by Newland Chase, giving consent to the child studying in the UK and providing details of the [Education Guardian](#).

Supporting financial documents and medical information, such as a TB certificate, may also be required depending on the applicant's country of residence.

Q. When are CAS numbers issued?

The Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number is allocated by Newland Chase on behalf of QM during the term before the student is due to start at QM. This number is a unique number generated by Newland Chase once they have received all the necessary documentation listed above, and is then sent to the family for them to submit as part of their Child Student visa application on the UK government website.

Please note that students joining the school for lower year groups will need to be reissued with a new CAS number should they progress to A Level whilst studying at QM.

Q. Does everyone get a CAS number?

Applicants from the EU will be issued with a share code instead of a CAS number. This will be issued upon completion of the online visa application.

Q. Is there a cost for applying for a visa?

There is a charge of £25 for each CAS issued by Newland Chase which will be added to the pupil's school account. In addition, there is an administration charge which covers all of the administration costs for the duration of the visa and this is also added to the pupil's account on the next invoice issued after the CAS has been allocated.

This administration charge is as follows:

- £100 for studies of one academic year or less
- £350 for studies exceeding one academic year

Families will be required to pay for the visa application itself, which is a payment made to the UK government and is collected as part of the online application process. As of October 2023, it costs £490 to apply for a Child Student visa from outside the UK, and also £490 to extend or switch to a Child Student visa from inside the UK. These costs can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>

Q. Do students need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)?

From April 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa, except British and Irish citizens, will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) – a digital permission to travel to the UK.

- Eligible non-Europeans can apply in advance from 27 November 2024 and will need an ETA to travel to the UK from 8 January 2025.
- Eligible Europeans can apply from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel to the UK from 2 April 2025.

Visitors can find out when they will need an ETA here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

Q. Are students able to stay in QM for Half Term and Exeats?

Boarders are able to stay in school for the Leave Out (Exeat) weekends through our 'Stay in School for Leave Out (Exeat)' programme. For more information, see our website [here](#).

Q. If students choose to stay at school, is there an additional cost? If so, how much is it?

For the academic year 2024-2025, the Stay In For Leave Out programme costs £4,075 per student. This covers the whole year (typically six Leave Outs) and the cost of all outings and food.

Girls are requested to sign up in advance for **all** of the Leave Outs during the time they are staying with us. For instance, girls who wish to participate in this programme and are staying for one term would need to sign up for two Leave Outs.

Q. Do you help families with the transfer to/from nearby airports?

At the start of the academic year, students arriving within a designated arrival window (usually 2-3 days) will be collected and brought back to QM from either Heathrow or Manchester. Parents must make the school aware of these plans in advance via a travel information form on the [Parent Portal](#).

Once a girl arrives in school, parents are asked to complete an additional form with information regarding travel arrangements at Leave Outs (exeats) and Half Term holidays. A member of staff then arranges the transport to airports and train stations. Where possible, girls are grouped together for this; if girls are on similar flights they may be put into taxis together, and the cost of this is divided between parents and added to their school bill.

Q. Is there a transport service that takes pupils to local airports?

At the end of each term, a coach or taxi is booked to take pupils to York Railway Station, and taxis may also be booked to take girls to the airport. Parents are asked to complete the transport form on the [Parent Portal](#), detailing their daughter's travel plans, and a member of staff then arranges their transport.

Q. What is the cost of a one-way transfer service to local airports?

Approximate transfer costs are as follows:

- Manchester £140
- Leeds £65
- Heathrow £320
- Gatwick £350

These are current prices, estimates should be requested as required.

Q. Could you please send us a list of recommended taxi companies?

QM has a strong working relationship with Station Taxis, our preferred supplier, who are based in York Railway Station and have our logo clearly visible in their office window:

- **Station Taxis**
- yorkstation@outlook.com
- +44 (0)1904 623332

All drivers are DBS-checked. Taxi rides with Station Taxis can be added to the bill and booked via the boarding staff.

Q. Could you send a list of accommodation providers near to the school please?

The Parsonage Hotel and Spa

York Road
Escrick
YO19 6EY
01904 728111
<https://www.parsonagehotel.co.uk/>

Hollicarrs Holiday Lodges

York Road
Escrick
York
YO19 6EE
+44 (0)1757 249412
<https://www.hollicarrs.co.uk/>
Quote code 'QMGUEST' when booking for a 15% discount on eligible accommodation

The [Visit York website](#) is also a useful source of information for accommodation providers and other facilities in and around the city of York.

Q. Do you allow parents of overseas children to get in contact before term starts to coordinate their travel plans?

Parents will be sent an electronic form via our [Parent Portal](#) at the beginning of the summer holidays, through which they must inform QM of how and when their daughter will be arriving at school which is a UKVI requirement. A similar form will be circulated before each departure from school, such as at Half Term or the Christmas holidays, so that parents can keep us informed as to their plans for their daughter's travel.

Families who are taking the same route can be connected before term starts in order to coordinate their daughters' flights, please get in touch with either the Admissions Team or the relevant boarding staff member to arrange this.

Q. What is your nearest local train station with a connection to London or the other larger cities?

York Railway Station is six miles away and 20 minutes by taxi. From here, London and Manchester are both less than two hours away by train, with Edinburgh in Scotland only three hours by train. Manchester has excellent transport links and a lot of students fly into Manchester Airport and catch a direct train to York from the airport.

Beyond York there is also Leeds, which is a larger city and a little further away (20 miles). Leeds Station can be reached by bus, train or taxi from York and also has many connections to London and to other key UK cities.

7. Education Guardians

Q. Do all international students need a registered Education Guardian?

All international students must have a registered Education Guardian as part of the [Child Student Visa](#) process.

Q. Does the school have a list of recommended Education Guardians?

We are not permitted to recommend individual Education Guardians to families, however we recommend the use of Education Guardians who are registered with The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students ([AEGIS](#)) or who is a [BSA Certified Guardian](#) under the scheme operated by the BSA.

Q. What is expected of an Education Guardian?

Parents of every boarding student at Queen Margaret's (including pupils over the age of 18 and regardless of their nationality) who do not live in the United Kingdom **must** appoint an Education Guardian to act on their behalf whilst their daughter is in the UK. Such Guardians must be appointed by the student's parents and may not be appointed by the school. The Education Guardian must be appointed and their details confirmed to QM prior to a girl joining the school.

All parents should read the Education Guardianship policy, which can be found here: [Education Guardianship Policy](#)

Q. Why does my daughter need an Education Guardian who is based in the UK?

An Education Guardian must be resident in the UK within reasonable proximity to Queen Margaret's, preferably within 90 minutes travel (this includes London by train but **no more than two hours**) should they need to collect the student at short notice, and be capable of providing care for a child in a happy home environment as would a responsible parent.

8. Studying and IT Setup

Q. What is your average number of students per class?

In Years I - V (Years 7 - 11) our average class size is 13. In the Sixth Form our average class size is 6.

Q. Do you have a Mobile and IT Usage Policy?

Each year group has a different policy, and these can be found in our [Family Handbook](#) under the appropriate year group information.

Q. Do you use any technologies such as Google Classroom/any other digital classroom technology?

We make use of the **Google Suite for Education**: this means that girls can create documents in Google Docs and share it with their peers or teachers, regardless of what computer systems they are using.

This system also gives all of our users unlimited Cloud storage with Google for their time at the school.

Q. Do students need to have their own laptop? Is there any specific model required?

We expect all students to have their own laptop for use in lessons, when directed by their teachers, and to complete their own prep and research. More information on which devices to use can be found on page 25 of the [Family Handbook](#).

9. Uniform, Sports Kit and Pocket Money

Q. Do you have a list of clothing and other items that the student should bring to the school?

We send this information out during the term before a student's arrival, ie Summer Term for an Autumn Term start, but these lists can also be found in the [Family Handbook](#)

Q. Can parents buy school uniform online?

Yes, please see the website of our uniform provider: www.schoolblazer.com. Deliveries can be sent directly to the school (please ensure that the student's name and year group is used as the addressee).

Q. Is there a second-hand uniform shop available?

The QM Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is run by volunteers from the 'Friends of QM' parent group. There is a small amount of second-hand uniform available, however, due to stock demands this can only be accessed once girls arrive at school and cannot be pre-ordered. For more information, please contact uniform@queenmargarets.com.

Q. Can parents buy uniform upon arrival?

We aim to open the Pre-Loved Uniform Shop on the first day of term, however, as it is run by volunteers this may not always be possible. It is advisable not to leave buying all uniform until this point, as the Shop is intended to provide extra or replacement items rather than a full set of uniform and we may not have all sizes available.

Parents can order uniform from [Schoolblazer](#) to be sent directly to school, and this can be collected on arrival. It is recommended that families order their uniform in good time to ensure the delivery is waiting for their daughter upon arrival at QM.

Q. If I order from Schoolblazer directly to school and items need to be returned will someone help my daughter to do this? How do we order replacements?

Each Housemistress will be able to help students to manage returns for Schoolblazer. The company usually has a very generous returns policy of four months over the summer holidays, to allow for students who grow in size before they have a chance to try their uniform on!

Q. Do you have a recommended amount of pocket money per term for pupils?

Girls in Years 7 - 10 (Years I - III) can deposit pocket money with their Housemistress and this will be distributed when needed. We recommend a maximum of **£50** per term for boarders and **£10** per term for day girls. Older girls tend to have their own bank account.

If a student is joining QM from Year 10 or above (Years IV - UVI), we would recommend opening a bank account prior to arrival. This allows frequent observation by parents, and ease of topping up the account when needed. Larger sums can be deposited with the Bursary.

10. Boarding Houses and Facilities

Q. How many Boarding Houses do you have in total?

QM is a girls-only boarding school with four boarding houses:

- Warwick House (Years 7, 8 & 9)
- Winifred Holtby House or “Winnie’s” (Years 10 & 11)
- Cloisters House (Year 12)
- The Cottages (Year 13)

Q. How are the dorms organised - is it horizontal or vertical boarding?

Horizontal boarding (where students board with girls of their own age) helps our students to bond as a year group, supporting one another and developing lifelong friendships. Each Boarding House has its own special identity, and the accommodation and facilities are age-appropriate: Years 7 and 8 settle into school life in a cosy environment in the heart of the school, whereas Year 13 (UVI) girls have a taste of independent living housed in The Cottages to prepare them for life after QM. This means that different expectations and rules for each age group can be effectively managed.

To complement horizontal boarding, QM also places girls into vertical ‘Enrichment Houses’ which they belong to for the duration of their time at school:

- **Duncan (pink)**
- **Garry (red)**
- **Pitlochry (purple)**
- **QM Hall (blue)**
- **School (green)**
- **St Aidan’s (yellow)**

These Houses provide very strong ties between the year groups; girls participate in House competitions, organise House events and work hard during lessons to earn House points. The House Captain and House Deputy are Year 13 (UVI) students, who have the opportunity to exercise their leadership skills within a safe and supportive environment through these roles.

Q. What is the average number of students sleeping per dorm room?

The room sizes and bed numbers vary according to the Boarding House, due to the unique nature of each house:

Years I-IV (7 - 9) - Warwick House	2 - 10 beds per dorm
Year IV-V (10 - 11) - Winifred Holtby House	Girls sleep in dorms of four or five. A study room with a work station for each girl is opposite the dorm.
LVI (12) - Cloisters	Two beds per dorm - each girl has her own workstation in her room.

UVI (13) - The Cottages	Single bedrooms in Cottages, which house up to 12 girls each. Each room has its own study space and washbasin, and each Cottage has its own cooking and laundry facilities.
<p>Dorms with six or more beds will include Flexi Boarders, who will not stay every night of the week.</p> <p>Each Boarding House has shared bathrooms and at least one 'common room' space.</p> <p>Except for the important examination years (Year 11 and Year 13), girls will change dormitories every term in order to develop friendships across their year group.</p>	

Q. Do girls always eat in the Dining Room?

Our Dining Room provides breakfast, lunch, dinner and two snack breaks each day for all girls. Sixth Form Boarding Houses also include kitchen facilities, so girls can cook and make snacks to eat in their accommodation if they so wish.

Q. Do you mix overseas nationalities in dorm rooms?

Wherever possible we mix all nationalities together, rather than having an 'international' dorm and an 'English' dorm. There are fewer international girls lower down the school in Years 7 - 9, and a greater diversity of students in the older year groups (ie Years 12 and 13).

Q. Is bedding provided by the school, or do pupils have to bring their own?

Pupils are expected to bring their own pillows and duvet, with two sets of bedding (sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers) that have their name sewn in on a label.

For girls who are staying with us for only a term or two, we have spare sets of bedding they can use. Please ask for this in advance so our Housekeeping team can have this ready.

11. Fees, Deposits and Insurance

Q. Is there a payment upon acceptance of a place?

Once an offer has been made, we require the return of a signed Acceptance Form and receipt of the following deposit to confirm a girl's place at QM:

- EEA students: £500
- Non-EEA students £16,345 (one term's fees)

This deposit is refundable at the end of the student's time at QM and will be offset against the final school bill.

Q. What are the fees for 2024/2025?

The fees for 2024/2025 for international students are as follows:

- EEA Full Boarders: £14,560 per term
- Non-EEA Full Boarders: £16,345 per term

For non-UK/EEA students at QM, we have made our full boarding fee as all-encompassing as possible; the non-UK/EEA full boarding fee includes EAL (English as an Additional Language) support and routine weekend activities. QM offers a comprehensive co-curricular enrichment programme, and many of these activities are also included within the core fees. Charges apply for some enrichment activities and these costs are detailed in our Financial Planning brochure, available [here](#).

There are some other costs, such as examination entry fees and school uniform, which should also be taken into consideration - we do have a well-stocked Pre-Loved Uniform Shop onsite. Every term there are many activities and school trips (both as part of the curriculum and extracurricular) which our girls have the opportunity to be involved in. The costs for any such activities are usually added to the termly school bill - parents' specific consent will be sought for activities with a cost of £30 or more.

The fees are reviewed annually by the governors in the Summer Term. Fees for the 2025/26 academic year will be confirmed at the end of the Summer Term 2025.

Q. What is included in the fees for Non-EEA students?

Non-EEA students pay a higher fee of £16,345 per term; this includes the support of our International Coordinator and the provision of a bespoke EAL (English as an Additional Language) programme, as well as most weekend boarding activities (parents will be notified of any additional trips by email).

Q. Does QM offer a fees refund scheme?

The leaflet for our Fees Refund Scheme is available on request from the Admissions Team and can be downloaded [here](#); more information on this scheme is included with the first invoice, which is sent in advance of the first term at QM.

The Fees Refund Scheme is an opt-in service and the cost must be added to the first school bill payment by the parents, then this will be added automatically on subsequent bills until they either leave or opt out.

Q. Do families have use of a school insurance policy for a student's belongings? Is there a cost for this, and if so when and how much?

We have a Pupil Personal Effects insurance which will cover any one pupil up to the maximum of £5,000. As with the Fees Refund Scheme this must be opted into and then added to the first bill payment.

Q. Should families take out an additional insurance policy to cover illness?

Whilst we do not cover health insurance, we do cover all girls for personal accidents and this is included in the fees. The leaflet for what is covered in the Personal Accident scheme is available [here](#).

All Full Boarders are registered with the doctor's surgery in the local village of Elvington; all Day/Flexi girls should be registered at their home and not the Elvington surgery.

12. Health and Wellbeing

Q. Is there a dedicated space for students feeling unwell at school?

QM's Health and Wellbeing Centre is a well-equipped department with a waiting room, 2x treatment rooms, a well-stocked dispensary, lounge, counselling room, four single bedrooms, and shower, bath, and toilet facilities. The centre is staffed by three Registered Nurses who offer a comprehensive school nursing service.

The Health and Wellbeing Centre operates by appointment where possible, which can be made via phone or email. The Centre is open Monday - Saturday 08:00 - 20:00. 20:00 - 08:00 is covered on an on-call basis. All Housemistresses are also first-aid qualified.

In addition, the School Medical Officer holds surgeries via telephone consultation on Monday and Wednesday mornings for Full Boarders and Flexi Boarders who are registered with Elvington Medical Practice. The School Medical Officer, along with their colleagues, will also see students by appointment at Elvington Medical Practice. The Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner (Counsellor) is available for confidential advice.

Q. Are international students entitled to NHS treatment? How do they access this?

Any UK or overseas student is able to get NHS treatment - however, students who are staying in the UK for more than 6 months must pay the [Immigration Health Surcharge](#) (IHS) as part of their visa application.

Access to NHS treatment is available via a General Practitioner (GP) and hospital services. Full Boarder students are registered with the local village GP at the start of their first term and given an NHS number as part of this process.

Q. What about dental treatment? Who makes the appointments? Who pays for this?

It is recommended that routine dental appointments are arranged when the student is at home for Leave Outs and holidays. Emergency dental treatment can be arranged, where an assessment will be undertaken over the phone with the student and an appointment booked at the nearest dental hospital or dental practice.

Private dental treatment can be arranged with the permission of parents. This will incur a cost which will need to be covered by the parents or private medical insurance.

If the student is seen by an NHS dentist they will be exempt and no cost will be incurred - students in full time education are entitled to free NHS emergency dental treatment. The appointments are arranged by the nurse on duty at the HWBC.

Q. If a student has an orthodontist in her home country, how can we make sure that she continues to have orthodontic care in the UK whilst she is at QM?

It is recommended that orthodontic treatment appointments are arranged when the student is home on Leave Outs or holidays, as orthodontic treatment plans are non-transferable to orthodontics in the UK.

In the event of an emergency, an appointment can be arranged with a private local orthodontist. This would incur a private cost which will need to be covered by the parent or private medical insurance.

Q. What if my daughter has missed a meal for any reason, will someone give her some food?

Snacks are always available in the boarding houses for the girls, and if we know that a girl will miss a meal then a packed meal can be ordered for her.

In the event that the student is at the HWBC during a meal time, then she will be offered a choice of food from the menu. The meal will be brought to the HWBC if the student is not well enough to go to the Dining Hall.

In the event of a student being off school grounds for any medical appointments, a meal will be saved for her return. The HWBC also provides additional snacks such as toast, biscuits, fruit and yoghurts.

13. Religion and Spirituality

Q. Is there a spiritual ethos to the school?

QM is a school founded in the Anglican tradition and spiritual growth is central to the school's ethos. The whole school gathers together on a regular basis for communal worship and communion is held once a week, with regular speakers and visitors from a wide variety of different faiths.

Q. Do you have a Chapel on the campus?

We have a dedicated Chapel on site, and House Staff can also take girls to the local Catholic Mass if this is something they wish to do.

Q. How often do students attend Chapel per week?

Day	Regular Service
Sunday	Communion/Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer (10:00 or 19:00)
Tuesday	Communion (20:30)
Friday	Morning Prayer (08:30)

Q. Do students attend obligatory Chapel Services?

All the Services are obligatory for all pupils except for those held on a Sunday, which are not obligatory for Day Boarders if they are not in school.

Q. Do you offer other religious services?

Transportation to different religious services, including Catholic Mass, can be arranged. This would incur a taxi cost.

14. Sports and Extracurricular Activities

Q. Which sports are played each term at QM?

Autumn and Spring Term

Core Sports: Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball

Additional Sports: Badminton, Swimming, Basketball, and others - Year V-UVI have the option to play these in their PE lessons, whilst Years I-IV can play them in clubs outside of lessons

Summer Term

Core Sports: Tennis Athletics, Rounders and Cricket.

Additional Sports: Badminton, Swimming, Basketball, and others - Year V-UVI have the option to play these in their PE lessons, whilst Years I-IV can play them in clubs outside of lessons

Students can also enrol in additional classes in the following all year-round: Tennis, Horse Riding and Personal Fitness. If students are part of a team for a Core Sport (such as Netball or Hockey) then they will also play in all additional matches that take place outside of lessons.

Q. What extracurricular activities are available per term and what are the additional costs associated with this?

You can find more information about our extracurricular activities and sporting clubs on our website:

queenmargarets.com/enriching/sport

queenmargarets.com/qm-experience/co-curricular-enrichment

The current costs of these can be found on pages 36 - 44 in the [Family Handbook](#).

All of our enrichment activities can be booked by any students wishing to take part; where the school has teams, for Sporting activities for example, girls are chosen to represent QM in a team based on their ability.

If there is something specific that is requested, please ask on application and we will get clarification from the Sports Department or Riding Stables whether this can be offered.

Q. Does the school have any USP (unique selling proposition) with regard to its sporting offer, compared to its academic or artistic provision?

Girls excel at QM in Lacrosse, Riding and Dance in particular: the Riding Stables at Queen Margaret's can cater for girls at any level including showjumping, dressage and eventing. Riding lessons are scheduled according to need and request to fit around a girl's timetable.

In 2019 QM hosted the National Super Counties Lacrosse Tournament, during which a member of our U19 squad represented Yorkshire; in 2020 our U14 Hockey Team competed in the National Finals.

Our Head of Racquets, Mrs Karen Mitchell, has been honoured with a Meritorious Service Award by the Lawn Tennis Association for her significant long term contribution to Tennis. These are just a few examples of the sporting excellence on offer to students at Queen Margaret's alongside their academic studies.

Q. How many extracurricular activities do students normally choose each week?

Girls are encouraged to do either an enrichment or sporting activity every day, and the last lesson of the timetable (16:40 - 17:40) is reserved for these activities.

15. Weekend Activities

Q. What is a typical timetable of a full boarding weekend?

We have lessons every Saturday morning, from 09:00 - 12:00, followed by an afternoon of sports fixtures and activities. Sunday is Chapel in the morning followed by a day out or a day of activities on campus.

These activities include everything from high-energy trips to the trampoline park, climbing walls and go karting, or even more relaxed visits to museums and stately homes, shopping and craft-making. Activities are also arranged in-school, including pizza and movie nights, quiz competitions, pamper evenings and fashion shows. You can find an example of a weekend schedule [here](#).

Queen Margaret's also offers support to girls who wish to pursue their passions and has supported girls in many different disciplines, from Politics to Pentathlon to Eventing, where two girls achieved the title of U18 National Champion in 2020.

Q. Do all students stay in school over the weekend?

As a school with over 100 full boarders, weekends are busy at QM! In addition, the first weekend after the summer holidays and the last full weekend of each subsequent half term will be a 'QM Community Weekend' when we expect every full boarder to be in school.

Community Weekends are far-ranging with different themes and activities planned for each – from Halloween and Performing Arts-themed weekends to activities such as Football Zorbing, extreme adventure Zip Wire, Surf Simulator, Inflatable Obstacle Course and Climbing Wall.

If you have any further queries, please contact the Admissions Team at admissions@queenmargarets.com.