



Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent
The Lady Colgrain

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Dear Headteacher

The Queen's Green Canopy

www.queensgreencanopy.org

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee (70 years of service), having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was just 25 years old.

There will be year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities and people join together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June will provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to celebrate this historic milestone. Across these four days, the celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

To further mark this momentous occasion, there will be a unique tree planting campaign across the UK which will be known as The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), which is why I am writing to you as I see our schools playing a key part in this wonderful project. Officially launched on the 17th May, it has been created to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to thank Her Majesty for her exceptional service but also to promote the importance of trees to the environment, through the encouragement of tree planting and tree preservation across the nation.

Lord-Lieutenants have been asked to help promote the Project within their respective counties and it is hoped that this project will be seen as a positive opportunity for us all to encourage schools, communities and businesses to coalesce around a national project that will hopefully provide a lasting legacy for many generations.

How to get involved:

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC is encouraging the planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Therefore, all schools are encouraged to engage with the QGC and schools may apply for **free** saplings through their partner, **The Woodland Trust**, from June 2021. These are available on a first

come-first served basis. In addition to this, the QGC will make contact with as many state schools in the UK as possible to arrange free trees through their partner agencies. The number of free trees available will depend on donations received.

Therefore, I am actively encouraging you to register your school's interest in applying for a tree pack via www.woodlandtrust.org.uk You will be able to apply for the free tree pack application later this month, so do please keep an eye on the Woodland Trust website to ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Tree planting season – October 2021 to March 2022

The QGC will encourage everyone to learn more about the best way to plant trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come. Trees and hedgerows must be planted with care, at the right time of year, in the right place and with species that are not prone to prevailing tree diseases. The QGC initiative will encourage planting during the official planting season, October 2021 to March 2022, to optimise the chance of trees surviving and flourishing. People are encouraged to use this summer to plan their Jubilee tree planting projects and be ready for October.

Clear instructions on how and when to plant trees can be found on their website along with steps to put in place to ensure the trees remain protected and flourish

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/plant/>
<https://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/protect/>

The Queen's Green Canopy Map:

From October, all planting projects can be uploaded onto an interactive map on the new QGC website so that everyone can share and inspire others, as well as creating a green canopy of projects to cover the country. The map is embedded within the QGC website

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/>

Lasting Benefits:

This initiative is not just for areas where there are already green open spaces. The aim is to see new planting everywhere: within crowded and congested inner cities as well as in suburbs and rural settings and in ways that involve people of all ages, from every faith and embrace all parts of every community.

The Canopy Project seeks to promote a model of stewardship through which local communities can bring more trees into public spaces. The act of planting and caring for a tree can be an effective way of increasing awareness of the environment around it.

A lot more information about the project will be forthcoming in the months ahead. However, now is the time to begin thinking about what we can all do to make this initiative a success in our own communities, particularly within our schools where our young people are able to learn so much about their environment and how they can help maintain it for future generations.

I hope that my letter provides you with sufficient detail to encourage your school to start making your own plans to be part of this wonderful project. The QGC website is incredibly informative and will provide you with all the necessary details going forward.



The Lady Colgrain
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