

Dear Parents and Staff

Some of you may have heard of easyfundraising and already use it, so whether it is for QEGS, a different school or a totally different charity I would say, "Well done you, carry on!". If you have not, then I would be grateful for a moment of your time to explain, and try to persuade you to take part on behalf of the Friends of QEGS.

Easyfundraising is a way of getting internet retailers to donate to your nominated charity at no cost to you. It might sound too good to be true, but it really is that simple. I am not trying to persuade you to turn away from local shopping in any way, I am a big fan of the high street and would not do anything to contribute to its demise. However, even I find the internet is the only sensible way to purchase some things, train tickets for instance. A lot of you, short of time in the working week, may do your weekly grocery shop on-line and most of the major supermarkets are signed up to easyfundraising. There is almost nothing you cannot get through the website, so without changing any of your current shopping habits you can help fundraise for the school.

So here is how it works:

- 1) Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=119730>
- 2) Joining is simple and costs nothing. You use your email address and create a password to sign up. If this hyperlink works, it should take you to the Friends of QEGS Penrith page, but if not try [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and simply select us from the drop down list of charities.
- 3) From then on whenever you shop on -line simply go to easyfundraising first, select the retailer you need and you will be redirected to that retailer's website through easyfundraising. It takes no more than 10 seconds longer than doing it directly, and then you shop normally.
- 4) After you have completed your shop the retailer will donate a percentage of your bill, through easyfundraising, to Friends of QEGS. It costs you just the same, the donation comes from the retailer. It may just be 0.5% or it may be 5%, every retailer differs and all will change over time. For instance, at the moment:

- **Amazon.co.uk can earn up to a 1.5% donation**
- **eBay can earn up to a 2% donation**
- **Marks & Spencer can earn up to a 1.5% donation**
- **John Lewis can earn up to a 2.25% donation**

There are over 3,000 retailers signed up so you can get anything from groceries, fashion, electrical goods, flights, hotels, insurance and mobile phone or broadband contracts. To make life easier, if you use it regularly you can create a favourites board so all the retailers you shop from are there at a glance when you sign in. You can also have a reminder on your PC as it can take a bit of time to get into the habit, and there is an App if you shop from your mobile phone.

We currently have 75 supporters and have raised over £500, but I am sure we can triple that by the end of the year if more parents sign up.

We thank you again in anticipation of your continued support. If you have any questions, problems or feedback please contact me.

Kind regards

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