

18 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Today we have been raising funds and awareness for Children in Need Day. With increased financial uncertainty and the ongoing crisis in children's mental health, fundraising this year is more crucial than ever.

Students purchased badges and wristbands and at lunchtime two staff teams took part in a 'Spotacular' netball match in the sports hall, which students were able to watch and for which they could make a donation.

### **QEHS Autumn Concert**

We again open our doors to parents and friends to listen to a range of performances. This will include music from the folk group Hydroholics, a range of ensembles supported by peripatetic leaders, and some self-run rock groups. This will take place in the Winter Gardens on **Monday 12 December**, starting promptly at **6.30pm**.

Tickets are available at the door on the night and there will be a voluntary contribution – suggested £5, but any amount is welcome. We hope to see you there.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Last night we hosted a successful Sixth Form Open Evening for current Year 11 QEHS students and parents/carers, and those considering joining us from another school.

We are proud to be one of the top sixth forms in the North of England, outperforming most schools and colleges throughout the region. We provide outstanding support, advice and guidance to inform positive choices and successful destinations. With over 30 A Level, Level 3 vocational and enhancement courses, we offer a wide range of options to meet the needs of all students.

To see our Sixth Form prospectus, please visit: <https://www.qehs.net/index.php/sixth-form-open-evening/>

### **Foodbank Appeal**

Thank you for all the contributions towards the Foodbank appeal. A massive 500kg of donations was collected yesterday for the Newcastle West End Foodbank. The foodbank emailed us to say that they are incredibly appreciative of the donations. They said: *"We all know schools are always very busy places but everyone concerned found time to offer support to many, many people at a really difficult time. Their efforts will make a difference. Once again, thank you very much to all concerned."*

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**  
Head of School: **Neil Seaton**



## Road Safety Week

Today marks the end of Road Safety Week. You can find out more information [here](#). I spoke to students in the high school on Monday about the importance of paying attention (stop, look and listen) as they cross roads and not using devices when they walk across the road. Our school Green Team also spoke to me about the need for drivers who are dropping off or picking up to be mindful of students cycling to school. They also asked me to remind the school community that students can cycle to school and store their bikes in the covered shelters.

Here is a reminder to the school community about dropping off and collecting students safely.

It is vital that parents/carers bringing children to and from school adhere to the speed limit in local residential streets, some of which are 20mph. There have been some 'near misses' for pupils. Please see below a reminder about arrival and departure procedures. There has been lots of vehicle movement in the car park in the morning. Ideally, we would ask families to drop their children off outside the immediate vicinity of the school due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic in the morning. However, if you do use our car park for drop off, we need to operate a flow system and there should be **no need to park up whilst dropping off**. Please also avoid parking around Maidens Croft, which is the collection of sheltered housing flats off the Allendale Road. Parking here means that residents are unable to gain access to their car parking spaces and the pavements.

### *Arrival:*

- We ask that you avoid vehicle movement in the immediate vicinity of the school as much as possible. This helps to reduce traffic on the surrounding streets where pupils are walking to the school site.
- If you do need to drop your child at school (in the car park), please drive safely and slowly (10mph speed limit) in the school car park.
- Please drive straight to the top of the car park, drop your child off at the walkway (not down the car park, please) and then follow the loop around the car park to allow the smooth flow of traffic.
- When leaving the car park, it would help us if you could **turn left** (allowing our pupils to cross the road safely under the guidance of staff).

### *Departure:*

Due to an increased volume of traffic at the end of the day, we are asking for your support in limiting pick-ups on the school site, where possible.

- If you collect your child, please try to make alternative arrangements to pick them up off-site and avoid the vicinity of Whetstone Bridge Road where students are departing the school.

- You can access and depart from our school car park at the end of the day but there are still a small number of student transport cars and mini-buses that will take priority and may still cause delays to departing cars.

I thank you for your understanding and support.

### **Cross Country Success**

Congratulations to our Y10 cross country team who competed in the North East final of the Schools' Cross Country Cup in Middlesbrough on Saturday. They have now qualified for the national finals, which will be held at Leeds Grammar School on Saturday 4 December. Well done to Esme, Emma, Emily, Ania and Maria for working incredibly well as a team to achieve such deserved success.



### **UK Disability Awareness Month: 16 November – 16 December**

The key purpose of the month is to raise awareness of the unequal position of disabled people in society and to advocate disability equality; to develop an understanding of the historical roots of this inequality; to highlight the significance of disabled people's struggles for equality and inclusion of people with Disabilities and the Equalities Act (2010).

Our assemblies will be on the theme of Disability and there will be follow up activities in tutorial sessions.

### **Calling all electricians!**

The physics department would love to hear from a friendly electrician who would be keen to come into school to talk to some Year 10 students about their work. If you are, or know, an electrician who would be enthusiastic and inspiring, please email [cwright@qehs.net](mailto:cwright@qehs.net) so that we can get the ball rolling.

### **Planetarium visit**

Last Friday, Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend a show in an inflatable planetarium in the school hall! Our presenter gave an amazing guided tour of our local night sky, and highlighted some stars at different stages of their lifecycle, which students have been studying in their physics lessons this term. Thank you to Ms Ingoe (Physics) for organising the event.



### **PTA Fundraising**

*Crowdfunding:* The PTA need a little bit of funding for set up costs (insurance, card machine for payments, floats and start-up costs for events) so they have set up a Crowdfunder page. If you can spare a couple of pounds it would help a lot (please note that JustGiving adds on an optional donation to them - you can reduce this to 0 at the checkout!). The link is [here](#).

*Clothing Collection:* As we mentioned last week, they have also organised a fundraising recycling collection by Bag2School. Students can bring clothes, paired shoes, bags, belts and accessories in bags to the Hydro reception on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and (by 9am) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please see the Bag2School poster below for what can and can't be donated. If you would like to deliver anything for the collection by car, please do so outside school start and finish times to avoid congestion.

The PTFA are also collecting used branded uniform (new and old style) and Christmas jumpers but please put in separate bags to the items for the recycling collection.

### **Rowing News**

Congratulations to all high school rowers involved in the recent Long Distance Sculling Event in Durham last Saturday, competing over a distance of 1800m.

QEHS Rowing Club entered a range of boats with over 80 students racing, including some of our new Year 9 cohort. Friday night was wet and windy and the team were loading boats onto trailers well into the dark! However, Saturday was warm and calm, which made for great racing and spectating conditions.

The major obstacle on the river is the bridge that you can see in the photographs – getting through the bridge first or without another crew obstructing the way is the key to success. Congratulations to our winning crews. Brother and sister Freya and Robbie C won their respective singles – Robbie is no stranger to a single but Freya has only just started in this boat in the last six months. Ania S and Emily L also won, keeping their winning streak going in the women's double, which was particularly impressive given that they had just recently competed in the cross-country for QEHS and progressed to the national finals!

This was the final event of the season, which saw QEHS Juniors win the overall series Victor Ludorum trophy. It was brilliant to see the cooperation and encouragement from every member of the QEHS Rowing Club. A special thank you must go to all the parent volunteers that helped make this event a success.



Congratulations too to Ethan T, Ava L, Georgia M, Esther S and Lauren W (Y9), Harry R, Jacob L, Cassie A, Joe L, Harry W, Esme P, Emma N and Finn C (all Y10), Lily T, Rose N, Katie R, Hester L and Daisy D (all Y11) and Katie L (Y12), each of whom won events either singly or as part of a team.

### **Cycling Success**

Cameron A in Year 10 competed in the Scottish Championships for cyclocross at the weekend, at which he won a bronze medal. This is his first year in the highly competitive under 16 category. For the rest of the season he has two more races in the National Trophy before the British National championships in Cumbria in January. We wish Cameron all the best for his upcoming events.

### **News from the Community**



#### **Hexham Abbey Spaces**

Please see attached two flyers with details of new public spaces for young people available at Hexham Abbey. The study space and games café have been established in response to a consultation with young people and they are really hoping to grow the group over the coming weeks.

#### **Tynedale Lions: Bursary Scheme**

Tynedale Lions Club has developed a bursary scheme to help in the further and personal development of young people who deserve to be recognised for their hard work and/or exceptional achievement. They have four bursaries of £500 for the period up to the 30th June 2023. Applicants need to be 11-18 years of age and live in Tynedale. Young people with learning difficulties will be considered up to the age of 25. The closing date for applicants is the 13 December 2022. Full details of the scheme, including how to apply, are in the attached document.

Kind regards

Mr Seaton

Head of School



**BAG 2 SCHOOL**  
**FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS**  
In partnership with Queen Elizabeth High School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second- hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed, and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



**PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).**

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

*We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:*

**Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.**

*(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)*

*The more we weigh the more we pay!  
Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit Please return your*

**Bag2School on:**

**Wednesday 23rd November 2022 by 9am**