



23 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The term has finally drawn to a close with Y13 fancy dress, Christmas lunches, a movie afternoon, singing, celebration assemblies and Christmas jumpers. The shortest day of the year has now passed and Christmas beckons. Please enjoy the holiday season and I am looking forward to welcoming the students and staff back to school in 2023.

Celebration Evening, Tuesday 20 December

On Tuesday, for the first time in three years, we were delighted to run our celebration event in person. On the evening, we celebrated the successes of last year's Y11 and Y13 students who had demonstrated hard work, academic achievement or contributed to wider school or community life. We welcomed Harry Pearson, journalist and author, who presented the prizes. Harry spoke passionately and movingly about how his grandfather had inspired him and impacted on his life. The message was clear: listen to the stories of those around us regardless of education or privilege because the voices of the many matter.

The Sunday Times Power Guide

The High School are delighted to be listed as the third best state school in the North East, according to the Sunday Times. Mr Seaton said, "We are delighted to see the hard work of our staff and students recognised in this way. The last few years have been challenging for all schools and the young people have done exceptionally well. Our school and the students are well supported by all the staff, their families, and the wider Hexham community. The school's ethos of respect, engage, aspire is evident in everyday school life and we are committed to making sure students thrive and flourish".

Monday 9 January – Sixth Form Speaker

On Monday 9 January, Dr Kathryn Mannix will be visiting QEHS as part of the 'Speakers for Schools' programme. Dr Mannix will speak to Y12 and 13 during period 5. This is for all students and will be of particular interest to those interested in working in the health and social care sector, studying medicine at university and those with an interest in ethics and decision making.

Qualifying as a doctor in 1982, Kathryn Mannix is currently a consultant in palliative medicine at the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust. She is a trained cognitive behavioural therapist and created the UK's first CBT clinic exclusively for palliative care patients. She is also the author of 'With the End in Mind: How to Live and Die Well'.

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

Y10 Football

The Y10 footballers were in action this week and won 5-1 against Bede Academy. They did well with three noteworthy goals scored from Will M (free kick outside the box), Alex M (curler into the top corner) and Brandon F (lob from outside the area into the top corner). Congratulations to everyone involved.

NHS Healthier Together Website

For some families this time of year can be incredibly difficult and many families also face additional challenges with the cost of living rise. The good news is there is a lot of support for families, parents and carers available via the NHS Healthier together website. Please click the following link for more information:

<https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-about-daily-life/stay-warm-and-well-this-winter-support>

Free Opportunity – ORA Singers Young Composers' Scheme

The award-winning vocal group, ORA Singers, has launched its fourth national Young Composers' programme. This is a **free** scheme aimed at developing the skills of young composers from UK state schools. The programme sees ten Young Composers each receive 10 hours of one-to-one mentoring with professional composers, who will help them write a new choral piece which will be performed and recorded in concert by ORA Singers. During the scheme, Young Composers have their ideas and sketches workshopped by ORA Singers, who offer specialised tips and advice along with a guest composer.

The 2023 Young Composers scheme will also see up to 40 Apprentices fast-track their skills in composition through a series of online, in-depth workshops, and will gain invaluable insight into the world of professional composition by hearing from industry experts.

Applications are now open at <https://www.orasingers.co.uk/young-composers>. The deadline to apply is Monday 6 February 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Mr Seaton
Head of School