



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

20 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all of our site team who worked tirelessly to keep the school running with minimal disruption after the sudden deluge of snow on Monday.



Our Year 11 Taster Day took place on Tuesday. The students really seemed to enjoy the experience and hopefully it will have helped them make decisions on the subjects they would like to study next year.

## Potential Strike Action

Parents/carers will be aware that the National Education Union has announced a series of potential strike days, which for us in the North East would be 1 February, 28 February, 15 March and 16 March should they go ahead. As a school, we are now in the process of determining the nature and extent of the provision we can put on for students given reduced staffing and will update you further when we are able to share more information.

## QEHS: No Place for Hate

Staff and students have been looking at the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) and the importance of equality, diversity and mutual respect. QEHS is a school in which students should be safe and not face discrimination or prejudice based on sex/gender, race, sexuality or disability. Students are being reminded that we have a zero tolerance approach to hate speech and discrimination. Mrs Hodgson's assemblies next week will Holocaust remembrance and focus on the role of the bystander and how we need to challenge hate when we hear or see it. The message is clear: there is no place for hate in our community and what we walk by we stand by.

## Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## **Personal Development**

Our Virtue focus for this half-term is 'Compassion': compassion means to 'suffer with' others. Cultivating compassion is about learning to feel, think and behave kindly towards others. Students are being encouraged to practise compassion in and around school. This links with our recent work promoting a 'No bystanders' culture.

## **QEHS Youth Theatre Production – 26-28 January**

Tickets are still available for the 2023 QEHS Youth Theatre production of Godspell! The show takes place **next week** on **Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 January**. The QEPTFA is supporting the production and will be selling refreshments, including beer and wine, before the show and at the interval. As such, doors open for Front of House at 6.45pm. Programmes will also be available to purchase. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £6.50 for concessions. The performance will be in the QEHS Main Hall. Seating will be unallocated, so it is best to arrive in good time.

*How to pay:* All ticket payments for students and families can be made using the online payment portal, with physical tickets collected from the LRC from Monday 16 January onwards, or at the box office on the evening of the performance. If you wish to buy a ticket but do not have an online payment account, you can either come to the main QEHS reception between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday and pay by card, or you can reserve tickets by emailing [sjackson@gehs.net](mailto:sjackson@gehs.net) and then paying on the night of the show.

## **British Physics Olympiad**

Congratulations to Maisie S in Y13, who has been awarded a Gold Certificate in the first round of the British Physics Olympiad.

## **Year 11 GCSE Music Ensemble Performances**

Year 11 GCSE Music ensemble performances will now take place on Monday 27 February and one other date, which is to be confirmed dependent on strike action. Please support your child by checking that they are preparing for this performance. They should be practising their chosen piece regularly at home, and by the start of February they should be able to play all the way through the piece as it will take a few weeks to polish once they can play all the notes correctly. This is particularly important because these formal ensemble performances take place immediately after the half term break.

## **685 Bus Route**

Please be aware that if your son or daughter uses the Arriva 685 bus to travel into school, this route is being taken over by Stagecoach next week. There is a one week grace period in which students may continue to use their Arriva bus passes, but from Monday 30 January, Arriva bus passes will **not** be valid on this route. If you have any questions about this, please contact Arriva or Stagecoach directly.

## 2023 Virtual Routes into STEM course

Is your child in Year 9 or 10 and interested in STEM? It's not too late to apply for the February half term '2023 Virtual Routes into STEM' course. The course covers:

- College life, university life and apprenticeship routes in different settings including college, university and industry.
- Live sessions to meet and speak to STEM students, ambassadors and industry professionals.
- Workshops in various sectors, including design and the built environment; transport and flight; forensic science; the future of technology and medicine; the electric revolution; aerospace engineering; IT; net zero explained; Python; energy and problem solving.
- Organisations present will include Arup, Murphy, Balfour Beatty, BAE Systems, Network Rail, Leonardo, Innovate UK, Siemens, Rolls-Royce, GSK and NHS Careers, Babcock International, Cory Riverside Energy and Bechtel.

Places are limited and applications must be submitted by the 23 January. To apply, visit: <https://www.etrust.org.uk/routes-into-stem-read-more>

## News from the Community

### Support for families

As part of Northumberland County Council's response to cost of living pressures, they have allocated a fund to support children and young people. Research released by Newsround captures this: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/pnqxa7g7gf/cost-of-living>.

The fund has four broad categories – eating, sleeping, playing and learning. Examples of what the fund can support are: personal hygiene products, travel passes, learning equipment, warm clothing, school uniform and food.

If you would like the school to apply on your behalf, please complete this [form](#), providing brief details of the support that would help, as well as your contact details and consent for us to share the information with Northumberland Communities Together.

Many of the wellbeing support and activities can be found on the Northumberland Frontline website: <https://northumberlandfrontline.org.uk/>.

### Support for parents

Northumberland County Council are running two groups in the coming months to support parents in developing healthy relationships. These are 'Getting it Right for Children' and 'Arguing Better'. Each group runs for three weeks and is free of charge.



*Getting it Right for Children:* This group is for parents who have separated and find it hard to communicate about their children. The ideal situation is if both parents attend this although they will never be in the same group. The next 'Getting it Right for Children' groups start on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28 February, 8-9pm (online)
- Thursday 2 March, 10-11am

*Arguing Better:* This group is for couples who find it hard to communicate about their children and who may be having arguments or heated conversations. The ideal situation is for parents to take part in this group together. This can also be offered to individual families. The next 'Arguing Better' groups start on the following dates:

- Thursday 2 March, 11.15am-12.15pm
- Thursday 16 March, 8-9pm (online)

Please see the attached posters with details.

Kind regards

Mr Seaton  
Head of School