24 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are all well. Year 11 and year 13 mocks have now been completed and data is being collated to share with students and families. We currently have the German exchange in school and a number of students visiting the CERN institute in Switzerland. The holidays are fast approaching, and the weather (appears) to be improving. I have a few updates below that relate to behaviour, languages and the parent/carer survey. I would also like to highlight the information from the Hexham Book Festival offering QE students discounted tickets. Please encourage your children to access this opportunity.

Behaviour Policy Update – Vaping

Schools throughout the country are reporting a growing concern about the number of school students using vapes and vaping in schools. The high school remains a smoke and vape free site for staff, students and visitors. Our behaviour policy has been updated to incorporate the consequences for students of vaping on site or being in school with vaping paraphernalia. Please find the updated policy here.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum is a banned substance for students on the school grounds. This is to prevent the damage that the disposal of chewing gum causes to our facilities and the environment. Students will be given a lunchtime detention for chewing gum. This reflects the significant impact that it has on the cost of maintaining the facilities. We appreciate the support of parents/carers in communicating this message.

Parking Notice

We have been contacted by the sergeant of Hexham Police Station about large numbers of parents/carers blocking station exits and damaging staff vehicles when dropping off/picking up students before and after school. Please be mindful when dropping off/picking up students and don't enter the police station grounds or stop in front of the police vehicle car park exit. Access to the grounds is only available to the public if they are attending the police station.

Please do not enter the police station grounds or stop in front of the police vehicle car park exit while dropping off or picking up students; the exit is used by police vehicles when attending emergencies, and blocking it prohibits the police from travelling to incidents.

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Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages

This month sees the return of the annual **'Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages'**. The festival is a celebration of the diverse languages, cultures and communities in the region and our connections with the world. There are lots of free events, activities and resources introducing new and creative ways to learn, speak and teach languages. Why not get your household involved?

Please visit https://expressyourselfne.com/ for more information. See the attached summary document which shows how pupils are getting involved in school. There are also some suggested family activities that you could try out.

Hexham Book Festival – Discounted Tickets for QE Students

The organisers of the Hexham Book Festival have kindly offered QE students access to events for only £5 per ticket. Discounted tickets are restricted to 1 per student per event, excluding workshops, walks and lunches.

When you book, enter the code HBFQE, and please note that all students will need to show school ID with their ticket at the venue (lanyards for sixth formers; Class Charts downloaded to a phone or a note from a form teacher in a QE planner for years 9-11). Click here to book.

Parent/Carer Survey

If you have not already done so, we would appreciate it if you could please take a few minutes to complete our parent/carer feedback survey at this link. This is so we can get a sense of your experience as a parent/carer and your thoughts on your child's/children's experience of school life. Thank you in anticipation.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

Neil Seaton
Head of School