

3 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this finds you well after a busy and enjoyable first week back for the school after the half-term break.

I spoke with Mr Seaton this morning and he continues to recover well; we look forward to seeing him back on a phased return in the not-too-distant future.

Thank you to the PE Department and the sixth form students for a successful “Scotty’s Day” on Wednesday in memory of our much-missed former PE Leader, Chris Scott. A combination of sporting activity and fundraising was enjoyed by all in years 12 and 13 and was very much appreciated by Chris’s family who attended. Thank you to everyone who supported this, including Fire and Dough Pizza, run by former QE students.

Well done to year 11 students for the maturity with which they approached their final mock examinations before the formal examinations in May and June. They will receive their mock results in a special assembly on Wednesday 22 March. Congratulations to Isaac M whose slogan – GCSEs: your future needs you! – was voted by the year group as their slogan of choice to focus minds as they enter this final phase of their compulsory education. Best wishes to year 13 students who begin their final mock examinations next week ahead of the formal examination season.

This week I noticed an increase in ‘drop-off’ traffic on Whetstone Bridge Road very close to the time students are meant to be in school and moving to registration. As always, we want to minimise the number of cars approaching the site in the mornings, but if you do need to drop-off, please aim for your child to be on site no later than 8.40am. Thank you for your support with this.

Student Successes!

Maths Challenge

On 2 February, students in year 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. Three of our year 9 students also gave up their lunchtime to take part. Many of the students achieved bronze, silver and gold awards for their achievements and five students qualified to take part in higher level competitions.

From year 9, James M-D has qualified for the Grey Kangaroo. This is the next level of competition for high achieving year 9 students.

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

In year 11, Daniel H, Harvey T and Arthur P have qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. This is the next level for year 11 students.

Tom C, also in year 11, was the highest scorer in the school for this year's challenge. He has qualified for the Cayley Olympiad, which is the level above the Kangaroo challenges. This is an outstanding achievement.

The next rounds for all take place mid-March and we wish the students all the best.

Poetry Publication

Two year 10 students who attend our Creative Writing Club, Esme P and Harriet S, have had their poetry selected to appear in a Young Writers' publication: 'The Power of Poetry – The Feelings Within'. Ms Prescott and Ms Murphy use this club as a platform for the students to express their opinions creatively using a variety of forms and techniques. This particular poetry competition invited the students to use the power of poetry to express their views on a topical issue of their choice. Both students' poems will be considered for one of the student prizes awarded to the top published poets. Congratulations to both.

Durham University Research Study: Understanding the Role of Social Partners

Researchers at Durham University are currently looking to recruit autistic and non-autistic teenagers aged 12-17 for a study aimed at understanding the role of social partners on task performance for autistic and non-autistic teenagers, especially across friends or less familiar peers. To help with this, they have asked Queen Elizabeth High School to support their research and invite your child to take part in some short games, including LEGO and a word game, with both a friend and someone they are less familiar with. The study will take place within school next term, across one or two periods, and as a thank you for taking part, both the student and their friend will receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Please see the attached flyer, and if you're happy for your child to take part, fill in this short [form](#) by **Friday 10 March**. The lead researcher (Rhys, rhys.proud@durham.ac.uk) will then be in contact with more information.

Children and Young People's Plan survey

Northumberland County Council have asked schools to share the opportunity for students to contribute to a survey that will help shape the future of Northumberland's Children and Young People's Plan.

The survey is open [here](#). By completing the survey, children and young people have the opportunity to enter a prize draw for one of five £10 shopping vouchers.

News from the Community



Junior Sports Clubs at Hexham Community Sports Hub!

If your child is interested in joining a sports club, please see below what is on offer at Hexham Community Sports Hub and contact them directly.

Club	Day	Time	Age range	Contact
Hexham Netball Club	Monday	5-8pm	8+	hexhamjuniornetballclub@gmail.com
Hexham Basketball Club	Wednesday	6-7pm	12+	hexhambasketball@gmail.com
Tynedale Hockey Club	Sunday	9.30am-1.30pm	Various	enquiries@tynedalehockey.org.uk
Hexham FC	Monday-Friday	6-9pm	Various	https://www.hexham-fc.co.uk/contact
PGS Football Coaching	Friday	5-7pm	2-16	info.pgscscoaching@gmail.com
Supa Strikers	Saturday / Sunday	9-10.30am	2-5	Supastrikersnortheast@gmail.com
Rugby Tots	Saturday	9-11am	2-7	suzi@rugbytots.co.uk
Whitley Chapel Badminton Club	Thursday	7-9pm	Various	alisonaldred33@gmail.com
Seiken Ryu Karate	Thursday	5-6pm	12+	www.seikenryu.co.uk

Bookings for our Sports Facilities

If you would like to make a casual booking in our sports centre for badminton, 5-a-side football or table tennis, please click here to book through our new booking system. We are taking bookings now!

<https://portal.sportskey.com/venues/queen-elizabeth-high-school-2>

Easter Sports Camps

Hexham Community Sports Clubs are running activities over the Easter holidays in our sports facilities. Please see the attached flyer or visit <https://www.allsportscamps.co.uk> for more information.

Finally, best wishes to all staff and students who left today on the German Exchange trip.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Atkins', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher