



28 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you very much to those parents/carers who completed the parent/carer survey. I am processing the data and will write to you with feedback. Unfortunately, given the number of responses, I will not be able to respond to any individual queries raised.

### **Children North East Poverty Proofing**

Alongside this letter is a call from Children North East to participate in a survey looking at how we poverty proof the high school. The information will be used to inform our actions in relation to the lived experiences of children in poverty. This is particularly pertinent given the current financial stresses faced by many families. Please take time to read the letter and complete the survey.

### **Industrial Action, Tuesday 2 May**

As the NEU has granted dispensation to teachers so they can come into school to teach year 11 and year 13, we will be open to years 11-13 on Tuesday. Year 11 students are expected to attend, as most of their teachers will be in school. Year 11 will gather in the school hall at 8.40am. Any student who is entitled to free school meals should collect their meal at the end of school on Friday.

### **Year 10 science**

Year 10 students will soon have finished learning the content for the first GCSE papers in science. During the week commencing 12 June, students will be sitting a paper 1 exam in each science to assess their understanding of the topics, provide an opportunity to practice a full exam and allow students and teachers to identify the next steps as students enter year 11.

To support students with this exam, from next week, weekly revision homework will be set in each science to ensure students have completed appropriate revision to prepare.

Most students will be set this homework on Seneca. Students access Seneca using their school email address and password. Seneca is used across QE as an online revision platform. A small number of classes will be set work on a platform called Century. This is an online platform we are trialling in science over this term; it is designed to adapt to students' needs using diagnostic testing to suggest tailored revision "nuggets".

We will review the impact of these two learning platforms following the assessments to identify which will best support students across science at QE. Teachers will use Class Charts to communicate which platform individual classes are using. Your support in reinforcing the importance of this

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revision homework is appreciated. Please contact [jef@qehs.net](mailto:jef@qehs.net) if you would like to discuss this further.

### **In Memory of Holly**

On Friday 5 May we are going to have a non-uniform day for students in the high school. The purpose of the day is to raise money for a school memorial to Holly, with any excess funds being donated to a charity chosen by her family. Please make donations to the fund through School Gateway. There will also be a bake sale in school on that day run by the year 10 heads of year and Holly's friends, with baking supplied by staff.

### **Young Farmers' Success**

At the weekend Whitley Chapel Young Farmers travelled to Leamington Spa for the national finals of the Young Farmers' Entertainment Competition. To reach the final they progressed through the Northumberland and North of England rounds. They were up against much bigger clubs, as well as county teams. Whitley Chapel had a great number of juniors taking part - probably the most of any club.

The participants were amazing and took part in comedy sketches, sang and danced their way to be national champions, which is a great achievement for such a small club! Well done to all the students (current and former) who were involved.



### **QEHS Rowing - Steve Redgrave Visit**



QEHS rowers were delighted to host a visit from Olympic rowing hero Sir Steve Redgrave during the Easter holidays. Sir Steve was giving a talk at the Queen's Hall and was generous enough with his time to visit both Hexham Rowing Club and QEHS Rowing Club prior to his talk. He spent time talking to our rowers and coaches. Pam and Nicole organised a number of rowing relays and activities for Sir Steve to watch. It was a great experience for our young rowers to meet a great of our sport. We hope he proves to inspire our performances in the rest of the competitions this summer.

### **QEHS Rowing - Junior Inter Regional Regatta**

Thirteen QEHS rowers were selected to represent the northern region at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta. This event was held at the National Water Sports Centre Nottingham, giving our rowers their first taste of competing on a rowing-specific lake, racing in lanes and going head-to-head with other crews.

We had near perfect racing conditions; light winds and watery sunshine. Competition is tough at this level, but all our boats performed well. Special mention must go to Ania and Emily, who made the A final in their event. Secondly, to Josh and Ben, year 9 boys who came a strong second in their B final, showing good potential to race at this level. Pam, Nicole and Mr Gaines would especially like to thank the club captains for attending and making this weekend run smoothly.



### **Congratulations to Harry W**

A huge well done to year 12's Harry W, who has been selected for the Northumberland County Under 17s Rugby Squad.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully  
Neil Seaton  
Head of School