

8 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Sixth Form

Yesterday at Hexham Abbey and the Queen's Hall, we held our welcome day for the new Y12 students. The students experienced an array of advice and guidance about sixth form and life beyond school. The parents' information evening for Y12 parents/carers is on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm. Our sixth form team are looking forward to welcoming parents to the school.

QEPTFA

I wish to extend a welcome to all our new parents/carers and I am looking forward to seeing you at some point over the coming year. Our QEPTFA (the parents' association) is meeting on 20th September 6pm at school. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic group please come along. You can also follow them on Instagram @qehs_parent_teacher_friends.

Attendance

The Department for Education wrote to schools this week highlighting the importance of school attendance. Within their communication they provided this link ['Is my child too ill for school'](#) to share with parents/carers.

Uniform & Jewellery

It has been lovely to see our students returning in the new QEHS blue uniform this term. In advance of next week, I just wanted to remind parents/carers and students about our uniform expectations. All students should wear:

A blue QEHS v-neck sweatshirt

A QEHS tie

A white collared shirt

Grey school trousers, shorts or a pleated school skirt. Sport-type shorts or leggings are not permitted.

All black polishable shoes

Our full uniform policy is available on the website.

Students may wear a maximum of two stud earrings. Bracelets, rings, nose piercings and all other jewellery is not permitted. Clear retainers may be worn but must be removed for PE along with all other jewellery.

False nails are not permitted.

All students have been reminded of these expectations in assemblies this week.

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Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

We appreciate that it can be a challenge to get all uniform organised and ready for the start of term so have given this week as a grace period. From Monday 11th September, uniform expectations will be enforced. Students who are wearing incorrect uniform will be offered uniform to borrow, we have an ample supply. Refusal to borrow uniform and remaining incorrectly dressed will result in your child being placed in Reflection until the issue is resolved. False nails and refusal to remove piercings will also result in time in Reflection.

We understand that the cost of living is significant and are keen to support families so please do not hesitate to contact your child's year team if you need support in accessing uniform.

Thank you in advance for your support.

RAAC

There is a lot of media coverage of the impact of RAAC on schools throughout the country. I just wanted to reassure you that we are not affected by this issue and will therefore continue to function as normal.

Youth Theatre Meeting for 'Grease', Thursday 14 September

The school youth theatre production will be Grease and is scheduled for January 2024. The first meeting for all students who are interested in performing or supporting the production takes place on Thursday 14 September, 3.30pm-5.30pm. Please encourage your child to participate. There are opportunities to perform or support back stage.

Virtual Work Experience

Last term our Y11 students participated in virtual work experience. As part of the exercise they had to develop a recruitment plan for a local employer, who set them the brief. The employer then returned to listen to their advice. We received this email from the NHS representative:

We really enjoyed doing the Work Experience event with Queen Elizabeth High School in July. I thought I would email to let you know that we have taken the feedback from the students onboard. The key messages we picked up from the recruitment strategies the students came up with were:

- *Use social media such as TikTok and YouTube to promote our vacancies.*
- *Better promote the benefits of working for us*
- *Highlight the relatively low qualification requirement for the positions*

I have just gone out to advert for 3 different apprentice vacancies – Facilities (Catering, Cleaning and Portering), Joinery and Painting and Decorating, and we have developed an advert taking the feedback into account.

The NHS wanted to feedback to the students how effectively they communicated their ideas.

Extracurricular Fair

On Monday morning Y9-11 students will attend our extracurricular fair, where they have the chance to sign up to clubs and activities. Research shows that students who engage in the wider life of the school are happier, healthier and more successful.

Atypical points of entry

Please find attached - alongside this letter - information from Northumberland County Council about provision available at atypical entry points. This is just for information only and does not require any action unless parents would like to consider one of the settings listed.

Parent/Teacher meetings

One of the consequences of the pandemic has been the reduction in opportunities for parents to be in school and meeting staff. Following feedback from parents, we are returning to in-person parents' evenings rather than online. We will update the calendar on the website with important dates for parents and I will add reminders to the bulletin each month. In advance of the first parents' evening we will issue details about booking appointments and the format of the evening.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton
Head of School