



Dear Parent/Carer

Attendance matters

There has been much coverage of the impact of the pandemic on school attendance. We know that students are happier, more successful and achieve better when they attend school. We appreciate that for some young people the interruption to their schooling has disrupted their relationship with education. It is important that we ensure students are in school and learning.

At QE the current school attendance is 93.7%. This is well below the pre-pandemic average and our school ambition of 96%. Attendance is the responsibility of school and families. We need to work together to raise the attendance of students who are missing days of school. You can see your child's % attendance on class charts and we will be reporting Y9-11 attendance to parents/carers each half term. We know from analysing exam results data that there is a direct correlation between attendance at school and grades achieved. Attendance matters.

QEHS theatre premiere!

We have had our first professional theatre performance in our very own QEHS Theatre - with the amazing Fox and Hound Theatre Company and their version of A Trio of Tennessee Williams which they took to the Queen's Hall in Hexham. They came and performed one part of the Trip: *27 Wagon's Full of Cotton*, a powerful piece on the effects of abuse, to our new year 12 Drama students. This was then followed up with an engaging workshop session which helped students to develop their devising skills - a great start to their Drama A Level course!



The set looked amazing in the theatre space with our fabulous lighting and we hope to have more professional productions in the theatre for our students to experience. Thanks to Jake for the technical support.

QEPTFA News

The QEPTFA met this week and are hosting their AGM on Thursday 9th November at 6pm in The County Hotel, Priestpopple, Hexham.

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Pre-loved uniform available

Save money and save the planet by accessing the pre-loved uniform that the PTFA have collected. There is a link [here](#) to the form.

Vintage prom wear

Y11 prom beckons on the horizon and we are conscious of the cost that many families incur for prom. The PTFA are willing to collect any prom dresses/shirts/suits/kilts that people are willing to donate. If you have any items that are suitable, please leave them at reception.

Clothes Bank

If you are clearing out old your summer clothing, please consider donating to our new clothes bank. This has been arranged by the QE and HMS PTA, in collaboration with the clothes bank organisation Fundraise & Recycle. This is at the very bottom of the school car park. The first collection is scheduled for this month. Any funds raised will be collected jointly by the QE and HMS PTAs for the benefit of both schools. Please donate any good condition clothes, shoes, belts, bags, duvet covers and accessories. They do not accept damaged goods, books, duvets, pillows, curtains or any heavy items. Donations should be bagged. Bags are available on request at the Hydro reception and at the HMS office but any bag will do. Thank you for your support.



Student Successes

Congratulations to the U16 QE girls' rugby team who beat all the teams they competed against in last week's Ponteland tournament.

Congratulations to the Y9 boys' football team who have progressed to the next round of their league fixtures. Mr Bourne's commentary: QEHS were 2-0 up at half time thanks to goals from Elliot P (opened the scoring with a controlled pass into the far corner) and Teddy S-K (a lovely header to lob the keeper from a corner). A very solid first half performance with a few last-ditch tackles from Oli G and George S.

The second half was tough as we were into the wind and it was a very bobbly pitch. Everybody contributed in some way whether it was a tackle, block, clearance, header or shot and goal. Leo S bagged the 3rd with a calm finish in the area before an own goal from their keeper and a follow up shot from Louis F (who had worked tirelessly on the left wing) sealed the game. A double save late in the game from Max Mc meant the late comeback was thwarted. Well done to the team and all involved.

We applaud Harry O who was presented with some crash cymbals from the Mark Jon Bolderson Percussion Scholarship after doing a drumming audition earlier in the summer. Harry had to perform his drumming pieces in front of several drumming judges and also perform on the awards evening itself. Harry is currently working towards his grade 6 drum exam, and is due to perform in a public event being held at the Queen's Hall, in a youth drumming event in November.

An amazing performance by the following students from QE high school who won first place medals at the Tee's Head on Saturday for Hexham Rowing Club: J15 girls quad (SBH): Sadie S, Olive T, Bethan L-F, Olivia and Hester (cox) J15 Girls quad (LDS): Esther, Kate, Lauren and Geogia and Lily (cox) J16 Girls quad (LDS): Cassie, Olive J16 Boys Double (SBH), Jacob and Joe.

I know from conversations with parents and students that many of our young people participate successfully in clubs/activities outside school. We want to celebrate their successes, so please email admin@qehs.net and let us know if your child has enjoyed success in one of their out of school activities.

Request for Spook Night volunteers

Bettina Newton from the Hexham Community Partnership has been in touch looking for volunteers to assist with Spook Night. They would particularly welcome support as follows:

- assist for an hour or two on our Event Information table in the Queen's Hall foyer (2pm to 7pm)
- help to steward around the bandstand during the fancy dress competitions and dance displays (4.15-7pm)
- litter pick for an hour or so during the event or towards the end of it (7-10pm)

Please let Bettina know via admin@hexhamcommunity.net if you might be able to help.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton
Head of School