



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

24 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Student life**

As Head of School, I had the pleasure of attending two very different events that reminded me of the richness of offer in our community and the wonderful talents of our students. The first was on Tuesday evening when the successful participants in Duke of Edinburgh received their certificates. The students did presentations on their expeditions and the evening was a celebration of QE students' resilience, organisation and sense of humour. The students presented confidently and had clearly enjoyed participating. While part of school life is about learning new academic knowledge, we also know that students who participate in extracurricular activities are happier, healthier and more successful. This was evident in the Duke of Edinburgh presentations. It was also a reminder of the additional effort staff put into making these opportunities happen for our students.

I also had the chance to spend time with our sixth formers who were engaged in a mindfulness activity painting a Christmas decoration. The activity lasted for a short time, but it was great to spend time with the sixth formers, talking, painting and watching them create amazing designs. The most important message to students and staff was that, even when busy, we need to take time to look after our mental health, being in the moment and spending time with friends.

## **Mathematics Olympiad**

Congratulations to the sixth form students who achieved outstanding results in the Girls' Maths Olympiad. Lara B and Imogen W (Y12) achieved a merit and a distinction respectively. Alice Di (Y13) also achieved a distinction and Anna-Maria K a merit. This is an incredible achievement with the students completing a 2.5 hour long, challenging assessment and only the highest 25% achieving a merit.

## **Basketball**

Y11 boys recently represented the school basketball team at a competition at St Cuthbert's. They were excellent in conduct, attitude, and game play with everyone contributing in some way to a successful team performance. The team played three consecutive fixtures due to the late arrival of another team but still managed to win all their games and qualified for the final.

Congratulations to the following Y11 students:

Joey L, Finn S, Archie H, Samuel C, Aelfie F, Seth H, Alexander T

## **Queen Elizabeth High School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Movember



Four members of QEHS staff are raising money for the 'Movember appeal' supporting research and action into Men's mental and general health issues. They are growing moustaches and other facial hair for the month. Mr Manns, Mr Elrington, Mr Cornish and Mr Pym would be delighted if you donated £1 to their good cause. You can do this via School Gateway - Movember appeal, any day till the end of November.

### Attendance email address

We have set up an email account for attendance issues. Please email [attendance@qehs.net](mailto:attendance@qehs.net) about any attendance issues, including informing the school of an absence.

### The future of the old HMS site

Hexham Community-Led Housing (HCLH), has been working with Hexham Town Council, to encourage Northumberland County Council to make progress on developing the former Hexham Middle School site. As part of their consultation on how the community would like to see the site developed, they would like to visit QE to ask students who attended HMS on its old site about their views. All interested students would be welcome but those pursuing urban planning or architecture as a career might be particularly interested to meet the local architect employed.

Any student wishing to be part of the group that meets the housing team should let Anna Vellinga know via [avellinga@qehs.net](mailto:avellinga@qehs.net) by Friday 1 December.

### Parent/carer workshop: Looking after your child's emotional well-being

As part of the Be You programme for Trailblazer schools there are workshops available for parents and carers around mental health and wellbeing awareness and we are looking to offer this in the new year.

Workshops can be delivered in the school or at a venue in the community. See attached flyer for more information. Dates and times to follow depending on expressions of interest.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Jen Ballantyne, Student Standards and Support Co-ordinator at [jballantyne@qehs.net](mailto:jballantyne@qehs.net).

## **Children's Commissioner for England - The Big Ambition**

Dame Rachel Da Souza (Children's Commissioner for England) is promoting this year's ['The Big Ambition' survey](#). We would like to bring this to your attention to encourage students to complete this.

### **Additional information**

Please find information attached with the bulletin:

- NHS Sensory Processing Flyer
- Parent/Carer workshop for child well-being flyer

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School