



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

1 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## The Time Parent Power Good Schools Ranking

Our school has been listed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> best school in the North East and the highest placed school in Northumberland. In terms of the national rankings QE has moved to 239 (up 20 places) to break into the top 250 state schools. The Times highlighted that two thirds of QEHS A Level grades in 2023 were A\*-B. This ranking reflects the hard work of staff and students in achieving excellent exam results but also recognises our commitment to achievement for all students and the vast offer that is in place to succeed in sport, music and other activities.

## Student life

Today saw the first day of December with the joyful sight of Arlo in his Christmas jumper (picture below). It is also World Aids Day and Mrs Fraser has been talking to students in assembly about HIV and challenging prejudices about the disease. Her message reinforced the school's fundamental value that this is not a place for hate or discrimination. Students in the high school know that we are community that accepts and celebrates diversity and prejudice will be challenged.



## End of term

As we prepare for the Christmas season to begin, our minds have turned to events at the end of term. Over the last week of term, we want to ensure that we celebrate the festive season while also ensuring that valuable learning continues in school until the end of term. Content will continue to be taught in lessons, so students must attend.

The school Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 13 December. There is information attached with the newsletter and lunch will be extended by 15 minutes that day.

### Queen Elizabeth High School

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[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

The school winter concert will also take place that evening. This will be a wonderful celebration of our talented musicians. Please come along.

During the last week of term, there will be extended assemblies and form time for each year group to celebrate Christmas.

Sixth form will have their Christmas lunch and sing-along on Thursday 21 December and finish school that day at lunchtime. Ms Platts will remind students that anyone arriving at school under the influence of alcohol or caught drinking alcohol during the school day, will be suspended for 5 days.

Y9-11 will attend school on Friday 22 December which will be a normal school day, but students will be able to wear Christmas jumpers/non uniform. We will fundraise for charity but are consulting with students to decide on an appropriate cause.

We understand the financial pressures that many people are experiencing and are avoiding events that place additional costs on students. All charitable donations are voluntary and can be discreetly made. Where families face issues funding school trips or activities, please contact school and speak to your child's form tutor, Head of Year or any other trusted member of staff.

### **Christmas Lottery**

The PTFA Lottery has a special Christmas prize. Sign up before 15th December and you could win £50 (2nd prize £25). Tickets are £1 each and after December there are x2 £25 prizes to be won every month. See attached flyer or click here to sign up: <https://forms.gle/mKbMbaKFTQSbb6BR8>

### **Pre-loved prom outfits**

The PTFA is planning a Pop Up Shop to sell pre-loved prom outfits, including dresses, suits, shoes and accessories. If you have any formal wear or accessories that you would like to donate or sell, then please see details in the flyer attached.

### **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@gehs.net](mailto:jballantyne@gehs.net).

### Reminders / Key dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 7 December	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Students for whom consent was given
Thursday 7 December	Y11 parents' evening	Year 11 (Q)
Monday 11 December	Y11 parents' evening	Year 11 (E)
Wednesday 13 December	QE Winter concert 7pm	Everyone welcome
Wednesday 13 December	Y9-Y11 Christmas lunch	Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11
Thursday 14 December	Sixth form taster day	Year 11
Tuesday 19 December	Celebration Evening 7-9pm	2022-23 Y11 and Y13
Thursday 21 December	Sixth form Christmas lunch	Sixth form students
Friday 22 December	Birds of prey visit to QE	Year 9
Friday 22 December	School closes at 1.30pm	All year groups

### Additional information

Please find information attached with the bulletin:

- Parent/Carer workshop for child well-being flyer
- West End festive appeal
- Pre-loved prom outfits
- Y9 Y10 Y11 festive lunch letter

### News from the community

The one-way system in Hexham is to be temporarily lifted from Saturday 2nd December so that traffic arrangements can return to normal during the Christmas trading period. The one-way system will be re-instated by Monday 8th January 2024 to enable the final phase of work to take place, focused on the north side of the street, and this is likely to remain until early Spring 2024. Once the scheme is complete the affected area will return to two-way traffic with no permanent change to highway arrangements.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School