



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

20 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

With the end of term imminent we are looking forward to the Christmas holidays. It has been a busy term here at the high school and our students continue to work hard, engage in wider school life and (hopefully) enjoy school. This final week is filled with festive assemblies, fancy dress for Y13, Christmas jumpers and even the visit of a bird of prey. This term we returned to in person parents' evenings following feedback from parents and it has been lovely to welcome many of you to the school.

I just want to take this opportunity to wish our students, staff and families a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

## Respect

Some of our Year 9 students taking part in our outdoor activity enrichment programme had the opportunity to try climbing and bouldering. The staff involved mentioned that our students were polite and respectful.



## Engage

### Winter Concert

Thank you to Mr Seago, the musical instructors and our talented musicians for the wonderful concert last week. The array of talent on display was incredible. It is a joy to witness the eclectic range of music on offer at the high school from folk music to classical flute to heavy metal.

### Christmas jumper/non uniform day

We encourage students to wear their festive jumpers as part of non-uniform day on Friday 22 December. The donations received will go to UNICEF who work with children impacted by war. Given the experience of children throughout the world living in zones with conflict, the students on the year council felt this was an appropriate charity.

### Christmas lunch

Students were enjoying Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13 December when our catering team provided a traditional Christmas lunch. The atmosphere was festive and the food delicious. Our fabulous catering team did a brilliant job to serve over 1000 lunches. The sixth formers will be enjoying their festive lunch on Thursday.

## Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## **Netball**

As we come to the Christmas break, I just wanted to update you on the success of our girl's netball teams so far in the league. In the season so far, the year 10 team have made a very good start playing some very competitive games. The year 9 team are currently unbeaten in the league and will represent the school in the regional tournament at the end of January after winning the county tournament without losing a single game. An excellent start to the season with a very committed group of girls.

Last week we also hosted Ryan's College all the way from Australia. We played them at netball and football in some very competitive games. The football boys came out on top with a 3-0 win and the netball teams did us proud against some very strong Australian netballers. Some of our year 9 girls were playing against very strong, older opposition which was a great experience / learning curve. They held their own throughout and gave it their all.

## **Athletics**

Magnus R had great success winning three awards at the Tynedale sports awards including the prestigious Stan Calvert bursary. This will help Magnus with his training commitments with athletics and hopefully allow him to achieve even more success.

## **Rugby**

We had great success at the U14 Girls County Ruby Tournament on Tuesday with a very strong Y8&9 team. The girls were amazing in awful weather and on the wettest pitches which made for some spectacular sliding tries! The girls played with smiles on their faces the whole time despite being wet through and chilly - an absolute credit to the schools.

Well done to the year 9 boys rugby team who went to Gosforth to compete in a county tournament. They played 3 games (beating Gosforth, Marden & Bede), and won all 3 fairly comfortably in very tough (wet & cold) conditions. This is a team with lots of potential and it is exciting to think of how well they can do.

## **Aspire**

### **Sixth form taster day**

Y11 students enjoyed the opportunity to experience life as a sixth former with no uniform, use of the winter gardens and a chance to go to sixth form lessons, including new subjects like psychology, sociology and politics. Some of our students also visited Newcastle College as the Y11 students began thinking about what they would like to do next year. It is an exciting time for the students and these experiences help them to focus on their exams and achieving the best results they can.

### Reminders / Key dates

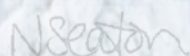
Date	Event	Who
Thursday 21 December	Sixth form Christmas lunch	Sixth form students
Friday 22 December	Birds of prey visit to QE	Year 9
Friday 22 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
Friday 22 December	School closes at 1.30pm	All year groups
Monday 8 January	School reopens 8.40am	All year groups

### Additional information

Please find information attached with the bulletin:

- 2023 Operation Encompass letter
- 2023 Operation Endeavour letter
- Family hubs learn at home

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School