



Queen Elizabeth High School

spes durat avorum

12 January 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer

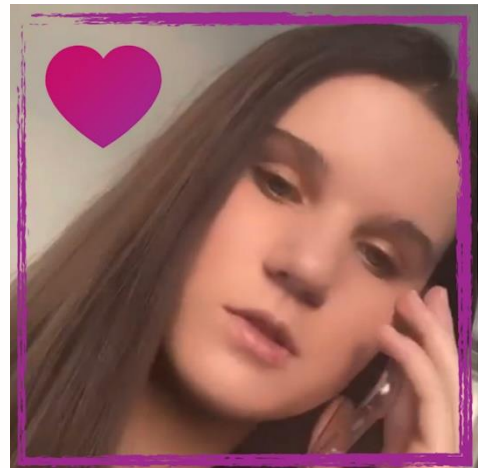
Update on school life

This week staff and students have been saddened by the distressing news of the death of a current and a former student. Martha Andersen (Y13) and Sam Myers (Alumni) both died of health-related conditions. The family and friends of both students are very much in our thoughts at this challenging time. Staff and current students remember both of them very fondly. Support is available in school for students affected.

Message from Holly's mam

At 11am on Saturday 27 January everyone is welcome to join family and friends of Holly Newton in an act of remembrance at Hexham Abbey to mark one year since Holly was tragically killed in the centre of the town.

A moment of silent reflection will be followed by some words from Curate Henry Hope and tributes from myself and friends, Attendees are welcome to light a candle and there will be the opportunity to dedicate special purple stars in Holly's memory as part of the Abbey's Stars for Eternity installation, which will be open to the public from the beginning of February until the autumn. For those unable to attend, stars can be dedicated in the Abbey between now and Tuesday 30 January and candles can be lit in the Abbey in Holly's memory at any time during normal opening hours.



Anyone that feels unable to attend the abbey or can't at that time but would still like to leave a tribute can do so by leaving flowers etc at the bandstand.

The media are welcome to attend if they wish but we ask for no photos or videos to be taken during the service. I won't be doing 1-1 interviews at this stage so please don't ask.

Thank you again for all of your support and kindness

Micala (Holly's mam)

Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net

www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Remembering Holly

In the high school, we will be remembering Holly on the anniversary of her tragic death. From Monday 22 January purple ribbons will be available for staff and students to wear in her memory and on Friday 26 January we will wear purple as part of our uniform in honour of Holly. We recognise that this is a challenging time for everyone in our community and we want to take the opportunity to remember Holly and show her family that they are still in our thoughts.

Respect

Confiscated jewellery

The office staff have unrecovered jewellery items that were confiscated last term. If your son/daughter has reported their jewellery being confiscated but has not collected it, please tell them to go to the school office by the end of this half term. I will remind students in the Student briefing on Tuesday.

Pre-loved uniform

The school has amassed a healthy supply of pre-loved school uniform. Please go to the website and submit a request for uniform.

<https://www.qehs.net/index.php/school-uniform-recycling/>

Engage

Make your New Year's resolution a visit to QEHS LRC

QEHS LRC is a fantastic resource at the heart of the school and it is open to all students. The book offer is fresh and has been updated for 2024. We now have a larger range of dyslexia-friendly novels, graphic/illustrated texts, manga, short reads, and exciting new fiction. There is also a 'reading well' section that covers bereavement and other life events, plus the latest books on mental health and wellbeing. There is an LRC 'wish list' if you have a book idea or recommendation.

The current textbooks for many A-Level subjects are available for reference and use in the LRC. For reading around topics, please see the new History, Business and Management, Classic Literature and magazine displays. Just ask at the LRC desk for help in finding a book or resource.



Please visit and borrow the books!

Aspire

Grease is the word...

The QEHS Youth Theatre production of Grease will be on the 25th – 27th January. This has been months in the planning and rehearsal and is a wonderful showcase of our talented students.

Tickets will be available via school gateway and they will also be available for collection from reception Monday-Thursday (not between 12.30pm and 1.30pm). Tickets are £10 (full price) and £6.50 (concessions).

Parent /Carer Workshops

Thank you for the many expressions of interest around mental health and wellbeing awareness workshops.

A 2 hour workshop 'Looking after your child's emotional well-being workshop' will be running at QEHS. There will be three opportunities to attend the workshop as we have tried to offer a variety of times to accommodate as many parents/carers as possible:

Thursday 25th January 10am-12pm	Thursday 25th January 5pm-7pm	Wednesday 7th February 1pm -3pm
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This is the same workshop, you only need to attend one slot. For more information about the workshop, please see the attached flyer. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Jen Ballantyne, Student Standards and Support Co-ordinator at jballantyne@gehs.net to book which slot you would like.

News from the community

Emotional health and wellbeing - free online courses are now available for parents, carers, grandparents and teens! The aim is to nurture emotional health and wellbeing from bump to 19+ years. Northumberland County Council has partnered with the Solihull Approach to offer free access to expertly designed online courses for parents, carers, grandparents and teens in our region. Sign up free at the below link to understand your child's feelings, as well as your own, as you go through life as a family. You can learn about your child's development and how to support them, whilst also strengthening your relationship. <https://inourplace.co.uk/northumberland/>

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 16 th January	Y11 option meetings
Thursday 18 th January	Y11 drama practical exams
Friday 19 th January	Y11 drama practical exams
Thursday 25 th January	Youth Theatre 'Grease' performance – 7pm
Friday 26 th January	Youth Theatre 'Grease' performance – 7pm
Saturday 27 th January	Youth Theatre 'Grease' performance – 7pm

Additional information

Please find the following information attached with the bulletin:

- Parent/carer workshop for child wellbeing flyer.

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton
Head of School

Student support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Hattie Curry

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown / Ms Sarah Albert

SENDCo: Mrs Jill Wood

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email (admin@gehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email attendance@gehs.net