



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 21

Dear Parent/Carer

After Y11 mock exams and a busy half term, I know that the students and staff at QE are looking forward to a well-deserved half term break. The highlights of this half term have been plentiful, including the superb production by QEHS Youth Theatre of Grease and the popular vintage prom clothes sale run by our wonderful QEPTFA. We have also enjoyed welcoming Y11, Y12 and Y9 families into school for parents' evening and options meetings.

We have high expectations for our students and are ambitious for them to achieve well and succeed. From Y9 to Y13 our students work hard and engage in extra-curricular activities on offer. Staff often comment on the joy they have in working with such lovely students. I want to take this opportunity to wish students, staff and families a restful half term break.

## **Respect**

### **Biology student success**

We were delighted to find out that a group of Y12 Biologists have won "Highly Commended" for their entry into the first round of the Cambridge Biology Challenge, run by Homerton College. Amelie, Ellen, Freya, Charlotte C, and Rachel H independently organised themselves and submitted their entry to the question "Why don't animals have wheels?". This is an example of a question that might be asked at a Cambridge interview. Over 400 teams from schools across the UK took part, so highly commended is an amazing achievement. Well done!

### **Behaviour update**

The vast majority of students at QEHS demonstrate excellent behaviour. Unfortunately, there is a minority of students who struggle to maintain punctuality throughout the school week. Time out of lessons is lost learning time so we need to work to combat this.

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February we are implementing the following changes:

#### Form time attendance

Form time begins at 8.45am. This is valuable time to support students' personal growth and wellbeing. If students are late into form time, they will receive an S3 detention. This will replace the detentions currently issued for being late into school. If students take a bus to school and it is late, they will receive a slip to hand to their form tutor which means that they will not be sanctioned.

## **Queen Elizabeth High School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

### Lesson punctuality

Students will no longer receive a late mark if they are late to a lesson. Staff will instead record the number of minutes a student is late to their lesson. At the end of each week, Year Teams will run a report to total minutes late for each student across the week. Students will serve a Leadership Late Detention on Friday after school to the nearest half hour of how many minutes late they have been across the week. Any students who accrue more than two hours of late minutes will serve a day in seclusion plus a one hour detention during the following week.

These detentions will be mandatory and failure to attend will result in seclusion. If transport home is an issue, please contact your child's head of year and we will work to support a solution.

## **Engage**

### **Year 10 chess tournament final**

Many congratulations to Philip B who beat Callum H in an enjoyable final of the Year 10 chess tournament on Tuesday in the Hydro Hall. In front of fellow year 10 students, the match was played at a dynamic pace, with intriguing early jousting. The players exchanged several pieces before Philip moved into a commanding position, ultimately forcing mate through Callum's king being unable to move to a safe square. Callum offered his hand to Philip in congratulations, to rousing applause from the audience. Both boys deserve enormous credit for getting to the final from a very strong Year 10 field.



Thank you to everyone who took part over the past few weeks and to those who turned out to watch the final. Attention now turns to Year 11 where Adam W and Sam A compete in the final scheduled for the week we return from the holidays. Good luck to both boys and congratulations again to Philip B, Year 10 chess champion.

### **Year 9 options evening feedback**

Thank you to all who attended the Year 9 Options Evening on Monday night. We would appreciate it if you could please complete this survey with some feedback on the evening. <https://forms.office.com/e/qGkL2GeeQg> Thanks, Options Team

### **Foodbank fundraising**

Teddy (Y9) has been volunteering at the local Foodbank. He is fundraising for them. Here is some information about Teddy's efforts if you wish to support. [https://www.justgiving.com/page/teddy-shaw-kew-1707246993498?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fteddy-shaw-kew-1707246993498&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/teddy-shaw-kew-1707246993498?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fteddy-shaw-kew-1707246993498&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

## Personal Social Health Education

As a part of your child's education at Queen Elizabeth High School we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

During the course of the year, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. This will include students learning about: Healthy relationships, including friendships; families; healthy relationships, unhealthy relationships, becoming more independent; keeping safe, contraception, developing self-esteem and confidence. Students will also have opportunities to ask questions.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website for more detail about our PSHE curriculum: <https://www.qehs.net/index.php/pshe-2/>

All PSHE teaching takes place will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. Please let us know by email ([admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)) if you would like any further information.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme so please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss in more detail.

## Aspire

### NCC youth elections

The Northumberland County Council youth elections will be taking place on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February and our students will be electing candidates for the youth cabinet. We have two students standing for this election: William C and Ralph D.

On the same day our students will be voting candidates for the youth parliament. Our student Ian P is standing for the youth parliament election.



Ballot papers will be given out at registration on the 28<sup>th</sup> and everyone is encouraged to take part.

## News from the community

Are you a parent going through a separation?

Free: Relationship support for parents who are separated or separating.

**Parents do not attend together.**

**Group A is Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 19:30 - 22:30**

**Group B is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 19:30 - 22:30**

Learn:

- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk
- Why it's helpful to see things from a different point of view.
- What to do to stop a discussion from turning into an argument
- Skills for coming up with solutions when talking is difficult
- Impact on children's emotions and behaviour

Any questions or for an informal discussion please call Vicki Collins at: 07955310917

Email: [Vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk)



### Online safety updates

#### Snapshot - New Parental Controls

In April 2023 Snapchat introduced My AI, essentially a chatbot. There was no choice, it was an embedded feature, and whilst many users are reporting a positive or mixed experience there have been some significant concerns over the advice being given to younger users (see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for examples).

Last week Snapchat expanded their Family Centre tools which, amongst other features, allows parents to restrict the ability for My AI to respond to chats. Further details of these new features can be found [HERE](#).

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	NCC Youth Elections	All year groups
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of mock exams	Y13
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	National interview week – talk the talk	Y12
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	All year groups
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Art Department pizza night	Y11 art students

## Additional information

Please find information attached with the bulletin:

- Hexham Youth Initiative Half term February 2024

- University of Surrey MOVE project flyer
- Be creative flyer

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School

**Pupil support and Safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Hattie Curry  
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown and 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@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@qehs.net](mailto:attendance@qehs.net)