



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

28 March 2024

## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 26

Dear Parent/Carer

At Queen Elizabeth High School we value the role that extra-curricular activities play in the lives of children and young people. We know that wider participation promotes health, happiness and success. Students who engage in clubs and activities gain confidence and skills that prepare them well for later life. In this letter, we celebrate the achievements of our students this half term. If I have not mentioned a success that is worthy of celebration, please email [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net) so that it can be acknowledged in future communications.

It is important that all children in our community participate in clubs and activities. If your child receives free school meals and faces barriers to participating in school activities, please let us know by contacting their Head of Year.

## Respect

### Lateness to Lessons

This term we launched a new policy to deal with late arrival to lessons. Punctuality is an important life skill and persistent lateness to classes was disrupting the learning of others and students arriving late were missing out on a significant proportion of their education. We have always allowed 5 minutes of travel time between classes, thus allowing students to get to lessons such as art, PE, or drama in other buildings. Some students also use that time to go to the toilet. However, even after the five minutes grace students were arriving late. The new policy has been successful in reducing the minutes of lost learning due to lateness. It has also enabled teachers to have a more settled start to lessons, benefitting all students. As with any system designed to promote better behaviours there has been some resistance from students. We very much appreciate the support of families in maintaining high expectations for our young people and preparing them for life beyond school.

If you have any issues with the process, please contact the Student Support team.

## Engage

### School concert

Please celebrate the end of the winter months with us by coming to the traditional Spring Concert on the first Wednesday after the Easter break. It will showcase the traditional ensembles which rehearse every week as part of the musical tapestry of school life, and close with some students performing in their own self-organised rock groups. Free attendance, just turn up, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to support this event.

### Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

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

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

### **Evolve Football tournament**

A group of Y9 and Y10 students were victorious at the Evolve Football Tournament in Blakelaw on Friday. Both trophies were won by QEHS - Top goal scorer was won by Matty T and Molly B took the Ballon d'Or – well done!



### **Rowing Update**



### **JIRR (Junior Inter-Regional Regatta) – 16th March**

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, around 70 QE students from QEHSRC (65 competing, 5 sixth formers helping out) as well as a group of around 25-ish students from rival Hexham RC – as well as 2 rowers from Tyne United RC and one from Tyne Amateur RC – travelled to Ashington to compete at the annual regional trials for a national event, the JIRR (Junior Inter-Regional Regatta). This event selects 1 crew for each kind of boat from 13 regions across the UK – ours, North, stretches from Berwick and Talkin Tarn down to Stockton and Middlesbrough. It is one of the largest events on our calendar, and we have been training since September. Only open to years 9, 10 and 11, with only the top crew in each category qualifying, it is always a big deal even getting into a crew to go to this event for the approx. 150 students involved. QE students made up about half of the competitors overall. QEHS and Hexham combined took an unusually and impressively large portion of the winnings!

### **Tyne Head – 17th February**

14 QEHS rowers competed in the Tyne Head competition based from Tyne Rowing Club. The Tyne gave us much better conditions to race than the previous race here. We had six crews entered, all of which performed extremely well especially given we have had so few training sessions on the water recently. No wins in this event, however notable performances include year 10 boys quad (Alexis, Josh, Dennis, Alex and cox Edward) coming 2nd, year 11/12 girls four (Rachel, Lucy, Ellen, Evie, cox Merry) coming 3rd against some strong senior opposition and the year 11 boys 4 (Hugh, Seth, Benji, Felix, cox Merry) again coming 3rd in the senior category.

### **Durham Small Boats Head – 3rd February**

After event cancellations due to storms, QEHS rowers competed at Durham Small Boat Head. This was the first competitive event for many of the Y9 rowers, and it was a key step in their rowing development.

The Durham event is a great spectator event as there is a footpath all along the course. However, it also includes the tricky Elvert bridge, with its narrow arches to manoeuvre through. I am pleased to report that all QEHS boats made it through the arches with expert guidance from the older pupils' coxing boats.

Performance of the day went to Seth M in Y11, who won in a single. Other strong performances came from, the Y9 boys who came 3rd, an excellent performance as they have not had a lot of water time due to the weather. The Y10 boy's quads performed well and look to be strong contenders in every race this year. The Y10 girls performed brilliantly in their first sweep race. The Y11 boy's quad rowed well to pick up second place overall.

### **U19 Chronicle Football Cup Final**

The QEHS U19 football team put in a sterling effort in the final at Cochrane Park on Wednesday 27 March to be narrowly defeated by Prudhoe High School. Despite their disappointment at losing the final they were crowned league champions, having topped the league this season.

## **Aspire**

### **Tynedale Lions Clubs' Young Peoples Excellence Awards**



On Thursday Tynedale Lions presented the successful QE students with their Young Peoples Excellence award. Only two awards were given and both to QE students. The recipients were Alice D, Peter C and Samantha B who were recognised for their outstanding contribution to music and James S for volunteering in the community. Alice, Peter and Samantha also entertained those present at the awards with an impromptu musical performance. Congratulations to the students who were successful in a highly competitive field with rigorous criteria applied to the awards by the Lions.

## Staffing News

At the end of term, we said goodbye to Ms Dolan and Ms Fairley who leave our mathematics department. Ms Dolan has secured a post at St Thomas More School in Blayden and Ms Fairley moves to a promoted post leading mathematics for the Northern Leaders' Trust. The teachers will be replaced by Ms Coleman and Ms Thorburn who are joining the team after Easter.

In English we are delighted to welcome two new teachers with Ms Davison and Ms Coulson joining the department. Ms Albert is leaving us to go on her maternity leave and will be covered by Ms Emilova.

In Student Support, Mr Robson will become the Head of Year 11 and Ms Khan has been appointed as his deputy. In Y10, Ms Dolan has been replaced by Ms Murphy as Deputy Head of Year. Congratulations to all of them on their appointments.

Ms Lloyd also returns full time to her role as Assistant Head Teacher (Curriculum) at both HMS and QE. Ms Fraser will retain her role as Assistant Head Teacher (Teaching and Learning) at the high school.



After over 20 years of service to Queen Elizabeth High School Libby Herbertson retired. Libby has been a stalwart of the school community working as a mentor in recent years but also contributing to the school as an LSA, and as Conference Coordinator in the Hotel Services Department. Libby's care, kindness and compassion have had a transformational impact on the lives of children and families in our school. She will be missed. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

## Psychology

Psychology teacher Ms Smith brought her five month old twins, Alex and Joseph, in to school on Wednesday morning so that the A level Psychology students could link their learning on the topic of attachment with real life babies. The students observed how the babies behaved and were able to guess their age from what they have learned about the stages of attachment. They also had a lot of fun interacting with the babies and seeing theory in action – the babies showed reciprocity and interactional synchrony (baby communication) and lots of lovely cute behaviours that the students know as 'social releasers' (basically, ways of getting the attention of adults so that the adults take care of them).



## Online safety updates

### Instagram New Messaging Settings

Meta is introducing more safety features on its' Instagram platform over the coming months. These new Instagram features (some of which will be transitioned into Facebook Messenger as well) include:

- Limiting teens' ability to see sensitive content.
- Nudges to encourage teens to close Instagram at night.
- Stricter private messaging (adults should not be able to privately message children who don't follow those adults).
- Children can only be messaged by people they already follow or are connected to (no further information on that latter part).

**You can read more about the features [HERE](#), but there's a little more. Meta, in the coming months, is also rolling out a feature where children will not receive, and will discourage from sending explicit images. However, not only is this feature optional, it is being reported that if illegal content is shared it won't be automatically flagged and reported (For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)**

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens at 08.40am	All year groups
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	GCSE History Beamish Trip	Year 10
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Concert	All year groups
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Medical Mavericks	Y10, Y11, Y12
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Y10 Parents' Evening	Year 10 (Q-band)
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Macbeth Performance	Year 10, Year 11
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursing talk	Year 12
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April -5pm	Parent information evening Galloway Residential	Year 9 and Year 10
Wednesday 1 May	Year 10 Parents' evening	Year 10 (E-band)

Please find attached with the bulletin:

- QEHS Spring Concert Poster
- Haltwhistle Aquathlon 2024 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)