



4 October 2024

## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 5

Dear Parent/Carer

Students from the high school did very well in their exams last year and in Y13 and Y11. One student who did exceptionally well was Alice D (Leaver 2024) who was recognised this week by the Salter's Institute for achieving one of the highest marks nationally for her A Level Chemistry. Alice's success will be recognised at the Annual Award Ceremony taking place at Salters' Hall in London on 6 December 2024.

### Respect

#### Attendance

We believe that attendance at school helps students to progress socially, emotionally and academically. When we review outcomes data there is a clear correlation between attendance and performance. Students make better progress and achieve higher outcomes when they attend. In the newsletter each week I will show you our current attendance data for each year group. Our school target is 95%. We know that some students will struggle to attend school so please speak to their form tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Curry if you have any concerns. We work with families to help students overcome barriers to attending school.

#### Attendance week ending 27 September

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	95.9%	92.7%	93.5%	94.1%

### Engage

#### Year 11 - Ofqual consultation

As you may be aware, Ofqual have opened a consultation on whether students in Year 11 should be given a formula sheet for their exams in physics, combined science and maths in 2024-2027.

Our view is that students should be given one, rather than being expected to memorise equations, freeing up more time to understand the subject.

Please can you complete the consultation using this link:

<https://ofqual.citizenspace.com/public/gcse-maths-physics-and-combined-science-2025-7/> and share with others who may wish to complete it.

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

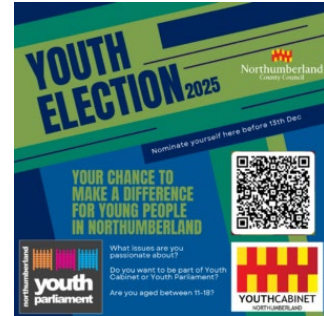
## Hydro lift design competition

Thank you to those who submitted entries for this. These will now be assessed over the coming weeks, with details to follow about who the winner is.

## Youth Election 2025

The expression of interest form goes live at 7am on the 20th Sept and closes at midday on the 13th Dec. Click [here](#) to open the form. Or use the QR code below.

This opportunity to all young people aged 11-18



## Aspire

### Careers

This week's Career of the Week was 'Biotechnologist'. A link to the video shown in tutorial from 'MyPath' is below:

Job of the week: [Biotechnologist](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCtEEzpx8cM&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc\\_-lOca4dJRIPatZ&index=74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCtEEzpx8cM&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc_-lOca4dJRIPatZ&index=74)

Further information can be found on [Unifrog](#):

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/biotechnologist>

This includes Labour Market Information (LMI). It is important both parents and students are aware of this as it includes current and predicted figures relating to this profession, particular attention should be paid to the expected growth figure. All students have received a 'Welcome' email to their school email account. Please encourage them to activate their account if they haven't already done so.

We also have a 'dummy' code for parents. Use 'QEHHparent' on this page: [unifrog.org/code](https://www.unifrog.org/code).

## Online Safety Update

### For Parents - Smartphone-Free Childhood?

There's a lot of talk going on right now about a smartphone-free childhood. Personally I think a lot of very sweeping statements are being made without taking into consideration the individual needs of the child/family. Statements such as 'all under 16's should be banned from owning a smartphone' are neither practical nor possible, but all of this makes things very difficult for parents who want clear information to make an informed decision.

Thankfully Internet Matters have lots of clear information which should be useful for parents. In [THIS](#) article Internet Matters look at a number of aspects such as balancing concerns with safety and limiting risk. In [THIS](#) article there's a parents guide to smart phones versus dumb phones. Together these articles and the links within the articles have lots of up to date, useful information to help them make a decision (by Alan McKenzie – E-safety advisor)

## Sixth Form

### Sixth form bulletin

We have refreshed the Sixth Form bulletin and hope you will find the information easier to navigate. Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university will now be promoted via the website, within the [Sixth Form Noticeboard](#).

We rely on parents 'feeding' opportunities into the students, so if an organisation you are involved with is doing something in the future that a young person may find inspiring please email [sixthform@gehs.net](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net). Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

Finally, last year, we have had 143 Year 12 students taking part in work experience, which will be life-changing for many of them. If you, or your organisation, might be able to take a sixth form work experience student next year, for a day or more WC 9th June 2025, please contact [sixthform@gehs.net](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net).

## LRC recommended read

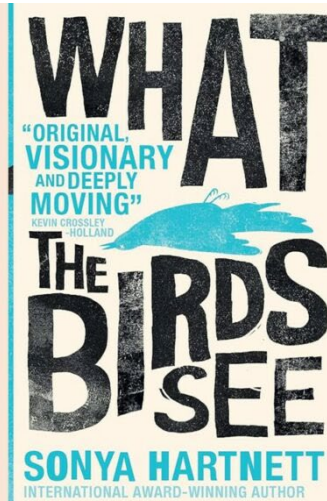
This week's LRC recommendation is set in 1977 where three children go to the shop to buy ice cream and never return home.

What the Birds See by Sonya Hartnett.

***Three children go to the shop to buy ice-cream and never return home.***

*Most things trouble Adrian: he's afraid of quicksand, tidal waves, self-combustion, shopping centres... A timid boy, he says little and does what he's told. Adrian's only friend is Clinton Tull; his one talent is for drawing. The routine of his life rarely changes – until the day the new children arrive in the house across the street.*

*Then everything changes.*



## MCAS – where to find payments

If you receive an email request for one off payments for items such as Year 12 calculators, 6 form lanyards, revision guides and textbooks, these will be in the 'Store' section at the bottom of your MCAS App. You can find the order history under 'settings'. Payments for any school trips will be in the 'Trips' tile of the MCAS App.

## Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please have a read of the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. You can find out more [here](#). To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

## PTFA Lottery

The QEHS Lottery is a simple low cost way of supporting the PTFA and the School. Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. More information and the online application can be found [here](#) or email [qehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



## News from the community

### Transition Tynedale

Just fix it repair café is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Hexham Trinity Methodist Church Hall (10am – 1pm)



### Hextol Foundation event

The Hextol Foundation invites you to their Discover Hextol event to be held on Thursday 10th October (World Mental Health Day), between 4-6pm. This will be held in the Tans café and is a great opportunity to find out more about Hextol. For more information see [here](#).

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
<b>Wednesday 9 – Sunday 13 October</b> (corrected date)	Y13 Iceland residential	Year 13

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School

**Pupil support and safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Hattie Curry

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown, Mr Alex Robson & Mrs Jill Wood.

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)