



Queen Elizabeth High School

spes durat avorum

24th January 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 18

Rehearsals continue for our school production that takes place next week. Please come along and watch. The students have spent months preparing and very much appreciate the support of the whole school community. Please see below how to purchase tickets. I would encourage you to book in advance as tickets sold out last year and there were no sales on the evenings.

Oliver!

There are still tickets available for the Youth Theatre production of Lionel Bart's 'Oliver'. The performances take place on 30 January, 31 January and 1 February. For more information and tickets, please check our website: [here](#).

Year 9 Immunisations

Td/IPV and MenACWY immunisations will take place on Friday 31 January for Year 9 students. Thank you to all who have completed the consent form, we have had a good response so far. If you have not yet completed the form, but wish to have your child immunised in school, please complete the form <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/DTP> with the code NB143291. Online submissions will close at 4pm on Wednesday 29 January.

Respect

Attendance

Being in school, meeting people and doing activities helps social development and positive mental health. 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 (week ending 17 January)

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94.3	91.2	90.1	92.6

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Engage

Human Rights Group

We are currently collecting food and toiletries for the West End Refugee service. Please see [here](#) on our website for more details of the items requested. There will be collection bags/crates in all form group classrooms, in the LRC and in the Winter Gardens. Please send in what you can, even if it's just one item! Emma Ross (Community Engagement Officer) and her colleague will be coming to school on the 6th February to give a short talk to the Human Rights group about their service. Any students who would like to attend this should come to HC5 on the Social Science corridor on the 6th at 12.35pm.

SEND Crisis

Parliament's education select committee has launched a major inquiry to find solutions to the growing crisis in special educational needs and disabilities provision. The committee is now inviting evidence from students, parents and education professionals.

Please contribute to the evidence at the link below:

[SEND Crisis Evidence Questionnaire](#)

Show Choir

The Show Choir is back in full force and [sounding](#) great again just after one rehearsal into the new term.

We are working on 'When I Grow Up' from *Matilda* and 'Rhythm of Life' from *Sweet Charity*.

Aspire

Sixth form option meetings

The sixth form options meetings for our current year 11 students run until 21 February. Any student considering our sixth form will require a meeting. Parents can make the appointment via the MCAS app or by telephoning 01434 610312.

Select the following link to view the [sixth form options booklet](#).

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was: [Ecologist](#)

Further information can be found on [Unifrog](#):
<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/ecologist>

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 the 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.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA Prom Pop-up Shop – 7 and 9 February

Last year's Pre-loved Prom Pop-up Shop, in partnership with Tynedale Hospice at Home, was such a success, with so many students managing to bag themselves stunning Prom outfits at a fraction of the cost of buying new. The pop-up shop will be returning in early 2025. It will take place at the Tynedale Hospice at Home shop on 7 and 9 February.



If you have any outfits – dresses, suits, shoes, accessories – that you no longer need you can: Donate them to the PTFA (sale proceeds would go to the PTFA) – please drop outfits off at school, clearly marked as a donation, message us or email qehs.ptfa@gmail.com OR you can sell them through the pop-up shop for a 20% fee taken by the PTFA to support the school by filling in this [form](#).

Thank you for your support in helping our students access affordable outfits, whilst also supporting the re-use of clothes and the PTFA's fundraising efforts.

PTFA Lottery

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.



Sixth Form

HE Guidance: Student Finance, Scholarships & Budgeting - UEA - February 6th

In a step-by-step guide to understanding loans, bursaries and scholarships, Higher Education Advisers from UEA join us on 6th February to offer clarity and reassurance around Student Finance at university.

For students, advisers and parents/carers, the UEA team will discuss when and how to apply for student finance as well as explore eligibility for reduced fees or sources of additional money available to help support students' studies. UEA will also demonstrate how to use the finance calculator.

In the final third of the session, we will address questions the audience has about Student Finance and, based on experience of previous sessions, the team will stay on until all the questions have been responded to.

- **February 6 @ 16:30 - 17:15** HE Guidance: Student Finance, Scholarships & Budgeting - UEA (16+)

[Find out more »](#)

Work experience week

Year 12 students undertake a compulsory week of work experience to give a greater understanding of the world of work in their chosen area and help build links for future employment opportunities. The school will help where possible, but ultimately it is down to students themselves to organise their placement. Work experience week takes place from Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June.

Students who haven't already found a placement are encouraged to use

<https://www.unifrog.org/placement/guides>.

Sixth form noticeboard

Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university are regularly 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. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

Trips

Trip cancellation (by parents/ pupils)

If a student decides they no longer wish to participate on a trip, any cancellations will only be effective once received in writing from the parent/carer. School must be informed of any cancellations as soon as possible.

In the event that a pupil is no longer able to attend a trip after a deposit or further monies have been paid, then any possible refund will only be considered once the trip has been completed.

Deposits collected for trips are done so according to the contract the School has with tour operators or external suppliers and are therefore non-refundable in most cases.

In the event that a replacement cannot be found for a pupil's place on the trip, then parents/ carers may be liable for any costs already committed to by the School with tour operators or external suppliers.

The amount of refund, if any, is dependent on how late the student is withdrawn from the activity, whether a replacement student can be found and what costs have already been met by the School which cannot be reclaimed. Any non-recoverable costs resulting from the withdrawal will be deducted from any refund available.

Any refund would be subject to the costs of processing transactions.

LRC Recommended Read

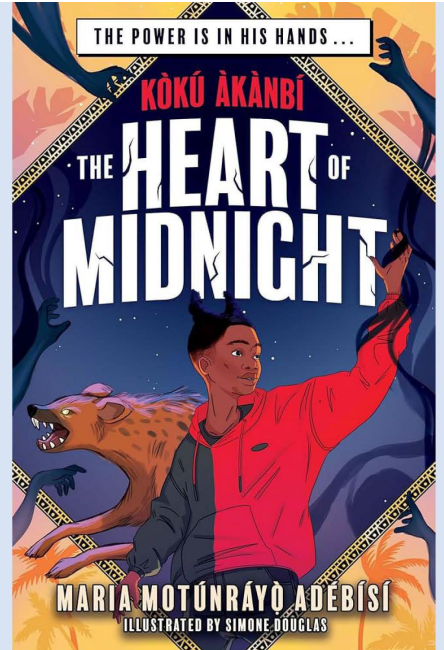
This week's LRC recommended read is the Heart of Midnight:

Although he spent the first three years of his life in Nigeria, Kòkú can't remember much about it. He's lived the last ten years in the UK with Uncle Tunji but has never quite fitted in and has the additional burden of an incurable disease that makes him small for his age and causes pain crises that blight his life.

When a museum trip ends in disaster, Uncle Tunji insists Kòkú spends his summer holidays reconnecting with his roots in Olori, the land of origins. But, on arriving in Nigeria, he is abruptly immersed in a culture he doesn't understand and a tribal war that threatens his very existence.

It seems he is the only one who can rescue night, and its magical creatures, from the machinations of the ruling Ogun tribe. But how can one small, sick boy overcome such a powerful adversary?

The culture shock Kòkú experiences is overwhelming and confusing, leaving his brain tied up in knots. This is reflected in the writing which may be challenging for some readers but those who persevere will be swept into a whirlwind of West African mythology and magic.



News from the community

Hexham Arts Town

Hexham Cultural Network are discussing the possible future of Hexham as an Arts Town! It's an opportunity to find out more, to share your ideas and to ask the team questions.



Hexham Library Wednesday 29 January, 12.30pm & 5.30pm

Find out more: <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/hexham-arts-town-talks>

Table Tennis

Hexham Community Hub organises table tennis in the QEHS main sports hall on Wednesdays from 6pm – 7pm. Turn up and play. All ages and abilities welcome. £3 p.p. Coaching available.



Online Safety Update

Tips to Promote Positive Body Image

Concerns around social media influence in particular and the negative effects of this influence on body image for girls and boys have been around for years. In the age of generative AI this can only increase. My social feeds are awash with photorealistic images and they're all the same: so-called perfect body, composition, beauty. There's nothing in the way of different body shapes, diversity in people of colour etc. Simply speaking, AI can be very biased.

Internet Matters have some great, practical advice for parents about self-image, body image and identity which you can find [HERE](#).

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.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 30 January	Youth Theatre 'Oliver' 7.30pm	All
Friday 31 January	Youth Theatre 'Oliver' 7.30pm	All
Friday 31 January	Y9 immunisations	Year 9 (with consent)
Saturday 1 February	Youth Theatre 'Oliver' 7.30pm	All
Wednesday 5 February	Parents' evening 4-7pm	Year 12
Friday 7 February	Prom pop-up shop	Year 11 (all welcome)
Sunday 9 February	Prom pop-up shop	Year 11 (all welcome)
Monday 10 February to Friday 14 February	Barcelona residential - Art	Year 12 (group)
Friday 14 February and Monday 17 February	Centre for Life – Biology	Year 13
Friday 21 February	Teacher training day	All year groups
Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February	Spring Half term holiday	All year groups

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

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