

21 March 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 25



The sun has been shining this week and there has been a number of events in the high school. Today to mark Comic Relief, the annual head-to-head between Mr Atkins and Mr Seaton took place, with Mr Atkins, once again, taking the crown. In an added twist, we ran the race as a house competition with the winning house, Ash and their representative, Harrison N going against Mr Atkins (also a member of Ash house) in the final. It was a photo-finish with Harrison just beating Mr Atkins by an inch.

Students in Birch house won the competition for the most P points, coming to school in non-uniform to celebrate their effort.

On Wednesday we had our annual, Scotty Day, where sixth formers participating in a range of sports for the afternoon. This event is organised in celebration of our colleague, Chris Scott, who died in 2021. Chris was the Head of PE and a well-loved member of the QE community. On Scotty Day we acknowledge the fantastic contribution Chris made to the school and raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and Tynedale Hospice.

Next week we have an author visit for Y9 and on Thursday, our first Green Careers Fair takes place with representation from over 20 businesses and colleges. Our students will have the chance to engage with a range of different providers, ask questions and meet people from a range of different careers.

Respect

QEHS Parent/Carer Survey

Each year we survey parents and carers to seek their views on various aspects of the school's provision. In recent years, the feedback has led to a return to face-to-face parents' evenings, a reworking of the Y9 options processes and a review of our behaviour system. It has also helped us to sustain the good work we have been doing and share positive messages with staff.

The survey is live from now until Friday 11 April. Please take the opportunity to complete.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iweWTAZG7km2yjj7_FSi632vHzT1VPxKugNuKIkW9TpUQlo3TkFCR1VRWUg3WTJTSjdZU0NLVTFWLC4u

Prayer room

During Ramadan we have a dedicated prayer room set up during lunch time. Should a parent or carer like to talk to a member of staff about supporting access to the prayer room during Ramadan or beyond please contact the school.

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www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**
Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

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 14 March)				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	93.8%	90.9%	90.7%	92.2%

Engage

Cross country running

Seven QEHS students made the journey to Ardingly in Sussex at the weekend having qualified for the English Schools' Cross County Final. This was an amazing achievement to reach the final, and the students ran in fields of up to 340 runners.



Well done to Billy B, Adam B, Arthur Di, Arthur D, Magnus R, Joe E and Tabitha R. Huge congratulations to Arthur Di who came 46th.



Spring Concert

Save the date for our Spring Concert on 9th April, which will feature many of our HMS students in the Show Choir. The concert will also feature the fantastic new QEHS Soul Band as well as favourites such as the Jazz Band, Wind Band, QEHS Choir, String Ensemble and much more!

Drama

The QEHS drama improv club put on a brilliant showcase of a selection of activities and games they regularly complete in their weekly lunchtime club. The lucky audience thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all had bellyache from laughing!



From games such as 'genre', 'letter of complaint', 'change', and 'freeze swap', the actors demonstrated unbelievable wit and impressive on-the-spot acting skills which would rival professional improvisation performers. Additionally, they showcased their talents with humour and fun, something we could all do with more of in this sometimes challenging world!

Thank you to all the participants involved. We can't wait for the next one!

Mathematics Challenge

On the 29th January students took part in the Intermediate maths challenge during their maths lesson. There were lots of excellent results with many students achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold awards in the challenge. 5 students scored so highly they qualified for the next level of the competition which was held yesterday.

Ethan A and Zaid Z from Year 9 took part in the Grey Kangaroo competition.

Thomas W and Morgan V from Year 10 and Dennis D from Year 11 took part in the Pink Kangaroo competition.

Aspire

Green Careers Fair

On Thursday 27th March we will be hosting a Green Careers Fair. There are over twenty exhibitors visiting the school. Y9, 10 and 12 will visit during lessons, accompanied by their class teacher. Y11 & Y13 can drop in during lunchtime (as can any other student that wants to find out more from a particular organisation).

We are encouraging all students to prepare for the fair in order to make the most of the opportunity. We would like all students to write a brief paragraph about themselves, explaining who they are, what plans they have for the future and what they hope to gain from attending the fair. A form is attached. Unifrog is a great place to start investigating Green Careers and we also encourage students to visit the websites of those organisations attending to find out more about them in advance. We would also like students to write down at least three questions in advance. There is a worksheet attached to the email that give a breakdown of tasks to before, during and after the event.

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Agronomist'.

The following link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog':

Agronomist: [Unifrog](#)

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 from Unifrog. This can be found in 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 'QEHSparent' on this page: unifrog.org/code.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA Volunteers

If you can spare a small amount of time and would like to help support the PTFA's fundraising activities by helping 'on the day' with activities such as serving drinks/refreshments, selling sweets & treats at lunchtime tuck shops etc, please do get in touch with us so we can add you to our pool of volunteers to call upon. We'd also be very happy to hear from anyone that has any particular skills or interests they think would be useful to us. Email qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

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



<https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience-opportunities/>

Find 3-5-day in-person and virtual work experience placements and 3-5-hour introductory Insight Days with leading UK employers. Try searching for keywords such as opportunity type, location or employer name or click on filters to refine your search by placement type, industry or date range.

Students wishing to attend should complete a Unifrog request and email sixthform@qehs.net for permission to miss lessons if it is in school time.

Cricket success



Congratulations to Thomas H of QEHS Sixth Form who has been selected to represent Northumberland County Cricket (Under 18s) in the forthcoming season!

Thomas plays for his local club (Shotley Bridge CC) in County Durham but is eligible to represent Northumberland due to attending school in the county. Thomas has a great love for the game and not only plays great cricket for club and county but also volunteers at his local cricket club to introduce and teach other youngsters aged 5-8 years to enjoy the game through their All Stars Cricket programmes.

Sixth form options process

We are pleased to have completed our 6th form options process. After the summer exams, we will put in writing your option choices and the details of the summer admissions process.

As in previous years, any current QE or external students who now wishes to make option choices at QE should contact Joanne Smeatom on sixthform@qehs.net – space on courses will be reserved for option meetings that take place before Easter, after Easter students will be added to a waiting list and space will be confirmed after the summer results.

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@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

News from the community

Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evening

The Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evenings are scheduled for

Friday 21st March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.

Wednesday 26th March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.

Hexham Air Cadets are open to those who are in year 8 and are older than 12 years old.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>

Hexham Book Festival 2025: Now open for booking

We are very fortunate in Hexham to have our own inspiring and engaging book festival. Events have now opened for booking. We would encourage our students across all year groups to take a look at the programme for



this year. From the latest fiction, to maths, science, farming, fashion, history, poetry and politics, there is something for everyone. <https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/>

Online Safety

New TikTok Features

During the 2nd week of March TikTok released some new features which will help with supervision. These new features include Time Away, a feature to decide when it's time for children to take a break and a reoccurring schedule. There's also a feature which allows parents to see who their children are following on TikTok.

More information about these new features can be found [HERE](#) and the full range of TikTok Family Pairing features can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

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.

LRC Recommended Read

This week's LRC recommended read, *Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes, is a dramatic and exciting story of survival that explores race, class and climate change.

Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Now, years later, Addy's grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. There, Addy joins five other Black city kids—each with their own troubles—to spend a summer out west.

Deep in the forest the kids learn new (and to them) strange skills: camping, hiking, rock climbing, and how to start and safely put out campfires. Most important, they learn to depend upon each other for companionship and survival.

But then comes a devastating forest fire...

Addy is face-to-face with her destiny and haunting past. Developing her courage and resiliency against the raging fire, it's up to Addy to lead her friends to safety. Not all are saved. But remembering her origins and grandmother's teachings, she's able to use street smarts, wilderness skills, and her spiritual intuition to survive.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 25 March	Author Visit - Moira Buffini	Year 9
Thursday 27 March	Green Careers Fair	All year groups
Thursday 27 March	KS4 Dance trip to London	KS4 Dance students
Thursday 27 March	Silver DofE practice walk	Year 12 DofE participants
Friday 28 March	Staff Dodgeball – fundraising for Kenya trip	All

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