



QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 29

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. The sun has been shining this week, and I hope that you have had opportunities to enjoy the lovely weather. As always, the sunshine coincides with the start of exams next week. Mr Maughan spoke to Y11 about doing their best, remaining calm focussed and motivated. This is the chance for all students sitting exams to realise their potential in the culmination of everything they have been doing in school since starting back in reception. We wish them all well as they begin their exams.

Y12 students visited the Universities of Newcastle and Northumbria on Tuesday. This gave all our students the chance to see what it is like to access higher education. It was a wonderful insight into the range of courses and opportunities available to students. It was evident on the visit just how much the universities encourage students to engage in activities that help develop their confidence, teamwork and other skills. As a school, we are committed to the personal development of our students which we know takes place in and beyond the classroom. This year we are introducing REA (Respect. Engage. Aspire) week 9th-13th June for Y9 & Y10 students. We have planned lots of exciting activities that will build confidence, teamwork, enhance knowledge and help our students make positive choices. There is a letter accompanying this newsletter outlining what will happen that week.

Respect

Y11

We expect Y11 to be in lessons up until half term unless they are in an exam. This includes if they have an exam that day. When they are in lessons they should be engaged in purposeful, revision activity and benefit from having teachers available to lead the revision.

After half term, Y11 will be allowed to study at home but there will be scheduled revision sessions in school. Students and staff will have this timetable. Those teachers who are timetabled to teach Y11 can be deployed to cover during the first week back and, where possible, this will be shared in advance.

During REA week, Y11 study sessions will also run and be incorporated into staff timetables for that period.

Y13

Study leave for Y13 will also begin after May half term. We have not scheduled study sessions for Y13 but staff can be available at times when they would usually teach Y13. In the second week, we have already timetabled study sessions for Y13 where this has been requested by staff.

The timetable will rollover on Monday 16 June.

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Mobility aid communication

If your child is temporarily on crutches, has a moonboot or similar mobility aid please contact the school by phone or email (admin@gehs.net) before the start of the day so we can ensure that we have suitable measures in place to enable them to safely access their lessons and move around site. Staff will require information on the nature of the injury and how this impacts you child.

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 11 April)				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	93.5%	90.8%	90.5%	92%

Engage

Student Planners

We are currently reviewing how students use their planner. Each student receives a planner at the start of the year. Traditionally students needed to record their homework in the planner. We now put homework online. As a parent/carer we would like to know the extent to which you find the planner useful or are aware of your child using it to record or receive information. This is a very quick survey.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iweWTAZG7km2yjj7_FSi632vHzT1VPxKugNuKlkW9TpUNDRLNFMwMExBWTZPTEMzVTFCQkFwTjZPUy4u

Rugby



Well done to the Y10 & 11 rugby players who played in the U16 county cup final against Gosforth at Kingston Park on Wednesday. It was an excellent opportunity to play on a Premiership pitch.

Despite dominating the first half and leading 12-10 at the break, they weren't able to maintain the intensity as the game went on, and unfortunately, conceded a few tries towards the end of the game, meaning Gosforth took home the trophy. The lads should be incredibly proud of their efforts; they put in a real shift in very warm conditions.

Aspire

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Retail Merchandiser'.

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

[Retail Merchandiser: 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.

Sixth Form

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](#).

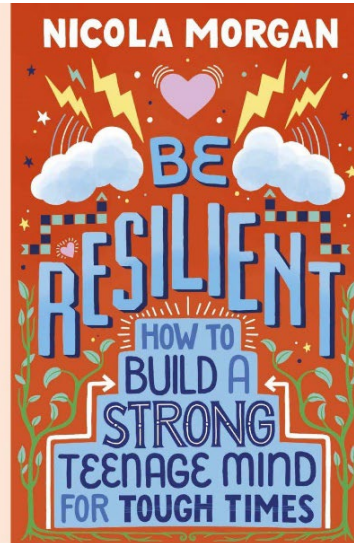
We rely on parents 'feeding' opportunities into the students, so if an organisation you are involved with is doing something in the future that a young person may find inspiring, please email sixthform@gehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please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

LRC Recommended Read

This week's LRC recommended read is: Be Resilient by Nicola Morgan

Life doesn't always go to plan. From exams to friendships to global events, teenagers can face many challenges. You need to be prepared to cope with tougher times, arms to come back stronger. You need to be resilient.

Find practical tools and reassuring advice on how to build a resilient mind and body in this fascinating guide from teenage well-being expert Nicola Morgan. Discover the building blocks for emotional strength, practise the skills to overcome difficulties and use your resilience to enjoy the good times without fearing the bad.



QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

Next PTFA Meeting – 20th May

The next PTFA meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th May at 6pm at the County Hotel in Hexham. Come along if you are interested in what the PTFA does or if you would like to offer your help in any way! You can contact the PTFA using the following email address qehs.ptfa@gmail.com.

For an easy way to support the PTFA at no extra cost, sign up to easyfundraising:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/qehs-ptfa/>

Every time you shop with over 8000 brands, they'll give a percentage of what you spend with them as a donation to the PTFA. Browser extensions provide donation reminders every time you shop online, and there's also an app you can download from Apple or Google Play stores.

Will it affect any loyalty points?

For the main loyalty point providers, using easyfundraising won't impact on your loyalty points on websites you shop with.



PTFA Lottery

Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. For more information and to sign up complete the [online application](#) or email qehsprizedraw@gmail.com.



News from the community

Online Safety

For Parents - More Concerns with Roblox

As one of the more popular games with all age groups, particularly younger children, Roblox is getting its fair share of negative press lately.

Most recently (13th April) Revealing Reality have released results of their investigation called 'A Digital Playground - The Real Guide to Roblox'. As part of this investigation the researchers created multiple account pretending to be persons aged 5, 9, 10, 13 and 40+ in order to explore the safety settings and the user experience which included:

- Adults and children can easily interact.
- Easy access to highly suggestive environments, including participation in adult-themed conversations.

You can read the full report [HERE](#), which was then followed up by two articles in The Guardian [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), the latter of which is the experience of some parents and their own child's use of Roblox. (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 7 May	Parent Evening E-band	Year 10
Wednesday 7 May	Exams start	Year 11 and Year 13

Free School Meals

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

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.

SENDCo: Ms Laura Warland (from 2nd June 2025). Interim: Ms Lucy Mackenzie and MS Di Cunningham.

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