

6 June 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 33

This week the school community had sad news about the death of a member of staff, Sharón Oliver, whose positivity and joy will be sorely missed. Students and staff impacted by the news have been supported and condolences from the school shared with Sharón's family. We also had to share with students that Pip, our school dog had died during the holidays. Mr Stevens and Mrs Curry have been touched by the kindness and sympathy they have received from staff, students and the wider community.

REA Week

Next week Y9 and Y10 students will be involved in a range of different exciting activities. Students were informed this week in a briefing about what activities will be taking place and they will be in form class each morning so will be able to check their timetable for the day.

Staff News

Mrs Laura Warland, our new Assistant Headteacher SENDCo, started this week. Welcome to Laura who takes over the leadership of our SEND team. As many of you will also know, Mrs Curry, will be leaving for her maternity leave at the end of term. However, she will not be returning to her post at the high school as she has secured a promoted post with the Emmanuel College Trust as Assistant Director in charge of attendance, behaviour and inclusion. Congratulations to Mrs Curry on gaining this exciting new role. We will have the opportunity at the end of term to wish her well. From September Mrs Curry's remit for student standards and support will be covered by Mrs Lloyd who is currently Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, Learning and Teaching. Mrs Lloyd's responsibilities will be covered by Mr Blair who is Head of Mathematics.

Respect

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a key focus for us this term. Research shows a significant improvement in student outcomes when they are in school all the time.

Congratulations to the following winners of our 100% attendance raffle last half term:

Phoebe T - Jake L - Beth N - Louise T - Geoff B

We will be running the raffle again this term. For every week that students are in school 100% of the time they will win an entry to the raffle. The raffle will be drawn on 18th July and students awarded with a £20 amazon voucher.

Attendance week (week ending 23 May)

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	93.3%	90.9%	89%	91.4%

Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net

www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Engage

Y10 Kenya Trip

After a year of fundraising separately and as a group, some of our year 10 students set off on their African adventure to Kenya.

Congratulations to the 20 students who worked their socks off all year to raise money and source donations! And also thank you to staff and parents who have helped us along the way.



Y10 Madrid Trip

Y10 have had a great time Madrid. During the first few days we visited Segovia– taking in the sights of the Alcázar (which inspired the Disney castle), the aqueduct and other amazing places. We did a cookery course where students made a delicious paella, tortilla española and tarta de Santiago.

Students have also been enjoying the daily photo competition and practicing loads of Spanish!



HMS Summer concert

Tickets are now on sale for the [HMS Summer Concert](#) on the 26th June! This show will include the Orchestra, Show Choir, HMS Singers, Advanced Singing Group, String Ensemble, BandCamp and soloists!

Don't miss out, get your tickets now! [Buy tickets](#) (ticket tailor website)

Cricket



The Y9/Y10 girls' team played a friendly cricket (soft ball) tournament at Ponteland CC this week.

The team played really well after having to draft in some late replacements; they won 3 and lost 3. All girls were involved, whether it was batting, bowling or fielding and battled on despite the, at times, horrible weather conditions.

Well done Heidi B, Katie R, Daisy W, Olivia B, Lucy Mc, Maisie H, Lucy H, Evie S, Ariel L!

Aspire

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Marketing Executive'.

The following link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog': [Unifrog: Marketing Executive](#)

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.

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.

Online Safety

For Parents - Fortnite and AI

Fortnite continues to be one of the most popular games played by children and young people. The game is continually being updated with new features and in their latest update Epic Games has introduced an AI feature where players can talk to characters like Darth Vader.

As with anything like this, it's questionable whether Epic Games have really thought this through or are they just jumping on the bandwagon of AI where everyone is seemingly introducing it.

Wayne Denner has written a blog post about this, including some advice for parents including the

parental settings for the new AI feature. You can find the blog post [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

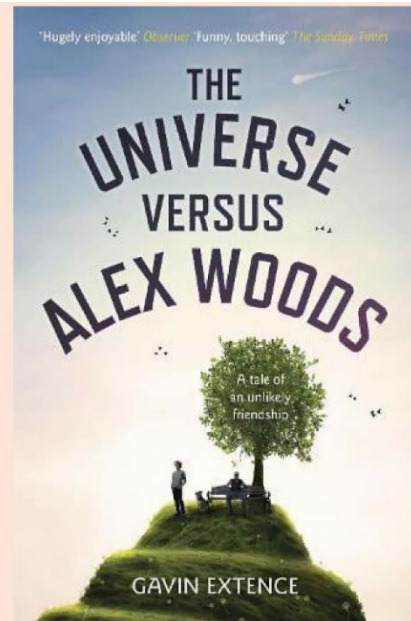
LRC read

This week's LRC recommended read is *The Universe vs Alex Woods*

Alex also knows that he hasn't had the most conventional start in life. He knows that growing up with a clairvoyant single mother won't endear him to the local bullies. And he knows that even the most improbable events can happen – he's got the scars to prove it.

What he doesn't know yet is that when he meets ill-tempered, reclusive widower Mr Peterson, he'll make an unlikely friend. Someone who tells him that you only get one shot at life. That you have to make the best possible choices.

So when, aged seventeen, Alex is stopped at Dover customs with 113 grams of marijuana, an urn full of ashes on the passenger seat, and an entire nation in uproar, he's fairly sure he's done the right thing...



News from the community

Supporting a child with ADHD

[Find out More >>](#)

Be you – Helping your child settle into a new school or class

[Find Out More >>](#)

Free SIM cards

Hexham Library are registered with the [National Data Bank](#) and have free SIM cards available for parents who struggle to afford data for their devices. - The scheme is available for over 18-year-olds who have their own device.

People can turn up at, email or call Hexham Library asking to schedule a free SIM card appointment to get set up. There is some form filling to do behind the scenes but there are no awkward questions or means testing.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news



PTFA volunteers will be selling refreshments and drinks, including Pimm's, beer, wine and soft drinks, at the QEHS art showcase on Thursday 26th June 5-7pm. Cash and card payments accepted and all proceeds go towards supporting the work of the PTFA, proving enrichment opportunities for QEHS students.

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 gehsprizedraw@gmail.com.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 9 June until Friday 13 June	REA week	Year 9 and Year 10
Monday 9 June until Friday 13 June	Work Experience week	Year 12
Monday 9 June	Sports Day	Year 9
Thursday 12 June	Sports Day	Year 10
Thursday 19 June	Art Summer Exhibition (Queen's Hall) Opening 4.30-7pm	All welcome
Thursday 26 June	Art Summer Exhibition (QEHS) 5-7pm	All welcome
Thursday 3 July	Year 11 Prom	Year 11

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

N Seaton

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: Mrs Laura Warland

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@gehs.net

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