

11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 38**

Students enjoyed various activities on Tuesday with trips to Flamingo Land, Beamish, Edinburgh, cinema, a local walk, go karting, go ape, the Yorkshire Show etc. The students behaved well, and staff commented on how much they (and the participants) enjoyed the trips. One student said that she was going to try a deep-fried Mars bar in Edinburgh as part of the cultural experience. Trips day is a huge logistical effort to plan for over 600 people on activities. Well done to all the staff who planned, organised and coordinated the trips.

The Duke of Edinburgh students survived blistering heat and blisters to complete their expedition. The staff leading the group said that all the locals that they met commented that the students were well behaved and respectful. Thank you to the staff who lead DofE. It is an exceptional commitment and those involved benefit from the experience.

Another highlight of the week was 'Songs from the Shows' showcasing the talent of QE and HMS students in performing songs from musicals. The evening was joyful, the performances exceptional and it was a wonderful way to celebrate the summer term. Ms Tindall, our Head of Music, has had a busy year and has worked hard to make sure students can perform and demonstrate their musical skills.

Next week the following activities take place:

- Thursday 17 July: Charities Day - students should bring cash & rewards afternoon.
- Friday 18 July: Non-uniform day & PTFA tuck shop. School finishes at 1.30pm.

The charities day event will fundraise for the local charity 'We Can' and non-uniform day funds will go to 'Tynedale Hospice at Home' and 'Coppafeel' – breast cancer charity.

### **Remembering Holly**



A new plaque has been installed in Hexham Park in memory of Holly. It's a peaceful spot where students can sit, reflect, and remember her—a place to gather their thoughts and feel connected.

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

## 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.

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 4 July)		
Year group	Year 10	Year 11
Percentage	92.6%	88.7%

### Heads of Year 2025-26

#### Heads of Year



**PAUL MAIN**

HEAD OF YEAR 9



**SARAH ALBREY**

HEAD OF YEAR 10, DEPUTY  
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING  
LEAD



**IAN VASEY**

HEAD OF YEAR 11



**EMERSON BROWN**

HEAD OF YEAR 12 & 13, DEPUTY  
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING  
LEAD

## Engage

### Sixth Form Charity Day

On Thursday 17 July, our new year 13 will host the annual sixth form charity day, raising money for Hexham based charity, WECAN. The students have planned their own stalls and activities. There will be a wide range of food and drink stalls, games to take part in and sporting competitions. Years 9 and 10 will join in the fun during P3 and over lunchtime. Please could students bring cash along on the day? Many thanks for your support.

### Y10 Trips and Visits 2026

Staff are currently beginning the process of organising trips for next year. A number have made provisional bookings and will send out detailed information at the start of the new school year.

As most of the trips will take place in the two weeks after half term next year, students will have some restrictions on their choice of trips. It is also important to note that numbers will be limited and all the trips, so there is not guarantee of a place.

For students not attending any of these trips there will be a rich offer of activities available in school during REA week.

Week beginning 1 June 2026

- Y10 Kenya expedition will be out for 10 days
- Y10 will be able to go on a Holocaust Memorial visit
- Y10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh will be on an expedition

Mr Hedley is also organising work experience at the Lord Crewe Arms for 8 students. We are also open to other work experience opportunities for Y10 students. Obviously being involved in any of the activities above would mean students could not also take part in the work experience.

Week beginning 8 June 2026 (REA Week)

- Y10 Spanish Trip to Madrid for students studying Spanish
- Y10 French Trip to Paris for students studying French

If students are selected for the Kenya expedition they will not be able to do DofE or go on any of the other trips.

The trip to Auschwitz takes place in the first week after half term for Y9 and Y10. Students who go on this trip will also not be able to do silver DofE.

The trips to Paris and to Madrid are for students studying the language. They go out in REA week. Students going to Kenya obviously cannot go. For Y10 students who have been to Auschwitz, they can apply but priority (if the trips are oversubscribed) will be given to students who have not been on the Holocaust trip.

As I say, bookings are currently provisional but as students begin opting to apply for any of these trips, I thought it was important to have all the information about the offer so students can make informed decisions.

Applications for the Kenya 2026 trip close at 3:30pm on Friday 11th July. Please make sure your completed application is either emailed to [rsavage@qehs.net](mailto:rsavage@qehs.net) or handed directly to Miss Savage, Mr Elrington, or Mr Robson before the deadline.

### Exciting Update from Kenya!

Following this year's Kenya trip, Miss Savage received photos from Madam Carol at Eileen Ngochoch Primary School—our partner school in Nakuru, Kenya. The images show the newly tiled preschool classroom, a result of the hard work and dedication of our recent Kenya group. It's now being used daily, providing a much-improved learning environment for the students.



### DofE Silver update

Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups continue to impress us battling blisters and bites on their final day in North Northumberland. We had another peaceful night at the campsite, and students have explored ancient stone circles and a waterfall. Staff are repeatedly told by locals and walkers how polite and respectful the students are on their journeys. More photos are [here](#) on our website.

### New strips for sports teams – support welcome!

We are reaching out to ask for your support in helping our school's extra-curricular sports teams shine both on and off the field. As we continue to foster teamwork and school spirit through sports, we are seeking donations (and potentially sponsorships) to help fund new team strips for our dedicated students. Whether you're able to contribute a small amount, sponsor a team, or purchase a strip outright, your generosity will make a meaningful difference to the PE department and to the students. Every contribution, big or small, will be deeply appreciated. If you are able to support, you can make a contribution via My Child At School > School Shop > Fundraising and Donations or, to find out more, please contact the PE department at [gscott@qehs.net](mailto:gscott@qehs.net).

### Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid can be reclaimed by Hadrian Learning Trust from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Please complete the [Gift Aid declaration form](#) (online form). Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Automotive Engineer'.

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

### Unifrog: Automotive Engineer

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](https://unifrog.org/code).

## **Sixth Form**

### **Freshers' Fair**

We would like to invite you to host a stall at the Queen Elizabeth High School Sixth Form Freshers' Fair on Friday 12 September. The fair is designed to introduce sixth form students (aged 16-18) to a range of volunteering opportunities in the local community.



Each organisation will have a stall to promote what you do and the students will visit the stalls at staggered times. There will be around 400 students in total. Students are encouraged to visit each stall to find an appropriate activity to sign up to as part of their curriculum enhancement.

If you are interested in taking part, please email [sixthform@qehs.net](mailto:sixthform@qehs.net).

### **Sixth form noticeboard**

[The sixth form Noticeboard](#) is regularly updated with new opportunities. Please see two new opportunities for the week ahead:

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

## **QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news**

### **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](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



## Online Safety

### For Parents - Holiday Conversations

The holiday period is an ideal time for parents to sit down with their children, play their games and use their apps to get to know the endless fun but also the potential risks. Conversations can be difficult, especially if the parent isn't a user of tech, but conversation is the most powerful risk mitigator of all. So where do parents start?

The NSPCC have put together a fabulous page full of information such as:

- Age appropriate conversations taking into consideration different ages.
- Resources such as tips and quizzes.
- An understanding of some of the risks.
- And tackling difficult conversations.

A great one to share with parents and you can find the page [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

## News from the community

### Hexham Bike Bus

Tynedale's cycling mayor and team are putting a call-out for adult cyclist volunteers to support a "Bike Bus" initiative in Hexham, scheduled to start in mid-September. A bike bus is a means of enabling young cyclists to move safely through streets as a supervised group, thus offering them greater protection from traffic than when riding alone.



Ten volunteers in total are needed, with each committing to about one or two Fridays a month in the first instance. Full training and insurance would be provided by British Cycling.

To find out more information, please dial into one of the following zoom calls:

**SATURDAY 12 JULY AT 12 NOON**, link

here: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87056799299?pwd=LgVDNmIjVFeruZLRcJzZT9PLj0bjBK.1>

**TUESDAY 14TH JULY AT 7PM**: link

here: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89557199413?pwd=besspW2pyeETLQRCHxx3eJpksm3l7b.1>

### Student bus travel

Save money with Student and Child Annual Saver tickets by paying monthly via Direct Debit. For more information visit:

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/business-travel/student-and-child-direct-debit-tickets> or



## DiSh

A free series of events for families to attend. DiSH stands for Dinner in School Holidays. A fresh meal is provided in each session, made with fresh ingredients that are often locally sourced. There will also be craft activities and space to play. Details on how to register are included in the [flyer](#) on our website.

Schools are closing for the summer holidays  
but FACE will be open for your parents



Ongoing online advice, information and support.  
No waiting lists, no referrals, a friendly face!



[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 17 July	Sixth Form Charities Day & Rewards Afternoon	All year groups
Friday 18 July	Non-uniform day	All year groups
Friday 18 July	School closes at 1.30pm	All year groups

## 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: 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](mailto:admin@gehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@gehs.net](mailto:attendance@gehs.net)