

18th July 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 39

We are now at the end of the school year. There have been many events this week including charities day, celebration evening, PTFA tuck shop, and non-uniform day. The guest speaker who presented prizes to Y9 and Y10 on Monday was Gill Castle. Gill gained a world record as the first person to swim the English Channel with a stoma. She spoke with passion about not allowing our doubts to stop us from seizing opportunities and striving to achieve. Her inspirational words sent a powerful message to the students and staff in attendance.

Chameleon Buddies

We welcomed Gill Castle, CEO and founder of [Chameleon Buddies](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/chameleonbuddies), to the school this week to present awards at the year 9 and 10 celebration evening.

Chameleon Buddies is a charity dedicated to supporting women in the UK and Kenya to adapt to life after childbirth injury or stoma surgery. Gill gave an inspiring talk about her journey from her traumatic injury that led to a stoma and how she has used this as a catalyst to challenge herself, achieve great things and inspire others, combatting instinctive self-doubt. For more details, please see [here](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/chameleonbuddies) and if you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you can do so here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/chameleonbuddies>.

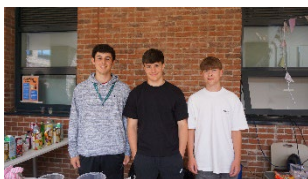
Staff Leaving

We are saying goodbye to some of our colleagues this week. Fiona Ward, Student Support Coordinator, Lucy Linton, second in mathematics and Hattie Curry, Assistant Headteacher, all ended their time at the high school. Jen Scobie, EHCP coordinator, is moving across to HMS to work as an LSA. All of them have contributed positively to the life of the school and we wish them well as they embark on their next adventures. Due to Mrs Curry leaving, we are also saying goodbye to the school dog, Arlo. We will miss him!



Charities Day

We are so proud of year 13 who put in so much effort and raised a grand total of £1,915 for WECAN!



Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Start of term

- The new Y9 and Y13 students will return to school on Tuesday 2 September at 8.40am.
- Y10 and Y11 will start on Wednesday 3 September at 8.40am.
- 'Y12 Welcome to sixth form' is at the Abbey on Thursday 4 September. The sixth form team will send details to students returning to the sixth form.

Results Services

- Thursday 14 August: A Level and equivalent results day, Winter Gardens, 8am-10am
- Thursday 21 August: GCSE and equivalent results day, Winter Gardens, 8am-10am

House winners

House Symbols and Leaders

Ash		Beech	
	Ms B Buxton Collins		Mr T Jesper
Birch		Oak	
	Ms L Coleman		Ms R Fraser
Sycamore			
	Ms R Macken & Ms S Snowden		

Birch House were the first winners of our brand new QEHS House Cup following a year of successful events!

We look forward to seeing how the house system develops over the next year.

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. Evie S, Josiah D, Stepan T, Hugh A and Madeleine L were awarded with a £20 amazon voucher today, congratulations and well done!

Attendance week (week ending 4 July)		
Year group	Year 10	Year 11
Percentage	89%	85%

Engage

Songs from the Shows

Miss Tindall and the whole team were very proud to present two outstanding 'Songs from the Shows' performances last week. Featuring a wide range of pieces from our favourite musicals, the shows were a spectacular display of musical theatre talent. In a first of its kind showcase of students from both HMS and QEHS, the level of talent, confidence and enthusiasm was superb across the board – we were so proud of everyone!

Accompanied by a live band of musicians, students performed, sang, acted and danced through a wonderful setlist – both shows really were very special! Well done to everyone involved and a special thanks to Miss Tindall and her team for their passion and energy – the level of performance and extra-curricular opportunities have been truly outstanding!

Hopefully this show will be back next year! Thank you and well done! Photographs of the event are [here](#) on our website.

Chess Club Champ!

Congratulations to Finn M who ended the year as year 9 chess club champion by being top of the year 9 chess ladder at the end of the final club session. Finn, who had spent most of the season at the top, had to fend off a tough final challenge from William D at the end. In doing so he won a bag of Maltesers and a chess board of his choice from a variety of quality boards kindly donated to the club by Mr Seago. Chess club will return next year every Friday lunchtime.

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.

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

Results day support

With results days happening next month we know that these days are a fabulous chance to celebrate the successes of our young people. However, depending on results, some individuals may require additional support to help them make a successful transition into a sustained destination next year. So, we'd like to remind you about useful support available:

Gill Stephenson, our Careers Adviser, will be available in school on GCSE results day – from 8-12.

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Sustainability Analyst'

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

[Unifrog: Sustainability Analyst](#)

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

QEHS Sixth Form Project - Young People and Mental Health Report

A group of QEHS sixth form students, Matthew G, Hadi A, Amelie S, Oscar S and Angelina K, have been volunteering with Healthwatch Northumberland this year, working on a research project to investigate the provision of mental health support information for young people in Northumberland. The students led the project themselves, designing surveys, analysing the responses and writing a final report. They have also supported Healthwatch Northumberland in

creating a new Young People's support webpage, researching information to include within it and helping to promote it through a poster.

You can read the students' final report here: [Young-people-and-mental-health-report-July-2025.pdf](#)

You can visit the new Young People's support webpage here: [Young people - Healthwatch Northumberland](#)

Healthwatch Northumberland commented on the professionalism of the students: *"We've not only been impressed with the quality of the students' work – well thought-out surveys and an excellent report write-up – but also their level of professionalism, managing their time well, keeping us updated with their progress throughout, whilst also dealing with their studies and exams at the same time! They've been a real credit to your school."*

The group's Project Leader, Matthew, reported that at his interviews for admission to medical school, the university panels all enjoyed hearing about his project, which he feels helped him to secure his offers

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.

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

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

End of term update

The end of term update is attached.

New chairperson/s

Could you be our next PTFA Chairperson, or a co-Chairperson alongside someone else? Our current co-Chairs are due to step down soon and we need a new person/s at the helm to lead the brilliant committee team and chair our monthly meetings. If you'd like to know more about what it involves, email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Used prom outfits, uniform and other clothing

If you have any used prom outfits that you'd like to donate towards next year's pre-loved prom shop, allowing all students to have access to outfits, whatever their financial means, please email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

If you have any outgrown uniform or sports boots, please bring these into school after the holidays. Visit the school website for details of how to order used uniform:

[School Uniform Recycling – Queen Elizabeth High School](#)

Our recycling bins, located at the entrance to the school driveway, will remain available to use throughout the holidays for you to donate any other clothing, shoes or accessories (adults' or children's).

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.



News from the community

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.

Hexham Youth Initiative

The Hexham Youth Initiative organises activities during the summer holidays. See attached flyer for more information. Sign up is required for most of the events.

Gosforth chess club events summer 2025

Gosforth chess club is running a Summer Camp from Aug 18-22, 1 – 5 pm every day. Sign up is required via this [link](#).

National Careers Service

National Careers Service offers a range of services to support young people during results time. This includes:

- A dedicated [page](#) with information on each post-16 and post-18 options. They have also have a [Parent's Guide to Results Day](#).
- A **helpline number 0800 100 900** or [webchat](#) where young people can speak to a **Careers Adviser**. See [opening times](#) here.

They also have links to other resources to support young people who might be worried or stressed around this time of year. These are:

- [exam results support from Childline](#)
- [stress help from YoungMinds](#)
- [mental health support from Mind](#)

Hexham Community Archaeology Project

The Hexham Community Archaeology Project organise two weekends of mini-excavation in Hexham. Any teacher, pupil or parent who is interested and in Hexham can drop by and see what this archaeological approach involves.

Dates: 19-20 July, 13-14 September

Time: 11.30am – 2.30pm.

Locations:

- Kirkstyle, South Park
- 1 Wilkinson Terrace, Holy Island (entrance down side of house by burn);
- 15 Pearson's Terrace Terrace;
- 44 Millfield Terrace
- 10 Quatre Bras (entrance off the north end of Millfield Terrace to left through garages.

Look out for signs!

Sele Park – Pop-up pump track

The pop-up pump track for Sele Park has been confirmed for **Tuesday 5 August** all day. Please let your child know if you think they may be interested. Thank you to all who supported the fund raising for this.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 1 September	Teacher training day	-
Tuesday 2 September	Return to school	Year 9 and Year 13
Wednesday 3 September	Return to school	Year 10 and Year 11
Thursday 4 September	Return to school	Year 12
Thursday 25 September	QEHS Open Evening	All welcome

Free School Meals

Northumberland County Council is working to ensure that all eligible pupils receive Free School Meals (FSM) and that schools receive the funding they're entitled to. Around 1,000 pupils from reception to Year 11 may be eligible but are not enrolled. Over the summer holidays, the Council will contact families believed to be eligible, for which they will use existing data. If eligible, families will receive a letter. Parents/carers can object to FSM being applied. If no objection is made, FSM will be automatically awarded as of September 2025.

What do parents/carers need to do?

No action is needed at this stage. Wait for a letter if your child is identified as potentially eligible and only reply if you object to receiving FSM.

Why it matters

This initiative not only ensures eligible children receive support but also helps schools to access additional funding like Pupil Premium and the Holiday Activities Fund.

For more information visit the website of Northumberland Education: [here](#)

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

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