

5th September 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 1

Welcome back. We were delighted to start the new school year. On Monday our staff returned for their training day, the new Year 9 started on Tuesday attired in their QE uniforms along with Year 13. On Wednesday the Year 10 and Year 11 students returned with the new Year 12s starting sixth form today after their 'Welcome to Sixth Form' event at the Abbey. Today we were back to being over 1300 students strong.



There were four new teaching staff starting in the high school this week:

Mrs Featonby, Mathematics
Ms Farthing, Business Education
Mrs Davies, Science
Miss Archibald, Art & Design

We are also delighted that QE made it onto the Daily Mail list of the top schools in England. It is one of only two schools in Northumberland. Such recognition is a celebration of our amazing students and hard-working staff.

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/25426853.best-state-schools-britain-located-northumberland/>

Attendance Matters

This week school leaders talked to all the students about the importance of attending school. The impact of missed school is always clear when we look at the summer results- students with higher attendance outperform those with poor attendance. The more school missed, the lower the grades at both GCSE and A Level. Missing 10 days of school in Year 11 reduces the chances of achieving a grade 5 in English by 50%.

As well as being in school to get better exam results, there are many other reasons why attendance matters:

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

- Being in school, seeing friends and socialising improves mood and mental health.
- If a student is in school, they can join clubs, activities and go on trips/visits.
- We know that success beyond school in employment or education is better for students with higher attendance.
- Better health. Better results. Better prospects.

Over the course of the year, we will be reporting on your child's attendance with the target for students to be in band 1 for attendance (95-100%). For each week a child has 100% attendance in school they will receive an entry in the end of term Amazon voucher raffle.

House Symbols and Leaders

Your child will be in one of the following houses. Throughout the year there will be interhouse competitions that we will report in the weekly update.

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

Respect

Homework and Planners

Following feedback from students, staff and a parental survey, we took the decision not to issue the students with a planner this year. Each student will receive a printed copy of their timetable which they should carry with them at all times in school.

Homework will be set on Bromcom and parents will be able to see on MCAS all homework that has been set. Please ensure that your child has access to the Bromcom students' app. As students will have access to a paper copy of their timetable and homework should be accessed at home, there is still no reason why students need to access their mobile devices in school.

Planners are available to purchase in the LRC if your child would still like to use a planner to organise their work.

School Traffic Measures

In order to protect the supervised point at which pupils cross Whetstone Bridge Road at the start and end of each day, NCC Highways have erected signage in the immediate vicinity of our schools to clarify the expected movement of vehicles as they arrive and depart. The key points to note are as follows: vehicles are expected to turn left when departing the site at the times of main student movement; similarly, vehicles leaving the top end of Tynedale Terrace are expected to turn left at these times. Thank you in anticipation of your support of this.

Y9 Photographs

Our Year 9 Photographs will take place on Wednesday 10 September 2025 in the Hydro Hall. Each form class will have a group photograph, followed by individual photographs. Parents will be able to purchase these, and we will use the individual photographs to update student profiles on Bromcom.

Engage

Extra-curricular activities Fair

Today we held our 'Extra-curricular Activities Fair'. Students had the opportunity to find out more about the huge range of clubs on offer in and out of school. Participating in an extra-curricular activity can have huge benefits for a young person's development and we are keen for all students to try something new! Our message that participating in clubs makes you happier, healthier and more successful seemed to have been heard, with queues at all the different stalls. The drama team even needed extra paper for signing up. Students can just turn up at an activity or will soon be able to enroll on their Bromcom student portal! Look out for further details on our website and socials soon!

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@gehs.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 'Development Operations Engineer'

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

[Unifrog: Development Operations 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.

Sixth Form

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

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

Air Cadet Open Evening

The air cadets are having an open evening on Wednesday 17th September. The evening will show some of the exciting opportunities & activities available through the air cadets such as flying, gliding, adventure training and more. Anyone from Y8 and up can join until the age of 18. The open evening will run from 19.00h, for a 19.15h start, until 21.30h at 224 Squadron ATC, TA Centre, Hencotes, Hexham. NE46 2ER.

Hexham Community Archaeology Project

The Hexham Community Archaeology Project organise a second weekend 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: 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;
- 44 Millfield Terrace
- 10 Quatre Bras (entrance off the north end of Millfield Terrace to left through garages.

Look out for signs!

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 8 – Friday 12 September	House Assemblies	All year groups
Wednesday 10 September	Y9 Individual and group photographs	Year 9
Friday 12 September	Fresher's Fair	Year 9, Year 12
Monday 15 September	Key Dates Assembly	Year 11

Wednesday 17 September	Pathway Information Evening – 6pm	Year 11
Thursday 25 September	QEHS Open Evening 6-8pm	All welcome

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.

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@qehs.net

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