

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 4**

This week we welcomed the prospective students and their families to our open evening. The evening was a celebration of our offer, the opportunities available and most importantly our wonderful staff and students.

In the coming weeks, we are pleased to invite parents of students in Years 9 to 11 to our 'Meet the Tutor' evening on 9 October which is an opportunity to engage in a one-to-one conversation with your child's form tutor about how they settled into school. Later in the year further parent evenings are scheduled which will be more focused on academic progress.

#### **Respect**

##### **Attendance**

- Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too.
- Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance.
- For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings.

Department for Education, August 2025

##### **Welcome to Dame Judi!**

A warm welcome to our newest team member, chocolate lab, Dame Judi who joined the student support team as their support dog, replacing Arlo who left us at the end of last term. Welcome to Dame Judi.



#### **Queen Elizabeth High School**

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[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Engage

### House update

Beech House  
Mr Jesper



Birch House  
Ms Coleman



Ash House  
Ms Buxton-Collins



Oak House  
Mrs Fraser



Sycamore House  
Miss Snowdon/  
Miss Macken



### Total points as per 25 September 2025

Beech  
16,134

Birch  
16,204

Ash  
13,695

Oak  
14,571

Sycamore  
14,581

### Inter House Lawn Darts Competition

On Tuesday we held our first inter-house lawn darts competition with beech house triumphing.

- Beech 250
- Birch 226
- Ash 155
- Sycamore 117
- Oak 68

*The next House Event this half term:*  
• **House Quiz – round 1**

### Help Us Create Poppies for Remembrance

Can you crochet or knit, or do you know someone who can?

The Sixth Form Team are hoping to create a display of poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day and needs help creating poppies. You can use the following link for

instructions: <https://oombawkadesigncrochet.com/poppy-project/>

- If you can make poppies for us, please drop them off at QEHS reception by Monday 20 October.
- If you have any spare red and/or black wool, this can also be dropped off at reception. Many thanks



## Rugby



Well done to our Year 9 boys who experienced their first taste of high school rugby in the first round of the county cup. The lads performed brilliantly from the start, combining a ferocious defence with some slick handling and powerful running. They won all 3 of their games against Ponteland, NSB & Duchess and progress through to the next round.

## Roller Derby success

Rowan S and her brother Cory along with their brother Luke (from HMS) recently took part in the bronze medal play off at Five Nations Roller Derby in Stoke on Trent with their team Newcastle Junior Roller Derby. This was a full weekend of skating and finals games for the adult and junior teams across the UK and Ireland. Their team didn't win this time, but had an excellent game and gave it their absolute all!



NJRD always welcomes new members – whether they can skate or not – and have free sessions and kit hire for new starters. Roller derby is a mixed gender, full contact sport for ages 8-18. You can check them out on their Facebook page – Newcastle Junior Roller Derby UK!

## Year 9 boys' sporting achievements.

Two boys have made the Northumberland County Under 14 Football team - Brodie G & Charlie M. Leo F is in the Under 14 Newcastle United FC academy team.

## Ballet success

Ilia T, Rose V and Lexy W all achieved their grade 6 ballet qualifications with high merits in both the exam and the solo performance award. The award comes with UCAS points!

## Samling Singing School

We are delighted that QEHS has been chosen to be a Samling Singing School and will be doing a project from Oct-Jan with the Samling Institute. Samling recognises the quality vocal work which goes on here at QEHS! If your child already has singing lessons in school, attends one of our choirs or is in the Abbey choir, we likely know about them and will therefore be invited.

However, if your child enjoys singing and we might not know about them, please get in touch with the school, or let Miss Tindall (Head of Music) to be involved. Have a look on our [website](#) for more information.

### Music Merchandise

If you're involved in Music activities in school, or simply want to show support for the Music department, why not take a look at some of our bespoke HMS/QEHS Music merchandise!

There are t-shirts and hoodies which can be worn at rehearsals, some concerts, at home and out and about! Check out the items at: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/gehs-music.html>

There are different options including names and initials to personalise your garment. You can order directly from the manufacturer at the above link.

### Rugs Required!

Do you have any large rugs which are no longer required? If so, the Music department will happily take them off your hands for use in the new HMS Music classroom. Please get in touch with school if you would like to donate anything and we will be most grateful.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

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

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

Unifrog: [Energy Operations Manager](#)

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

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

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

### What is the PTFA and what does it do?

QEHS PTFA is a group of volunteer parents/carers, teachers and friends of the school who work together to make it an even better environment for children to learn in. The PTFA supports the school by raising money to enrich learning experiences for pupils. We fundraise through events and other activities. We also apply for grants for specific projects e.g. the outdoor gym. We have close ties with the school community, helping to connect school and home life, so parents/carers have opportunities to become more positively engaged with school as well as enjoying the social aspect of getting together with other parents while raising money for school.



The PTFA is run by a committee of parent volunteers, with support from Mr Seaton, Mrs Lloyd and several parent helpers. It is a Registered Charity, which the committee are Trustees of.

### What kind of things might I be expected to do if I volunteer?

You could support 'on the day', serving refreshments at events or helping at a tuck shop, for example. You could help us decide what activities we do and plan for the future at meetings or in our WhatsApp group, volunteering only as much time as you can reasonably give. We can make use of all sorts of skills and knowledge. We hold meetings on a weekday evening once a month – you'd be warmly welcomed!

✂ **Vacancies for Chair/co-Chair/s and Treasurer** - As some of our long-standing members are moving on, we have exciting opportunities for new parents to get involved and are looking for people who can commit even for one school year.

✂ **Chair/co-Chair/s** – leading the PTFA, working with the school and committee, helping to set the direction of activities. You may be able to co-Chair alongside someone else.

✂ **Treasurer** – looking after the PTFA's finances, keeping simple accounts and reporting on income and expenditure.

Both roles are vital for keeping the PTFA running. No prior experience is needed – just enthusiasm and a willingness to help. Training and support will be available.

**31 Notice of AGM** - Our AGM will be held at QEHS on **Tuesday 21 October at 6pm**. This is when nominations will be confirmed, so please come along and have your say. If you'd like to find out more or put yourself forward, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

✉ Contact us by email: [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/QEHSPTFA/>) or Instagram (@qehs\_parent\_teacher\_friends)

### 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](mailto:gehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



### Online Safety

#### For Parents - Roblox Update

As the most popular game on the planet with children, Roblox gets a lot of coverage and understandably so. It's an amazing platform to explore but it isn't without its faults, some of which are very significant.

In April 2025 Revealing Reality carried out an investigation into Roblox due to serious concerns of what children were experiencing within the game (link [HERE](#)). In September they carried out a follow-up investigation to see what, if anything had changed.

In short, quite a lot has changed, such as:

- Adjustments to content maturity ratings.
- ID verification for certain games and experiences.
- Stricter moderation
- Enhanced parental controls.

These are good but, according to Revealing Reality, they don't go far enough. There are still workarounds and very significant concerns. It's worth having a read of the full report which you can find [HERE](#).

### News from the community

#### Be You

The latest Be You newsletter is on our website: <https://www.gehs.net/index.php/2025/09/26/be-you-newsletter/>



### Next week's LRC recommended read

Next week's LRC recommended read is a series of graphic novel versions of Shakespeare plays:



### Next week's climate theme

## Respect for Rivers

Important breeding grounds for many species, in turn helping biodiversity

Freshwater ecosystems are among the most threatened in the world.

Pollution from agriculture and waste processes are causing habitats to die out.

#### What you can do **this week**:

- **Consider** how you use water at home, e.g. not leaving the tap running when brushing your teeth
- **Talk** to someone at home about using eco-friendly cleaning products
- **Recycle** plastic responsibly

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 9 October	Tutor Evening 4-6pm	Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Wednesday 22 October	Sixth Form Parents Evening 4-7pm	Sixth Form
Friday 24 October	INSET Day	All year groups
Monday 27 – Friday 31 October	Half term holiday	All year groups
Monday 3 November	School reopens at 8.40am	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.



Neil Seaton  
Head of School

#### **Pupil support and safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Anne Lloyd

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)