

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 5**

This week students in Year 9 and Year 10 have heard about the criteria we use to grade their attitude to learning. The school celebrates students who are kind, respectful, engage well, work hard and show resilience. This is because we know that effort exceeds talent every time in creating success. Students who exceed and excel in terms of their attitude to learning will receive a Head of School award to recognise their efforts. We celebrate our students being respectful, engaged and aspirational.

#### **Respect**

##### **Attendance**

The school liaises closely with the Education Welfare Officer to support students to attend school. As part of this process, families may receive a letter regarding their child's non-attendance at school. This is part of our attendance procedures, and while we are aware that there are many legitimate reasons for absences, we need to ensure that this process is followed. If you receive a letter, it is intended to flag non-attendance and generate support for families and students, if required.

Attendance Matters

Band 1 is 95%-100%

Band 2 is 90-94%

Band 3: 80-89%

Band 4: Less than 80%

Our goal is that every student should be in band 1, as we know students in band one achieves better now and later in life.

#### **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



**Queen Elizabeth High School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

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

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

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

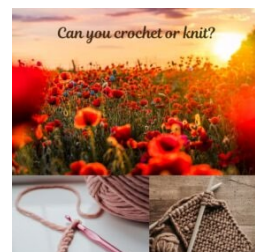
### Total points as per 2 October 2025

Beech	Birch	Ash	Oak	Sycamore
20,341	20,555	18,186	18,487	18,386

### 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

### Swimming

A group of QEHS pupils attended the English Schools' Swimming North East Secondary Team Championships at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on Thursday. The intermediate and senior boys and girls teams took part in the 4x50m freestyle relay and 4x50m medley relay. Fantastic effort from all teams and swimmers involved with solid swims and strong takeovers from all squads. There was a prestigious field of schools entered in all events; it was an excellent event. Well done to the intermediate girls squad for a great swim in the 4x50m relay finishing second in their heat and to the senior boys and girls teams for strong swims in both events. The intermediate boys team clocked an amazing time to win the 4x50m freestyle relay, beating the next placed school by 6 seconds! Great effort by all swimmers involved and super swims!

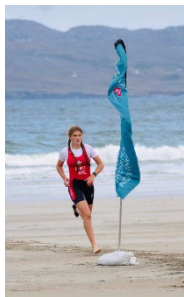
The squad were an absolute credit to QEHS; their conduct, engagement and attitude were outstanding. They were an absolute pleasure to take to the event to represent Queen Elizabeth High School. The swimmers Olive T, Ania S, Gwen M, Chloe C, Evie T, Evie M, Emilia S, Ella S, Sophia S, Robin B-M, Lincoln S, Morgan V, Jamie L, Thomas B, Archie H, Adam B, Lloyd V and Ned M. were Well done to all swimmers involved.

### Student success

#### Hockey

Evie J in Year 9 has made it onto the Northumberland County U14 Girls hockey squad! A fantastic achievement Evie, well done!

## Beach Sprint



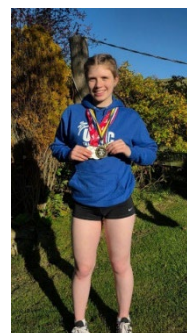
Emily L, year 13, competed as part of the Welsh team at the Home International Beach Sprint Regatta held in Co. Donegal, Ireland. The four home nations battled it out in wet and windy conditions across a series of Junior and Senior races. Emily was in the U19 Junior women's solo event and won her first 2 races securing a place in the A final. Despite the increasingly rough sea conditions she went on to win Gold for Wales, beating her English counterpart by 10 seconds! Team Wales continued to dominate and were also crowned the overall winners of the 4 nations event. Well done Emily!

## Taekwondo

Ralph C from year 9 competed in the Taekwondo UK Championships in Scotland over the weekend. He came away with 2 gold medals. Well done Ralph!



Tess B, in year 11, took part in the UK Taekwondo Championships in Scotland this weekend. She came away with a clean sweep of gold medals in the sparring, patterns and flying high kick events. Well done Tess!

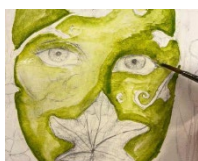


## Futsal

Louis F has successfully earned a place on the England U17 Futsal Team following trials in Derby last week. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to Louis's dedication and talent. He will now be part of the training pathway for the U19 squad, preparing for the European Championships in 2029. Well done Louis!



## Art Club



Have a look on our website to see the [amazing character concept designs](#) which are the first creations from our year 9 Wednesday art club, based on the ancient mythic lord and lady of the woods.

## Theatre careers visit

Our year 10 Drama GCSE class, and some of our sixth form students, had a visit from Elliot Wallis – the Sound Technician who operated all the sound effects in the performance of War Horse we all went to watch recently. He works for the National Theatre and is currently touring with War Horse, and happens to come from just down the road – Hayden Bridge!



He was so inspiring as he talked through his career journey and experiences, and students asked some brilliant questions about life in the role as a Sound Technician. They also found out lots of key information about the technical elements of putting on a show like War Horse, which they can use for their own write up when evaluating the performance.

Thank you, Elliot. I have no doubt you have inspired some future career opportunities.

#### **GAIA installation at Hexham Abbey – free entry for QE students and an accompanying adult**



Parents and students may be interested in the forthcoming installation, *GAIA*, which will be in the Abbey from 3 October until 16 November. *GAIA* is an awe-inspiring Earth sculpture — a masterpiece of scale and imagination. At 1.8 million times smaller than our real planet, each centimetre of this internally illuminated globe represents 18 kilometres of Earth's surface.

Slowly rotating, the sculpture invites quiet reflection and wonder, enhanced by a specially commissioned surround sound composition, immersing you in a rich, atmospheric soundscape that brings the installation to life. This is more than an artwork — it's a global journey, a sensory experience, and a celebration of our shared home. **Please note: An unknown benefactor has generously funded 250 paid entries for QE students and their accompanying adult to see this awe-inspiring exhibition – see attached flyer. Please do take advantage of this**, showing the attached flyer to the attendants, and noting that an accompanying adult must also be in attendance with the student for both to qualify for free entry.

#### **DOFE presentation evening**

On Tuesday evening our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh participants were celebrated as part of a presentation evening. The students gave talks explaining their achievements during their DofE experience. A highlight was hearing about the students' experiences on expedition, which involved being chased by cows! Congratulations to all.



### **Aspire**

#### **Career of the week**

This week's Career of the Week was 'Biotechnologist'

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/read-watch-listen-library/biotechnologist>

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

### Year 13 parents' evening

Y13 parents' evening is scheduled for the 22 October 4 – 7PM, further details will follow in due course.

### Social Mobility Foundation Aspiring Professionals

[Aspiring Professionals Programme by Social Mobility Foundation](#)

2026 Applications are now open! Support while applying for universities, degree apprenticeships and help navigating the professional world.

Eligibility criteria applies. [Closing date Friday 12th December at 12pm.](#)



### 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

### PTFA Lottery - from only £1 a month!

All students at the school benefit from PTFA fundraising and the QEHS Lottery is a simple, low cost way of supporting the PTFA and the School while also having the chance to win cash prizes.

Tickets for each month's draw cost just £1 per entry with cash prizes each time for two lucky winners.

Entry is simple and can be done online. More information and the online application form can be found at: [link](#). Email Kate Robson: [gehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:gehsprizedraw@gmail.com)



### PTFA Vacancies

A reminder that we are looking for new volunteers to join our amazing team and also have vacancies for the roles of Chair (or Co-Chairs) and Treasurer - no experience is necessary as full support will be given.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on **Tuesday 21st October**, 6pm at QEHS.

If you are interested, please email Becky or Kate: [gehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gehs.ptfa@gmail.com).

## Online Safety

### For Parents – A Guide to navigating Social Media Safely



This is a fantastic guide from the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), it goes into lots of detail and I'm sure parents will find it interesting and useful. The guide goes into areas such as:

- How social media platforms and algorithms operate.
- The various types of harms that children may experience.
- Practical advice and guidance.
- Supporting resources.

You can download the guide [HERE](#). (from Alan McKenzie, Online Safety specialist)

## News from the community

### Private Bus

A group of parents from Stocksfield are trying to organise a private bus service for students to travel to Corbridge Middle School, Hexham Middle School and QEHS. If you are interested in supporting this arrangement please contact Suzi Kemp on 07539204869.

### Support for safe cycling

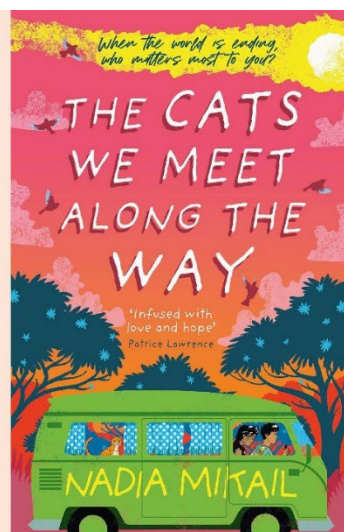
We've received reports of some pupils from HMS, QEHS, and possibly other schools engaging in unsafe cycling behaviour around the McDonald's car park and drive-thru. This includes riding between vehicles, performing stunts, shouting, and throwing food. Similar concerns have also been raised about cycling near the Hexham Bus Station. We kindly ask for your support in reminding children about the importance of safe and respectful behaviour in public spaces, both for their own safety and that of others.

## Next week's LRC recommended read

Next week's LRC recommended read is *The Cats we meet along the way* by Nadia Mikail.

*Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister June for two years. And now that a calamity is about to end the world in nine months' time, she and her mother decide that it's time to track her down and mend the hurts of the past.*

*Along with Aisha's boyfriend, Walter and his parents (and Fleabag the stray cat), the group take a road-trip through Malaysia in a wildly decorated campervan – to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and to hope for the future.*



## Next week's climate theme

# Aspire to recycle tech!

What you can do **this week**:

- Find out how many tablets, mobile phones and other devices sit unused in drawers in your home.

- Got to [recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](http://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk) To find out how to recycle these devices, reusing the precious metals they contain.

Your mobile phone contains more than **38 different elements**.

Many of these are **rare earth elements** that are harmful to extract from the Earth and could be reused to lessen their impact.

## A BREAKDOWN OF THE CRITICAL METALS IN A SMARTPHONE

Some vital metals used to build these devices are considered at risk due to geological scarcity, geopolitical issues or trade policy.

This infographic details the critical metals that you carry in your pocket.

### TOUCH SCREEN

It contains a thin layer of **indium** tin oxide, highly conductive and transparent, allowing the screen to function as a touch screen.



### MICROPHONE, SPEAKERS, VIBRATION UNIT

**Nickel** is used in the microphone diaphragm that vibrates in response to sound waves. Alloys containing **neodymium**, **praseodymium** and **gadolinium** are used in the magnets contained in the speaker and microphone. **Neodymium**, **terbium** and **dysprosium** are used in the vibration unit.



### BATTERY

The majority of smartphones use **lithium-ion** batteries.



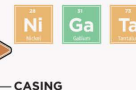
### DISPLAY

The display contains several **rare earth elements**. Small quantities are used to produce the colors on the liquid crystal display. Some give the screen its glow.



### ELECTRONICS

**Nickel** is used in electrical connections. **Gallium** is used in semiconductors. **Tantalum** is the major component of micro capacitors, used for filtering and frequency tuning.



### CASING

**Nickel** reduces electromagnetic interference. **Magnesium** alloys are superior at electromagnetic interference (EMI) shielding.



Source: University of Birmingham

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 9 October	Tutor Evening 4-6pm	Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Wednesday 22 October	Sixth Form – Y13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm	Year 13
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](http://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@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

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