

10th October 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 6

It was lovely on Thursday evening to welcome parents to the high school for 'meet the tutor' evening. We introduced this last year following feedback in the parents' survey that they wanted more communication with and from school. The event is an opportunity for parents, students and staff to talk about a student's wider contribution to school, rather than a focus on the academic.

In memory of Holly

This week a plaque was unveiled in memory of Holly Newton. Holly was a student at the high school who was murdered in 2023. Students at QE contributed to the creation of the plaque through their artwork which was inspired by Holly's memory. They were there on Thursday for the unveiling.



Respect

Attendance

Fire and Dough, Wentworth Leisure Centre and Vercelli's are working hard with us to improve attendance and have contributed to our raffle prizes. 100% attendance for a week earns a student an entry in the raffle. Thank you very much to the businesses in our area who know that attendance at school is a life skill that you take into employment.

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.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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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 2 October 2025

Beech
24,821

Birch
25,241

Ash
22,554

Oak
22,476

Sycamore
21,901

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

Year 9 Netball news



The Year 9 netball team took part in the Northumberland netball tournament at Bede Academy. They went unbeaten all day and will represent Northumberland at the regional tournament in January.

The team consisted of:
Scarlett, Isabella, Frankie, Faye, Mia, Josie, Annabelle and Ava

Well done team!

Year 10 Football update

The Y10's were in action last night against NCEA Dukes and were excellent, particularly in the first half. The team were fully in control of the game and a fantastic 6 goal brace from Dan C meant the first game of the season was a winning one. The first strike was the best, a low powerful shot from a distance at an angle that gave the keeper no chance. Two other great goals from Amir R (right footed curler over the keeper) and Ben T (a cracking flying volley at the back post) secured the game.

Outstanding rugby achievements!

Over the last couple of weeks, we have had some outstanding rugby achievements in the Northumberland County Cup Finals.

Year 9

A strong year 9 team won all their games with dominant performances against NSB, Duchess and Ponteland. Some outstanding rugby played throughout all 3 games. A fantastic achievement in such an early stage of their QEHS lives. Well done to all the boys for qualifying for the finals.

Year 10

The year 10 team beat off strong competition and won both games against very strong rugby schools in Gosforth and RGS teams. An awesome achievement with some really positive rugby. Some really positive feedback from the rugby coach that led on the day regarding the students' attitude and skill level throughout the day! Well done again to the boys for qualifying for the finals.

Year 11

The year 11 boys moved through the group stages with comfortable wins against NSB, Gosforth and Whitley Bay. Scoring multiple tries and more impressively not conceding a try at all through the group stages. This took the boys into the finals which were played on the same day in a shortened game. They faced an extremely strong Morpeth team, on the day nothing could separate the 2 sides, with the score at 0-0 after extra time. The boys shared the trophy on the day and did so not conceding a try throughout the whole tournament. An amazing defensive effort!

Overall, an outstanding achievement by all teams, remaining unbeaten across all 3 county competitions. We look forward to the finals for each of the year groups.

In addition, the year 8 group went undefeated in their county competition across 6 games. Showing the strength of rugby not only in the school, but throughout the Hadrian Learning Trust.

Student success

In September Tiana trialled for Leeds Rhinos Under 17 Netball. She has been successful in her trial and will now train in the U17 Leeds Rhinos PDP North. Tiana has put a lot of time and dedication into Netball. Well done Tiana!



Samling Singing Schools project

Our Samling Singing Schools project is now underway with over 50 students taking part. The students will be receiving tuition from Samling artist and tutor Miranda Wright and in the first session learned some breathing and posture techniques as well as how to add some energy into their singing.

Aspire

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Video Editor'

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/video-editor>

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://www.unifrog.org/code).

Sixth Form

Year 13 parents' evening

Y13 parents' evening is scheduled for 22 October from 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@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

What does the PTFA raise funds for?

Last year we funded various enrichment activities and equipment including Youth Theatre supplies, a sixth form Space Design trip and contributions towards music lessons and enrichment trips.

Already this year we've been asked to provide funding towards music groups, drama activities, Duke of Edinburgh award equipment and a new school house trophy.



If you'd like to offer support, you can join the QEHS lottery with tickets priced at just £1 [QEHS PTFA Lottery](#), sign up to support us with online purchases you make through Easy Fundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> - search for and select 'QEHS PTFA - Hexham' as your chosen cause), or make a donation through our JustGiving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/qehsparentteacherfriendsassociation>). You can also support our efforts by volunteering on-the-day at events.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 21 October 6pm - AGM at QEHS

 We have volunteer vacancies for a new Chair (or Co-Chairs) and a new Treasurer. No special experience required and full support will be given.

Thursday 23 October - lunchtime Tuck Shop - Send your student with cash or add some money to their card/Apple/Google Pay

Email: qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/QEHSPTFA/>) and on Instagram

(@qehs_parent_teacher_friends)

News from the community

Create your own football chants for girls – free workshop

As part of the Mercury Music Prize Fringe events, the Queen's Hall hosts a free workshop this Saturday afternoon 11 October (3pm–5pm) for girls to create their own football chants. It's facilitated by the all-girl band Howay Again.

They will also be hosting a free gig that evening where the band will perform—alongside the girls' newly created chant.

The workshop is here: <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/football-chants-workshop-with-howay-again>
And the gig is here: <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/howay-again>

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.

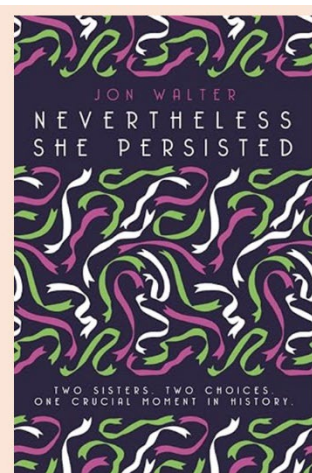
Next week's LRC recommended read

Next week's LRC recommended read is:

Nevertheless she persisted.

Clara and Nancy, two sisters working in Holloway Prison in 1913, find themselves face-to-face with imprisoned suffragettes: women fighting for the same freedoms they want for themselves. Soon Nancy is drawn to one inmate in particular - the enigmatic 'Duchess' - and decides to follow her into the fight.

But Clara is torn by the very laws her sister has chosen to try to change. She's fallen in love, and yet marriage would mean giving up the job she loves, and losing her independence forever. How can she possibly choose between the two sides of her heart and not lose a part of herself?



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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](#). 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

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