

7th November 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 9

This week we will be commemorating Remembrance Day on Tuesday. Our sixth form team co-ordinated the amazing poppy display that you can see at the front of the hydro building. Thank you to everyone in the community who contributed to creating the over 1000 crocheted poppies that make up the memorial.

On Tuesday we will hold a 1-minute silence in the school, including a special ceremony involving the sixth form in front of the hydro. This will be followed by a cake sale in the Winter Gardens in aid of Morgan House, a not-for-profit organisation which provides residential care for veterans, supporting them with their mental health challenges.



The act of remembrance is significant, and the poppy symbolises the loss of life in war, evocative of the poppies that grew on the battlefields of Europe during the 1914-18 war. Year 9 were learning about this in history, and how at the end of World War One many of the survivor's wanted remembrance to help prevent a repeat of future conflicts. Sadly, throughout the world today people still lose their lives in armed conflict. The poppy recognises those that died in historic conflicts and makes us think about those still living through war. Lest we forget.



Respect

Attendance

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving a letter stating your child's attendance at school and the band that they are in for attendance. We recognise and understand that there are reasons why a child misses school. However, it is important that you and your child are aware of their current level of attendance. It is also important as we enter the winter months that children can still attend school with minor colds and sniffles. After the pandemic, the government has been keen to highlight that attendance at school is critical, unless a child is significantly unwell.

The Department of Education states that students should not be taken out of school for holidays during term time, and families can be fined for such an unauthorised absence. This position is supported by the school and the [policy on leave of absence](#) is shared by schools across the Hexham Partnership.

Attendance means better learning, better results, and better chances in life.

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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 6 November 2025

Beech
33,087

Birch
33,933

Ash
31,009

Oak
30,417

Sycamore
30,249

Current and upcoming House Events:

- The Mario Kart competition between houses, with a house v house knock out leading up to the final on rewards afternoon.
- The House Photography competition (launched last half term). Students were asked to submit photos with the theme of 'Autumn'. These will be collated and judged in this half term.
- This half term the House Quiz round is about Winter Festivals, and tutor groups will compete against each other.

From the QEHS Rowing team

Dear Parents/ carers/ guardians,

As we hurtle towards the festive season, the club has decided to run a Christmas Raffle to raise funds for a much-needed new boat and blades. This will make a huge difference to the club and help our crews continue to train and compete to their best potential.

To make the raffle a success, we're asking for your help in donating prizes – big or small! Popular ideas include:

- Hampers or cases of wine/prosecco
- Gift vouchers (local shops, restaurants, or experiences)
- Christmas treats or luxury food items
- Beauty, wellness, or home gift sets
- Tickets or passes for local attractions/ sporting events/ music gigs etc

- Money can't buy items!! It's always good to have a couple of top prizes!

(All items must be new and unopened)

If you or your business can contribute a prize, please get in touch with us/Pam by 20th Nov. We'll make sure all donations are acknowledged in our raffle promotions.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of Nov, and the draw will take place at the Christmas party Saturday 13th December 2025) Let's make this a fun and festive way to support our amazing rowers and the future of the club!

Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support.

Warm regards,

QEHS Coaching Team and Rowers

PS- No Lily of the Valley talc please!!

Aspire

Rock Climbing



The weekend before half-term, GCSE PE students embarked on an unforgettable residential adventure at Bewerley Park Centre for Outdoor Education! Friday kicked off with essential climbing skills—harnessing, helmet fitting, knot tying, and belaying—before students took on the climbing wall, Jacob's Ladder, and the Leap of Faith. Saturday was spent at the stunning Brimham Rocks, where students put their skills into action in a real-world setting. To round off the weekend, Sunday offered a choice of mountain biking, caving, or scrambling. It was inspiring to see such resilience, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the trip.

Well done to everyone involved! For more pictures see [here](#).

Student success - Taekwondo

Following her success in the UKTC championships in September, Tess competed in the Chang Ung Cup in Scotland this weekend, coming away with a silver in patterns, and gold in both sparring and special technique flying high kick.

Well done Tess!



Student success - Rowing



Emma has been selected as a member of the Great Britain Beach Sprints Rowing Team to take part in the World Championships. She will be competing in the Under 19 Women's Double this week.

Jacob has successfully been selected to be part of the GB British Rowing Beach Sprint Team as the U19 Male Reserve.

They are both in Turkey with the GB team this week where the World Championships are taking place.

This is an incredible achievement and we wish them good luck for the coming event.

Sixth Form

Social Mobility Foundation Aspiring Professionals

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

2026 Applications are now open! Support while applying for universities, apprenticeships and help navigating the professional world. Eligibility criteria applies. [Closing date Friday 12th December at 12pm.](#)



degree

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

News from the community

NCC Family Hubs

- NCC Family hubs are organising a virtual sleep work shop. You'll find more information [here](#) on our website.
- NCC Family hubs have an empowering parent/carers programme starting in November. See [here](#) for more information.

Chess webinars

Starting in November 2025, Chess in Schools & Communities (CSC) will be running a series of free chess webinars. These are aimed at children aged 8-13 who know the basic rules of chess and are ready to take the

next steps towards learning tactics and strategies. The webinars will be led by Sean Marsh, Chief Trainer for CSC, whose sessions are described as fun and engaging.

There will be three levels of webinars:

Beginners: Tuesdays at 5pm or Wednesdays at 6pm. Suitable for children who know the basic rules of chess (rating under 900).

Intermediate: Tuesdays at 6pm or Thursdays at 5pm. Suitable for children who can spot simple threats, have a basic understanding of chess tactics (forks, pins, skewers) and easy checkmates, e.g. two rooks versus a king (rating between 900 and 1100).

Advanced: Wednesdays at 5pm or Thursdays at 6pm. Suitable for children who have a strong understanding of chess tactics (forks, pins, skewers) and understand standard checkmates, e.g. king and rook vs king (rating between 1100 and 1300).

The webinars start in the week beginning **Monday 17th November 2025** and continue for four weeks. For more information, please see

https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/webinars?mc_cid=450d86d9ee&mc_eid=d4cde4a5ff.

Newcastle University – INSIGHTS public lectures

Newcastle University offers INSIGHTS public lectures which are free and open to all (sign up required). Below is the lecture scheduled for next week. For all public lectures with Newcastle University follow this [link](#).

Next week, Newcastle University academic Professor Peter Hopkins will explore ‘[Everyday Islamophobia](#)’. This talk – based on a recently-published book – considers the influence of the Islamophobia industrial complex and how this shapes people’s negotiations of Islamophobia as they go about their daily lives, and explores strategies to challenge and resist it.

GAIA installation at Hexham Abbey – free entry for QE students and an accompanying adult – LAST WEEK



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.

LRC recommended read

This week's LRC recommended read is: *Angel* by L.A. Weatherly

Willow knows she's different from other girls, and not just because she loves tinkering with cars. Willow has a gift. She can look into the future and know people's dreams and hopes, their sorrows and regrets, just by touching them. She has no idea where this power comes from.

But the assassin, Alex, does. Gorgeous, mysterious Alex knows more about Willow than Willow herself does. He knows that her powers link to dark and dangerous forces and that he's one of the few humans left who can fight them. When Alex finds himself falling in love with his sworn enemy, he discovers that nothing is as it seems; least of all good and evil.



Next week's climate theme

Aspire to build green!

The houses of the future need YOU...

Architects to design buildings that conserve heat and energy, storing it efficiently.

Engineers to harness the potential for sustainable materials to be used (did you know bamboo is so strong it can be used to reinforce concrete?? And growing it stores carbon).

Scientists to create smart technologies that are easily repairable and use less energy to manufacture and use.



QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

2025-26 Committee

Following our recent AGM we are pleased to announce the 2025-26 PTFA Committee as follows:

✂ Co-Chairs: Kate Robson (Y10 parent) and Lorna Beech (Y10 parent)

✂ Treasurers: Suzanne Cadge (Y13 parent) and Mike Reynaud (Y10 parent)



Other Committee members:

Becky Elton (Y11 and Y13 parent), Nicky Palmer (Y11 parent), Karen Wright (Y10 and Y13 parent) and Fiona Reynaud (Y10 parent)

Huge thanks to Becky Elton, one of the QE PTFA founding members, who has stepped down from the position of Co-Chair. We are thankful for her leadership, dedication and positivity over the last three years and are delighted Becky is remaining with us as a committee member.

Volunteers

Can you or a family member spare a little time to support the PTFA and our school community? It might be serving refreshments at an evening event, helping us to look for other funding or sponsorship, or anything else you have an interest in. If you'd like to find out more, or would like to be added to our volunteer mailing list or WhatsApp group so we can call upon you when needed, we'd love to hear from you. Email: gehs.ptfa@gmail.com.

 Parents/carers are also warmly welcomed at our monthly meetings to find out more about what we do. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 18th November**, 6pm, at the County Hotel in Hexham (in the Residents' Lounge).

Surplus trousers!

We have built up a large collection of pre-loved grey school trousers in all sizes! If your child would like any (no charge), please email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com stating the size/s wanted and we can arrange for these to be delivered to your child in school - items can be returned if they don't fit.

Prom pop-up shop - donations and sales

Having seen the difference it made last year for many students, we are planning another pre-loved Prom pop-up shop for early 2026 to allow Y11 students the chance to buy prom outfits in a more sustainable way and at an affordable price. We would really appreciate your support with this. If you have any prom-style dresses, suits, shirts, shoes or accessories that you would like to *donate*, please drop them off at school in a bag clearly marked 'PTFA Prom donation'. Alternatively, if you have an outfit/s or accessory that you would like us to *sell* for you at the shop for a small selling fee, please complete a [QEHS PTFA Pre-loved prom - selling form](#) where you will also find more information about the selling process.

Bursary Fund

The PTFA are pleased to announce the launch of our Bursary Fund to help families who could not otherwise afford for their child to participate in a school trip or pay for music tuition. You can read more details about the fund and how to apply in the email sent to parents/carers on Thursday. If you, or a business or organisation you own or work for, are in a position to support the fund, please do get in touch by emailing: gehs.ptfa@gmail.com.

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.



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](#). (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	House Assemblies	All year groups
Wednesday 12 November	Positive Noticing Day	All year groups
Thursday 13 November	Sixth Form Open Evening	Year 11
Thursday 27 November	Parents' Evening (Q-band)	Year 11
Wednesday 3 December	Parents' Evening (E-band)	Year 11

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