

14th November 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 10

This week we had sixth form open evening. This gave our Year 11 students the chance to hear about the different courses on offer in Year 12. Our sixth form has had, for the last three years, the best results at A Level in the region. This is because we see the time in Year 12 and 13 as a vital bridge between school and further education or employment, where we provide the balance between independence and support. This means that our students learn to adapt and take on responsibility for their own learning. Hopefully the students and families who attended the evening had the opportunity to hear about the courses on offer.

Respect

Attendance

We are keen to improve the overall levels of attendance at the high school. We regularly reinforce to parents/carers the importance of attending school on health, development and outcomes. However, we also know that some parents/carers need support in helping their child overcome barriers to attending school. If your child is struggling to attend, please contact school, initially through their form tutor to discuss how we can support. There are also resources available online that you can access for advice.

- [Young Minds school anxiety and refusal](#)
- [Children's Commissioner's Tips for Attending School](#)

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

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Total points as per 6 November 2025

Beech	Birch	Ash	Oak	Sycamore
36,656	37,480	34,133	33,002	33,389

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.

Bike bus

Staff and students at Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School have been working with Tynedale's Bicycle Mayor, David Dixon, to launch an exciting new initiative for Hexham's young people: a 'Bike Bus' to enable students to cycle through Hexham to school safely as part of a supervised group.

Ahead of a trial of the initiative on Friday 14 November, students met with David, school staff and Joe Morris MP, to discuss plans, safer cycling in general and wider sustainability issues.



QEHS Rowing

Last weekend saw QEHS rowing competing at Durham LDS and SBH. Captain Beth reports:

QEHS rowing travelled to Durham for the 1.8k Durham Head. Although a shorter course than the usual 5k head, what Durham lacks in distance it makes up for in complex steering. Halfway down the course is the infamous Elvet Bridge – a narrow arch bridge which requires coxes to manoeuvre the boat carefully. It is the narrowest bridge in Europe that is raced through!

This was the first race for the Y9s who joined the club in September, and have been working hard improving their technique in the boat. They all performed to the best of their abilities and completed the course with confidence and determination. It was an impressive start to their season! Another well done to all the coxes – especially those who jumped in at last minute and took on the challenge of Elvet. We came away with no damage and no crashes which is a testament to the quality of coxes and those who steered on the day!



Finally, a massive well done to Ariel (Y10) who won in her single, an amazing achievement! Overall, it was a great day! A huge congrats to everyone who raced – especially the Y9s!!

Cross Country



On 6th November our cross country runners made the journey down to Stewart Park in Middlesbrough for the Regional Round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup, which is a team event.

The conditions were good, leading to some excellent individual and overall team results. All 3 QEHS teams qualified for the National competition in Warwickshire at the start of December.

In the team events there are up to 6 runners with the first four coming home counting for the team, with the lowest scoring team winning. Whilst the first four runners give the team total, the other runners have an equally important part to play and can make a huge difference to the overall results. They in effect block a place that another school could have taken meaning the other school's score would be higher

First up were the Inter Girls. Some strong runs and good packing from the girls meant a fantastic joint first place with RGS Newcastle. Our counters came in positions 10,16,18,23.

The Inter Boys had a clear win in their event. George H led from the start with a very strong run to come in first position and first counter. George was backed up by great runs from the rest of the team to finish in positions 2,7,9,15,17. So all runners in the top 20 and the first four counters in top 15.



The Senior Boys got off to strong start with Magnus R running shoulder to shoulder for first place for the first part of the race before pulling away to take the win. The Senior Boys team race was very close with a few schools having their first 3 counters finishing high up the field. The race actually went down to the 4th counter and the other team runners. All QE counters place in the top 20 and ended up finishing 2nd overall. This was a great achievement as two of their stronger runners were unable to run on the day.

Congratulations to Eleanor D, Sophia S, Emilia S, Chloe S-W, Winnie L, George H, Billy B, Adam B, Lloyd V, Ossie D, George L, Magnus R, Joe E, Jamie L, Arthur D and Morgan V who will go on to represent QEHS in the National finals.

Football

Under 18 football team beat St Thomas More, North Shields by 5 goals to nil. An excellent performance in what was a shortened game.



Rugby

The under 15 rugby team won all 3 games and won the 10 a side tournament at Bede Academy, Blyth. Well done boys!

Swimming

Good luck to the 4 students (Adam B, Thomas B, Archie H, Lloyd V) who travel to the Sandwell Aquatic Centre, Birmingham to represent the school at the National Secondary Swimming Championships 2025. They will be competing in the 4 x 50 medley and the 4 x 50m freestyle heats. Go well boys!

Hockey

The Under 15 girls performed fantastically well at the County Hockey tournament at North Banks, North Shields. The girls won 1, drew 3, and lost 1 in a very competitive competition. Well done girls. (photo attached).



Aspire

Youth Cabinet & Youth Parliament Elections 2025

Our students have the opportunity to nominate themselves for the NCC Youth Elections:

Would you like to have your voice heard on issues that matter to young people? If you're in Years 7–13, this is your chance to represent your peers!

Find out more about [Youth Cabinet \(NCC Website\)](#)

Find out more about [Youth Parliament \(NCC Website\)](#)

The deadline to sign up is the 23rd December. Scan the QR code in the flyer to nominate yourself



Career of the week

This week's 'career of the week' was 'Hypnotherapist'

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/hypnotherapist>

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

Appeal for help with mock interviews

At QE Sixth Form, we work hard to help our students make informed choices about their future careers, further education and training pathways. We already have a number of volunteers who have offered their time to support Oxbridge applicants, but we still need to find someone with some expertise in the areas of: Maths and Land Economy. The practice interviews usually take place on line, last about 20 minutes with 10 minutes for feedback and focus entirely on exploring the applicant's chosen subject.

We also have applicants for Social Work and Radiography, where we would welcome someone to interview them to test their motivation and suitability for their chosen career.

If you are able to help by offering our student a mock interview please email sixthform@qehs.net

We are also looking for ex-sixth form students who are currently completing a Level 3 apprenticeship in a school setting or within the NHS. We are hoping you can be part of a panel on Wednesday 26th January at 10AM for an hour. If this is you, please contact sixthform@qehs.net

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.

News from the community

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.

Orchestra concert at QE

Tynedale Orchestra are playing a concert in the main QEHS school hall on Sunday 23rd November at 2.30 pm.

The performance starts with Mozart's fantastic Don Giovanni Overture and ends with Sibelius's majestic 2nd Symphony. Tickets are only £1 for under 18s and students.


[Tynedale Orchestra Autumn Concert](#)

School Photograph orders

Gillman & Soame took Year 9 portrait & class group photographs earlier in the autumn term. If you haven't already, please order these photographs as soon as possible (especially if you would like them for Christmas).

If details have been mislaid, please contact Gillman & Soame directly at action@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200 with your child's name and quoting the security password **qehs586yfb2025ne463jb** and they can assist.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

 Parents/carers are 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).

If you can't make the meeting but are able to spare even a small amount of time to support the PTFA's fundraising efforts and would like to find out more, we'd love to hear from you. Email: gehs.ptfa@gmail.com



Reminders:

We have a large stock of pre-loved grey trousers - please get in touch if you would like any for your child.

We are seeking donations of pre-loved prom style outfits - dresses, suits, shoes and accessories - to allow all Y11 students the chance to buy prom outfits in a more sustainable way and at an affordable price at our pop-up Prom Shop planned for early 2026. Alternatively, if you have an outfit 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](#).

We recently launched 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. If you or your workplace would like to contribute towards the fund, please email: gehs.ptfa@gmail.com.

Easyfundraising is an easy way to support us at no extra cost to you. Visit the links below, nominate QEHS PTFA as your chosen cause and raise free donations when you shop either online or in-store: [Online shopping donations | easyfundraising](#), [In-Store Donations | easyfundraising](#)

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 - Cyberbullying Advice

Children being bullied online, particularly in games and via messaging apps, remains one of the top concerns of many parents and their children. Internet Matters have a range of guides and articles to support parents and carers which I have listed below:

- Talking to children and conversation tips for ages 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 and vulnerable children - [HERE](#)
- What is cyberbullying and what are the signs - [HERE](#)
- Helpful ways to prevent cyberbullying - [HERE](#)
- How to deal with cyberbullying - [HERE](#)

- Parents experiences of cyberbullying - [HERE](#)

Useful resource - [HERE](#) (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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