

21st November 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 11

In this week's update, I wanted to reflect on some of the great work done by our [PTFA](#) who were formed three years ago and continue to have a remarkable impact through their work. Through half-termly tuck shops, refreshment sales at events, their lottery, clothes collections and funding applications the group have achieved the following:

- Set up a bursary scheme so families can apply for support to fund trips or music tuition.
- Run an annual vintage prom outfit sale in partnership with Tynedale hospice.
- Acquired outdoor gym equipment which is used by students every day.
- Supported the funding of youth theatre.
- Provided money to purchase additional equipment in school.
- Sold second hand uniform at the Y9 parents' induction evening.



The parents who give up their time voluntarily to run events, attend meetings and administer grant applications are incredible. Thank you to them for their continuing support of the school. If you want to support, please look out for them on social media – they have a QEPTFA Facebook and Instagram account.

Respect

Attendance

Join in and find your tribe: participating in extra-curricular clubs supports high attendance.

- There are many reasons to have high attendance at school. While being in lessons and learning successfully is obviously important there are also lots of opportunities to participate in the wider life of the school through clubs and activities. Here at QE students can join chess, debating, karting, crocheting, maths challenge, dungeons and dragons, drama, youth theatre, rugby, football, netball, cross country and rowing. By joining activities students do not only make friends (find their tribe), it also helps motivate them to attend school.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

House update

Beech House
Mr Jesper



Birch House
Ms Coleman



Ash House
Ms Buxton-Collins



Oak House
Mrs Fraser



Sycamore House
Miss Snowden/
Miss Macken



Total points as per 20 November 2025

Beech
40,304

Birch
40,998

Ash
37,365

Oak
36,199

Sycamore
27,064

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.

Theatre trip

We took 50 students completing GCSE and A level Drama, Dance and LAMDA, to the amazing production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at the fabulous theatre, Sunderland Empire last week. Our students were blown away by the production, which featured a very talented ensemble cast of actor-musicians, impressive stage trickery and magic, superb lighting and costumes and last but not least, stunning puppetry, developed by our very own Toby Ollie – a former student of HMS and QEHS!



QEHS - Rowing

On Thursday, a QEHS crew consisting of Alexis, Alex, Felix, Benji and Adam coxing travelled down to compete in the first ever Junior 4s Head in London on the Tideway. Read more [here](#) about how they did.



QEHS – Swimming



The Inter boys travelled to the National Secondary School Swimming Championships 2025 to compete in both the 4 x 50m free and medley events. The boys were performance phenomenally well in a field of elite athletes, including European championship winners. In the boys' main event - 4 x 50m Free - they performed amazingly well and came 4th in their heat, unfortunately, the boys just missed out on the finals and ended up 15th out of 27th overall. This is an outstanding achievement considering the standard of the event, and the boys performed as the highest positioned state school in the country! Well done boys. The boys are Thomas B, Adam B, Lloyd V, and Archie H.

QEHS - Y11 Rugby

QEHS U16 boys secured a 29–12 win over KEVI Morpeth in their second meeting of the season. After trailing 12–0 early on, QEHS fought back with tries from Teddy S-K, Khanel W, Elliott P, Thomas W, and Will F. Nicholas N was named Player of the Match for his outstanding ball carrying and work at the breakdown. A fantastic team performance! For more information see [here](#).

QEHS - Indoor Rowing



QEHS rowing took part in the North East Indoor Rowing Championship. Captain Mille reports:

On Saturday, the QE rowers took on North East indoor champs! This event was very different to the usual competitions since the rowers competed on rowing machines rather than in boats on the water. Despite the unique circumstances, QE gave a very

impressive performance with 4 strong wins from Isaac (year 9), Robbie (year 10), Marcus (year 11) and Oliver (year 13) in varying categories. A big congratulations to everyone who took part on Saturday and faced up to the unique challenge!

Student success – Boxing

On Saturday Owen B from year 9 fought for the FCC Box Cup, North East v South Yorkshire at North Shields Quayside. Owen fought the contest weighing in at 45kg against his opponent, a unanimous decision made by the judges awarded Owen with the win. His dedication and commitment to train hard for this fight showed in the ring.



Boot bank donations

The PE department are short of size 9+ boots and trainers to hold as part of the boot bank and to provide to students during lessons. If you have any at home that you no longer use, we'd be hugely grateful for any donations. Any spare boots or trainers can be dropped in to the PE office during the school day. Thank you.

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 'Software developer'.

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/software-developer>

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

Christmas Decoration



Sixth Form started their festive celebrations last week with a visit from Inspired Pots during Personal Development.

170 students painted a Christmas decoration, and enjoyed hot chocolate and festive bake treats.

The ornaments will be fired and delivered to school ready to decorate Christmas trees before the holiday.

Thank you to Inspired Pots for a lovely morning!

Mock Trials

Well done to our Year 12 Mock Trial team for a fantastic performance at the Crown Court on Saturday. After months of preparing, students played Barristers, Witnesses, Ushers, Clerks & Members of the Jury in two cases – possession of a firearm with the intent to cause fear or violence and possession and intent to supply Class A Drugs.



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

Anthony Gormley

Come and show your support for Antony Gormley's Foundation being based in Hexham! A community photo shoot will take place on the Sele on Sunday 23 November at 12pm, where participants will form the shape of the Angel of the North to demonstrate support. BBC and ITV will be there to film the event. Children and young people are especially encouraged to take part, so families are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the photo op!

Letter to our sons

Adolescence star Stephen Graham and psychology lecturer Orly Klein are working on a new project inviting fathers to write a letter to their sons about what it means to be a man. Following the impact of *Adolescence*, Stephen says that he realised there was a greater need for communication between fathers and sons. The letters will be included in a book called *Letters to Our Sons*, to be published in October 2026. [Information here](#).

Be You newsletter

The November Be You newsletter is now available [here](#) on our website.

Warm Hub request for board games and books

Adapt NE are opening a new Warm Hub at their site on Burn Lane in Hexham in December to offer a warm welcome to anyone who would like a hot drink or a snack, in a friendly and supportive environment.

Information and signposting to support services will be on offer, and they hope to offer activities too.

They would be grateful for any donations of board games or books (or any other suitable resources).

Donations can be dropped off at the Adapt NE office on Burn Lane or handed into the QEHS office. For more details about the Warm Hub, visit [Adapt \(NE\) Warm Hub](#).

For more details about Warm Hubs and Warm Spaces across Northumberland visit [Warm community spaces near you | Northumberland County Council](#)



Electric Dreams

The next Electric Dreams event is taking place in the Queen's Hall Library on the 29th of November, 10am – 3pm. More information is available [here](#) on our website.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

There are various school and PTFA events coming up during the next three months where we would be extremely grateful for some extra pairs of hands to raise as much money as we can. These include:

- A lunchtime tuckshop in school - Friday 19th December
- Youth Theatre evening performances (serving refreshments) - Thursday 29th, Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January
- Winter concert (serving refreshments) - date to be confirmed
- Pop-up Prom Shop - date to be confirmed



Registered Charity 1201950

If you or a family member can spare an hour or two of your time to volunteer at any of these, please do get in touch gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Reminders:

Free school trousers - we have a large stock of pre-loved and new 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 PTFA 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, you can donate online via [Justgiving - PTFA Bursary Fund](#). Alternatively, you can email us to discuss other support options: gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

If you would prefer to make a more general donation to support the funding of enrichment activities and equipment for the school community, you can make a one-off or regular donation at our [JustGiving PTFA](#) page. JustGiving sends your donation straight to us and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

easyfundraising

You can support us whilst you do your Christmas shopping at no extra cost to you and without affecting your store loyalty points. 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](#) and [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

NCC Online safety session

This year, Northumberland County Council are launching an online safety session aimed at parents and carers. The session will run on Wednesday, 26th November at 3.45 pm, Tuesday, 10th Feb at 7.30 pm, and Tuesday, 16th June 7.30 pm. The session includes

- What children get up to online at different ages.
- The four Cs - helping us to assess and identify key risks.
- Actions parents can take to help keep their children safe online.
- Where parents can go for further information and support.

The session will take place online via a Microsoft Teams link, which will be sent to all parents in advance of each session. During the session, all cameras and mics will be turned off by default to ensure your privacy.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions via the chat facility. NCC will provide a handout at the end of the session, which is full of useful links and further information on key topics. Parents will be sent a link via email.

For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist - Shopping Scams

Every year hundreds of thousands of people here in the UK fall victim to fraud when buying something online. With Xmas and Xmas sales rapidly approaching, fraud and scams will be significantly on the increase.

GetSafeOnline has a plethora of information to help with this such as:

- Information on purchase scams [HERE](#).
- Online buying tips [HERE](#).
- Scam website checker [HERE](#).

One piece of advice I couldn't see on either of these pages is related to the legitimacy of the company. Particularly on social media such as Instagram I will often see ads for things like clothing and gifts which look interesting and unique. When I click on the ad to take a closer look, I will always tap on the 3 dots on the top right and tap on "open in external browser." The reason for this is that if it is a company I'm not aware of, I want to know the details of the company before I purchase. Often when I go onto the website there are no company details, no contact details (apart from a web form), and either no reviews or perfect reviews. These are all red flags to me and I would never purchase from such a site.

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