



28th November 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 12

This week our sixth form students attended the national A Level politics conference in Westminster Hall in London. As part of their visit, they met local MP, Joe Morris, and had a tour of the houses of parliament. In future elections 16-year-olds will be able to vote and preparing our students to be politically aware citizens is a vital part of school life. We also know the importance of challenging the bias that they see online through their social media.



Respect

Attendance

The winter season often brings with it some illnesses and can impact on school attendance. While serious illness may impair a child's ability to attend school, when symptoms are moderate and manageable, our advice would be that a child still attends school. As we know, the impact of missed learning places students at a disadvantage on returning to school. Like adults, young people may also struggle to be motivated to attend school in bad weather and with dark mornings, but the resilience to manage these challenges are important life skills for living in Britain during the winter.

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 Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Total points as per 20 November 2025

Beech
43,410

Birch
44,920

Ash
40,420

Oak
39,072

Sycamore
40,579

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.

Big Play Day RGS 2025

Last week, music students from QEHS and HMS came together with those from other schools in the north east to create a massed orchestra of 260 performers!



The event held at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle is called 'The Big Play Day' and students rehearse all day in sections and as a full orchestra, this year performing pieces such as 'Habanera' and 'Toreador Song' from Carmen Suite No. 2 by Bizet. Students from QEHS and HMS had a great musical day and gave a public performance at the end!

Hexham Christmas Lights switch on

It was a joyful night on Friday as the community gathered to switch on this year's Christmas lights! Thank you very much to Hexham Town Council and Mayor Kennedy for putting on such a lovely event to kickstart the festive season – it was great to be a part of it once again!



The HMS and QEHS Singers and Show Choir members performed a fabulous set from the Bandstand and filled the park with festive joy – they sounded amazing and we were all very proud of them! Special thanks must go to our music team including Mr Watson who worked with the singers to prepare for the evening, as well as Mr Smith and Alastair W for their technical support on the night.

Cross Country running

QEHS had strong teams at the Tynedale XC Championship held at Ovingham this week. QEHS athletes put in strong performances at every age group on the day. Lloyd V ran strongly to win the Junior boys' race. He was backed up well by Ossie D, George L and Charlie M. George H put in another impressive run the Inter Boys race. He finished with a good lead and much disbelief from the finish marshals. George was backed up well by Wilfred P, Adam B, Fred C. The Inter Girls race was won impressively by Eleanor D. She was backed up by Emilia S, Beth N and Maeve HD. In the Junior Girls' race Sophia S came 3rd and was backed up well by Chloe SW, Annabelle M, Connie R and Beth D.

This was a qualifying race to select Tynedale teams to run at the County XC championships. QEHS have a good number of runners across Y9, Y10, Y11, Y12 and 13 qualified to compete at Temple Park. Mrs Southern and Mr Gaines look forward to strong performances at the county championships.

QEHS are next in Cross Country action in the finals of the Schools Cup being held in Warwickshire in two weeks' time. Good luck to the three teams that have qualified at the National finals!

Aspire

Drama and theatre studies alumni spotlight - Joe Hammal

"I attended QEHS from 2015-2018 and found my love of acting there. The drama department was so warm and encouraging in supporting my curiosity and passion for drama and theatre, and I can honestly say I don't think I'd be where I am without those formative years and support from the team. Read more about Joe [here](#) on our website.



The drama team at QEHS couldn't have been more supportive and encouraging during my time with the school, and I'd recommend anyone to take the course, not only for acting, but to develop confidence, people skills and communication skills."

Thank you for sharing your inspirational journey with us Joe, and for offering to come and chat to our students next year. You were a pleasure to teach and we always knew you would go far! Mrs Pollock.

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 of December. Scan the QR code in the flyer to nominate yourself

Career of the week

This week's 'career of the week' was 'Activist'.

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

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.

Sixth Form

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

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.

Autism drop in sessions

Information about and dates of upcoming autism drop in sessions are available on our website: <https://www.qehs.net/index.php/2025/11/26/autism-family-drop-in-sessions-3/>

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

Upcoming events - If you or a family member can spare an hour or two of your time to volunteer at any of these, or would like to join our helpers' WhatsApp group or email list to keep in touch, email us at: qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

- Friday 19th December - Lunchtime tuckshop in school
- Thursday 29th, Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January - Youth Theatre evening performances (serving refreshments)
- 3rd February - Winter concert (serving refreshments)
- Early 2026 (date TBC) - Pop-up Prom Shop



Registered Charity 1201950

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.

Prom outfits - We are seeking either donations of pre-loved prom style outfits OR items to sell on your behalf - 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. 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](#).

PTFA Bursary Fund - Visit [PTFA Bursary Fund](#) for more details about our newly launched fund and how to apply. If you or your workplace would like to contribute towards the fund, visit [Justgiving - PTFA Bursary Fund](#) or email us to discuss other options: qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Donations - For general donations to support the funding of enrichment activities and equipment for the whole school community, visit [JustGiving PTFA](#).



For a simple way to support us at no extra cost to you, visit [easyfundraising](#), nominate QEHS PTFA as your chosen cause and you can raise free donations whilst you do your shopping.

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.



Thank you from the PTFA team for your support!

Online safety

For Parents - Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm. Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).

For Parents - Gadget Gift Guide

Christmas can be an exciting time when many children are given new devices and gadgets. Ireland's online safety charity, CyberSafeKids, have put together a brand-new guide for parents and carers covering:

- The benefits and risks of popular smart devices and toys.
- What you can do to make them safer.
- Age recommendations.
- And more.

You can download the guide [HERE](#).

(For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 3 December	Parents' Evening (E-band)	Year 11
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas lunch	Years 9-11

Thursday 18 December	Reward Afternoon	Years 9-11
Thursday 18 December	Sixth Form Christmas lunch	Year 12 and 13
Friday 19 December	School closes for Christmas Holiday at 1.30pm	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.

NSeaton

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