

5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 13**

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support throughout this busy term. There is so much happening across our school community—from exciting house competitions and sporting successes to opportunities for students to engage in careers education and leadership roles. These experiences are a vital part of helping our young people grow in confidence, develop new skills, and aspire to achieve their very best.

In this update, you'll find important reminders about upcoming events, including Christmas lunches, the Reward Afternoon, and the Hexham Abbey Carol Service. You'll also see news of our students' fantastic achievements in rowing and cross-country, details of the QEHS Winter Concert, and ways you can get involved through the PTFA. Please take a few minutes to read through and share these opportunities with your child.

Thank you for working with us to make QEHS a vibrant and supportive community. Wishing you and your family a joyful start to the festive season

#### **QEHS Rowing Christmas raffle**

A Christmas Raffle has been organised to raise funds for a much-needed new boat and blades for QEHS Rowing Club. This will make a huge difference to the club and help our crews continue to train and compete to their best potential. The draw will take place on Saturday 13th December 2025. For details on how to enter, please see [here](#).

#### **Respect**

##### **Attendance**

Last week I was at a careers event where they were talking about the growth of industries in the North East and the emerging employment opportunities in the automotive industry, wind farm power, engineering and the creative arts. The Combined Authority is ambitious for the North East and the future of job creation in the region.

For some students, understanding that part of the school's purpose is to prepare them for future employment helps them appreciate why attending school is so important. By learning, participating in and doing well at school they gain the skills and qualifications to secure employment and succeed.

If your child wishes to find out information about careers, they can access the Unifrog database ([unifrog.org](http://unifrog.org)). Each week in form class students look at careers, and we have a careers advisor who visits school, based in the LRC.

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[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

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 Snowden/  
Miss Macken



### Total points as per 20 November 2025

Beech  
47,048

Birch  
48,248

Ash  
43,611

Oak  
42,148

Sycamore  
44,226

### 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.

### QEHS Winter concert

The QEHS Winter concert is coming, save the date - 3 February 2026! Have a look on our [website](#) for further information.



### Cross Country

Good luck to the Senior Boys, Intermediate Boys and Intermediate Girls team who are representing QEHS at Cross Country Schools' Cup Finals in Rugby this Saturday. Huge thanks to the parents and Tynedale Harriers for your support! Best of luck to all runners.

## Rowing

Congratulations to Maeve, Constance, Isla, Ariel, Madeleine and Bella who won The David Thompson Trophy for KS3 Team of the Year at the Sport Tynedale awards last weekend. It has been a brilliant year for this talented squad. The girls went from complete beginners in September to medalling on a national stage twice by the summer.



All the coaches are very proud of the girls' work, especially considering that they achieved this in a 33-year-old boat Pam was very proud to have them all attend the presentation and receive the recognition for their success. We look forward to watching their progress this year.



### Y11 Rowing - Rutherford head

QEHS rowers raced at the prestigious Rutherford head on Saturday in difficult conditions. [Here](#) is the captain's report from Dennis.

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

### Career of the week

This week's career of the week was: 'Psychologist'

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

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

### 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@gehs.net](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net). Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

## Online safety

### For Parents - Sharenting

For a multitude of different reasons the advice we give to children and young people is to be careful with what they're sharing online, including images. This can be anything from protecting your privacy to very serious harms such as blackmail including sextortion. For example, an article in the Guardian refers to a report from the NSPCC where nearly 1 in 10 parents say their child has been blackmailed online and the National Crime Agency are receiving around 110 reports of sextortion each month.

That education we give to children and young people extends to parents, caregivers, schools and anyone else that may share data, such as images, of children. We must be mindful of the potential uses of that data.

The Irish Data Commission has recently released a short (40 seconds) light-hearted but serious video about the risks of sharenting along with some useful advice.

You can see the video and advice [HERE](#) and you can read the Guardian article [HERE](#) (By Alan Mackenzie, online safety specialist)

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

### West Side Story

Thursday 29, Friday 30 and Saturday 31 January

We would love to have some parent/carer/grandparent volunteers to help serve refreshments at the Youth Theatre performances of West Side Story on the dates above. If your child is taking part in a performance, don't worry, you will still get to see all of it! Please get in touch if you or a family member can help. Email [gehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gehs.ptfa@gmail.com)

### Support us whilst doing your Christmas shopping!

For a simple way to support us and at no extra cost to you, visit [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com), nominate QEHS PTFA as your chosen cause and you can raise free donations whilst you shop.



### Have you got a dress, a suit or accessories you'd like to donate or sell?

We are seeking either donations of pre-loved prom style outfits OR items to sell on your behalf - dresses, suits, shoes and accessories in all sizes - 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. Donations can be dropped off at the school office. If you have an outfit/accessory that you would like us to *sell* for you at the shop for a small fee, please complete a [QEHS PTFA Pre-loved prom - selling form](#).

### 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](mailto:gehsprizedraw@gmail.com)



## News from the community

### Autism support

Please find info/resources [here](#) on our website from the Toby Henderson trust to support parents over the Christmas period. More Resources from [The Toby Henderson Website \(external URL\)](#).





## LRC Recommended read

When teen reality star Anton Frazer unveils his latest stunt – a live-streamed, citywide game of Tag in which the prize is to be one of his live-in acolytes – his fans go wild. **The whole world is watching.**

The contestants are kitted out with body cams, GPS trackers and pressure sensors that, if activated by a competitor, will send them out of the running. They venture into night-time London to hunt each other down.

Four contestants in particular have alternative motives for being there, secret reasons to want to win despite the risk: money, revenge, obsession, and fame. And one of them will stop at nothing to be the victor at the end of this adrenaline-and-fear fuelled night...



## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas lunch	Years 9-11
Monday 15 December	<a href="#">HMS Christmas Carol service</a> Hexham Abbey 7pm	All welcome
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.



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](mailto:admin@gehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@gehs.net](mailto:attendance@gehs.net)