

12th December 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 14

It is important to acknowledge the incredible accomplishments of QE cross country runners last weekend who achieved incredible results at the English national finals. All the participants did exceptionally well but the Intermediate Boys team who finished 3rd deserve a special mention. Well done to them and everyone involved.

Next week heralds the final week of term. The week will begin with the carol service at the Abbey on Monday night. On Tuesday, we will host a celebration evening to honour students from last year's Y11 and Y13 who have been nominated for an award, with guest speaker Lucy Scott, Senior Producer at the Glasshouse.

On Thursday students in sixth form will enjoy their Christmas lunch and Y13 students will adorn fancy dress to sing carols in the Winter Gardens. Y13 students will finish school at 12.30pm and Y12 at 1.20pm. That afternoon lower school students will take part in their Rewards Afternoon – spending all their well-earned P points.

The last day will be non-uniform day with Christmas assemblies taking place and our PTFA tuck shop at lunchtime. Please remember there is a limited food offer that day, as students finish school at 1.20pm.

Respect

Attendance Matters

At QEHS, we believe that excellent attendance is the foundation for success. Every day in school counts—each lesson builds on the last, and missing even a small amount of time can have a significant impact on learning and progress. Research consistently shows that students with high attendance achieve better academic outcomes and develop stronger social and emotional skills.

Regular attendance also helps students:

- **Stay connected** with their peers and teachers, building positive relationships.
- **Secure good outcomes**, avoiding gaps that can lead to stress and lower confidence.
- **Prepare for life beyond school**, where reliability and commitment are essential qualities.

We understand that illness and unavoidable circumstances happen, and we will always support families in these situations. However, we ask that you make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day possible. Together, we can help every student reach their full potential.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

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](#).

Engage

House update

Beech House
Mr Jesper



Beech
50,018

Birch House
Ms Coleman



Birch
51,281

Ash House
Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash
46,954

Oak House
Mrs Fraser



Oak
45,084

Sycamore House
Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore
46,787

Total points as per 11 December 2025

Current and upcoming House Events:

- The Mario Kart competition between houses starts next Monday during lunchtime.
- The House Quiz will take place next week, with the winner to be announced on Friday.
- The winner of the House Photography competition will also be revealed on Friday.

Cross-Country - National Schools' Cup Finals

Last weekend, our intermediate boys' and girls', and senior boys' team, competed at the National Schools' Cross-Country Cup Finals. To qualify for this event, our students have delivered outstanding performances at two separate county and regional rounds, and only 30 schools in the country qualify to represent their schools at the finals! Qualifying to run at the finals is a massive achievement in itself; our teams ran an amazing team run, with outstanding effort, and we are very proud to celebrate their achievements.

The Intermediate Boys' team finished in 3rd place. Huge applause to George L, George H, Lloyd V, Adam B, Billy B and Ossie D. Amazing achievement! Well done.

The Intermediate Girls' team ran a brilliant run to finish in 18th place - huge well done from us all at QEHS for running in the finals, or being part of the qualifying team. The squad were Chloe SW, Beth N, Emilia S, Eleanor D, Sophia S, and Winnie L.

The Senior Boys' team also had a fantastic run and team effort, finishing in 13th place. Well done to the runners who were part of the qualifying or finals' team - Magnus R, Arthur D, Artan W, Joe E, Arthur DL, Jamie L.

Huge thanks from the PE department for the support of parents and Tynedale Harriers in making this event possible!



Also, a huge thanks to the Intermediate Boys' and Girls' team for helping the PE department with the Hexham Middle School Santa Dash this week. It was lovely for the HMS pupils to hear of your achievements and to have the opportunity to run alongside you. We're certain many pupils will have been inspired to follow in your footsteps.

Y12 Sport Leaders



Last Friday, our Y12 sport leaders were able to attend the Sele First School to help with the delivery of the annual Santa Dash (Fun Run). They helped with the set-up and marshalling of the fun run around the Sele grounds and supervised special features along the way, including a snowball run, parcel obstacle course and snow tube.

All students who attended demonstrated outstanding conduct and were an absolute credit to QEHS. We couldn't have been prouder of the whole group. To see them encouraging the first school pupils around the course, running alongside them, and fully committing to each of the areas they were supervising was wonderful to observe. A brilliant, festive experience for all involved. Well done Y12 Sport Leaders.

Student success - Futsal

Congratulations to QEHS student Louis who has been selected to play in the World Futsal Championships in Madrid this January. As there is no team for under 16's, Louis is the only England player and he will be playing with a Spanish team! Best of luck in the tournament Louis!

QEHS Winter concert

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



QEHS Rugby

It was a busy week last week for girl's rugby, with some excellent results.

Our U14 girls enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of rugby in last week's triangular tournament against Blyth and Ponteland, delivering outstanding performances. Later in the week the U14s and U16 were in Ponteland for another triangular tournament. The U16 squad was so strong that for the final game all teams were mixed. Check out the full [match reports](#) on our website

It was such a pleasure to take these girls to their tournaments. Their attitude and camaraderie was fantastic, particularly in challenging conditions!

Well done also to both our Y9 and Y10 rugby teams who remain undefeated so far this season after back to back wins against Ponteland and Kings Priory.

- Y9 - 63-14 win over Ponteland followed by a 46-12 win over Kings. Player of the match - Charlie M with 4 outstanding tries from the wing.
- Y10 - 35-28 win over Ponteland followed by a 36-14 win over Kings. Player of the match - Ferdi U for exceptional work rate throughout the game.

British Indoor Rowing Championships



Many of our rowers competed and gave exceptional performances at BRICs in Birmingham last weekend.

- Isla M - 1st place (500m)
- Ariel L - 2nd place (500m)
- Morty C - 2nd place (500m)

QEHS Basketball

Our Y11 GCSE lads were involved in a Basketball tournament last week at St Cuthbert's. They came 3rd overall after 2 very close games. The lads were brilliant considering we've never all played together competitively before. The attitude and work rate of the team were fantastic and the way they managed the games as they went on was impressive, it was great to watch and gave Mr Bourne a great chance to assess you in a highly competitive situation. Well done all.



Kenya fundraiser



Last week was the yearly dodgeball fundraiser and ended in a 3-0 defeat from Team Elrington Big thank you to all the staff involved in volunteering to play and help, it wouldn't run and be a big success without you! Well done to all the Kenya 2026 students who helped to make the event run smoothly, with a massive well done to Martha B for taking the reins, being very proactive and organising a lot of this herself! We raised nearly £200, which will go towards supplies like stationery and sanitary products for our friends at Eileen Ngochoch Primary School!

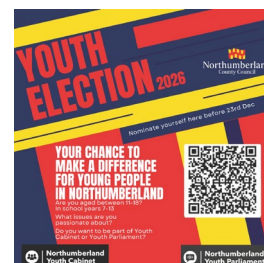
Youth Cabinet & Youth Parliament Elections 2025

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

Learn an instrument



Would you like to learn an instrument or sing as part of your New Year's Resolutions? We currently have space to learn in the following disciplines:
Brass (trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, euphonium)
Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone) Accordion, Piano, Singing, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums
Please look at the following link for more information www.gehs.net/index.php/music/

Agriculture, Arboriculture and Forestry Apprenticeships Information Evening

Hexham Auction Mart - Monday 19th January 2025 (5pm - 7pm)

Sixth Form

Fundraising

One of our sixth form students is raising funds for the M10 charity, a mission in which students raise money to bring hope to people living in deprived areas in Mexico. Our main aim is to build 3 houses for 3 families - entirely by ourselves, with our own hands. We also aim to carry out smaller but equally important things, such as visiting orphanages and rehab centres and delivering essentials.



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.

Online safety

For Parents - Updated Android Controls

From the beginning of December 2025 Google is releasing new and updated parental controls for Android devices. These include:

- Set the amount of screen time that can be spent on a device each day to help establish healthy habits.
- Set downtime schedules to automatically lock the device at night to ensure restful sleep without distraction.
- Control app usage by limiting time spent on specific apps, or blocking apps entirely.
- Add more time by granting extra minutes when a time limit is reached, or to extend a scheduled break.

You can find further details about these updates on the Google blog [HERE](#) and Internet Matters have a handy Android guide for parents which you can find [HERE](#)

(By Alan Mackenzie, online safety specialist)

News from the community

Hexham Family Hub

The January/February 'what's on guide' of Hexham Family Hubs is posted on our website, [here](#).

The Pennine Cup Chess Tournament

The school has been contacted by Mick Riding of Gosforth Chess Club who is seeking interest from anyone who would like to represent Northumberland in the Pennine Cup on Sunday 22 March in Liverpool. The event is essentially the Northern Counties team competition for under 18s in chess. If your child is interested or simply wants to find out more, please contact Mick at mickriding@hotmail.co.uk using PENNINE in the subject content.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

Tuck shop – the PTFA will be selling all things naughty and nice at a last day of term tuck shop, lunchtime on Friday 19th. Both cash and cards accepted – if using a card, please ensure your child has enough funds on it, and note that payments *cannot* be made through school lunch accounts.

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 qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

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 qehsprizedraw@gmail.com



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 15 December	HMS Christmas Carol service 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	Non-uniform day	All year groups
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

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email attendance@gehs.net