



19th December 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 15

The term draws to a close with sixth form dressing up, Christmas lunch, rewards afternoon and celebration assemblies. Students were encouraged to reflect on their term and we, as a school, can look back with pride on what has been achieved this year, so far. Our students have excelled in cross country, boxing, rowing, golf, rugby, football, music competitions, mock trial, chess, netball and a whole host of other activities. We have taken trips to London, Sicily and (even) Benwell in Newcastle.

This week was celebration evening where we welcomed back students from last year's Y11 and Y13 to receive prizes in their subjects. The guest speaker, Lucy Scott, Senior Producer Contemporary Music & Artist Development at the Glasshouse spoke beautifully about her passion for music and creativity. We also welcomed 'Fire and Dough' who supplied pizzas to families on a cold winter evening. The evening was a wonderful celebration of our school and talented students.

QE students took part in the Hexham Middle School Abbey concert – you can watch parts of the evening at the link below. As students finally depart for their 1.30pm early finish, I want to wish all of our students, families and staff a very wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



[Christmas Carol Concert](#) (External YouTube link)

Respect

Safeguarding

As we approach the Christmas period, we want to ensure that all our families know where to find support if they need it. If you or your child are feeling worried, unsafe, or in need of help over the holidays, there are local and national services available.

- Immediate safeguarding concerns, contact one call (01670 536400)
- Immediate mental health support, contact crisis team (111 and follow the mental health support options)
- Domestic abuse support - Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service NDAS <https://www.nda.services/> (01434 608030)
- Hexham Family Hub <https://familyhubsnetwork.com/hub/hexham-family-hub-west-northumberland/>
- The Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/>

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

Staffing Changes

We say goodbye to the following staff: Mr Alex Robson, (deputy head of year and teacher of history), Mrs Lucy Mackenzie (Assistant SENDCo) and Mrs Tanya White (site team). We wish them all the best on their next adventures. Mrs Sarah Albrey, (Head of Year) also leaves us for her maternity leave.

Due to the departure of Mr Robson and Mrs Albrey the following changes are taking place to the pastoral team:

Head of Year 9: Mr Paul Main
Asst Head of Year 9: Ms Laura McFaul

Head of Year 10: Ms Rebecca Savage
Asst Head of Year 10: Ms Kay Gray

Head of Year 11: Mr Ian Vasey
Asst Head of Year 11: Ms Caroline Campbell

Engage

House update

Mr Jesper

Ms Coleman

Ms Buxton-Collins

Mrs Fraser

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Beech

Birch

Ash

Oak

Sycamore

52,739

53,890

49,366

48,256

49,039

Total points as per 18 December 2025

Winners of the Mario Kart, House Photography, and House Quiz competitions have earned extra points for their Houses. Congratulations to all who took part!

House Quiz winners

1. Sycamore
2. Ash
3. Beech

Winners of the House Photography competition

1. Callum H - Oak
2. Beth D - Birch
3. Ian P - Beech

Student success - County Rugby



Well done to all **eight** QEHS girls, Evie N, Isla M, Ariel L, Charlotte A (captain), Lucy C, Abby A, Alana P, Lucy P, who represented the Northumberland County Rugby with their win at weekend against Cumbria Blues. This is an outstanding achievement to have so much representation from the school. In addition, Tynedale Under 16 girls have just qualified for the last 16 of the National Cup and have just been awarded Northumberland RFU's team of the month. Well done to you all!

Football Rewards Afternoon

The PE department would like to share how impressed they were with the conduct of our year 9, 10 and 11 students during the rewards afternoon. There were just shy of 100 students participating in the rewards afternoon football tournament and the atmosphere was highly positive. Students responded very well to staff and demonstrated very good etiquette and sportsmanship. Well done to all students involved.

We would also like to send a huge thanks to six of our sixth form students who stayed late on their final day of term to help with the delivery of the event. They were Thomas W, Matty D, Matty T, Dan M, Tom L and Adam W. You were all brilliant! Thank you.



Y9 Rugby



Well done to our Year 9 rugby team who played NSB on Monday. Incredibly, they managed to continue their **unbeaten run this season** by winning 36-0. They were many strong performances throughout with Isaac M dominating once more and scoring 4 tries, Alex & Joseph controlling play from scrum half and some big excellent attacking play from Callum, Cameron and Freddie. However, player of the match goes to Robbie S for his ferocious tackling, epic line breaks and his performance was capped off by a well-deserved try.

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 .

Sixth Form

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

Holmes Lectures 2026 (Ages 10-14 years) – Newcastle University

The 2026 Holmes Lectures at Newcastle University are for children aged 10-14 and focus on the immune system. The lectures are on January 21 and January 28, 2026, both taking place from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Curtis Auditorium at the Herschel Building Newcastle University. Pre-booking is required (follow the booking links below).

Lecture 1 – Date: 21 January 2026

Lecture 2 – Date: 28 January 2026

'Our immune system: the army inside our body'

'Guardians of health: how oral hygiene supports our immune system'

[Booking link](#)

[Booking link](#)

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA clothes recycling fundraiser

If you're having a clear-out this Christmas, remember that our clothes recycling bins can be found at the entrance to the carpark driveway. We welcome new or used donations of the following items in good, undamaged condition, placed in bags tied at the top:

- o adults' and children's clothes
- o shoes (tied in pairs)
- o accessories (bags, belts, jewellery etc)

No branded school uniform, damaged items or bulky items such as pillows, duvets or curtains, please. School uniform donations can be handed directly into the school office for the uniform recycling scheme instead.



West Side Story – Thursday 29, Friday 30 and Saturday 31 January

We would love to have some parent/carer/family member 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

Have you got a dress, a suit or any 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



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 5 January	School re-opens for all students at 8.40am	All year groups
Thursday 8 January	Q-band parents' evening	Year 9

Wednesday 14 January	E-band parents' evening	Year 9
Monday 12 – Friday 16 January	House Assemblies	All year groups
Thursday 29 – Saturday 31 January	Youth Theatre – ' West Side Story ' 	Tickets are now available: here
Tuesday 3 February	QE Winter Concert 	Tickets are now available: here

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.

N Seaton

Neil Seaton
Head of School

Pupil support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Anne Lloyd
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown
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