



9th January 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 16

Happy New Year. We enjoyed welcoming back our students this week, despite the freezing temperatures everyone adjusted to the return to school – including staff. Every Tuesday, I brief the students on student successes that I have been made aware of that have occurred in the previous week. On Sunday, as I prepared the briefing, I assumed that there would not have been much since my last talk the Tuesday before Christmas. However, when I checked my emails and the website, I discovered the following news:

- Two year 9 students represented Northumberland County U14s in the first leg of the inter-county tournament in Leeds.
- Our Year 9 rugby team who played NSB on Monday. Incredibly, they managed to continue their **unbeaten run this season** by winning 36-0.
- Our QEHS girls represented the Northumberland County Rugby to win against Cumbria Blues.
- Leona T was the winner of our 'Winter's Tale' creative writing competition.

I also plugged our school show, 'West Side Story' and the Music Winter Concert. It reminded me of how rich the offer is in terms of extra-curricular activity and how well our students achieve regionally and nationally in sport.

Recruitment to the Trust Board

The Board of Hadrian Learning Trust is looking to appoint a new trustee with a legal background. Beyond this specific professional requirement, the overriding requirement is to be committed to supporting the schools to be as good as they possibly can for the young people we serve, and willing to operate in a positive, supportive and constructively-challenging way with other trustees, school leaders and staff.

The Trust Board meets six times a year on Thursday evenings at 6pm with meetings usually lasting two hours. Much of the Board's work is undertaken by committees which meet three to four times a year, typically in the late afternoon. These committees include a monitoring committee for each school, an HR & Performance Management Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee. We also have a safeguarding group comprising a link trustee and senior leaders that meets three times a year. Trustees also visit the schools as part of their monitoring activities. Each trustee sits on at least one committee or group but this is not a condition of joining the Board.

If you would like to express interest in this role or would like to find out more, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, via avellinga@qehs.net.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

Respect

Attendance

The cold weather, dark mornings, and returning to school can sometimes be accompanied by feeling under the weather. It is important to remember that attendance at school benefits children socially and academically. Developing the resilience to overcome that winter apathy is also an important skill for adult life. Unless significantly unwell, students should be in school and in lessons.

Lost PE Kit / equipment

If anyone has an errant PE kit or other lost equipment belonging to someone else, please ask your child to bring into school and hand it in at the LRC. Thank you for your help.

Engage

House update

Mr Jesper

Ms Coleman

Ms Buxton-Collins

Mrs Fraser

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Beech

57,606



Birch

58,023



Ash

52,922



Oak

51,918



Sycamore

52,768

Total points as per 8 January 2026

This half term's House events will be launched in next week's House Assemblies.

Under 16 Boys & Girls Head to Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens

We are delighted to announce that both our Under 16 Boys and Under 16 Girls teams have been entered into the prestigious Rosslyn Park National Schools Rugby Sevens Competition, taking place from 25th–27th March.

Rosslyn Park Sevens is widely regarded as one of the most iconic school rugby tournaments in the country, bringing together the very best talent from across the UK. Competing at this event represents a phenomenal opportunity for our students to experience elite-level rugby, challenge themselves against top opposition, and showcase their skills on a national stage.

To select the squads, we are inviting students to attend open trials. See [here](#) on our website for more information.

Y10 Football

The Y10's played St Benet Biscop at home in the cup on Thursday, and after a slow start, we were 2-1 down with 15 minutes left to play, but managed to get across the finish line with a 5-2 win! A battling performance with lots of resilience, patience and determination. The will to win was what got them across the line. Well done! Dan C bagged another brace, including a great strike from distance that beat the keeper for power, and the other goals came from an own goal, Amir R and Matteo R, who scored his first goal of the campaign with a lovely header from a great free kick in by Jude T.

Career of the week

This week' career of the week was: <https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/fashion-designer>

The above link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog'. 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.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

Jet fuel and Shark bites!

PTFA volunteers will be serving refreshments, including beer, wine, soft drinks and confectionery, at QEHS Youth Theatre's exciting performances of West Side Story 29th, 30th and 31st January. Avoid the queues - **PRE-ORDERS** will be available before the show starts, ready to pick up at the interval. If you haven't booked tickets yet, visit [QEHS Youth Theatre – West Side Story](#)



The PTFA have donated a large supply of pre-loved uniform, including PE kit and shoes, to Rosie's Corner's uniform rail based within the Adapt NE Community Warm Space on Burn Lane, Hexham.

Call in on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm to look through the uniform and take anything you need. The Warm Space is open for anyone to call in for some homemade soup, hot drinks (free - donations welcome), a warm welcome, with games, books and a chance to chat. You can also charge your phone and find free information about support available for a wide variety of health, wellbeing and cost of living issues. For more details visit [Adapt Community Warm Space - Adapt \(North East\)](#)

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



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@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

LRC recommended read

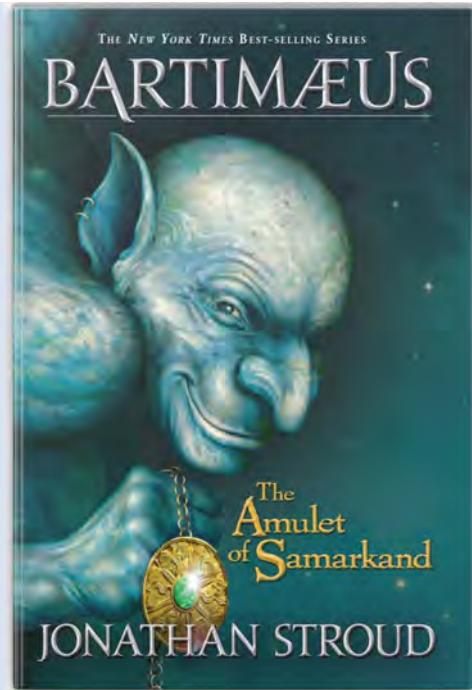
This week, the LRC received a generous donation of fantasy and science fiction books. Among the many fantastic titles is this one, the first installment in an exciting trilogy.

When a young magician's apprentice secretly summons an irascible 5,000 year old djinni to do his bidding, neither are prepared for the peril that ensues.

Nathaniel is plotting the downfall of his nemesis – a ruthless magician by the name of Simon Lovelace – and tasks Bartimaeus to steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand from him, in order to exact his revenge.

But before long, Nathaniel and Bartimaeus are caught up in a terrifying adventure much bigger than either of them anticipated, involving intrigue, rebellion and murder...

Set in an alternate London controlled by magicians, this hilarious and electrifying series will enthrall readers of all ages.



News from the community

Hexham Family Hub – from Northumberland County Council

Our Family Hubs offer a wide range of services for families and children aged 0-19 or 25 with SEND. Anyone who cares for or is expecting a child can become a member. You can do this below, or visit your nearest Family Hub. We'll ask for your contact details and your child's details. If you are pregnant, let us know so we can let you know about courses or sessions that may be of interest to you.

[Hexham Family Hub](#) Register with a family hub - [form](#)

Cricket

Tynedale Cricket Club in Hexham has some girls indoor winter training coming up for school years 5-9. All abilities welcome. Thursdays 4-5pm on 15-01, 22-01, 29-01, 05-02, 12-02, 26-02 5-03, 12-03 at the Wentworth Leisure Centre. Contact Ella ella.tynedalecc@gmail.com - 07376490095.



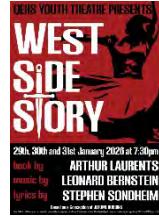
Apprenticeships information evening

The Agriculture, Arboriculture and Forestry Apprenticeships Information Evening at Hexham Auction Mart is taking place in the Hexham Auction Mart on Monday 19th January 2025 (5pm - 7pm).

For Parents - Family Gaming Database

When it comes to app and games reviews one of the resources I consistently share during parents talks is [Common Sense Media](#) who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews which can be really helpful for parents over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called [The Family Gaming Database](#). This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed. (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|--|--|---|
| 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 '  The poster for the West Side Story youth theatre production. It features the title 'WEST SIDE STORY' in large, bold, white letters on a red background. Below the title, it says '29th, 30th and 31st January 2025 at 7.30pm' and lists the 'Book by' (JESSICA LAMBERT), 'Music by' (LEONARD BERNSTEIN), and 'Lyrics by' (STEPHEN SONDHEIM). The poster also includes the text 'DURS YOUTH THEATER PRESENTS' and 'www.dursyouththeater.com'. | Tickets are now available: here |
| Tuesday 3 February | QE Winter Concert  The poster for the QE Winter Concert. It features the title 'SAVE THE DATE! QE WINTER CONCERT' in large, stylized letters. Below it, it says '7PM TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2025' and 'TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON'. There are some decorative floral elements at the bottom. | 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.



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