

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 17**

I hope you are all well. As we move through the term, it has been wonderful to see our students continuing to demonstrate such positive attitudes across school. Their commitment to our values of *Respect, Engage, and Aspire* is evident in classrooms, around site, and through the many opportunities they are embracing beyond lessons.

This week's update brings together key information from across the school, including attendance reminders, house news, careers guidance, Sixth Form opportunities, community notices, and upcoming events such as our Youth Theatre production of *West Side Story* and the Winter Concert. As always, thank you for your continued support in encouraging our students to take full advantage of all that school life has to offer.

I hope you find this update helpful and informative. If you have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

#### **Respect**

##### **Attendance**

As we head further into the winter months, I want to take a moment to highlight just how important regular attendance is for our students' learning, wellbeing, and long-term progress. We know that darker mornings, colder weather, and seasonal illnesses can make routines more challenging, but every day in school truly matters.



Being in school consistently helps students stay confident in their learning, keep up with new concepts, and maintain strong friendships. Even short periods of absence can make it harder for them to feel settled or keep pace with classwork. Your encouragement, routines, and support play a vital role in helping them arrive each day ready to learn.

If your child is feeling a bit tired or reluctant on winter mornings, a reassuring conversation, a regular routine, or simply helping them prepare the night before can make a big difference. And please remember: if there is anything making attendance difficult for your child or family, we are always here to help. Whether the challenge is health, wellbeing, organisation, or something more complex, our pastoral and safeguarding teams can offer support.

Thank you for everything you do each day to help your child attend, engage, and thrive. Working together, we can ensure that all students continue to feel confident, supported, and successful throughout the winter term.

## Engage

### House update

Mr Jesper	Ms Coleman	Ms Buxton-Collins	Mrs Fraser	Miss Snowdon/ Miss Macken
				
Beech	Birch	Ash	Oak	Sycamore
60,730	61,499	56,122	54,614	55,862

**Total points as per 15 January 2026**

### Winners of the House Mario Kart

Congratulations to the winners of the House Mario Kart!

1<sup>st</sup>: Harry J - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Isaac L - 3<sup>rd</sup>: Marc B - 4<sup>th</sup>: Jack M

The winners have earned extra House Points. It was an incredibly close final, with fantastic sportsmanship on display throughout!

### Samling Singin Schools

QEHS and HMS have been working with Samling Institute as part of their Singing Schools programme. Applications are now open for any QEHS students wishing to audition for the Samling Academy!

For more details see here: <https://www.samling.org.uk/samling-academy/samling-academy-auditions/>

## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week's career of the week was author: [Unifrog - Author.pptx](#)

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](https://unifrog.org/code).

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

The QEHS Parent Teacher and Friends Association is a Registered Charity (1201950) run by volunteer parents/carers, teachers and friends of the school who work together to raise funds to make QEHS an even better environment for students to learn and thrive, engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school community.



Registered Charity 1201950

### Upcoming events

PTFA volunteers will be serving refreshments, including beer, wine, soft drinks and confectionery, during QEHS Youth Theatre's exciting performances of West Side Story 29th, 30th and 31st January and the Winter Concert on Tuesday 3rd February, both before the performances and during the intervals.

- To avoid the queues, pre-orders will be available to place before the performances start, ready to pick up at the interval
- Don't carry any cash? We accept card payments too!

### ✿ Advertising space from just £20 ✿

There is some available space for advertising within the programme for West Side Story, with prices starting from just £20 for a quarter-page advert. If you or anyone you know would like to place an advert for a business or organisation, please email [gehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gehs.ptfa@gmail.com) for more details.

If you haven't booked tickets yet, visit [QEHS Youth Theatre – West Side Story](#) and [QEHS Winter Concert](#)

### JustGiving

If you can't make it to any of these events but would still like to show your support, you can make a donation through [JustGiving](#)

If you would like to offer any other form of support to the work of the PTFA, email [gehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gehs.ptfa@gmail.com)

### What the PTFA has funded

So far this school year, the PTFA has made contributions towards school trips, music tuition, reading books and a new house trophy.

### PTFA Lottery - cash prizes every month

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)



## Sixth Form

### Sixth Form Ski Trip

Some of our Sixth form students have been on a ski trip this week. They have been exploring the Italian and French Alps and have had an amazing time. Check our [website](#) for daily updates with lots of pictures.



### 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.

## News from the community

### Free SIM cards for residents over 18

Hexham Library have free SIM cards from O2 and Vodafone available for residents over 18 with unlocked devices, who may struggle to afford data. There are no awkward questions or means testing during the registration process. Just call or drop in to arrange an appointment. Northumberland Libraries - [www.mylibrary.co.uk](http://www.mylibrary.co.uk) - 01670 620 450 - [mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk).

### For Parents - Playstation Family App

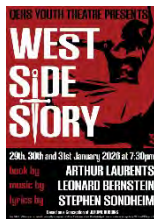

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025 and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime.
- Activity report.
- Visibility into what children are playing.
- Approving playtime requests.

On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more.

Webpage: [Playstation Family App](#) (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 29 – Saturday 31 January	Youth Theatre – <a href="#">‘West Side Story’</a> 	Tickets are now available: <a href="#">here</a>
Tuesday 3 February	<a href="#">QE Winter Concert</a> 	Tickets are now available: <a href="#">here</a>

## 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](mailto:admin@gehs.net)

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