



23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

### QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 18

As we come to the end of another busy week at QEHS, I continue to be proud of how our students embody our core values of **Respect**, **Engage** and **Aspire** in all aspects of school life.

We see **Respect** in the way students support a safe and healthy environment — from maintaining good attendance to following expectations around items such as aerosols, and in the consideration shown to to the wider community.

Our students continue to **Engage** with enthusiasm, whether competing in the County Cross Country event, taking part in the Samling Singing Schools programme, their involvement in the school production of West Side Story. The commitment of our PTFA volunteers and the community activities featured in this update also show how engagement extends far beyond the classroom.

Finally, our students continue to **Aspire** — setting goals for themselves and seeking ways to make a positive difference. Opportunities like the Sustainability and Green Skills AQA programme, alongside the inspiring fundraising led by members of our Sixth Form, highlight their ambition, compassion and drive to contribute to the wider world.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to nurture respectful, engaged and aspirational young people.

#### Respect

##### Attendance

As a school, one of our key priorities is preparing every young person not only for academic success, but also for life beyond the classroom. A major part of that preparation is **consistent, punctual attendance**. I wanted to take a moment to explain why regular attendance is far more than a school requirement—it's a vital foundation for your child's future employability.

Employers consistently highlight reliability, punctuality, and commitment as qualities they value most. These are the very habits that daily school attendance develops. When students attend regularly, they learn to manage routines, meet expectations, and show up ready to participate—skills that translate directly into the workplace.

##### Aerosols

Aerosols are banned in the high school. Students should not bring aerosol deodorants into school. These will be confiscated and disposed of if found. The use of aerosol deodorants can have serious health implications for students or staff with asthma or any breathing impairment.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

### Drop-off and pick-up reminder

When dropping off or picking up your child, we kindly ask for your continued consideration of the local residents in the surrounding area. Thank you for your support.

### Tynedale Terrace closures to vehicles and pedestrians

We have been contacted by the Location Manager of Filmnation Entertainment regarding filming that is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks on Tynedale Terrace. He has informed us that the road and its pavements will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians for at least some and possibly all of the following:

- Friday, January 23 – 3:00pm to 8:00pm, affecting departure from school
- Monday 2 February – 7:30am to 7:30pm, affecting arrival to and departure from school
- Tuesday 3 February – 1:00pm to 12:00am, affecting departure from school
- Wednesday 4 February – 12:00pm to 10:00pm, affecting departure from school

Live traffic management will be in place, including signage directing people to the alternative route of Alexandra Terrace.

Please advise your child of the above as necessary. If you drop/collect your child to/from school by car, please avoid coming to the site at the above times where possible, to avoid undue congestion on Alexandra Terrace.

## Engage

### House update

Mr Jesper

Ms Coleman

Ms Buxton-Collins

Mrs Fraser

Miss Snowdon/  
Miss Macken



Beech

Birch

Ash

Oak

Sycamore

63,298

64,011

58,430

57,220

58,273

**Total points as per 22 January 2026**

### **Be You: Managing Exam Stress Workshop**

You are invited to a parent/carer workshop led by the Be You Team focused on providing strategies to support your child with managing stress and worry caused by exams. This session will be useful for parents/carers of children in Year 6 as well as parents of students in the high school who may be preparing for exams.

The session will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 4pm-5pm at Hexham Middle School. This event is open to parents/carers from Hexham Middle, Corbridge Middle, St Joseph's Middle and Queen Elizabeth High School. [Please sign-up here.](#)

### **Cross Country**

Following a successful qualification at the event at Ovingham before Christmas, we took 41 students from QEHS and HMS to represent the Tynedale area at the County Cross Country event at Temple Park on Tuesday. The weather was a lot kinder than last year, although still damp underfoot and fairly chilly – true cross-country weather!

There were some outstanding runs, with Martha P (3rd Minor Girls), George H (2nd Inter Boys) and Arthur D (3rd Inter Boys) all winning a County medal.

Out of the 41 students we took, 22 qualified (with a couple missing out by one or two places – always next year!) to represent Northumberland at the Inter Counties at Sedbergh School.



This is an amazing number and just proves the depth of talent in the Hexham area. A number of the runners qualifying for the County are in the first year of a 2-year age group which is incredible. Huge congratulations to those going on to represent Northumberland.

### **Samling Singing Schools programme**



Lovely to see our participation in the Samling Institute's Singing Schools programme being recognised in this Hexham Courant article, highlighting the positive impact it is having on our pupils' confidence and creativity.

## The Sustainability and Green Skills AQA Unit Award Programme



We have been made aware of a programme that may appeal to a number of our students. The **Sustainability and Green Skills AQA Unit Award Programme** is designed to offer young people a flexible, engaging learning experience that they can work through in their own time. Learners access 20 weeks of short, self-paced videos, studying 1–2 hours per week at a time that suits them. Optional live sessions provide extra help and a chance to share progress, with recordings available if needed. Each learner receives a practical Activity Box with equipment for assessment projects. At the end of the programme, learners will have completed 5 AQA Unit Awards and will be invited to a virtual graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements.

Participation on the programme, which commences on 16 February 2026, costs £220 and would need to be self-funded. However, the school's PFTA is able to fund a small number of places to help families of students who would be interested but might otherwise struggle to afford.

For more details about the programme and how to apply, please see [here](#). For more details on the PFTA Bursary Scheme, please see [here](#).

### Career of the week

This week's career of the week was visual effects artist: [Unifrog - Visual Effects Artist.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 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 at the following events to raise funds:

 **Thursday 29th, Friday 30th, Saturday 31st January** QEHS Youth Theatre's performances of West Side Story [QEHS Youth Theatre – West Side Story](#)

 **Tuesday 3rd February** - QEHS Winter Concert [QEHS Winter Concert](#)

To avoid the queues, pre-orders can be made ready to pick up at the interval  
Don't carry any cash? We accept card payments too!

 **Other dates for the diary:**

**Sunday 15th February** - Pop-up Prom Shop at Tynedale Hospice Shop, Fore Street 10am-4pm

**Tuesday 24th February** - PTFA meeting, 6pm County Hotel, Hexham, in the Residents' Lounge - all welcome to attend



**Prom outfits needed - to sell or donate**

We're looking for any dresses, suits, shoes and accessories you may have either to sell or donate 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. Donations can be dropped off at school. If you would like us to sell an outfit on your behalf for a small selling fee, please complete this [selling form](#).



For an easy way to support us at no extra cost and without affecting store loyalty points, visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gehs-ptfa>, nominate QEHS PTFA as your chosen cause and raise free donations when you shop either online or in-store

**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

### Fundraising

Y13 Iryna is co-organising a volleyball tournament to raise funds to support the participation of the Ukrainian team in the Invictus Games in Birmingham in 2027. Volleyball is her passion and also a way for her to cope with the realities of being a refugee.

We would greatly appreciate any support you might be able to offer. Here is the fundraising link:  
<https://gofund.me/862ee85ac>.

Y12 Angelina is doing some more fundraising for M10 Mission, a charity organisation whose mission is to support families living in extreme poverty in Mexico. Angelina and her team will be selling origami roses in the LRC in the run up to Valentine's Day (1-12 February) for £2 per rose (cash only). Thank you for your support.



### 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



### Wombles New Year litter pick

The next Hexham litter pick will be Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026.  
Meet at the Travelodge at 11am.  
Picking Travelodge and Industrial Estates.

Pickers, High-Vis, gloves & bags all provided.

See you there, at 11am in the car park Chief Womble – Suzanne, Deputy Womble – John

### Autism Family Drop in session

New dates of the Autism Family Drop in session dates are now available. See [here](#) on our website for more information.



## Online Safety

### For Parents - What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew

The Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers. At around 26 pages it goes into a lot of depth including:

- Screen time.
- When bad things happen.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Conversation starters.
- Actions to take checklist.
- And much more.



Download the [Children's Commissioner - What I wish my parents and carers knew guide](#), at the bottom of the page you will find a PDF download and an activity pack.

(by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 29 January	Holocaust Memorial Assembly	Year 10
Friday 30 January	Holocaust Memorial Assembly	Year 9
Thursday 29 – Saturday 31 January	Youth Theatre – ' <a href="#">West Side Story</a> '	There are still some tickets available: <a href="#">here</a>
Tuesday 3 February	<a href="#">QE Winter Concert</a>	There are still some tickets available: <a href="#">here</a>
Monday 9 February	Parents' Evening	Year 12

<b>Wednesday 11 February</b>	Youth Elections 2026	All year groups
<b>Friday 13 February</b>	Teacher Training Day	All year groups
<b>Monday 16 – Friday 20 February</b>	Half Term Holiday	All year groups
<b>Monday 23 February</b>	School reopens at 08.40am	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.

*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)