



13 February 2026

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 21**

As we reach the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and highlights across our school community. It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks, and I am immensely proud of everything our students and staff have accomplished.

Our production of *West Side Story* was a standout moment, an extraordinary showcase of talent, teamwork and creativity. The dedication shown by everyone involved, both on stage and behind the scenes, has been truly inspiring. Alongside this, our school music show once again demonstrated the depth of musical talent we are fortunate to have at QEHS, with students delivering confident and expressive performances that impressed us all.

Sporting success has also been a real feature of the term. From team fixtures to individual achievements, our students continue to represent the school with determination, skill and excellent sportsmanship. We look forward to celebrating further accomplishments as the year progresses.

This week also marks the end of Year 11 mock exams. Our students have worked exceptionally hard, and these assessments will provide a valuable foundation for the months ahead. After the half-term break, attention turns to Year 13, who will begin their mock examinations.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students a well-deserved and restful break. I hope you are able to enjoy some time with family and friends and fingers crossed the weather shows some improvement!

#### **Respect**

##### **Attendance**

Coming to school every day really matters. When children miss school, even for small reasons, it becomes much harder for them to keep up with their learning and to feel confident.

Since the pandemic, children across the whole country have been missing more school than before. Five years on, attendance is still much lower than it used to be. This means many young people are not getting the full education they need to succeed in the future.

If we continue to allow children to miss school when they do not need to, we risk a whole generation falling behind. We all want the very best for our young people, and that starts with being in school every day they are well enough to attend.

##### **How you can help**

- Please send your child to school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.
- If you are worried about anything that might stop your child coming to school, please talk to us early. We are here to help.

**Queen Elizabeth High School**

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[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

- Working together makes a big difference.

Every day in school helps your child learn, feel part of the community, and build a strong future.

Thank you for supporting us and for helping your child get the most out of their education.

## Engage

### House update

Mr Jesper

Ms Coleman

Ms Buxton-Collins

Mrs Fraser

Miss Snowdon/  
Miss Macken



Beech

Birch

Ash

Oak

Sycamore

74,349

73,216

67,581

65,052

66,854

**Total points per 12 February 2026**

### Y9 Rugby update

Well done to the Year 9 girls who took part in a community festival held at Kingston Park, home of the Newcastle Red Bulls. Girls experienced playing on the first team pitch (albeit in very wet & cold conditions!) All the girls were outstanding, and despite the harsh conditions they demonstrated some excellent rugby throughout. This event was always about participation rather than results, but despite being up against some strong opposition, they managed to win 2 out of their 3 games.



## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week' career of the week was software developer:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/software-developer>

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

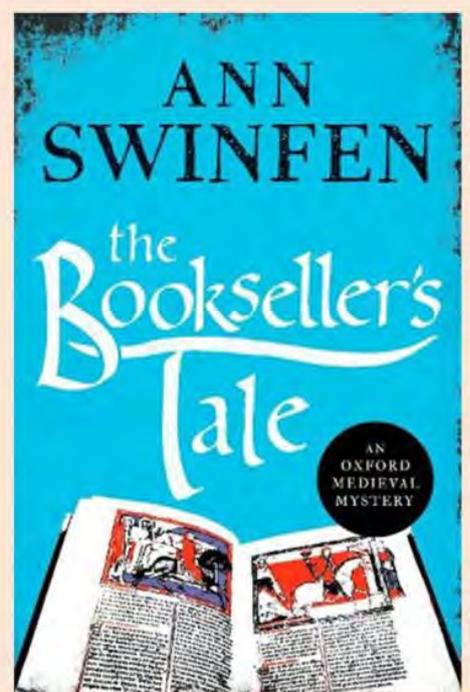
### LRC recommended read

Oxford, Spring 1353.

When young bookseller **Nicholas Elyot** discovers the body of **William Farringdon** floating in the River Cherwell, all the signs point to suicide.

Soon, however, Nicholas discovers evidence of murder. Who could have wanted to kill this promising student? As Nicholas and his close friend **Jordain** try to unravel what lies behind William's death, they learn that he was innocently caught up in a criminal plot.

When their investigations begin to involve town, university, and abbey, Nicholas takes a risky gamble and puts his family in terrible danger in order to uncover the truth.



### 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](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net). Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

## Sustainability climate theme

**Aspire to live sustainably**



One of the challenges we face as a species is making objects that last longer, or have components that can easily be replaced or recycled.

How many different materials are used in the objects that you see on the screen?



What you can do **this week**:

- Count the number of new items purchased in your households. How many of them used plastics (which are made from oil)? How many of them use 'rare Earth' materials, taken from the ground?
- Consider their lifespan. How long before they will be thrown away?
- What happens to them then?

## Online Safety

### Online safety guidance

The government has launched a new [online safety website](#) to support families and encourage regular conversations about what may be seen online. Based on parents' main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

Trusted resources from charities and third parties are signposted where parents can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert).

The website will continue to grow and be developed this year, supporting the [Online Safety Act](#) and wider government aims around protecting young people from harm.

### For Parents - Google Family Link

For children with Android devices, Google Family Link is a great way for parents to set restrictions. Last week Internet Matters released a brand new YouTube video showing how to set up Google Family Link to customise content and screen time restrictions:

Click to [Set Up Google Family Link](#) (By Alan McKenzie – Online Safety Specialist)

## 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



### This Sunday! Prom Pop-up Shop

On Sunday (15th February), the Prom Pop-up Shop will be at the Tynedale Hospice Shop, Fore Street, Hexham 10am-4pm. Come and see a wide selection of pre-loved prom dresses, suits, accessories and shoes at great prices. Find the perfect prom look that doesn't cost the earth. Changing rooms are available. Any more donations, or items to sell for a small seller's fee, can still be brought to the shop on Sunday morning.

### Having a half term clear-out?

Don't forget that you can place bags of unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories in the PTFA recycling bin at the main car park entrance. 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 uniform, damaged items or bulky items such as pillows, duvets or curtains, please. School uniform donations should be handed directly into the school office for the uniform recycling scheme instead.

**Tuesday 3rd March - PTFA meeting**, 6pm at The County Hotel, Hexham, in the Residents' Lounge to the left of the front door. Come and meet us, hear how much we've raised, what we're spending it on and help us plan what we do next. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome!

### 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)



## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Sunday 15 February	Prom Pop-up Shop (Tynedale Hospice Shop, Hexham 10am-4pm)	All welcome
Monday 16 – Friday 20 February	Half Term Holiday	All year groups
Monday 23 February	School reopens at 08.40am	All year groups
Tuesday 24 February	Options Evening 4-7pm	Year 9
Tuesday 3 March	PTFA meeting (The County Hotel, Hexham – 6pm)	All welcome
Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March	House Assemblies	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  
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)