

6 March 2026

### QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 23

As we come to the end of another busy week at QEHS, I want to congratulate our Year 13 students who have now completed their mock exams. Their focus has been excellent, and we hope they enjoy a well-earned rest this weekend.

It has been uplifting to see some brighter weather over the past few days, bringing a real sense of spring and positivity across the school site. This was particularly lovely to see when we held our [Scotty's Day](#) for sixth form students in memory of Chris Scott, our former Head of PE, who died suddenly five years ago. The day is a celebration of Chris' life and his passion for young people to be active in sport.



This week we also celebrated National Careers Week, shining a spotlight on the diverse pathways available to our young people. Our [Creative Careers Fair](#) brought together fantastic contributions from local arts organisations, including Queen's Hall and the Forum Cinema, offering students valuable insight into the wide range of professions within the creative industries, particularly timely given the combined authority's strong focus on arts and culture. In addition, our Sixth Form benefited from a series of [careers talks](#) as part of their personal development programme, and it was wonderful to welcome back former students to share their experiences and inspire the next generation.

We are exceptionally proud to share that QEHS has qualified for the national final of the Youth Parliament competition, a fantastic accomplishment that reflects the maturity, confidence and public-speaking skill of the students involved. Reaching this stage is a remarkable achievement in itself, and we wish them the very best as they prepare for the final.

A huge well done, too, to our Year 10 rugby team, who won the NSB Rugby Sevens Cup against some very strong opposition. Their teamwork, determination and commitment were clear throughout the tournament, and they should be immensely proud of their success.

#### Respect

##### Attendance

Last week we sent out attendance letters to update you on your child's attendance to date. We fully appreciate that there can be complex and often sensitive reasons behind periods of non-attendance, and we are committed to working with families to understand individual circumstances. However, we believe it is important to share attendance information so that parents and carers are aware of patterns, understand the potential impact, and know how school can offer support to promote sustained and improved attendance.

**Queen Elizabeth High School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

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

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Hair colourings

Our uniform policy on hair colouring is that hairstyles should be of a natural hair colour with no extreme hairstyles and no extreme unnatural hair colour. In recent weeks a number of students have been coming to school with hair coloured in extreme red, blues and greens. We are making all students, whose hair colour is in breach of the rule, aware that they have two weeks until 20 March 2026 to correct their hairstyle. The consequence of being in school and refusing to amend their appearance, after this deadline, is to be in reflection until uniform is corrected.

## Engage

### House update

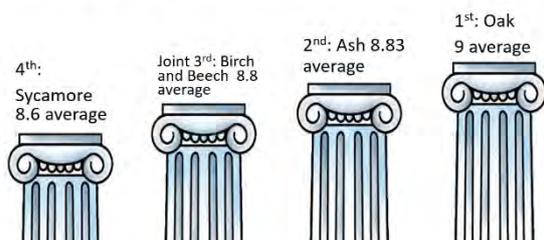
Mr Jesper	Ms Coleman	Ms Buxton-Collins	Mrs Fraser	Miss Snowdon/ Miss Macken
				
Beech	Birch	Ash	Oak	Sycamore
79,322	78,402	72,564	69,788	71,235

**Total points per 5 March 2026**

### House Quiz Round 3 Results

#### Results

Best Result: Ms Awan, Ms Davies, Ms Archibald – all 10/10!



## Y10 Boys NSB Rugby Sevens Champions

Huge congratulations to our Y10 boys who went to Northern FC on Tuesday to compete in the annual NSB Rugby Sevens competition. After winning their group by winning all 3 of their games, they qualified for the semi final of the cup competition. They then went on to win their semi-final to set up a final with Glenalmond College. Both teams played out an incredible final, which finished 19-19 at the full time whistle. This meant the game went into extra time and 'golden point'. The lads stepped it up another gear when Fred I went over for the winning try after a fantastic line break by Harvey L to start the celebrations! A fantastic achievement to win this competition up against many strong rugby playing schools, so well done to them!



## Aspire

### Inspiring Creative Futures at Queen Elizabeth High School!



We were delighted to host our [Creative Industries & Content Careers Fair](#) at Queen Elizabeth High School, giving students the opportunity to explore the exciting world of art, music, digital media, design and the wider creative industries.



Throughout the event, students met with industry professionals, discovered different career pathways and gained valuable insight into how creativity can become a successful and rewarding career. From filmmaking and architecture to marketing, engineering and content creation, the fair showcased the wide range of opportunities available in the creative sector.



A huge thank you to all of the industry guests who generously shared their knowledge, experiences and advice. Your inspiration helps our students see what is possible and encourages them to pursue their passions with confidence and we look forward to building on the relationships we have developed today



It was fantastic to see so much curiosity, creativity and ambition from our students. The future of the creative industries in the North-East is certainly in safe hands!

A huge thank you to every organisation that took part!

### Career of the week

This week's career of the week was Entrepreneur. See [here](#) for the Bitesize Careers Talk 2026 with businesswoman and entrepreneur Sara Davies.

## Sixth Form

### Year 12 personal development time

The Year 12 personal development time focused on options for after Sixth Form again today. A former student talked about his experience of studying medicine and another former student talked about his route into his acting career. Modern Foreign Languages was explored with Durham University and an active workshop on Social Policy was delivered by Northumbria University.

Over half the students attended a seminar on the Built Environment, which was supported by nine professionals from a range of disciplines, including four former students. They talked passionately about the opportunities in this sector and the routes into them, all of them advocating apprenticeships. We hope this might have inspired some of our students to take their advice and seek work experience, to find out if this could be a career option that would suit them.

Special thanks to the Year 12 parents who gave a voluntary contribution to the Sixth Form Fund, which enabled us to encourage the students to ask questions of the visiting speakers in return for a hot chocolate with all the trimmings!

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

## Next week's climate theme

Sign up to take part in the Big Plastic Count for a week by going to <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>



**THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT**

What you can do **this week**:

- Go to [thebigplasticcount.com](https://thebigplasticcount.com)
- Sign up
- Download the form
- Count the amount of plastic thrown away in one week
- Be surprised!

Or

Simply observe: take notice of how much plastic is thrown away in one week in your home.

## 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

### Exciting news!

We recently applied for a £1,000 grant from the Archibald Educational Trust for funding towards extra-curricular music provision. We were, therefore, surprised and delighted to receive a cheque for £4,000 from them! This is an incredible amount and will go a long way towards supporting all the exciting musical activities that students enjoy taking part in.

### Funding updates

Recent events, including selling refreshments (and advertising) for the Youth Theatre production, the Winter Concert, the half term tuck shop and Pop-up Prom Shop, raised profits of **£1,179**. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events in any way.

So far this term, we have funded contributions towards music tuition costs and school trips, as part of our bursary scheme, an Icelandic 'book flood' book gift event, and have agreed to fund art workshops, pilates/yoga sessions and attendance rewards.

A reminder that details of our PTFA bursary scheme can be found here [PTFA Bursary Scheme](#) (at foot of page)

### Share your ideas

We welcome ideas from parents/carers and students, as well as staff, for activities, resources or facilities that could benefit the school community, as well as suggestions for new ways the PTFA can raise funds. As a small group of volunteers, we need to focus on ideas that are practical for us to organise, so while we can't guarantee to fund or support *every* suggestion, all ideas are welcomed and carefully considered - especially if parents are able to help bring them to life.

### PTFA dates for the diary

- Thursday 2nd April - last day of term Tuck Shop
- Monday 27th April - Spring Concert, where we'll be serving refreshments
- Tuesday 5th May - PTFA meeting, 6pm, County Hotel, Hexham, in the Residents' Lounge
- Thursday 25th June - Y13 Art Showcase, where we'll be serving refreshments
- Tuesday 30th June - new Y9 parents meeting, where we'll be selling pre-loved uniform
- Weds & Thursday 8th & 9th July - Songs from the Shows, where we'll be serving refreshments

If you can spare even a little time to help out at any of these events or to help prepare for them, please email [gehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:gehs.ptfa@gmail.com). For many of them, you won't need a DBS check.

### Join our Lottery to win cash prizes!

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).



### Online Safety

#### For Parents - App Controls to Support Children

Jenny is a mother with two teenage girls who feels the pressure of keeping up to date with online safety, new app settings and more the same as other parents. In this article and YouTube video jenny shares how she uses app-level parental controls to manage social media use across her daughters' phones and tablets.

Link: [Using App Controls to Support Children](#). (By Alan McKenzie – Online Safety Specialist)

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Friday 13 March	Red Nose Day	All year groups
Friday 13 March	Options deadline	Year 9
Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March	House Assemblies	All year groups
Thursday 31 March	UCAS Evening for Parents 5.30 – 7pm	Year 12

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

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