

13 March 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 24

As we look ahead to next week, I want to take a moment to celebrate our House system and the important role it plays in school life. The Houses are far more than just a points table – they help build a real sense of belonging, pride, and teamwork across year groups. Whether students are representing their House in competitions, taking part in charity events, or supporting one another within their tutor groups, the system brings our community together in a way that is both meaningful and memorable.

Next week, we are excited to be running a range of House activities and competitions during form time. These events give every student the chance to contribute, try something new, and enjoy a bit of friendly rivalry.

Mr Jesper



Beech

81,818

Ms Coleman



Birch

80,592

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

74,724

Mrs Fraser



Oak

72,027

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore

73,121

Total points per 12 March 2026

Respect

Attendance

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in ensuring students achieve their full potential. Being in school every day helps students build strong learning habits, keep up with their subjects, and stay connected with their peers and teachers. But it also does something even more significant: it shapes the routines and behaviours that prepare young people for life beyond school.

In the world of work, employers consistently emphasise the importance of reliability, punctuality, and commitment. Turning up every day, ready to take part, is a skill in itself and one that begins with good attendance at school. By developing these habits now, students set themselves up for positive futures, whether that's further study, apprenticeships, or employment.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your child attend school regularly and on time. Every day really does make a difference.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

Engage

The Big Walk and Wheel!

From 16 – 27 March, we'll be getting active!

We're encouraging families to get involved by walking, wheeling, scooting, or cycling to school. It's a fun way to boost health and wellbeing for everyone!



Let's make every journey count! [Walk Wheel Cycle Trust \(external website\)](#) more information about [Walk and Wheel \(external website\)](#) In partnership with [Schwalbetyresuk \(external website\)](#)

QEHS Rowing: The Derwentwater head



QEHS rowers competed in a new event for the club last weekend. The club travelled to the Lake District to compete on the lake at Keswick. After a string of cancelled events, it was great to be back on the water competing.

Captain Beth has written this report: On Saturday, QEHS rowing club travelled to Keswick for The Derwentwater Head. This was the first time QEHS has been to the event, and it did not disappoint. It features a 2.5k race down the lake, surrounded by beautiful hills and mountains on all sides. We started the day with a win in the Op 4+ (b2) putting down an impressive time on the course, enjoying the mirror-like conditions and gorgeous views. Then the QEHS cohort arrived, and delivered impressive performances all round, spurred on by the warm and sunny weather. Despite the sea-like conditions which developed over the day, there were another 3 wins for the club. Taking home prizes in the mixed 8+, mixed 4x- and the mixed J15 4x+! Overall, it was a great day of racing enjoyed by everyone!

QEHS Rowing - Update on Membership

The rowing club has experienced a fantastic increase in membership this year, and it's been wonderful to see so many students keen to try rowing. However, we have now reached full capacity.

If your young person would like to join, they will need to be added to our waiting list. The online membership application form can be found on the school website:

<https://www.qehs.net/index.php/qehs-rowing/>. Please complete the form to register your interest.

Mr Gaines will contact you as soon as a space becomes available. Before attending their first session, you will be required to complete the necessary consent forms. Once these are submitted, you will be given a start date for sessions at the river.

Maths Challenge

Before half term, students in Years 9 and 10 from Set 1 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This competition is aimed at Years 9, 10 and 11, making it demanding for our younger students. Many of our students earned awards, and nine have impressively qualified for the next round on Thursday 19th March.

- Year 9: Noah H, Pearl R, Thomas S and Dominic T have all qualified for the new level, the Grey Kangaroo.
- Year 10: Ethan A, Connor C, Archie H, Lucas P and Lottie R have qualified for the Pink Kangaroo.

Congratulations to Thomas S in Year 9, who achieved Best in School. Good luck to everyone as they progress to the next stages!

Netball

The Year 9 and Year 11 girls netball teams played Ponteland in a league game last week.

Year 9 played exceptionally well and fought very hard to win the game 16-14. Since losing a key player to injury these girls have come together as a team, working extremely hard.

Year 11 once again dominated and won the game with an impressive score line. Keep going girls the league title is in sight!

Aspire

Career of the week

This week's career of the week was Fashion Designer:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/fashion-designer>

Sixth Form

LAMDA news

Huge congratulations Isabella, Skylar and Michael, last year's LAMDA cohort for achieving their grade 8 gold medals and certificates for Public Speaking. They wrote and delivered outstanding speeches on fascinating topics, from why martial arts should be taught in schools to how micro-expressions can reveal when someone is lying. An impressive achievement, and one they should all be extremely proud of!



Meanwhile, our current cohort of 11 students are making excellent progress as they work towards their exams. Their topic choices are fantastic and cover original and relevant issues which are so important to young people in our politically challenging world. We can't wait to see their final speeches. Two of them

are already making waves and putting their public speaking skills to use by becoming finalists in the European Youth Parliament (congratulations to Freddie and Maddy!).

For any students wanting more information about choosing LAMDA in year 12 please email Laura Pollock at admin@qehs.net

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.

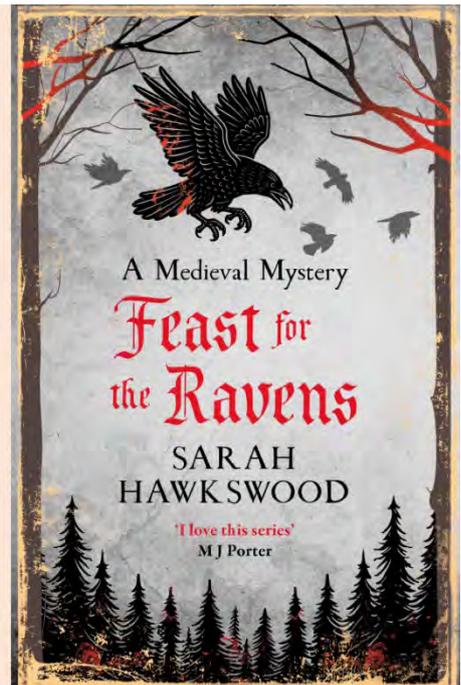
Next week's LRC recommended read

Next week's LRC recommended read is: Feast for the Ravens

Worcestershire, September 1145.

A Templar knight is found dead in the Forest of Wyre, clutching a bloodstained document naming a traitor. Undersheriff Hugh Bradecote, Serjeant Catchpoll, and Underserjeant Walkelin must uncover whether the killing was personal, political, or the work of outlaws. They are surprised to find that the locals believe the killer to be the Raven Woman, a mythical shape-shifter said to haunt the woods. Then the knight is identified as Ivo de Mitton, who fled the shire many years ago, presumed guilty of the foul murder of his kin.

As the trio dig through legend and lies, they must determine the truth and bring a cunning killer to justice.



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

We want to hear 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. Email us at qehs.ptfa@gmail.com

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 qehs.ptfa@gmail.com. For all but one of them, you won't need a DBS check.

Turn your everyday shopping into free funds for our school!

We've raised £80 so far this year through easyfundraising, simply from parents/carers doing their normal shopping and at no extra cost to them. Imagine how much more we could raise if more of our school community joined in!

It's easy to sign up and doesn't cost anything extra - shop with your favourite retailers, and they'll donate a percentage to us. Visit the links below, nominate QEHS PTFA as your chosen cause and raise free donations when you shop: [Online shopping donations | easyfundraising](#), [In-Store Donations | easyfundraising](#)

A chance for YOU to win cash prizes every month!

Our PTFA Lottery is yet another really easy way to support the school. Tickets cost just £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes to be won. Entry is simple and online. For more information and to sign up, complete the [online application](#) or email qehsprizedraw@gmail.com



News from the community

Cricket

Junior coaching at Corbridge Cricket club starts in the w/c 13th April. Details are on the website: [Corbridge CC](#).

Online Safety

For Parents - YouTube Kids

One of the biggest frustrations I hear from parents of younger children is that the content on YouTube Kids is too childish or the content isn't what their children want to watch. The end result is that only a tiny minority of young children use YouTube Kids, with the majority on the main YouTube site.

A feature that has been within YouTube Kids for years, but so very few parents know about, is called 'Parent Allowlisting'. This does a number of things, but one of the most important and useful is that parents can keep their younger children within the safer environment of the Kids app, and parents can approve individual videos from the main YouTube service to that particular child's YouTube Kids account. This keeps younger children away from the dreaded recommender algorithms and allows parents to moderate what their children can or cannot see.

I have linked a short video which is on YouTube to explain what Parent Allowlisting is and how it's used:

Link: [YouTube Kids Parent Allowlisting](#)

For Parents - What is Monetisation

Monetisation is how content creators earn money through social media and video-sharing platforms, with some creators using dishonest practices to receive more activity on their posts.

Internet Matters have put together a brilliant information guide and you can find the link below.

Link: [For Parents - What is Monetisation?](#)

For Parents - Starting the Conversation

The Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) have produced a great new, simple guide aimed at helping parents start those conversations which can be very difficult. This is specifically for young people rather than teenagers as it covers online dating safety, digital consent and boundaries.

Link: [For Parents - Starting the Conversation with Young People](#).

(By Alan McKenzie – Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March | House Assemblies | All year groups |
| Friday 20 March | Red Nose Day | All year groups |
| Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 March | CERN trip | Year 13 |
| 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

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email attendance@qehs.net