

20 March 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 25

This week many of the students and staff in our school have been profoundly saddened by the shock news that James Barker, who was a student with us in Y11 last year, died suddenly. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family at this terrible time.

Our pastoral staff and mentors are supporting students in school who have been affected by the news. If your child has been triggered or impacted by what has happened, please make their tutor or Head of Year aware. There are also helpful resources ([Kooth](#)) available online that are recommended by the NCC Educational Psychologist Service.

Parent survey

We would be extremely grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our [parent survey](#). Your feedback genuinely shapes the way we work and previous surveys have already led to meaningful changes in school life, including the reintroduction of in-person Parents' Evenings, the creation of the Year 9 Options Evening for parents and the introduction of Meet the Tutor events.

Your views help us understand what we're doing well and where we can do better. Thank you in advance for supporting us to continue improving the experience for all our students.

Respect

Attendance

At QEHS, we know that regular attendance is fundamental to students' wellbeing, learning and long-term success. For students who are experiencing significant absence, our priority is to work with families to remove barriers, rebuild confidence and support a safe return to school.

If your child is struggling with attendance, please know that you are not alone and support is available. Our Attendance Officer is on hand to offer guidance, practical help and early intervention to prevent difficulties from becoming overwhelming. In addition, Mrs Lloyd, our Safeguarding Lead, works closely with students and families to ensure that any pastoral or safeguarding needs are understood and supported.

The most important first step in re-engaging with school is re-establishing positive relationships and beginning to access learning again — even in small steps. We are committed to working with families to make this process manageable and personalised, ensuring every young person feels safe, valued and ready to return.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or would like to discuss support, please contact the school via our attendance team at attendance@qehs.net or by speaking directly with our pastoral staff.

We are here to help.

Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net

www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Disabled parking bays

A gentle reminder that our disabled parking bays are reserved for families who have a pass for this. Please help us keep these spaces available for those who need them.

If your child requires access to a disabled bay and you do not yet have a school pass, you can request one at the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech ✨

84,857

Ms Coleman



Birch

84,192

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

77,231

Mrs Fraser



Oak

74,902

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore

75,578

Total points per 19 March 2026

U14 girls shine at Dame Allan's 7s tournament



The U14 Girls travelled to Cochrane Park in Newcastle to compete in the prestigious Dame Allan's 7s Tournament, an event that attracts strong sides from private and boarding schools across the North East, Scotland, and Yorkshire. The girls won the Plate which, in such a competitive field, is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their teamwork, resilience, and skill. In addition to the team's success, both Annabelle and Gaby were nominated for Player of the Tournament by staff from other schools — a fantastic individual recognition reflecting their impact and consistency across all matches. Winning the Plate in such a competitive field is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their teamwork, resilience, and skill. See [here](#) for a match report.

A huge well done to all the girls: Annabelle, Gaby, Clara, Mia S, Beth, Poppy, Martha, Maddy, Ella, Rose, Mia R.

Bronze EDT award

Congratulations to Jasper, Rhydian and Noah (Year 9) who have all achieved a bronze EDT award.

They completed a project called 'My school is an Island' and had to research sustainable solutions to resources, waste, transport and energy. They then had to build a model, write a report and do a presentation to industry professionals.



Aspire

Future Pathways Scholars Programme (FPSP) Tuesday 7th April – Wednesday 8th April

The Future Pathways Scholars Programme (FPSP) 2026 is a fully funded, two-day virtual bootcamp designed to help Year 10 – 12 students explore academic pathways, understand emerging career opportunities, and prepare strategically for university admissions.

This programme brings together ambitious students for structured academic enrichment, mentorship, and masterclasses, preparing them for university and the future of work. It is ideal for students beginning to make subject choices and early university considerations, equipping them with clarity, confidence and direction.. For more information see [here](#) (external website).

Career of the week

This week's career of the week was Lighting Technician:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/lighting-technician>

Sixth Form

Year 12 politics career talk



On Friday afternoon we were delighted that Dave Ahluwalia from the Russell Group was able to deliver a careers talk to our year 12 politics and history students. Having studied International Relations at the University of Leeds, Dave was able to share his experience of working for a constituency MP, two political consultancies and in health policy. He also currently co-Chairs I Have a Voice's Campaigns Committee whilst working as Public Affairs Manager for the Russell Group. The students were fantastic at asking Dave about this career path so far and exploring the varied job opportunities that studying history, international relations and politics can bring!

Year 12 were very fortunate again this week to have so many people give up their time.

The students had the choice of 11 wide-ranging talks. Kristie Giblin, co-owner of the Pudding Parlour, talked about her journey to becoming an entrepreneur. Former student Gemma Slater encouraged students to pursue their interest in art and talked about her experience of studying an art foundation course, followed by a degree at Kingston School of Art, which has included a year's paid work placement. Jane Pikett, currently editor and publisher of The Northumbrian Magazine, brought to life the world of journalism for the students and the qualities it takes to be successful in this field.

A range of universities talked about specific degrees and offered excellent advice on making a competitive application: Chemical Engineering at Newcastle University, Land Based courses at Harper Adams University, Primary Teaching at York St John University, Accountancy at Sheffield University and St Anne's College, Oxford spoke about the importance of reflecting on supercurricular activity.

Mr Seaton guided students through the Scottish university system while Rebecca Ruddick talked about how to make the most of a gap year. Ciaren Green talked about his experience of studying psychology abroad, master's level study and how he is gathering experience to apply for a PhD.



If you think you could support our personal development programme next year, please email sixthform@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.

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

31 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

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. 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 gehsprizedraw@gmail.com



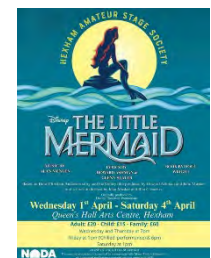
News from the community

Autism family drop-in sessions

See [here](#) for updated dates.

The Little Mermaid

From "The Little Mermaid" at the Queens Hall, Hexham. Starring Cate W and Theo C as "Ariel" and "Eric" with other current and former students in supporting roles. It's going to be a great show! <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/the-little-mermaid>



Meningitis B advice

Please take a moment to familiarise yourselves with the signs and symptoms of meningitis, and contact your GP for any concerns or for guidance regarding Meningitis B vaccinations.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/31/what-is-meningitis-symptoms-risks-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

Online Safety

For Parents - What is LooksMaxxing?

With the concerns of toxic masculinity and misogynistic attitudes increasing, parents should be aware of related behaviours.

Looksmaxxing isn't specifically related to misogynistic attitudes, but it can be related to masculinity, where young people are influenced to be 'more masculine' by being fitter and having bigger muscles. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, plenty of young people refer to looksmaxxing as leading a good lifestyle and being healthy (known as softmaxxing), but there can be other sides to this as well such as taking steroids or cosmetic surgery (known as hardmaxxing). There can also be mental health concerns such as social comparison, anxiety and self-esteem.

Internet Matters have created a really good guide about LooksMaxxing for parents including what it is, why it's so popular, risks and signs for parents to look out for.

Link: [Information for parents - what is looksmaxxing?](#) (By Alan McKenzie – Online Safety Specialist)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 March	CERN trip	Year 13
Tuesday 31 March	UCAS Evening for Parents 5.30 – 7pm	Year 12
Thursday 2 April	School Closes for Easter at 3.20pm	All year groups
Monday 20 April	School re-opens at 8.40am	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.



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