



27 March 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 26

As we approach the end of term, it's a perfect moment to pause and reflect on the many achievements, opportunities and moments of pride our students have created over recent weeks. The range of successes shared on our school news page shows just how fully our students continue to embody our values of **Respect, Engage, Aspire**.

Our sports teams have had an exceptional few weeks. Our Year 11 boys' rugby team put in a tremendous performance at the prestigious Sedbergh School Sevens tournament, building confidence ahead of their appearance at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, the largest school rugby tournament in the world. Alongside this, our U16 boys' and girls' squads have been preparing for their Rosslyn Park debut, with the whole school community firmly behind them as they take on this national challenge.

Achievements have extended well beyond the rugby field. We congratulate Jasper, Rhydian and Noah (Year 9) on earning their Bronze EDT Award for their project *'My School is an Island'*, presenting research and sustainable solutions to industry professionals.

In the classroom and wider curriculum, our students continue to shine. This term's Intermediate Maths Challenge saw a large number of Year 9 and 10 students achieve awards, with nine qualifying for the next round — a significant accomplishment in a competition aimed at Years 9–11. Our Sixth Formers benefited from a rich programme of personal development talks, including sessions led by entrepreneurs, creative professionals, and alumni, highlighting the diverse pathways available beyond school.

The performing arts have also been a real highlight. Students involved in the Queen's Hall production of *The Little Mermaid* have been preparing for opening night, showcasing musical, dramatic and technical talent within our community. We also celebrate the remarkable success of Isabella, Skylar and Michael, who achieved their Grade 8 LAMDA Gold Medals for outstanding public speaking performances.

Beyond school walls, our young people have continued to demonstrate determination and character. From competitive rowing at The Derwentwater Head, to impressive performances at the Dame Allan's U14 Girls' 7s tournament, students have represented QEHS with resilience and pride.

Respect

Attendance

Information for Year 11

As we move into the final stretch before exams, we want to remind families that **all Year 11 students are expected to remain in school and attend lessons as normal until the May half term.**

This period is vital in helping students **focus on high-quality revision with their teachers**, complete targeted practice, and receive the personalised support they need to feel confident and fully prepared for their exams.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Neil Seaton

We know how committed our students are, and maintaining strong attendance over the coming weeks will make a significant difference to their progress and outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring Year 11 make the very best use of this important time. If you have any questions about attendance or need any further guidance, please contact the school's attendance team.

School car park safety reminder

We kindly ask everyone to help keep our school community safe by following the 10 mph speed limit while driving on school grounds.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our pupils safe.

Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech ✨

88,160

Ms Coleman



Birch

86,710

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

79,451

Mrs Fraser



Oak

77,452

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore

77,512

Total points per 26 March 2026

QEHS Rugby



Our Year 11 boys had the fantastic experience of playing at the prestigious Sedbergh School Sevens rugby union tournament last week, ahead of their first-ever appearance at the biggest school's rugby tournament in the world – the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens – next week. They scored impressive tries throughout the day and finished with a confidence-boosting win over Rodillian Academy. See [here](#) For a full match report. Well done to all the boys and a big thank you to coach (and driver) Scott and Teddy's dad Sam, who went down to support the team and take photos.

Good luck to our QEHS U16 boys and girls Rugby Squads at Rosslyn Park Sevens!

Rugby County Cup

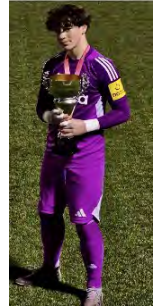
Congratulations to four of our QE sixth formers and their teammates. The Tynedale Colts gave a tremendous performance in their County Cup win against Alnwick last week. [Read more on the Tynedale RFC website](#)

KHS Cup

Congratulations to Leo who attended the KHS Cup tournament with Newcastle Academy. His team played teams from Malta, Canada and Lithuania to become the competition

champions.

You can read more about the competition in this [Newcastle United article \(Newcastle United website\)](#)



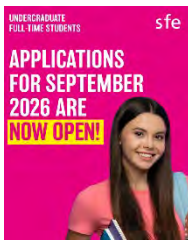
Aspire

Career of the week

This week's career of the week was Management Consultant:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/featured/management-consultant>

Sixth Form



Student finance

Applications for September 2026 are now open!

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>

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. 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 gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

PTFA dates for the diary

Thursday 2 April - last day of term Tuck Shop

Monday 27 April - Spring Concert, where we'll be serving refreshments

Tuesday 5 May - PTFA meeting, 6pm, County Hotel, Hexham, in the Residents' Lounge

Thursday 25 June - Y13 Art Showcase, where we'll be serving refreshments

Tuesday 30 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.

The PTFA will be holding a lunchtime tuck shop to celebrate the last day of term next Thursday 2nd April in the dining hall, where students will be able to purchase a variety of sweet treats and drinks. Cash and cards accepted. Please make sure that any card accounts are topped up with money to avoid disappointment and please note that payment cannot be made via school lunch accounts.



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

Hexham Bike Bus – volunteers needed!

Following November’s successful piloting of a ‘Bike Bus’ initiative in Hexham, Tynedale’s Bicycle Mayor, David Dixon, has secured more funding for bike bus training for volunteer guides. A bike bus is a supervised grouping of cyclists who move together as a unit and therefore have greater protection from traffic than when cycling alone. Our support of this reinforces the message that cycling can have many benefits for individuals – fitness, fun and convenience – and the community, as ever-increasing traffic congestion contributes to higher accident rates, pollution and Climate Change. However, without more adult guides, the scheme won’t be sustainable.

If you or someone you know can spare a small amount of time on a morning or afternoon each week to support this initiative, it would be greatly appreciated. Training is taking place on **Wednesday 13 May**. For more details, please contact David via daviddixon649@gmail.com.

Family hub Northumberland

See [here](#) for what’s on in the Easter holidays.

Out in nature event

Join Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Pride Action North for this inclusive and family friendly event. Come and get a whole new perspective on the natural world around us! From fungi and forests, to woodlice and wild oysters, the natural world is full of beauty and diversity. Check out more about this free event here: <https://www.nwt.org.uk/events/2026-04-08-out-nature>

Online Safety

For Parents - New YouTube Feature

One of the most common concerns from parents when it comes to YouTube is the lack of parental management features, in other words the videos their children can and should not see. Many parents I speak to don't know that there are features within both the main YouTube app and the YouTube Kids app. As such I have shared these features in this newsletter a few times in the past.

But Google have now released another feature, specifically this allows a parent to set up a Supervised Experience account on the parents' device. This is important because many younger children will watch YouTube videos on their parents' device, where it is likely there are no restrictions in place. So this new feature is a welcome addition.

To tie all these features together I have produced an article explaining Supervised Experience (on the main YouTube app) and Parent Allowlisting (on the YouTube Kids app)

Link: [YouTube Settings for Parents](#) By Alan McKenzie (Online Safety Advisor)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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