



2 April 2026



## **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 27**

As we close the term and look ahead to the Easter break, I would like to wish all our students, families and staff a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the tremendous success of our rugby teams. Huge congratulations to the girls involved in the 7s rugby squad who achieved an outstanding victory by winning the Rosslyn Park Plate last week – a remarkable accomplishment at such a prestigious national event. The team of boys also performed with great determination and skill after qualifying for this highly competitive competition. Both squads were excellent ambassadors for QEHS.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the holiday period will be a busy but important time as they prepare for their forthcoming exams. I would like to wish them every success and encourage them to find a healthy balance between revision and rest over the break.

Looking ahead, I would like to remind families about our Spring Concert on Wednesday 29 April. This promises to be a fantastic evening showcasing the talent of our students, and I very much hope many of you will be able to join us. Tickets are available [here](#).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the school. I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable Easter break.

### **Respect**

#### **Attendance**

#### **Taking Your Child Out of School During Term Time**

School time is for learning. Children already have 175 days each year to spend time with family, including weekends and school holidays. Because of this, schools expect pupils to attend every day unless there is a very good reason.

#### **Can I take my child out of school for a holiday?**

In most cases, no. Holidays during term time are not usually allowed and are not considered a special or “exceptional” reason. Only the Head of School can agree to time off, and this will only happen in exceptional circumstances, such as:

- Serious illness of a close family member
- A funeral
- Important one-off religious events

Price, convenience, or work commitments are not accepted reasons for term-time holidays.

### **Queen Elizabeth High School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

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

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

### **What happens if I take my child out without permission?**

If your child is taken out of school without approval:

- The absence will be recorded as unauthorised
- You may be fined by the local authority

### **How much is the fine?**

If a child misses 5 days (10 sessions) or more without permission:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid quickly
- This rises to £160 if not paid on time
- Both parents can be fined
- Repeat cases can lead to further legal action

### **Why does attendance matter?**

Being in school every day helps children:

- Learn more and make better progress
- Do better in exams and tests
- Feel secure, supported and part of school life

Research shows that pupils with higher attendance achieve better outcomes at secondary school and beyond.

### **How you can help**

You can support your child by:

- Booking holidays during school holidays only
- Making medical appointments outside school time where possible
- Talking to school early if there are worries or difficulties

### **Uniform**

At QEHS, we pride ourselves on how smart and well-presented our students are and we thank you for your ongoing support with this.

The uniform policy can be found [here](#). To ensure clarity and consistency please see further guidance on some areas

- **Skirts** - should not be unduly short. As a guide skirts should not be rolled and should come to below the finger tip when arms are held by the side
- **Grey formal trousers** – no black trousers, leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- **Hair Colour** - hair should not be dyed an extreme unnatural colour. This includes, blues, greens, pinks, reds and purples.
- **Shirts** – top buttons should be fastened and shirts should be tucked in

- **Jewellery** - one single set of studs and a watch maybe worn. All jewellery, including clear retainers must be removed for PE.

All teachers, including tutors, heads of year and senior leaders will be conducting regular uniform checks and will support your child to correct their uniform. If there are any issues that cannot be resolved in school a member of staff will contact you to help resolve the issue. Failure to still meet uniform expectations will result in escalation through our behaviour policy.

If you would like support with uniform please complete the form using the link below or contact our PTFA who have a supply of used uniform. [Uniform Request Form](#)

## Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech ✨

92,947

Ms Coleman



Birch

91,430

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

83,912

Mrs Fraser



Oak

82,160

Miss Snowdon/  
Miss Macken



Sycamore

91,498

**Total points per 2 April 2026**

Next online House Assembly: Tuesday 28 April

## Rugby - QEHS girls crowned U16s plate champions



Our Year 10 & 11 girls delivered an outstanding performance last week at the prestigious Rosslyn Park Schools Sevens, returning as Plate winners after a series of impressive displays over two days.

Abby A, Annabelle M, Ariel L, Charlotte A, Charlotte H, Evie N, Imogen M, Isla M, Lucy C, Lucy P, Poppy H, Tori M – your schools, coaches, parents, Tynedale rugby club and the wider community are immensely proud of your achievement and representation of girls' sporting excellence in North East!

*"That today was just one of the best performances I've seen" wrote one rugby aficionado. "The grit and determination from the girls was unreal!"*

See [here](#) for a full match report.

### Rugby - Rosslyn Park Year 11 boys

QEHS's Year 11 boys made school history by competing for the first time in the prestigious Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, facing elite opposition and challenging conditions. Despite injuries and early setbacks, they delivered determined performances, finishing their debut campaign with a spirited comeback win and doing the school proud. See [here](#) for more details and the match report.



### Rugby - Year 9 boys



A huge well done to our Y9 boys rugby team who competed in the county sevens competition at Cochrane Park on Monday. After winning their group by beating Ponteland and KEVI, they qualified for the cup competition to compete against fellow group winners, Dame Allan's and RGS. After a hard-fought win over Dame Allan's, we came up against RGS, who were also undefeated in the competition. It looked like the game could have ran away from the QE lads, they came back strongly in the second half, ultimately running out of time to complete the comeback, eventually losing 26-19. 2nd place overall is still not a bad outcome!

### Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

On Friday our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award participants had their first practice walk. They undertook training on map skills and the countryside code, in preparation of their expedition in May.



### Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh



Our Year 9 students practising putting up tents as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award training.

### Royal Society Project trip

Students from year 9 and 10 had a great day out at Bonyrigg Hall last week as they began their data collection for their Royal Society Project. The approval of this project from the Royal Society is the culmination of a lot of hard work from everybody and it was great to finally get the ball rolling. We will be investigating how climate can affect the productivity and life cycles of plants and animals in two contrasting sites.



A huge thank you to Bonyrigg Hall for a wonderful insight to the surrounding landscape and a tour of the farm with a chance to meet and greet a vast array of birds. We are all very happy to be partnering with them, Nick from Northumberland National Park and our fab STEM partner Andy from Northumbria University. Looking forward to the next data collection day and sunnier weather ahead!

## Hockey

Well done to our Y9 hockey players who represented the school in a national competition in Nottingham on Friday alongside some Y7 & Y8 HMS pupils. The boys finished 5<sup>th</sup> (of 7) and the girls finished 6<sup>th</sup> (of 12), and Maggie was super-impressed with the way everyone played, especially from the non-club players. They showed real talent, fitness and determination throughout. It was also commented that their behaviour was exceptional, and they were a real credit to the schools.



### Roller derby success

Cory in Y9 has been selected for the Team GB junior roller derby Development Team, to train with the 2027 Team GB squads over the next year. His selection follows tryouts that were held across the UK this year, with skaters from Orkney to Devon competing. The standard was incredibly high. Well done Cory! More information is on our website: [here](#).

## Football – Year 10

The Y10 footballers have qualified for the final of the County Cup, beating St Thomas More 3-0 on Monday night.

In a difficult game with difficult conditions, both the wind and pitch were challenging, but we progressed through to the final with a solid performance.

The conditions limited the chances for both teams and it looked like the team who scored first would be the winners, the first half ending 0-0. The breakthrough came early in the second half with Dan C latching on to a loose ball in the box and finishing from close range. A goal from Lucas P and another from Dan C (penalty) were enough to secure the win.



A solid, professional performance from all the squad, who were excellent on the day and really played as a team in the second half.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/environmental-consultant>

### Unifrog Parent Account

We are pleased to let you know that parents and carers of students at Queen Elizabeth High School can now enjoy full access **Unifrog**, the online platform we use in school to help students explore their future pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and employment.

### A parent account will allow you to:

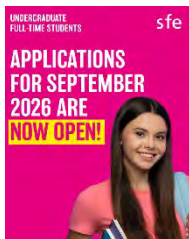
- **Stay up to date:** See your child's next tasks, unfinished actions, upcoming events, placements, and the interactions added by their teachers
- **Try out:** Try our student tools, e.g. find out what frog they are in the personality quiz
- **Learn:** Find webinars, fairs and guides aimed at parents and caregivers
- **Stay in touch:** Sign up to our monthly parent newsletter (which tells parents and caregivers about news and opportunities to do with careers and progression).

### How to create a parent account:

1. First, we will need to add your email address to your child's Unifrog profile.
2. Once this has been done, you can create your account by either:
  - Using **Single Sign-On (SSO)** on the normal Unifrog sign-in page, or
  - Entering your email address on the Unifrog parent sign-up page and following the instructions.
3. After creating your account, you can sign in at any time using your email and password or SSO via the usual Unifrog sign-in page.

If you would prefer **not** to have your email address added to your child's Unifrog account, please contact [ahedley@gehs.net](mailto:ahedley@gehs.net) to opt out.

## 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](mailto: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. If you'd like to contact the PTFA committee you can email [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com). In the meantime, please do follow us on Facebook (QEHS Parent, Teacher & Friends Association), Instagram and Threads (@qehs\_parent\_teacher\_friends)



Registered Charity 1201950

### PTFA dates for the diary

- Wednesday 29 April - (note date change) 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 [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com). For all but one of them, you won't need a DBS check.

### Having a Spring clean over the Easter break?

Don't forget you can place bags of unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories in the PTFA recycling bin at the main car park entrance and raise money for us to support the school at the same time. 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.

### 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](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com)



## 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
Thursday 23 April	Year 10 Parents' evening (Q-band)	Year 10
Wednesday 29 April	Spring Concert 7.15pm See <a href="#">here</a> for tickets	All welcome
Wednesday 29 April	Year 10 Parents' evening (E-band)	Year 10



### 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.

*N Seaton*

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)