



15 May 2026

### **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 31**

At the heart of our school community are the values that shape who we are and who we strive to become. We speak regularly with our students about *Respect, Engage, Aspire*, as guiding principles that underpin every aspect of our school life.

*Respect* is about treating each other with empathy and kindness; it is the foundation of strong relationships between students, staff, and the wider community. *Engage* challenges our young people to take an active role in their learning, to be curious, committed, and be active in school life. *Aspire* supports every student to aim high, work hard, and believe in their potential both in school and beyond.

These values are lived daily. They influence the way our staff build positive relationships, the expectations we hold, and the culture we nurture together. After the holiday students will take part in REA week. This is a key opportunity for learning beyond the classroom, where students will take part in a range of activities including trips, sporting opportunities, and enrichment experiences. Each activity has been carefully planned to reflect our ethos, giving students the chance to develop confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

#### **Growing up in the online world: a national consultation**

The government is consulting on measures to prepare children for the future in an age of rapid technological change, and is seeking the views of [parents and carers](#) and [children and young people](#). There is an [online event](#) for parents and carers on Wednesday 20 May at 6pm to 7pm. [Growing up in an Online World: a national conversation](#), will consider how children and young people use digital technology in school and at home. The consultation closes on 26 May.

#### **The Big Future national children and young people's survey**

The Children's Commissioner is asking for all children and young people to complete the new survey, [The Big Future](#). The Commissioner wants to make sure that she hears from as many children and young people as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. She is asking them about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns and their hopes for the future. More than anything, she wants to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

We will be promoting this in school but, if your child hasn't yet submitted a response, please ask them to complete the survey via this link: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>. The findings will be published next year and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see to the problems that they say are most important to them.

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

## Respect

### Attendance

Year 11 and Year 13 study leave does not begin until Monday 1 June. Students are expected to attend school where revision lessons are provided by staff to prepare them for upcoming exams. After an exam students should attend the revision lessons being prepared and delivered by their teachers. The professional input of specialists will help them to learn and prepare more effectively for their exams.

## Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech ✨

107,996

Ms Coleman



Birch

106,669

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

94,846

Mrs Fraser



Oak

95,389

Miss Snowdon/  
Miss Macken



Sycamore

93,369

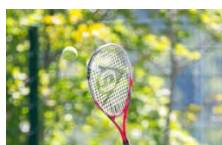
**Total points per 15 May 2026**

### A-level Art Exhibition "A Sense of Wonder" – 13<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July

This eclectic exhibition of visual arts spanning the two main galleries of the Queen's Hall is curated by staff and students from Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham. The young artists are showing their work made for their A-level studies made last year and this. The exhibition title invokes the very special feelings that these creative students feel towards their work and express in the amazing variety of art on display. This sense of wonder leads many students to study at Newcastle College's foundation course and onwards to creative degree courses across the country.



### QEHS Tennis



Well done to Harry R, Kayden W, Finn M & Fred C who won the first tennis match of the season as QEHS look to defend their league title for the second year running. Some great tennis was on display across both the singles and the doubles with the boys only losing one of their six games, defeating their opponents 10-2.

## GCSE Biology



In preparation for their Paper 1 Biology GCSE, Miss Savage's Year 11 class finally got to take part in their long-awaited heart dissection. Working in groups, students explored the structure of a lamb's heart, identifying key external features and linking their learning to coronary heart disease. They then carefully dissected the heart to locate structures, including the aorta and ventricles, before simulating contractions to observe the heart strings and valves in action. A fantastic hands-on revision session bringing Biology to life ahead of the exam!

## QEHS Rowing news

QEHS rowers are in peak competition season at the present. Our rowers are competing most weekends, it is great to see them testing their hard won physical and technical skills across the north of England and beyond.



Last weekend saw crews racing at Durham City Regatta and at the Beach Sprints in South Shields.

Durham City regatta is always a popular oversubscribed event. Here is a report from Adam R:

- Y9 girls won the WJ14 8X+. Constance coxing Annabelle M, Gaby, Flo, Jess, Sofia, Hannah, Anna, Mia.
- The Y10 girls won the WJ15 4X+ (B2) Madeleine coxing Evie M, Kate, Eleanor, Tashie.
- The Y13 boys won the Op Sen 4+ (B2), Constance coxing Benji, Hugh, Alex, Adam.
- Y10 girls won the W Nov 4+, Joseph coxing Ariel, Bella, Isla M, Imogen M,
- Jacob F rowing in a single won the Op J18 1x (B2).
- A special mention goes to Coach Kevin who won with his masters 8 coxed by Madeleine from QEHS.

Well done everyone!!

Everyone had a great, if not long and wet, day at Durham.

Beach sprints: A small number of QEHS rowers participated in the northern section of the beach sprints cup at South Shields on Sunday. This format is becoming increasingly popular to compete in. Ariel had a very successful day, finishing an impressive 3rd, in her first try at beach racing.

Thank you to all coaches who helped our rowers to be able to participate at the weekend. We all appreciate your guidance and commitment to the sport.

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



Some of our year 9 students set off on their Duke of Edinburgh Awards Expedition yesterday morning. See [here](#) for more pictures of their departure.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week the career of the week is: <https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/arts-and-media/broadcast-journalist>

You can activate your parent / carer Unifrog account by visiting [www.unifrog.org/parent](http://www.unifrog.org/parent) and signing up with the same email address that is linked to your child on Bromcom.

### Employer encounter



What an AMAZING employer encounter for our Year 10 students!  
A huge thank you to the incredible team at The Lord Crewe Arms for such a fantastic culinary experience with Head Chef Paul and the General Manager, Tommy Mark!

Students were challenged to create their own risotto dishes after watching an expert demonstration from Paul — and wow, did they rise to the occasion! The creativity, teamwork and determination on display was outstanding, with every student embracing the challenge and achieving brilliantly.

Even more exciting... the WINNING recipes will be featured on the Lord Crewe Arms menu during the week our students complete their work experience! What an incredible opportunity for our young chefs to showcase their talents in a real professional kitchen.

We are so proud of all the students for their enthusiasm, confidence and excellent effort throughout the morning. Experiences like this truly inspire future careers and bring learning to life!

Thank you again to Lord Crewe Arms Blanchland for such a memorable and [inspiring event!](#)

## Sixth Form

### Y12 Sports leaders helping with football festival



A group of our year 12 sports leaders attended the Sele First School this week to help deliver a football festival to the entire school. They coached skills, refereed games, supported the pupils, and led inflatable darts and shooting games. As always, the sports leaders were a huge credit to QEHS, conducting themselves to the highest of standards; their attitude and work ethic were complimented by several staff in attendance. They worked with pupils from nursery to year 4, and the event was a brilliant success. Well done year 12 sport leaders.

## 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 sharing opportunities with 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.

## Online Safety

### Switched on to young people's privacy

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has launched the [Switched on to privacy](#) campaign. This is designed to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about online privacy. Please do look at the resources and discuss these with your child.

### For Parents - Find the Right Words

Virgin Media and Internet Matters have released a wonderful new resource for parents/carers. Called 'Find the Right Words', the video and resources help with some of those difficult conversations about how to keep children safe online.

Link - [Find the Right Words](#). (Alan McKenzie – Online Safety specialist)

## 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

### Do you need support with the cost of school trips or music tuition?

In the Autumn term, we launched our PTFA bursary fund to help families who could not otherwise afford for their child to participate in a school trip or pay for music tuition. More information about the fund and how to apply for a bursary award can be found here: [QEHS PTFA Bursary Fund](#)

If you or your workplace would like to contribute towards the fund, you can donate online via [Justgiving - PTFA Bursary Fund](#). Alternatively, you can email us to discuss other support options: [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com)

If you would prefer to make a more general donation to support the funding of enrichment activities and equipment for the whole school community, you can make a one-off or regular donation at our [JustGiving PTFA](#) page. JustGiving sends your donation straight to us and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

**Do you have any useful skills or knowledge to share?**

We'd love to hear from you if you do, whether that is social media skills, fundraising, bookkeeping, admin, leadership skills or having good local community links.

**31 PTFA dates for the diary**

- Friday 22 May - half term tuckshop, where we'll be selling confectionery in school
- 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
- Thursday 9 July - Save the date for a friendly meet & greet social evening with a special performance - more details to follow.

If you can spare even a little time to help out at these events, or to help prepare for them, please get in touch.

✉ Contact the PTFA committee by emailing [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook (QEHS Parent, Teacher & Friends Association), Instagram and Threads (@qehs\_parent\_teacher\_friends)

**Welcome to our new lottery members!**

Our winners last month each won a £25 cash prize, and there's still time to be in this month's PTFA lottery draw. Tickets cost £1 per entry, with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is very simple and online. For more information and to sign up, complete the online application [online application](#) or email [qehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



**News from the community**

**Kinship Support Group**

The latest Kinship Support Group dates and information are available [here](#) on our website.

**Positive Behaviour Support workshops**

Skills for People run a series of positive behaviour support workshops in Hexham. Next dates are 18<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June. Sign up required. More information is available [here](#).

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 5 May – Friday 19 June	GCSE and A-level exams	Year 11 and Year 13
Friday 22 May	School closes at 3.20pm	All year groups
Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May	Summer Half Term Holiday	All year groups
Monday 1 June	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 1 June – Friday 12 June	Kenya expedition	Year 10 (group)
Monday 1 June – Friday 5 June	Ford Castle residential	Year 9 (groups)
Tuesday 2 June – Friday 5 June	Holocaust Awareness Visit Poland	Year 9 and Year 10 (group)
Tuesday 2 June – Thursday 4 June	DofE Expedition	Year 10 (group)
Monday 8 June – Friday 12 June	Madrid residential	Year 10 (group)
Monday 8 June – Friday 12 June	Paris residential – work experience	Year 12 (group)
Saturday 13 June – Friday 5 July	A-level art exhibition	

## 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.

NSeaton

Neil Seaton  
Head of School

### **Pupil support and safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Anne Lloyd  
Deputy Safeguarding Leader: 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@gehs.net](mailto:admin@gehs.net)

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