

3 July 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 37

As we reach the final few weeks of the academic year, there is still so much to celebrate across our school community. This week's update reflects the breadth of opportunities our students embrace and the many ways they continue to demonstrate our values of Respect, Engage and Aspire.

I was delighted to see the success of our students in such a wide range of activities. Our U15 cricketers have reached the final 16 teams in the country, an outstanding achievement that reflects both talent and commitment. Equally impressive are the achievements of our students in the recent schools' [bouldering competition](#), where both QEHS and HMS students achieved remarkable individual and team success. These accomplishments remind us that excellence comes in many forms and that our young people continue to represent our schools with pride and determination.



Learning beyond the classroom remains a strength of our school. From GCSE geographers investigating flood risk in Hexham to the many enrichment opportunities highlighted throughout this newsletter.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support. This edition includes opportunities for families to contribute to important national and local surveys, including the Children's Commissioner's *Big Future* survey and the *Your Child's Future* careers questionnaire. Your views and those of your children help shape provision both within our school and beyond.

As the summer holiday approaches, I strongly encourage everyone to take note of the key dates and reminders included later in this newsletter. Whether students are involved in trips, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions or preparing for the transition into a new year group in September, there is much to look forward to over the coming weeks.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Beech House on their continued success in the house point competition and thank all students for the positive contribution they make to our school community every day. As ever, the achievements featured in this newsletter are only possible because of the collective efforts of students, staff, parents and carers working together.

Respect

Attendance

As we approach the end of the school year, it can be tempting to think that the last few weeks are less important. Some of the most valuable experiences of the year happen during this period.

Students are continuing with important learning in lessons, taking part in trips and activities, celebrating their achievements and preparing for the next stage of their education. Every day in school helps them to finish the year positively and make the best possible start in September.

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

We know that families are looking forward to the summer break, but we ask parents and carers to avoid taking holidays or keeping children at home before the end of term unless there are exceptional circumstances. Good attendance helps students maintain learning routines, stay connected with friends and ensure they do not miss important opportunities, information or events.

Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech 🌟

123,761

Ms Coleman



Birch

119,970

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

109,536

Mrs Fraser



Oak

109,171

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore

106,228

Total points per 3 July 2026

Geography field trips

Last week our GCSE geography students were out investigating “Is Hexham at risk of flooding from the Cockshaw Burn?” Here they are measuring the capacity of the river to hold flood waters.



Year 12 Geographers were at the coast this week, measuring beach profiles.

Biology field work

Year 13 Biologists have completed their first day of field work at Seaton Sluice. We explored the rocky shore, before carrying out both random and systematic sampling as well as using the “mark release recapture” technique. The sunny weather was definitely appreciated!



Bouldering

This month we had a couple of trips to Climb Newcastle's annual schools bouldering competition representing QEHS and HMS. As you'll be able to see all the girls did their school proud with some absolutely brilliant scores and team work. There were children there from 18 different schools across the north east.



Individual results	Team results
Category 2009/ 2010 1st Beth N- QEHS	Category 2009/2010 1st QEHS
Category 2011/2012 1st Winnie L- QEHS 2nd Phoebe B- HMS 3rd Charlotte K- QEHS 6th Florence B- QEHS	Category 2011/2012 1st QEHS 3rd HMS
Category 2013/ 2014 2nd Hazel L – HMS 6th Isla Y – HMS 7th Kirstie A- HMS 8th Mollie C- HMS	Category 2013/2014 1st HMS



Cricket

The U15 lads have kept their incredible run going by qualifying for National Round 2 of the new Knight-stokes cricket cup. They are now in the last 16 teams in the country! They will be playing other area winners down in Wakefield next week. See [here](#) for the match report.

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.

Aspire

Your Child's Future – Parent & Carer Questionnaire

We're inviting you to take part in *Your Child's Future*, a short questionnaire designed to help us understand how confident and informed parents and carers feel about careers and future pathways.

Your responses will help us strengthen how we work with families and ensure our careers programme is as supportive, accessible and effective as possible for all young people.

The questionnaire asks about topics such as:

- How confident you feel talking to your child about careers
- How familiar you are with the different options available after school or college
- How well you understand the careers programme at your child's school, specialist setting or college

By sharing your views, you'll help us shape a careers programme that better supports your child — and all young people — as they plan for their future.

Link: [Your Child's Future 2025/2026](#)

The links will be active until July 31st 2026

Career of the week

This week's job of the week was IT project manager:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/it-project-manager>

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



Sixth Form

Sixth form noticeboard

[The sixth form Noticeboard](#) is regularly updated with new opportunities. Please visit regularly to see what has been added. There have been new [local and national apprenticeship opportunities](#) added this week.

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@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

Used uniform needed

We would welcome any donations of school uniform that has been outgrown and is in good, clean condition, so it can be reused and appreciated by other students. We would be especially grateful for any items our former Year 11 students can pass on now that they no longer need them. Donations can be brought into the school office. Thank you.

💰 A chance to win one of two cash prizes each month

Tickets for the PTFA lottery cost just £1 with simple online entry. For more information and to sign up complete the [online application](#) or email gehsprizedraw@gmail.com.

✉ Contact the PTFA committee by emailing gehs.ptfa@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook (QEHS Parent, Teacher & Friends Association), Instagram and Threads (@qehs_parent_teacher_friends)

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Social Media Ban and Online Safety Measures

As we're all probably aware by now, the UK government announced a social media ban for under 16's, to come into force from Spring 2027. Whilst many are applauding this, many more are not. Part of the problem is that there are very few hard facts: what does this actually mean in practice, which platforms, what does it mean for families and much more.

Internet Matters have put a big article together exploring these questions and more which I think many parents will find useful. Link: [Social Media Ban and Online Safety Measures](#)

(By Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

News from the community

Summer events

There's lots going on in our community this summer. Have a look at this [overview](#), there's something for everyone!

Water Safety Day

On **Saturday 4 July, 11:00-14:00hrs at Riverside Park, Prudhoe, NE42 6NP**, the Prudhoe Youth Project, in conjunction with Tyne Valley Canoe Club will host a Water Safety Day, which will give attendees the opportunity to get out on the water with instructors on a kayak, canoe or SUP board. There will also be the opportunity to test safety equipment and demonstrations by Northumberland Fire and Rescue, Mountain Rescue and the Northumbria Police Marine Unit. Everyone is welcome. See [here](#) for more information.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 7 July	Trips and visits day	new Year 10 and new Year 11
Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 July	DofE Expedition	Group of new Year 11
Friday 10 – Monday 13 July	DofE Expedition	Group of new Year 13
Friday 17 July	Non-school uniform day	All year groups
Friday 17 July	School closes for the summer at 1.30pm	All year groups

Free School Meals

From September 2026 the government is making changes to eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. Notably, it is expanding eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. For further information on the changes, how to check eligibility and to apply for Free School Meals go to: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/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. To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

Have a wonderful weekend

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

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