

17 July 2026

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 39

As I write my final introduction to the QEHS Weekly Update, I do so in the knowledge that this week has been a perfect reflection of what makes our school such a special place.

Tuesday's Year 11 Attendance Bingo was colourful and joyful - celebrating those students who have attended well. Charity Day saw our sixth formers fulfilling their rite of passage in organising an array of fun activities and raising funds for Adapt, a truly worthwhile local cause. The celebrations continued with our rewards afternoon, recognising the effort, contribution and achievements of so many young people who embody our values of Respect, Engage and Aspire every day. This morning I also enjoyed my final ATL awards breakfast with the Year 11 students who have demonstrated exceptional attitudes to learning.

One of the highlights of the week was our Celebration Evening. It was an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable range of achievements and experiences that have taken place this year, both inside and outside the classroom. We were delighted to welcome former student Alice Morris, who shared insights into her fascinating career as a prop's buyer. Her story was an inspiring reminder of the many different pathways that can lead to fulfilling and successful futures. The evening was further enhanced by outstanding performances from Youth Theatre, including *Somewhere from West Side Story* and *We Go Together* from *Grease*, showcasing the talent, and confidence of our students.

As I prepare to leave QEHS, what I will remember most is that this is a school where young people truly thrive and flourish. They succeed because of the excellent learning that takes place in classrooms every day, but also because of the extraordinary range of opportunities beyond lessons, whether in sport, music, drama, leadership, outdoor education, charity work or countless other activities. These experiences help our students discover their talents, build their confidence and develop into well-rounded young people ready for whatever comes next.

None of this happens by chance. It is made possible by incredible staff who care deeply about our students, by young people who continually impress us, and by a supportive community of parents, carers, and trustees who work alongside us. I also want to say thank you to other staff leaving today – Sarah Morgan, Dance & Drama Teacher, Angelika Swatek, Languages Teacher, Sarah Jackson, Finance, Heather Howard, Curriculum Leader of English, Lynda Featonby, Mathematics Teacher, Sissi Ju, Mathematics Teacher, Anna Craven & Kathryn Garner, Science Technicians, and Anne Lloyd, Assistant Head Teacher. Thank you to all of them for their dedicated service to our school.

It has been a privilege serving as Head of School. QEHS will always hold a special place in my heart, and I leave knowing that the school has a bright future ahead under the excellent leadership of Ms Innes. I wish every member of our community a restful and enjoyable summer break.

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

Student Support 2026/27

From September Mr Ian Vasey will be the acting Assistant Head in charge of Standards and Support. Mr Dave Todd will take over the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead.

While Mr Vasey is acting AHT and Ms Albrey is on maternity leave the following Heads of Year and Deputy Heads of Year will be in place:

Y9 - Mrs Kay Gray will be Head of Year.

Y10 - Mr Paul Main will be Head of Year with Ms Sophie Snowdon as Deputy HOY

Y11 - Ms Rebecca Savage will be Head of Year with Ms Rebecca Macken as Deputy HOY

Respect



Queen Elizabeth High School
Respect. Engage. Aspire.

SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
Year 9 and Year 13
return to school

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
Years 10 and 11
return to school

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
Year 12 Welcome to Sixth Form
Hexham Abbey

ATTEND WELL AND PROSPER
★
RESPECT • ENGAGE • ASPIRE

Engage

This week saw the announcement of our House Champions at a celebration event. The winning house was awarded based on P points and the points won in house competitions throughout the year. When we added the house points won through competitions, despite their continuing lead throughout the year, Beech house was pipped at the post and Birch house was triumphant.

Mr Jesper



Beech

Ms Coleman



Birch 🌞

Ms Buxton-Collins



Ash

Mrs Fraser



Oak

Miss Snowdon/
Miss Macken



Sycamore

The results are in!

Activity	Ash	Beech	Birch	Oak	Sycamore
House Quiz 1	1000	1000	1000	5000	3000
House Quiz 2	3000	2000			5000
House Quiz 3	3000	2000	2000	5000	1000
House Quiz 4	3000	1000	5000	2000	5000
House Quiz 5	2000	5000	1000	3000	2000
House Quiz 6	1000	0	5000	2000	3000
House Quiz 7	3000	3000	2000	5000	1000
House activities week - March					
Masked Reader			5000		3000
Wordle	2000	2000	3000	5000	
Walk and Wheel	2060	3460	4430	1850	1730
House activities week - March					
House Bingo (Staff winner)				100	
Wordle	5000	1000	3000	5000	2000
P-Points Total	112981	126376	121717	110912	107625
Total	138041	146836	153147	144862	134355

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 lifeguard: <https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/lifeguard>

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

Thank you!

Thank you to all our QEHS families for the fantastic support you've given the PTFA over the past year. Your generosity, time and involvement make a real difference to our school community and we're truly grateful for everything you do. When we return in the autumn, we'll be sharing a full overview of how much has been raised and the projects your contributions have funded across the school. We look forward to another year of working together to support our students and enrich school life.

If you'd like to get involved next year, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're great at organising, budgeting, promoting events or simply bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm, there's a place for every skill set. Supporting the PTFA is a brilliant way to make a tangible difference to school life while meeting other parents and feeling more connected to our school community. If you're interested, just drop us a line at gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

Summer clear-outs

Our clothing and accessories recycling bins, located at the main car park entrance, will remain open to use throughout the summer break. We welcome new or used donations of the following items in good, undamaged condition, placed in bags tied at the top:

- adults' and children's clothes
- shoes (tied in pairs)
- 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.



Dates for the diary

Tuesday 15 September - next PTFA meeting, 6pm County Hotel, Hexham

Tuesday 20 October - AGM, at QEHS



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 (@gehs_parent_teacher_friends).

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!

Book Your Summer HAF Activities

We would like to remind families who have received a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) voucher to book their children's places as soon as possible.

The HAF programme provides eligible children with access to a range of free holiday activities, healthy meals, and enriching experiences throughout the summer holidays. Places at some activities are limited and may fill up quickly.

If you have received a HAF voucher, please log in to your booking account and use your voucher to secure places on your chosen activities. If you require any support accessing your voucher or making a booking, please contact the HAF team at haf@northumberland.gov.uk.

We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity and enjoy a fun-filled summer.

Please also find the Parent/Carer guide to support you with making bookings - [HAF Guide for Parents and Carers - Summer Guide 2026](#)

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 2 September	School assemblies for Year 9 and reassemblies for Year 13	Year 9, Year 13
Thursday 3 September	School reassemblies for Years 10, 11 and Year 12 start Sixth form	Years 10, 11 and 12

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 summer holiday



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