



28 September 2026

QEHS UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of my first four weeks as Headteacher of QEHS, I wanted to thank you for your support and share a few reflections on what has been a busy and enjoyable start to the academic year.

Over the past month, I have spent a great deal of time in lessons, around social times, at school events and speaking with students. One thing has stood out consistently: our students are a credit to their families. Their kindness, good humour and positive attitude make QEHS a great place to work and learn, and they represent both the school and our wider community extremely well.

This was particularly evident on Friday when we were required to close the school at 1pm following the loss of water supply caused by a leak on Allendale Road. I would like to thank students and staff for the calm and sensible way they responded to what was an unusual situation. The school was able to close safely and efficiently because everyone followed instructions and worked together.

I would also like to thank families for their support. A particular challenge was ensuring that school transport arrangements could be managed safely and effectively at short notice. We were very grateful for the understanding and cooperation shown by parents and carers throughout the afternoon. It was a genuine community effort and a good example of people working together to support our young people.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the many activities, successes and opportunities featured in this edition of our QEHS update.

Respect

We know that being in school regularly is vital to students' learning, progress and achievement. To better understand students' views and experiences of attendance, we held a series of student voice panels to explore students' views on attendance, including what supports good attendance and what they feel could make a positive difference.

We will use the findings to reflect on our current approaches and consider appropriate changes that could further encourage and support good attendance.

Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech
19,806

Ms Coleman



Birch
19,722

Mr Collins



Ash
18,843

Mrs Fraser



Oak
20,070

Miss Macken



Sycamore
17,841

Rowing update

QEHS rowers made a strong return in their first competition after the summer break at the Tyne Single Scullers, battling extremely challenging conditions in their first head race of the season.

There were excellent performances across the squad, with Morty C (Y12) securing two second-place finishes. Wins came from Astrid C (Y13), Isla M (Y11), the Y10 double of Annabelle M and Sophia S, and the Y13 pair of Alexis and Mack.

The club is looking forward to welcoming new Year 9 pupils and teaching them to row. Session details have sent to parents of students who signed up.

Next up for QEHS rowers is Tees Head on 10 October.

See [here](#) for a more detailed report from new club captain James.

Year 10 Rugby

QEHS performed excellently in their season opener against a strong Dame Allan's side, despite travelling with only 16 players. Tries from George W and Lewis B, both converted by Henry H, saw QEHS compete strongly and lead during the second half. However, fatigue and injuries took their toll late on, allowing Dame Allan's to secure a 33-14 victory. The team can take great confidence from their performance ahead of the county cup competition at Tynedale RFC. For a more detailed match report, see [here](#).



Aspire

Career of the week

Last week's job of the week was: Mechanical Engineer

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/mechanical-engineer>

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

For parents and carers supporting a young person applying to university, our session with UEA on 13th October at 6pm offers a clear and in-depth understanding of the student finance process and university support.

Higher Education Advisers will discuss student loans and repayments, take parents and carers through the application process with important dates and deadlines, and provide an insight into some of the scholarships, bursaries, and other financial support available.

- **October 13 @ 18:00 - 18:45** HE Guidance: Student Finance - Supporting Your Young Person - A Parent/Carer Event - UEA [Find out more »](#)

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@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary), please send the details.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news



Registered Charity 1201950

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.

We'd like to welcome you to the **PTFA Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, which will take place on **Tuesday 20 October 2026 at 6.00pm** in Meeting Room 1 at QEHS. **We'd love to see you there!**

The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about everything the PTFA achieved during the last school year, learn about our plans for the year ahead, and have your say on the activities and events that support our school community. We will also be electing our committee for the coming year. You can view the agenda here: [AGM agenda](#)

Could you join the PTFA Committee?

The PTFA is run by a friendly team of volunteers, and we are currently looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary. We already have nominations for Co-Chairs (Kate Robson and Nicky Palmer) and Treasurer (Becky Elton), but we'd love to welcome a new Secretary to the team to help keep the PTFA running smoothly through meeting notes and communications. No special experience is needed, just a willingness to get involved and be part of the team.

If you're worried about the commitment, please don't be. We are all parents and carers juggling work, family life and other responsibilities. We share tasks, support one another and contribute what we can, when we can. Every little bit of help makes a difference.

Whether you're interested in joining the committee, volunteering occasionally, or simply finding out more about what we do, we'd be delighted to welcome you to the AGM.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to put your name forward for a committee role, please get in touch by emailing qehs.ptfa@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

💰 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 and Carers – Online Harm Groups

CEOP Education has produced new guidance to help parents understand online harm groups and how children can become drawn into them.

These groups may initially appear friendly or supportive before introducing secrecy, pressure, harmful challenges, threats or blackmail. The guidance explains some of the warning signs parents can look for and, importantly, how to respond calmly if they are worried about their child.

[CEOP – What Are Online Harm Groups?](#) (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 1 and Friday 2 October	English – Haworth trip	Year 13
Thursday 1 - Monday 5 October	Geography – Iceland trip	Year 13
Thursday 8 October	Year 9 and Year 10 tutor evening 4-6.30pm	Year 9 and Year 10
Wednesday 14 October – Thursday 22 October	Mock Exams	Year 11
Thursday 22 October	School closes at 3.20pm for Autumn half term	All year groups
Friday 23 October	Teacher Training Day	All year groups
Monday 2 November	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups

As we move further into autumn, the weather is starting to turn colder. Please could parents and carers ensure that students bring an appropriate coat to school each day. Where possible, it is helpful if coats can fit into school bags so that they can be stored easily throughout the day.

Thank you, as always, for your support. The partnership between school and home is hugely important, and we value the role families play in helping students succeed.

These parent and carer updates will continue to be issued every two weeks for now. However, one of my priorities this year is to review how we communicate with families and ensure that information is shared in the most effective way possible. As that work develops, the format, content or frequency of communications may change, and I will keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

Katie Innes
Headteacher

Pupil support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr David Todd
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