

Queen Elizabeth High School
Prospectus

Queen Elizabeth High School
spes durat avorum

Respect. Engage. Aspire.

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Katie Innes
Headteacher

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. Hopefully, it will give you a sense of the excellent work that takes place in our school community and our commitment to ensuring that students thrive and flourish.

The school has a long history that dates to 1599 when Queen Elizabeth I bestowed the Charter on the people of Hexham, to deliver education that would provide an *Outstanding eagerness to promote good learning*. From that original intention we derive our school ethos of respect, engage, and aspire. We are committed to helping our young people become healthy and successful adults.

Our overall aims are to ensure that every student lives and breathes the values and ethos of our school.

- Respecting themselves, others, and the wider world.
- Engaging enthusiastically in their learning, school life and as global citizens.
- Aspiring to achieve well, succeed in life and create a better world for everyone.

We know that students thrive when they feel safe and secure. Our staff develop positive relationships with students based on trust and respect. Everyone has the highest expectations and ambitions for our young people. We know that the key to unleashing the potential of children and young people is excellent teaching in an inspiring environment. Our teachers deliver high quality teaching in every lesson, every day.

The new school building that opened in September 2021 provides facilities that reflect the ambition of our school and the requirements of a 21st century learning environment. The quality of teaching and learning underpins the continuing success of our students in national qualifications and vocational courses. We are proud of the progress that students make at Queen Elizabeth High School.

We are a community for everyone, where equity and excellence for all ensures that students are included, whatever their background or needs. Our students are confident, talented, and articulate young people. This is a school that's success is underpinned by care and compassion for the children, the staff, and the wider community.



"QEHS is a welcoming supportive and positive place to learn."

Ofsted, 2024



"Students behave very well, both in and out of lessons"

Ofsted, 2024

Respect

Relationships are key

Positive relationships are at the heart of everything we do at QEHS. Your child will be supported in their time at high school by a form tutor who will know them through regular contact. Each year group also has a Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year. Their role is to oversee the year group, making sure that the students attend, behave well and access any additional support they may need.

In the move to high school, the young people will have the chance to make new friendships, developing bonds that may remain for their lifetime. There are lots of opportunities in different lessons and through clubs/ activities for the students to meet new people with shared interests.

Through rewards, positive reinforcement and engagement we maintain high expectations of our students. This is an environment where people feel safe and have the chance to learn, grow and succeed.

Everyone is included

No matter on the starting point of the students, our role is to help them progress so they know more, can do more and remember more. Ultimately, we want every student to achieve the best outcomes possible and progress successfully beyond school.

Our SEND team are experienced in working with students, families and teachers to successfully transition students. We have a close partnership with the local middle schools and guarantee a seamless move to Year 9 particularly for anyone with additional needs.

We accept and celebrate diversity

We are an empathic, accepting community. We have zero tolerance of discrimination in all its forms and celebrate diversity and inclusion. Students feel safe at school and are able to express themselves and find likeminded friends. As a school, we do not just tolerate difference we accept, embrace and celebrate the diversity of our community and the wider world.

"Students achieve well in national assessments and examinations"

Ofsted, 2024

Engage

Great learning

Students at the high school work hard, recognising that this is a vital part of their educational experience. While exam outcomes are important, we value and recognise outstanding attitudes to learning are vital for success in school and life.

Our students know that hard work, and going the extra mile produces the results they aspire to achieve. Our staff support learning in the classroom, working tirelessly to ensure that no student is left behind. Teachers provide revision sessions at lunchtime and after school. We have an extensive intervention programme in Year 11 and sixth form to help our students prepare for their exams.

Our teachers are passionate subject specialists who inspire a love of their subject and a passion for learning.

An enriching offer

Alongside great teaching, our students benefit from a range of opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Sports students have the chance to coach in the community. We run trips to Spain, France, Iceland, Kenya, London, as well as local trips to explore the Northumberland coastline or examine settlements in Hexham and Newcastle. The staff at the high school recognise that learning comes to life when taken out of the classroom. Students of English and drama also have the chance to see theatre production in and out of school. Science students have chances to apply their scientific learning in real life practical situations. As part of our personal development curriculum, students will take part in a week of activities that introduce them to enterprise, forensics, ethics and law.

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities

We know that students who participate in extra-curricular activities are happier, healthier and more successful. There is an extensive range of clubs and activities on offer at lunchtime and after school. Many of our students participate in the school rowing club which is open to all from Year 9. Clubs range from Dungeons and Dragons to chess to poetry recital. There is something for everyone. Our music offer is outstanding with chances to participate in choirs, soul band or undertake music tuition. There are several music performances throughout the year, showcasing the talents or our young people. Each year our Youth Theatre puts on a school show, recent successes include 'Grease' and 'Oliver'. Similarly, there is a diverse range of sporting activities, with the school taking part in local, regional and national sporting fixtures.



"These opportunities support students to thrive."

Ofsted, 2024



"Students benefit from a rich and broad curriculum"

Ofsted, 2024

Aspire

An ambitious curriculum for all

In Year 9 we make sure that the transition from middle school is seamless. Students continue to study the National Curriculum, with the addition of drama. We work closely with our partner middle and first schools to build on the learning that has already taken place and prepare our students for their GCSE courses in Year 10. We believe that students benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum that is appropriate to their individual interests and needs.

At Key Stage 4 additional courses are offered: Health & Social Care, Business Studies, and Graphics. Students are encouraged to select subjects that enable them to successfully progress to college, sixth form or an apprenticeship. We also offer vocational qualifications. These courses are equivalent to GCSE but their modular assessment approach benefits many of our students.

Outstanding advice and guidance

There is an extensive careers education programme that is integrated into our curriculum. Information regarding careers is shared during form time and as part of our personal development programme. The school engages with a range of employers with visits, talks and opportunities for work experience.

In Year 9 students will be supported by the achievement/ progression team and their form tutor on their option choices. There is also an information evening for parents/carers to visit the school and hear about the different subjects from the teachers. Similarly, in Year 11 students will be guided by the sixth form team on their post 16 choices, including college and apprenticeships. We are committed to providing the right advice and guidance to help students make positive choices about their next destinations.

A highly successful sixth form

Many of our students return to sixth form. QEHS is one of the best performing sixth forms in the region. We see this phase of school as a vital transition to employment or higher education. Students are given greater freedom and the independence to manage their own time. They also benefit from a vast programme of careers education and are fully supported in making applications for university, college or apprenticeship. Our sixth form team have a wealth of experience and an excellent track record of helping our students secure their ambitions beyond school.

In 2025 93% of sixth form students got a place on their first choice course.

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"The range of enrichment opportunities available to students is extensive."

Ofsted, 2024



How to find us

We are delighted to offer tours of the school for prospective parents/ carers and pupils. Please telephone the school to arrange a mutually convenient time on (01434) 610300.

A number of dedicated school buses serve the surrounding catchment area and stop within the school grounds at the beginning and end of the day.

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