

9 October 2026

QEHS UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another fantastic fortnight at QEHS and I continue to feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a positive and welcoming school community. In the short time I have been in post as Headteacher, I have been constantly impressed by our students. They are polite, hardworking and great ambassadors for the school.

Over the past two weeks, we have also welcomed many prospective Year 9 families through our doors. The tours were exceptional and provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase QEHS at its very best. Thank you to the students and staff who played such an important part in making visitors feel welcome.

I have been particularly pleased to see Year 11 students fully focused on preparing for their mock examinations. Families should now have received the latest newsletter from our Achievement Team, packed with useful guidance and practical revision tips to help support students over the coming weeks.

It was also a pleasure to see so many families at our Year 9 and Year 10 Meet the Tutor event. These opportunities to strengthen the partnership between home and school are incredibly valuable. The feedback from tutors has been very positive, and I hope parents and carers found the evening equally helpful.

Our enrichment programme is now firmly up and running, with an impressive range of clubs, activities and opportunities available across the school. I would encourage you to ask your child what they have signed up for and how they are getting involved. Participation in enrichment is a key part of the QEHS experience and there really is something for everyone.

Finally, please stay with this newsletter right to the end. It is a longer edition than usual, but it contains a number of important updates, notices and reminders that I would encourage all families to read carefully.

Recruitment to the Trust Board

The Board of Hadrian Learning Trust is looking to appoint new trustees. In particular, the Board is keen to hear from people with a financial or human resources background. Beyond these specific professional requirements, the overriding requirement is to be committed to supporting the schools to be as good as they possibly can for the young people we serve, and willing to operate in a positive, supportive and constructively-challenging way with other trustees, school leaders and staff.

The Trust Board meets six times a year on Thursday evenings at 6pm with meetings usually lasting two hours. Much of the Board's work is undertaken by committees which meet three to four times a

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year, typically in the late afternoon. These committees include a monitoring committee for each school, an HR & Performance Management Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee. We also have a safeguarding group comprising a link trustee and senior leaders that meets three times a year. Trustees also visit the schools as part of their monitoring activities. Each trustee sits on at least one committee or group but this is not a condition of joining the Board.

If you would like to express interest in this role or would like to find out more, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, via avellinga@qehs.net.

Respect

Seasonal illnesses

As we enter the autumn and winter months, we ask families to help reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses by encouraging good hand hygiene, ensuring children receive any eligible vaccinations, and following NHS guidance on whether a child is well enough to attend school. These simple measures help keep children healthy, minimise disruption to learning, and support strong attendance throughout the school year.

Poppy display

Once again, we are looking for poppies to add to our [display](#) at the front of the school. If you are able to crochet or knit poppies, please drop them off in reception or at the sixth form office by Monday 2 November.

Engage

Mr Jesper



Beech
27,739

Ms Coleman



Birch
27,804

Mr Collins



Ash
16,799

Mrs Fraser



Oak
28,576

Miss Macken



Sycamore
29,116

Points per 8 October 2026

Girls Football update

Year 9, 10 and 11 girls took part in a football tournament held in Prudhoe on Monday after school.

The U14 and U16 team did a fantastic job winning both of their first matches, and drawing their final game 0-0. This puts them in an excellent position for the next stage of the tournament on the 19th October.

A huge well done to all involved. The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork and determination throughout!

Aspire

Career of the week

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/manufacturing-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

Iceland trip

Year 13 Geography students have returned from their trip to Iceland. It was a trip of a lifetime. They've visited waterfalls, volcanoes and even seen hot lava up close. See [here](#) for some lovely pictures.

Student Finance support

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

QEHS PTFA

Support, Volunteer and Fundraise



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.

Year 9 evening

It was great to meet so many people at the Year 9 evening last night. Thanks to everyone who signed up to the lottery, volunteered or joined our mailing list.

If you'd like to get involved with the PTFA, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're great at organising, budgeting, promoting events online 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

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 20 October - **AGM**, 6pm, at QEHS Meeting Room 1 - all welcome!

Thursday 22 October - Half term Tuck Shop

There are many ways you can support the PTFA:

Turn your shopping into free donations

Sign up to easyfundraising and when you shop online with your favourite retailers, they'll donate to QEHS PTFA. It's free and your shopping won't cost you any extra - the retailers you shop with will donate, not you! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gehs-ptfa>

A chance to win one of two cash prizes each month in the PTFA Lottery

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.

 Recycle used clothing, shoes and accessories by putting them into bags tied at the top then placing them in the bins located at the bottom of the school driveway

 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)



Easyfundraising
Raise free donations when you shop online



QE Lottery
Support the school through the QE Lottery



JustGiving
Make a donation to QEHS PTFA



PTFA Volunteers
Join our PTFA volunteer team

Online Safety Update

COM GROUPS AWARENESS

Keeping children and young people safe online

The National Crime Agency's (NCA) CEOP Education team has launched some resources to help professionals, parents and carers understand and respond to the growing threat of **online harm groups**.

Online harm groups, often referred to as 'Com Groups', use tactics such as grooming, coercion, manipulation and blackmail to exploit young people online. Their activity can overlap with a range of harms, including child sexual abuse.

The guidance aims to provide a specific, measured and containing narrative from the NCA that supports proportionate action based on the current threat picture.

Please consider supporting this awareness by sharing the following weblinks with the appropriate audiences:

- [Guidance for professionals](#), helping those who work with children and young people understand the threat and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- [Guidance for parents and carers](#), providing practical information to help families recognise the warning signs, support their child and access support.

If you have any questions about the resources, please contact the team at ceopeducation@nca.gov.uk (by Northumbria Police)

For Parents - WhatsApp's New Teen Controls

WhatsApp is introducing new parental controls for teenagers aged 13–17.

Parents and teenagers will be able to link their accounts and choose settings around privacy, groups, Channels, Status and Meta AI. Parents will not be able to read their teenager's private messages or listen to calls. The features are being introduced gradually, so they may not appear just yet. WhatsApp is also developing parent-managed accounts for younger children, but these have not yet had a full rollout.

Links:

[WhatsApp – New Controls for Teens](#)

[WhatsApp Help Centre – Parental Controls](#)

(by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

News from the community

Hexham Air Cadets Move to QEHS!

224 (Hexham) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets announced that they have now relocated to the Queen Elizabeth High School (QEHS) site in Hexham. This move brings the cadets closer to the heart of the community, making it easier for young people to get involved in this fantastic organisation.

The Air Cadets offer young people aged 12 to 20 the chance to develop valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, all while enjoying exciting activities like flying, gliding, adventure training, and community service. It's a brilliant way to build confidence, make new friends, and explore potential career paths.

If you're interested in discovering what the Air Cadets are all about, why not come along to the open day on **10th October 2026 @ 10am - 12am** at QEHS? It's a great opportunity to meet the team, try out some activities, and see if Air Cadets could be the right fit for you. Contact oc.224@rafac.mod.gov.uk if you have any questions and we look forward to welcoming new cadets to 224 (Hexham) Squadron!

Should this morning not work for you, please feel free to come along Wednesday 14th at 7pm to Sports complex.

Message from Northumbria Police

THINK!... BEFORE BUYING A CHRISTMAS PRESENT THAT CANNOT BE USED

In the run up to Christmas, we would like to help you make informed decisions about presents you buy for your children. Don't help your child break the law with e-scooters, e-bikes, and off-road motorbikes.

As we're sure you're aware from the news and possibly personal experience, these illegally-ridden vehicles cause not just nuisance to our communities but also pose a huge risk to the safety of the public including that of your own child.

All privately-owned e-scooters are NOT LEGAL to be ridden anywhere on public land.

This includes roads, cycle lanes, footpaths, and bridleways.

The only place to ride them legally is on private land with the landowner's permission.

Electrically-assisted pedal cycles (EPACs) and e-bikes are a little more complex as various conditions apply for them to be road legal.

Please see the accompanying leaflet for more information about this.

CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL RIDING

→ The vehicle can be seized by police and crushed.

→ The rider (including a child) could be prosecuted for driving offences

resulting in penalty points and a fine.

→ If the rider doesn't have a driving licence, a 'ghost' licence is created where the penalty points are held until a provisional licence is issued.

→ A parent/carer can be prosecuted for the offence of 'use, cause and permit' the illegal use of a vehicle, i.e. they have bought the vehicle and have allowed the child to ride it.

Again, penalty points and a fine can apply.

Basket ball

Eagles Community Foundation Parent Committee: British basketball provides a holistic approach to child development, combining physical fitness, social skills, and mental well-being in a fun and engaging environment and here in Northumberland we are lucky to have access to basketball training sessions as well as a competition league for children run by Newcastle Eagles. If you would like more information visit the Newcastle Eagles website here: [Central Venue League – Newcastle Eagles](#).

Bonfire night – safety info

Bonfire night is coming up. Please see [here](#) for the Bonfire Safety information on the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service website.

Sleep Support

A flyer for Sleep support for parents from the Toby Henderson trust is available [here](#) on our website.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs 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