Queen Elizabeth High School
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22 October 2026

QEHS UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term of the academic year, I would like to thank students, staff, parents and carers for their support in what has been a positive start to the year at QEHS.

It has been a long half term, and I have enjoyed getting to know the school and wider community. It is a privilege to serve as Headteacher of QEHS, and I have been impressed by the commitment shown by our students and staff alike and the support we receive from families.

Students across all year groups have made a strong start. Our Year 9 students have settled well into life at QEHS and are embracing the opportunities available to them. Year 10 students are engaging positively with their studies and enjoying the challenge of their option subjects. Year 11 students have worked hard throughout the term and are setting high standards during their mock examinations.

In the Sixth Form, Year 12 students have made an excellent start to their post-16 studies and have impressed staff with their attitude and approach to learning. Year 13 students are now fully focused on their next steps and future pathways. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the Year 13 Parents and Carers evening, this week. For those unable to attend, please contact staff if you require any further information or guidance.

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 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.

Queen Elizabeth High School
Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB
T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net
www.qehs.net

Headteacher: Katie Innes

Respect



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	Ms Coleman	Mr Collins	Mrs Fraser	Miss Macken
				
Beech	Birch	Ash	Oak ★	Sycamore
36,350	35,789	35,219	37,248	37,439

Points per 22 October 2026

Netball



The year 10 netball girls were involved in a fixture away at Seaton Valley on Tuesday. The girls played really well and even though they lost the game they never let their head go down. It was lovely to have some new faces involved and the behaviour of pupils as always was outstanding.

Well done, Team!

Subject Spotlight: Design and Technology



We're incredibly proud of the amazing final products created by last year's sixth form Design & Technology: Product Design students. Here are just a few examples of their fantastic work.

Product Design combines creative thinking with practical making, problem-solving and technical skills, opening up future opportunities in areas such as engineering, architecture, product design, CAD and 3D modelling, as well as many other creative and technical careers.

Brilliant ideas, beautifully brought to life. Well done!

Tynedale School Games/ Tynedale Hockey Club Develop Year 3 & 4 Hockey Festival

On Tuesday morning, Tynedale School Games and Tynedale Hockey Club hosted a Year 3 & 4 hockey festival at QEHS/Tynedale Hockey Club.



On quite a grey and damp day, over 60 year three and four pupils from four different schools, Acomb First, Sele First, St Mary's Catholic First and St Matthew's Catholic Primary came to try their hand at hockey for the first time and make a new active memory.

They were welcomed by a group of twenty-four sport leaders and hockey players from HMS and QEHS. This group was fantastic, their focus was on making sure that all the first school pupils had lots of fun. They encouraged them to join in the different activities and gave them lots of coaching tips.

The children were divided into eight groups and moved between different activities before finishing with a small-sided game, managed, coached and refereed by the older students.

The event was a great success, the young leaders were enthusiastic and thoughtful, and the youngsters all said that they'd had a great time, showing that even when the weather outside isn't fabulous, everyone can have fun.

Year 10 boys' football



The Year 10 boys' football team got their new season off to the perfect start with an impressive 5-1 victory over Prudhoe in their opening fixture.

With several players making their first appearance for QE, there was a sense of anticipation ahead of kick-off. Any early nerves quickly disappeared as the team produced an excellent performance full of energy, teamwork and quality football. The new players settled in brilliantly, and all contributed to a strong team display.

QE took control of the match with some attacking football and clinical finishing. Benson H led the scoring with an excellent brace, while further goals from Kyle R and Charlie M added to the tally. An unfortunate own goal from the opposition completed the scoring and capped off a dominant afternoon for QE.

The team worked hard throughout, showing great organisation and commitment. It was an encouraging start to the season and a performance that gives plenty of optimism for the games ahead.

Final Score: QE 5-1 Prudhoe
Goal scorers: Benson H (2), Kyle R, Charlie M, Own Goal

The boys will now look to build on this excellent start when they face KEVI on Thursday.

Well done to all involved and good luck for the next match! ⚽👏

Queen Elizabeth High School Rowing Club had a brilliant day on the Tees, with wins and top times in both race categories:

Long Distance Sculls



Our Op J18 quad of Alex, Alexis, Mack and Denis put in a superb performance. They were the fastest crew of the whole day, taking line honours in 18:54.8, more than a minute clear of the next crew, and picking up Fastest Boat of the Morning.

Our J15 girls' quad also took Fastest W 4x+.

J15 boys' quad in the morning came second in their event but came in ninth overall in the division including the men's crews. An impressive feat for a young crew.

Small Boats Head

The afternoon brought three more wins.

Our Op coxed four of Alexis, George, Morty and Alex, with Constance in the cox seat, won their event in 19:51.9. A second QEHS four finished just 14 seconds behind them for a club 1-2.

Our J15 boys' coxed quad won their event.
Our J15 girls' coxed quad won their event, backing up their fast time in the morning.

Our pair of James and Barnaby also had a great row, finishing second in their event.

Well done to all our crews, to the coaches for the early mornings and long days, and to the parents who helped with transport and support.

Our next race is at Berwick-upon-Tweed. We look forward to hearing about more excellent performances on the Tweed.

QEHS

U18 Boys Rugby vs Gosforth 2XV - On Wednesday, our sixth formers hosted Gosforth in a hard-fought contest here at QE. Our lads dominated in terms of possession and territory in the first half with Wilf M and Fox T going close to scoring. There were some excellent carries from Lewis L, George L & Khanel W who made good line breaks. Ultimately, all of their efforts came up just short and with the away side scoring a late breakaway try, QE found themselves 5-0 down at half time.

In to the wind second half, our lads found it tough and conceded early in the half to a Gosforth score in the corner. Despite playing against the conditions, the lads fought hard with Thomas W and Aaron P making great runs through the middle and were rewarded with a score from Lewis L with the last play of the game. Final score 5-10 in favour of the away team.

Aspire

Career of the week

Last week's job of the week was: Arts and Media DJ https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/arts-and-media/dj

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 appeal for help!

At QE Sixth Form, we work hard to help our students make informed choices about their future careers, further education and training pathways. This year we are aware that for Oxbridge applicants we will need to potentially offer interviews in the following subject areas: Maths, Modern and Medieval Language, Biochemistry and Human, Social, and Political Sciences.

We also have applicants for Nursing, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Midwifery, and Primary Education who will be required to attend interviews as part of the application process.

If you are able to support our students by offering a mock interview, please email sixthform@qehs.net. Interviews can be held either in person or via Zoom, during the school day or in the evening.

Save the Date!

The QEHS Sixth Form Open Evening will be taking place on Thursday 12th November 2026, 4.45pm-7.30pm. No need to book, please just turn up. For more information please visit our website Sixth Form Open Evening. If you have any questions about the evening please contact sixthform@qehs.net or call 01434 610 312.

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.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
A big thank you to everyone who attended our PTFA AGM earlier this week. We really appreciate you taking the time to come along and support our school community.

Thank you
We would like to say a huge thank you to Suzanne Cadge, who has stepped down as Treasurer, and Lorna Beech, who has stepped down as Co-Chair. We are grateful to both of them for their time and dedication. Thankfully, this isn't goodbye! We're sure we'll still see them lending a hand and helping out at events along the way, as they continue to be part of our PTFA community.

Welcome
We are pleased to announce that Nicky Palmer has been elected as Co-Chair, joining Kate Robson, who was re-elected to the role. We also welcome back Becky Elton, elected as our new Treasurer.

We're looking forward to sharing more news about our plans for the coming months with various fundraising initiatives. We'll also keep you updated on the things the PTFA is funding throughout the year, so you can see how your support is making a difference.

Have you joined our PTFA lottery yet? You could be missing out on cash prizes every month!
Tickets cost just £1 with simple online entry. For more information and to sign up, complete the online application or email:
qehsprizedraw@gmail.com

Do you have any Prom outfits to sell or donate?
We hope to hold another Prom outfit Pop-Up Shop in the New Year to help Year 11 students find their perfect prom look at a more affordable price.

Pre-loved prom dresses, suits, shoes or accessories can be donated or sold through our pop-up shop, helping students access affordable outfits while supporting a more sustainable approach to fashion and raising funds for the school at the same time.

If you have something to contribute, please keep an eye out for more details to follow.

Do you have a skill or knowledge to offer?
Whether you're great at social media, applying for funding grants, or simply bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm, there's a place for every skill set within the PTFA. It's also 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, get in touch or come along to our next meeting.

Dates for the diary
Tuesday 24 November - PTFA meeting, 6pm, County Hotel, Hexham - all welcome!

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

News from the community

Navigating SEND together – parent / carer conference

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum is hosting a fully funded multi-agency SEND conference for parent carers, bringing together professionals from health and social care, education, SEND providers and free legal advice from Irwin Mitchell. The day includes talks, workshops, a market hall, a wellbeing area, refreshments and lunch. No booking is required. Tuesday 10 November 2026, 9.30am–2.30pm

Building Worlds, Telling Stories

Tuesday 27 October 2026, 1.30–3pm • Ages 8–14 • Queen's Hall

Young writers can create imaginary worlds, invent characters and begin their own story in this playful 90-minute workshop with writer and creative writing tutor Dr Louise Logan-Smith. No experience is needed. This is a drop-off session, so parents and carers do not need to stay. For more information, see our website.

Hexham Lantern Parade

Friday 13 November 2026, 6pm • Families / community • Hexham Bandstand

Queen's Hall's community Lantern Parade returns to Hexham, with live music from Northern Monkey Brass Band. Families are invited to meet at Hexham Bandstand for the free event. No booking is needed. The parade is supported by EGGER, and further event information is available from Queen's Hall.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 2 November	School reopens for all students at 8:40am	All year groups
Thursday 12 November	Sixth form Open Evening	All welcome

Finally, I would like to thank our staff and students for their hard work this term. Visitors to the school regularly comment on the positive atmosphere around QEHS, and on the courtesy and conduct of our students. They continue to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

I hope that all students, parents, carers and staff enjoy a well deserved break over half term, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November 2026.

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@qehs.net

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