Sixth Form at Queen Elizabeth High School Prospectus



Queen Elizabeth High School

Sixth Form

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.

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 are one of the largest sixth forms in Northumberland, consistently retaining many students from Year 11 and welcoming new students. Our range of subjects is wide and while we have outstanding success in A Levels, many students also excel on vocational courses providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

We know that students prosper in sixth form when given the freedom to flourish. Our role is to prepare young people for the next phase of their lives whether this is education or employment. This involves equipping our students with the resilience, motivation and knowledge they need to be successful adults.

To achieve this, we give our students a large amount of independence, trusting them to navigate their courses, manage their time and secure productive relationships with their peers, teachers and the wider community. Our sixth form students are outstanding ambassadors for our school. If you meet them, you will be struck by their confidence, humility and authenticity. They are intellectually curious, hardworking and incredibly proud to be part of our school.



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

Ofsted, 2024



"Students in the sixth form are confident and articulate"

Ofsted, 2024

Respect

Responsible students

From day one of sixth form, we place a lot of trust in our students. They are given freedom to manage their own time, leave school during the day, start later and finish earlier if they can. This independence prepares our students for life after school. Too often schools fail to develop the resilience and tenacity that young people need to succeed. At QE students in Year 12 quickly learn that they are responsible for their learning, although where students struggle with this transition, we provide support.

Our personal development curriculum is sequenced from Year 12 to the beginning of Year 13, focusing on life skills, such as cooking, mental health, citizenship, and their place in the world. Students are taught about healthy relationships, safer driving, and how to manage finances – essential for life after school. A large proportion of personal development time focuses on helping students to find out about the options open to them after sixth form and explore how to build on their skills and interests going forward.

Positive relationships with supportive staff

While students are given freedom, they are well supported by our staff. Teachers at QE love teaching sixth form classes. They enjoy the intellectual challenge that comes from teaching A Level or equivalent courses. Staff relish getting to know students and supporting them to make applications to university, college or employment. In Year 12 students will have the chance to receive supervision, a form of supported study with their teachers. Relationships between staff and students are excellent, recognising that in sixth form students are more mature but still young enough to need the guidance of supportive adults to help them learn well and make positive choices.

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 like-minded 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

Independent learning

When students leave QE, they know how to be self-motivated and possess the discipline of independent working. It is made clear to our students that they need to do additional study outside lessons. Initially in Year 12 this will be directed by their teachers but as they progress through sixth form the direction is reduced and students must manage their own time, complete course work and prepare for exams.

In Year 12, students take an enhancement option. Whether this is the EPQ (an enquiry-based project), LAMDA (public speaking), higher sports leader awards or further mathematics these courses challenge students to think critically, work hard and meet deadlines. In all these courses QE students achieve exceptional results and are proud of what they accomplish.

Active member of the school and wider community

Our commitment to our students goes beyond results in examinations. Opportunities are created throughout sixth form to develop the whole person. This starts with our Fresher's Fair where community organisations come into school and actively get our students to sign up and volunteer. From the Forum Cinema, and Northumberland National Parks to amazing local charities like WECAN, there is a host of providers encouraging QE students to become active in our community.

At the end of Year 12 students also complete a week of work experience. This is an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into the world of work. Many of the students consider this a pivotal moment in helping them decide what they would like to do next. It also sharpens their focus on the reality of working and what is required to gain employment in a competitive environment.

In school, students can become paired readers, take part in national competitions such as maths challenges, Greenpower International Racing and Bar Mock Trials, as well as extra-curricular sports, music concerts, the school musical production or even chess club - there is something for everyone outside the classroom.

The trips/visits offer is also excellent. Currently students can go on a ski trip, to Iceland, Washington DC or to Bronte country. In the past we visited the battlefields and the volcanic landscapes of Sicily. Biology and geography classes will also visit local beaches and geographical landmarks. The opportunities available support and enhance their learning. Some students also take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.



"These opportunities support students to thrive."

Ofsted, 2024



"The careers programme for students is wide ranging and highly effective."

Ofsted, 2024

Aspire

Outstanding advice and guidance

For the past two years, 90% of students applying to university achieved their first-choice place. This is due to the exceptional support that we give to help them decide on next steps. Most of the students at QE will progress to university or further education. However, we promote and support lots of different pathways post-18. A few students go on to study foundation art courses; some secure competitive graduate apprenticeships and others take a gap year.

Whatever their ambition, our sixth form team will provide bespoke support that has enabled many of our previous students to progress to a range of different courses or jobs locally, nationally and internationally. Some go on to Oxbridge, to medicine, law or dentistry while others go to university in Scotland or just down the road to Newcastle or Northumbria. The team wants to help all our students with a pathway that is right for them.

Active local, national and global citizens

You will find students who have left Queen Elizabeth High School in a range of different places and professions. There are QE students in various parts of the country and world, you may find some among our local politicians or even employed in the school.

We often welcome back alumni to talk about their lives after school. Some return while at university, and others 40 years later. Many generously give their time to support students with practice interviews. They will always say how much they gained from their time at QE, reflecting with pride on what they achieved then and since. Like our current sixth form students, those who leave us also represent what is wonderful about our school community and the opportunities it offers.

'Sixth form students particularly appreciate the additional support that teachers offer in their subjects'

Ofsted, 2024







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

Ofsted, 2024



How to find us

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