



## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 29

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week we welcomed five inspectors from Ofsted to the high school. Their visit gave us the opportunity to showcase the talents of our students and the hard work of all the staff. Their final report will be published in the coming weeks, but we are delighted that they saw how committed we are to providing an excellent experience for all our young people.

## Respect

### Parent Feedback

Thank you to all the parents who completed our survey. This annual check on parental experience is an important part of our self-evaluation and improvement planning. In the last two years the data gathered has led to an expansion of our enrichment activities and the reintroduction of in-person parents' evenings. The comments on the survey are anonymous, so we cannot respond to any individual issues. Please address these to [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net).

The vast majority of parents are positive about their experience of the school, highlighting the extra-curricular provision for praise. There are some recurring comments about Y9 reporting, which we will address in our future planning. Working effectively with our parents is important to the school. To this end, we will be collaborating with the PTFA and engaging with parents to ensure that communication between school and families is beneficial to all.

### Attendance

We believe that attendance at school helps students to progress socially, emotionally and academically. When we review outcomes data there is a clear correlation between attendance and performance. Students make better progress and achieve higher outcomes when they attend. In the newsletter each week I will show you our current attendance data for each year group. Our school target is 95%. We know that some students will struggle to attend school so please speak to their form tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Curry if you have any concerns. We work with families to help students overcome barriers to attending school.

Attendance week ending 26 April				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	92.1%	90.6%	91.9%	91.5%

### Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Engage

### Visit from Alastair Campbell

QEHS were delighted to welcome Alastair Campbell to the high school last Friday. Alastair was in Hexham to appear at the book festival. Ms Oakley, our psychology teacher, had contacted him and he agreed to visit. The former Labour Communications Director is passionate about engaging young people in politics. The sixth formers who attended his talk engaged well.



### QEHS Lower School Chess Champion of Champions!

Very well done to Philip B (year 10 champion) who beat Peter M (year 9 champion) and Sam A (year 11 champion) to become the QEHS Lower School Chess Champion of Champions 2024! Mr Seago generously donated a high quality antique chess set as a prize and this will be presented to Philip in assembly this week. Philip's next challenge is to take on the winner of a small sixth form event involving some of the highly talented players who attend chess club on Fridays. A mouth-watering showdown awaits!

### PTFA Meeting

The next PTFA meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 6pm to 7.30pm at The County Hotel, all welcome to come along and discuss school fundraising. Our PTFA are great supporters of the high school and have organised terrific events, such as the Vintage Prom Clothes Sale.

## Aspire

### Recommended reads

Reading more widely exposes our young people to a variety of worlds, contexts and experiences. We are keen that students read for pleasure. To encourage students to read, our team have carefully selected a number of recommended reads for pleasure per year group and topic. Many of the books are available in the LRC. If you are looking for inspiration, please take a peek through these wonderful booklets that you will find on our website: <https://www.qehs.net/index.php/recommended-reads/>

## LRC Recommended Read

This week's recommended read from the LRC is *Hideki Smith: Demon Dweller*, by A. J. Hartley

Fifteen-year-old Caleb Hideki Smith is a loser's loser. As one of the few half-Japanese students in East Portersville High School, Caleb has accepted that he will never fit in. He's not popular, can't play football and the girl he likes doesn't even know he exists. Well, that was before he accidentally burnt down the town's most beloved historical landmark.

On one fateful day, Caleb and his sister Emily stumble upon a Shinto shrine deep in the Great Smoky Mountains: a shrine Caleb knows wasn't there the day before. Faced with his unfamiliar heritage, Caleb quickly learns that fitting in was the least of his problems. You cannot outrun who you are, and the past will always catch up to you eventually. Something is lurking in the caves of the mountains and it wants to get out...



## Nijmegen Marches challenge

Year 12 student Thomas has been selected to take part in the Nijmegen Marches which take place in Holland, where he will be representing the Hexham detachment of the Army Cadet Force.

As part of the trip Thomas will be raising money for 'Hollys Hope' and support Holly Newton's family to raise money to buy critical injury kits for local communities.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-bisp?utm\\_term=zdwZNDg4x](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-bisp?utm_term=zdwZNDg4x)



**JustGiving**

Help raise £300 to sponsor Thomas 100 mile march in Nijmegen and raise funds to buy Trauma Kits for local communities! We're raising money to sponsor Thomas' 100 mile march in Nijmegen and raise funds to buy Trauma Kits for local communities. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page. [www.justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)

## Online safety updates

### Article - Navigating the Nuances of Social Media

If, like me, your teenager years were a very long time ago, it can be difficult to think like a teenager. But we can probably remember the difficulty of relationships, friendships and social approval. For many young people much of this is carried out online, and for parents/professionals this can be difficult to understand, it might feel secretive, which can cause concern. 'Through their eyes' is a mantra I use all the time, particularly when talking to students young and old. In other words, understanding what they are doing online and, most importantly, why.

Linda Kaye, Associate Head of Psychology at Edge Hill University has written a great article in The Conversation which gives a really good insight into how teenagers navigate the nuances of social media, and what adults can learn from them. You can find the article [HERE](#).

(For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)

## News from the community

14 QE rowers competed at JIRR in Nottingham representing Hexham Rowing Club.

All juniors performed fabulously well at JIRR in Nottingham. They all did themselves so proud and put some cracking races on to watch. Many positives, lots of teamwork, determination and frankly giving their all! As well as many experiences, such as illness, fatigue and more, for us to learn and grow from as individuals and as a team. Here's to more...next up National Schools Regatta at Dorney!

J15 1x	3 <sup>rd</sup> in TT	Gold in A Final	Ethan T
J16 1x	17 <sup>th</sup> in TT	5 <sup>th</sup> in B Final	Finn C
J16 4x-	4 <sup>th</sup> in TT	5 <sup>th</sup> in A Final	Jacob L, Harry W
WJ16 2x	1 <sup>st</sup> in TT	4 <sup>th</sup> in A Final	Emily L, Ania S
WJ15 4x+	10 <sup>th</sup> in TT	3 <sup>rd</sup> in B Final	Esther S, Bethan L-F, Olive T, Kate L, Cox: Hester L
WJ16 4x-	2 <sup>nd</sup> in TT	4 <sup>th</sup> in A Final	Cassie A, Emma N, Esme P

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Beamish Trip	Year 10
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Coast Trip – Geography	Year 12
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Northumbria Police – Knife Crime Talk	Year 9
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Ouseburn Trip – Geography	Year 12
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Michael Sehgal pop-up uniform shop	All year groups
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	KS4 RE day	Year 10
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 9
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Hadrian's Wall Walk	Participating students

Please find attached with the bulletin:

- Kooth & Qwell Newsletter including link [Kooth's Guide to Coping with Exam Stress](#).

Yours faithfully



Neil Seaton  
Head of School

**Pupil support and Safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Hattie Curry

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Emerson Brown, Mr Alex Robson & Mrs Jill Wood.

SENDCo Mrs Jill Wood

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](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@qehs.net](mailto:attendance@qehs.net)