



5 July 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 37

Dear Parent/Carer

The next two weeks are an exciting time in the high school. On Tuesday we welcome the new Y9 students and the current Y10 and Y11 go on their various trips and visits. The rest of the week is taken up with curriculum activities relating to careers and personal development (please see below). Students are also in Morocco, Galloway and involved in Duke of Edinburgh. We know that activities help students create lasting memories of their time at school and enrich their experiences of life. All the activities take a huge amount of organisation from staff, and I am grateful that lots of them give up their time to ensure students have these excellent opportunities.

Respect

Mock Election

A group of our wonderful Y13 students organised a mock election this week. Five of the students wrote speeches that they recorded outlining the policies of the main political parties. Their recordings were played at assemblies. Students then voted for their preferred party.

As was the case locally and nationally the winning party was Labour. Well done to the sixth formers for running the election. The students across the school learned valuable lessons about democracy and citizenship.

End of term

Thursday 18 July

The sixth form charity events will take place from 11am to 1.20pm on Thursday 18 July. Students should have some cash that they can use on the charity stalls. The money raised will be donated to CHUF (Children's Heart Unit Fund). This is in memory of Martha Anderson a Y13 student who died this year. Her parents requested that money raised is donated to the charity in her honour. You can make a donation via ParentPay. Term will end for the sixth formers at the end of the school day.

Friday 19 July

Please remember that school finishes for lower school at 1.30pm on Friday 19 July. That day will be a non-uniform day for students and students will be in lessons. Money raised from non-uniform day will also go to CHUF. The PTFA will also be in school at lunchtime to sell sweet treats to celebrate the start of summer.

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Engage

EDT (Engineering Development Trust) Celebration Event – Newcastle University



Over
the



course of the year some year 10 and year 13 students have completed EDT projects in which they came up with solutions to an environmental problem, built models, wrote reports and gave presentations. They worked with industry professionals from RED Engineering and the BBC. The year 10 students achieved bronze awards and the year 13 students achieved gold awards with the bronze students winning the 'People's Choice' award and one of the gold groups winning the award for the 'Most Innovative' project. Well done everyone.

Schools Challenge Expedition



Year 11 students are heading to Morocco this week for their school challenge expedition. A few weeks ago, they had a very wet and muddy practice walk up Blencathra in the Lake District! Views from the summit were underwhelming as we could not see a thing! Conditions will be VERY different from this on their 4-day trek in the Atlas Mountains!

Back in 2018 a group laid pipes from a spring to get drinking water to the village, then in 2019 the group built the foundation for the drinking water reservoir, so this year we are going to try and repair the damage to the system done by the earthquake in 2023. We'll only be able to make a start during our short stay but the money we've raised will mean the village have the resources to complete the work after we've gone.

Students are looking forward to their building project in the village of Tachedirt where they will be getting their hands dirty and getting to know the locals embracing village life 2314m high in the mountains!

QEHS Students success with Hexham Rowing Club

On June 30th, the Hexham Rowing Club (HRC) Juniors made a remarkable impression at the GB U16 trials, showcasing their dedication, skill, and teamwork. Held at Nottingham watersports centre, the event saw our young athletes compete fiercely against some of the best rowing talent in the country.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the performance of the Women's J16 4x team. QEHS students Cassie A, Emma N, and Esme P and partner Bel C rowed with unparalleled synergy and power, clinching first place in their category. Their victory not only earned them the top spot on the podium but also the honour of representing Great Britain in an international competition. The team will travel to France on July 13th to compete against their French counterparts, carrying the hopes and best wishes of the entire HRC Junior section.

Also competing were The HRC Women's J16 2x team, composed of QEHS students Ania S and Emily L, who delivered a strong performance, securing a commendable 6th place. In the Men's J16 2x category, HRC was represented by two formidable pairs, QE's Harry W and Jacob L displayed excellent coordination and stamina, finishing 5th in a tightly contested race. Ethan T (QEHS) and his partner Joe G also rowed impressively, earning a respectable 6th place. Both teams demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and resilience, making HRC proud.

These achievements reflect the hard work and dedication of our young rowers, as well as the invaluable support of their coaches and families. As they prepare for their upcoming challenge in France, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and wish them the best of luck. The entire school and local community will be cheering them on, eager to see them continue their streak of success on an international stage.

Aspire

During the week ahead our students will be involved in lessons in personal development. The sessions focus on careers and life skills. These interactive and exciting sessions are designed to engage our students in understanding employment, teamwork and enhancing their knowledge about important social issues.

Y12 (new Y13) Work Experience Week

Participation in work experience enables our new Y13 students to navigate the work of work, how organisations function, the expectations and insights into careers of interest. This is a vital part of their progression for life beyond school and equipping them with the skills/knowledge they need to make the right choices about what to do next.

Over three quarters of our students will be in placements ranging from Archaeology to Zoology and almost everything in between! Any student without a placement should report to the LRC at 9.15 on Monday morning. They will be completing Unifrog's virtual work experience.

Wednesday 10th July - Y11 World of Work Day

In our feedback from students in Y9-11 they have indicated a desire for more careers education. The World of Work day is an inspiring opportunity to meet employers, college and to gain knowledge on applications, communication skills and enterprise. Students feedback positively on what they get out of these sessions.

Y11 students will spend one hour on each of the following activities:

1. Skilled for Life: Enterprise
2. Talk the Talk: Talk about Communication
3. Newcastle United Foundation: NU Futures – Assessment Centre
4. Careerwave –
5. Newcastle College – Town Planning Activity, T-Levels and Apprenticeships

Thursday 11th July – Y11 Virtual Work Experience

To consolidate the knowledge that students gain on the first day, they will have the chance to apply their learning in a practical enterprise task. Y11 will be working in small groups on the 'Tyre Challenge'. We will be using this opportunity to develop all of the Skills Builder essential skills with a particular focus on 'Teamwork', 'Leadership' and 'Staying Positive'.

Friday 12th July – Y10 Life Skills Day

We know that students benefit from examining personal, social and medical issues. As part of the personal, social and health education Y10 students will spend one hour on each of the following activities:

1. Coppafeel: Cancer Awareness
2. Healthy Relationships: Consent and Sexual Health
3. First Aid: Emergency First Aid
4. Careerwave – LMI and the Changing World of Work
5. Newcastle College: County Lines

Ex QEHS student sharing

It was good to welcome Mark Clayton, who spoke to Year 12 about his career journey since leaving QE. He explained why he moved to China and started his own company and social enterprises. He encouraged the students to be agile in their thinking and to consider not just what they wanted materially from their lives but also what purpose they could fulfil. We were impressed by the students who were up for the challenge at 8:45am on Monday morning and we hope everyone will reflect on his advice going forward.



Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Paralegal'. A link to the video shown in tutorial from 'MyPath' is below:

Job of the week: [Paralegal](#)

Further information can be found on [Unifrog](#):

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/paralegal>

This includes Labour Market Information (LMI). It is important that both parents and students are aware of this as it includes current and predicted figures relating to the paralegal profession, particular attention should be paid to the expected growth figure. All students have received a 'Welcome' email to their school email account. Please encourage them to activate their account if they haven't already done so. We also have a 'dummy' code for parents. Use 'QEHSparent' on this page: unifrog.org/code

Sixth Form News

We have refreshed the Sixth Form bulletin and hope you will find the information easier to navigate. Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university will now be promoted via the website, within the [Sixth Form Noticeboard](#).

We rely on parents 'feeding' opportunities into 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@gehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

Finally, this year, we have 143 Year 12 students taking part in work experience next week, which will be life-changing for many of them. If you, or your organisation, might be able to take a sixth form work experience student next year, for a day or more WC 9th June 2025, please contact sixthform@gehs.net.

LRC Recommended Read

This week's LRC recommended read is Family of Liars, by E. Lockhart, the prequel to We Were Liars. Return to the story of another summer, another generation, and the secrets that will haunt them for decades to come.

Welcome to the Sinclair family.

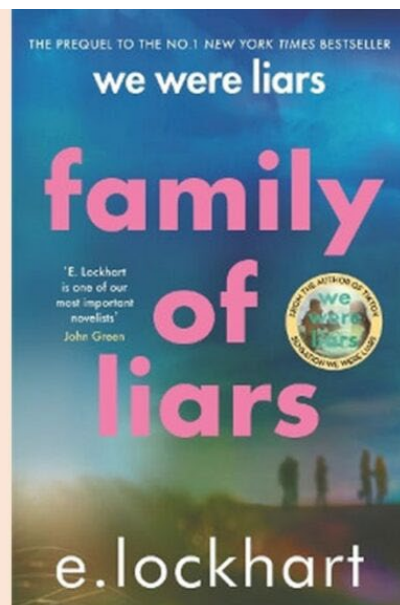
We do not crumble, even when
our loves betray us.

We do not falter, even when
We lose one of our own.

We do not break, even when
There's blood on the sand.

Perhaps that is all you need to know.
Except that we were ALWAYS liars.

A world of lies and luxury, family and tragedy.

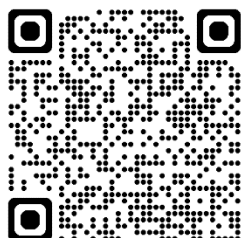


Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please have a read of the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. You can find out more [here](#).

To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

PTFA Lottery



The QEHS Lottery is a simple low cost way of supporting the PTFA and the School. Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. More information and the online application can be found [here](#) or email qehsprizedraw@gmail.com.

Online safety updates
<p>For Parents - Snapchat Updated Safety Features</p> <p>At the end of June Snapchat updated the app with further safety features, including updates to account blocking functionality and enhanced friending safeguards, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block new friend requests sent from bad actors who were already blocked by the user, but sent from a different account from the same device. • More frequent reminders about which friends they share their location with on Snap Maps. • Further pop-up warnings if users add a friend who doesn't share mutual friends or is not a part of their contacts. <p>Further details can be found HERE. (For parents by AlanMcKenzie, Online Safety advisor)</p>

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 9 th July	Y8 Transfer Day	
	Y10 & 11 Trips	New Y10 & 11
Wednesday 10 th July - Thursday 11 th July	Careers Days	New Year 11
Friday 13 th July	Life Skills Day	New Year 10
Thursday 18 th July	Charities Day & Rewards Afternoon New Y13 end of term	New Year 13 New Y10&11
Friday 19 July	School closes at 1.30pm New Y13 are not expected in school	

News from the community

Hexham Bluegrass Festival

Hexham's Bluegrass Festival is on at the end of July. There will be an open mic session on the Saturday evening, and workshops on both Saturday and Sunday morning. Anyone who would like to take part just has to register their name on the day. If you know of any talented young musicians, encourage them to take part!

If you would rather sit and listen to some great, free music, over the weekend, then that's perfectly fine too. <https://www.bluegrassinhexham.uk/>

Also attached:

- Cricket Summer course flyer

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@gehs.net

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