



Queen Elizabeth High School

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6 September 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 1

Dear Parent/Carer

We were really pleased to see students returning this week to the high school. The school is alive with the sound of students engaged in learning and activity. I spoke to the new Y9 students to remind them that we encourage all our students to engage in the wider life of the school. Participation in clubs and activities makes us all happier, healthier and more successful. It also gives students the chance to meet like-minded people and 'find their tribe'.

I have also spoken to all the students about the events over the summer where in some of our cities we saw violence and racist behaviour fuelled by misinformation on social media. We are an inclusive school where everyone should feel safe and accepted. As a community, we need to challenge hate, and our students need to be aware that not all the information available online is accurate.

Houses

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new house system. In many schools, houses are a huge part of developing student identity within the school community. Whilst our students are supported pastorally through our year group system, we want to develop more channels for them to mix with other students and engage more widely with the school community.

All students and staff have been allocated (at random by the sorting hat) to one of the following five houses:

Beech	Sycamore	Oak	Ash	Birch
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Over the course of the academic year, we look forward to developing this system with lots of opportunities for house events and competitions across different areas of the curriculum.

Respect

Sixth Form Freshers' Fair

We are appealing for donations of baked goods/sweet treats to sell at the Freshers' Fair. The money raised will be donated to Macmillan. Sixth formers attending the fair are reminded to bring cash so they can purchase the goods. Students can leave baked donations/sweet treats at the reception. (A reminder to please also include allergen details with your baked goods.)

Queen Elizabeth High School

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www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Extra-Curricular Fair

Our annual 'Extracurricular Activities Fair' took place today. Students in Y9-11 were given the opportunity to sign up to clubs and activities during, after and outside of school.

If your child is in Y9-11, please encourage them to take part in a club or activity!

Get involved in Music!!

Please see attached information on Instrumental/vocal teaching and Extra-curricular music activities.



Newcastle united Foundation Football

Starting from Tuesday 10 September Newcastle United Foundation Football will be on site to deliver a football session on the 3G pitch. This is being offered to Year 9 (period 4) and Year 10 (period 5) pupils from a selected form class each week. These sessions are for anyone (mixed girls and boys) of any ability who would like to try or take part in football.

If your child is interested in signing up to one of these sessions, please ask them to speak to their form tutor.

Calling all students with creativity, flair and imagination!

We are seeking ideas to improve the aesthetic appearance of the old lift space in the centre of the Hydro building across its four levels. There's prize money of £50 available for students' ideas which should be capable of being turned into reality at a cost of no more than some £300.

The winning proposal will best reflect our [ethos](#), which we encapsulate through Respect, Engage and Aspire. As per advice received from Northumberland County Council's Heritage Officer, if the proposal involves painting the lift or attaching anything to it permanently, Listed Building Consent will be required. This is not necessarily problematic but it potentially could be, depending on what is proposed. Any proposed fixings that would be temporary should respect the structure and not cause any damage to it.

Please submit ideas comprising brief visuals and a short explanation by midday on Friday 27 September 2024. For further details and to submit your ideas, please see Mr Freeman-Myers (HMS) or Mr Hedley (QE). Thank you to David Fruin, one of our exam invigilators, who is kindly funding this initiative.

Getting fitter

The QEHS gym is open to the public after school hours. See attached flyer for more information.

Youth Theatre

Our school production this year is 'Oliver: The Musical'. There are two sessions taking place in preparation for the auditions. One on Thursday 12 September 3.30pm-5.30pm and the following week, Thursday 19 November 3.30pm- 5.30pm. We are encouraging students to come along and participate.

Aspire

Careers

Job of the week: [Volunteer Co-ordinator](#)

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/volunteer-organiser>

This includes Labour Market Information (LMI). It is important both parents and students are aware of this as it includes current and predicted figures relating to this 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 'QEHHparent' on this page: [unifrog.org/code](https://www.unifrog.org/code)

Sixth Form News

Sixth form bulletin

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@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

Finally, last year, we have had 143 Year 12 students taking part in work experience, 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@qehs.net.

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.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 10 September	Welcome to Sixth form Evening for parents	Sixth form
Tuesday 10 September	Y12 extended Assembly – speaker: Charles Race	Year 12
Friday 13 September	Freshers' Fair	Year 12 and 13
Monday 16 September	Y11 Parents Information and tutor evening 4-6pm	Year 11
Monday 7 – Friday 11 October	Y13 Iceland residential	Year 13

News from the community

'On Yer Bike' Tynedale Bike festival

We are keen to support the 'On Yer Bike' bike festival which takes place in Hexham on Sunday the 22nd September from 12.00-4.00pm – please see attached flyer. The event will provide an opportunity to cycle round Hexham where roads will be closed, to get your bike fixed, to try out a cargo bike or an adapted bike for mobility issues and to get some support, advice and help generally to ride in the best way possible for you. The event organisers are keen to hear from sixth form students to support the stewarding of the event – first aid qualifications or bike maintenance knowledge will be helpful but is not obligatory. Those interested in stewarding or seeking more details should contact David Dixon via daviddixon649@gmail.com.

Also attached:

- On Yer Bike flyer
- Hexham Air Cadet Open Evening
- Whats On at Hexham Family Hub September/October 2024

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

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