



Queen Elizabeth High School

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13 September 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 2

Dear Parent/Carer

School Places – September 2025 – Applications are now open!

Applications for Middle, Primary and Secondary Schools Sept 2025

The citizen portal has opened yesterday 12th September 2024 and will close on 31st October 2024.

All children in a First, Middle or Primary school that are due to transition to Middle, Secondary or High in September 2025 will need to make an on time application.

[Citizen Portal - Sign in \(northumberland.gov.uk\)](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

If you are experiencing difficulty applying or needing advice, please call the school admissions 01670 624889.

The link to the school admissions website is below, this can give parents advice and information.

Link to School Admissions website where you can find useful information e.g. how to apply for school places and appeals.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1.aspx>

My Child at School

Queen Elizabeth High School uses [MyChildatSchool](https://www.qehs.net/index.php/parents/), which is an electronic school communication system from Bromcom. MCAS enables you to receive all your information from school quickly and reliably. We launched My Child at School at the start of term and you can find information here

<https://www.qehs.net/index.php/parents/>.

SchoolComms and ParentPay

Before this academic year we used a school communication system called SchoolComms. This linked to an electronic payment system called ParentPay. Many of you will be familiar with ParentPay, which was used to pay for school dinners, trips, clubs and other items.

With the successful launch of My Child at School we are now in the process of closing down SchoolComms and ParentPay. Account holders can still log on to the system, but over the coming

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

months we will be closing down functionality. For example, dinner money balances are no longer being updated but balances at the end of last year are still visible (live data is now in MCAS).

We are still using ParentPay to collect money for the Year 13 Iceland Trip in October 2024 and for various trips organised by the Rowing Club.

Please continue to make instalments or payments for these items via ParentPay.

If you have any queries about My Child at School please contact admin@qehs.net.

Year 12 Option Change Requests

All year 12 students have been emailed a link to a Microsoft Form if they would like to request an option change, this is in addition to the letter sent out earlier in the week. It is important that students follow all of the steps if they would like to request a change and complete the Microsoft Form by 9am on Monday 23 September. Appointments with a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss requests need to be booked by 9am on Thursday 19 September

Respect

QE Alumni

This week I had the pleasure of meeting two former students of the high school. One who left in 1988 and another who left the school after one year in 1945. Both men had very vivid and fond memories of their time at school. The experiences of both men were very different but their love of the school, Hexham and value in education was the same. Both men thought that the ethos of respect, engage, aspire summed up their own experience of the school community, as students and now as visitors.



Engage

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.

Harp lessons now available

We are now adding harp lessons to our range of instrumental lessons offered at QEHS and HMS. If your child is interested in learning the harp or even trying it out, please contact the school on admin@qehs.net. Lessons in: singing; guitar; bass guitar; drum kit; trumpet; trombone; tuba; French horn; cornet; baritone horn; saxophone; clarinet; flute; violin; piano are also available.

Chess coaching

Are you, or do you know of someone (a retired grandparent perhaps?), interested in coming along to chess club each Friday between 12.30pm and 1.15pm to help coach our enthusiastic members? You don't have to be a chess expert – just someone with some understanding of chess tactics and strategy who can help students develop their skills, many of whom are relatively new to the game. To signal interest or for more details, please contact avellinga@qehs.net

Youth Theatre

Our school production this year is 'Oliver: The Musical'. One more session will take place in preparation for the auditions Thursday 19 September 3.30pm- 5.30pm. We are encouraging students to come along and participate.

Aspire

Welcome to Sixth Form

On Tuesday we held a very successful welcome to sixth form evening for parents/carers. Ms Platts and her team were able to share with families the expectations and opportunities on our sixth form. It was an excellent opportunity to welcome parents/carers into school.

Careers

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

Job of the week: [Waste Management Officer'](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RtG2vMWpYc&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc - IOca4dJRIPatZ&index=70>

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/waste-management-officer>

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)

Kenya Fundraising

Some of our QEHS students will be travelling to Kenya in 2025 and will be volunteering at our partner school, as well as experiencing a range of once-in-a-lifetime activities. One of our students Jack T is running a fundraising event for a trip to Kenya where he will be supporting underprivileged children to gain an education, please see [here](#) for more info

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Gaming Tips for Parents of Neurodivergent Children.

Internet Matters have released another really useful guide, this time it's all about online gaming safety tips for parents and carers of neurodivergent children. It's a simple 5-page guide covering the research, example games, some of the challenges which parents face and the all-important benefits.

It's a great little guide which you can download [HERE](#).

Sixth Form

Spook Night – help wanted!

Spook Night takes place on Saturday 26 October from 2pm to 9pm. The organisers are seeking volunteers to help with the following:

- assist for an hour or two on the Event Information table in the Queen’s Hall foyer (5.30-7.00pm)
- help to steward around the bandstand during the fancy dress competitions and dance displays (4.15-7.00pm)
- litter pick for an hour or so during the event, particularly towards the end of it (7.00-10.00pm) or the next morning (Sun 27th Oct)

If you are able to help out, please let Bettina Newton know via comms@hexhamcommunity.net.

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.

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.

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.



LRC Recommended Read

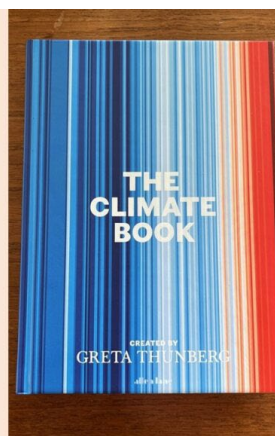
The LRC recommended read this week is The Climate Book by leading climate activist Greta Thunberg. Greta has collected the knowledge of over hundred experts to help us all combat climate change.

The Climate Book

Created by Greta Thunberg.

A bible for those who are interested learning more about the climate crisis. It consists of lots of short reads, with diagrams, written by experts on every aspect of the subject, including:

- Methane and other gases
- Soil and insects
- What we have done about the climate crisis
- Why we haven't done more
- Microplastics
- And much, much, more



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 18 September (corrected date)	Y11 Parents Information and tutor evening 4-6pm	Year 11
Thursday 26 September	QE Open Evening	All welcome
Wednesday 9 –Sunday 13 October (corrected date)	Y13 Iceland residential	Year 13

Keep the date:

The Year 11 Prom date will be Thursday 3rd July 2025.

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