



20 September 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 3

Dear Parent/Carer

Thursday 26 September is the open evening for prospective Y9 families who will have the opportunity to visit the school. Many of our students volunteer to help out and promote their school. If your child has volunteered, they will be in school till 8pm. We will feed them! We very much enjoy open evening and celebrating everything the school has to offer.

MCAS – where to find payments

If you receive an email request for one off payments for items such as Year 12 calculators, 6 form lanyards, revision guides and textbooks, these will be in the 'Store' section at the bottom of your MCAS App. Payments for any school trips will be in the 'Trips' tile of the MCAS App.

Respect

Find The Flock



This week, Olave has taken up

She is part of the Illuminated Sheep Art Trail and is being looked after by the Rainbow unit that Mrs Fraser volunteers with. Olave was with Mrs Fraser this week and enjoyed learning about cell structure with year 10 and 12, genetic crosses with year 13, and the structure of the eye with year 11. Look out for more of her friends across the wider area!

Baaaaden-Powell residence in CC7.



Routines and expectations

Mobile phones: students should not use their devices in school. This includes the use of airpods. If a student uses their phone in school for whatever reason it will be confiscated until the end of the school day and a behaviour point added to Bromcom which parents can see on MCAS.

Jewellery: teachers have been reminded to apply our rules regarding the wearing of jewellery. This will also be confiscated and made available at the end of the school day.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Chewing gum: this is banned on site. The damage and mess caused by discarded gum is costly and unsightly. Students receive an immediate S3 if they are caught chewing gum.

We very much appreciate the support of parents/carers in reinforcing the school's expectations.

Engage

Homework club

Homework Club is back on.

When: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.20pm until 4.30pm.

Where: LRC

Homework Club is for anyone who would like to talk through a piece of work, plan, draft, breakdown a task, research, have a go, and/or simply complete homework or revision in school before heading home.

Our learning support staff are alongside to ENCOURAGE and support if required, in a relaxed and positive learning and working space. Students from all year groups can attend either or both of the sessions, once in the term or every week... any number of times... It's completely flexible and to suit individual students.

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.

Chess coaching

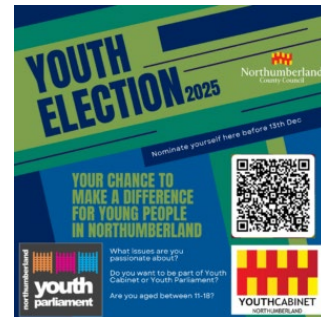
Are you, or do you know of someone (a retired grandparent perhaps?), interested in coming along to chess club each Friday between 12.30pm and 1.15pm to help coach our enthusiastic members? You don't have to be a chess expert – just someone with some understanding of chess tactics and

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 Election 2025

The expression of interest form goes live at 7am on the 20th Sept and closes at midday on the 13th Dec. Click [here](#) to open the form. Or use the QR code below.

This opportunity to all young people aged 11-18



Aspire

Ex-student success

Liam Smith, a Chef at Pine and former sixth form student gave up his time yesterday to talk about his career. This year Liam was a finalist in The Roux Scholarship, as well as being recognised in hospitality's Annual Awards of Excellence. He gave some fantastic advice about how to start turning a passion for cooking into a profession, the benefits of finding a job you love, as well as explaining just how scientific refined dining has become. His sister, Sarah, is in Year 13 and is rightly proud of what her brother has achieved since leaving QEHS 10 years ago.



Click below link to read the article in Living North Magazine: Meet Restaurant Pine's Rising Star, Liam Smith

<https://www.livingnorth.com/article/meet-restaurant-pines-rising-star-liam-smith#:~:text=During%20all%20of%20this%2C%20Liam,judges%20at%20the%20regional%20heats>

Careers

Careers sessions for Y9-11 will begin again on Thursday next week. NUFC Foundation will be working with form classes during this autumn term.

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

Job of the week: [Influencer / Youtuber](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaXEmOe0GnE&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc - IOca4dJRIPatZ&index=71>

Further information can be found on [Unifrog](https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/influencer):
<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/direct/influencer>

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.

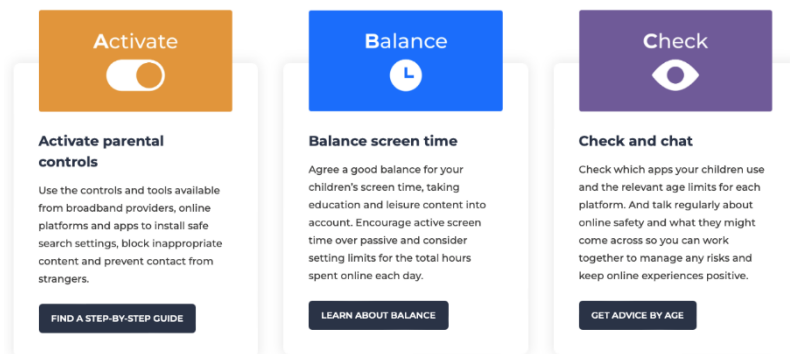
All students have received a 'Welcome' email to their school email account. Please encourage them to activate their account if they haven't already done so.

We also have a 'dummy' code for parents. Use 'QEHHparent' on this page: [unifrog.org/code](https://www.unifrog.org/code)

Online Safety Update

For Parents - The ABC Online safety Checklist.

Internet Matters have done it again, this time with a really simple guide for parents using Activate, Balance and Check.



(image copyright: Internet Matters)

The ABC's are broken down by age to make this as simple as possible for parents: all ages, under 5's, 6-10, 11-13 and 14+. Definitely worth sharing with your parents and I'll definitely be using it in my parent training sessions.

You can download the guide [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie – E-safety advisor)

Sixth Form

The Social Mobility Foundation

The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) aims to encourage students to aspire to have professional careers / go to university. The students they support are from backgrounds where financial disadvantage might make this more challenging or where their family's experience of education and employment might mean they are less likely to do so. The Sixth Form Team would like to invite the SMF in to talk to the students who might be eligible for the scheme about the opportunities they offer, such as work experience, a professional mentor and help with applications. If you think your child might be eligible please talk to them about it and email sixthform@gehs.net if they would like to have the opportunity to find out more.

Eligibility criteria

Students must be in Year 12 and:

meet at least ONE of the following:

- Eligible for Free School Meals
- Care experienced

or meet at least TWO of the following:

- You'll be the first generation of your family to attend university. (We still count students being the first generation if their parents/guardians went to university as a mature student, or abroad, and if older siblings went to university).
- Their household income is lower than £45,000
- Highest-paid parent or guardian does a certain type of job* or is unemployed

To read more about the scheme follow this [link](#)

* the Social Mobility Foundation will provide more details on the student's application 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

Latest news from 'On Yer Bike Tynedale' Festival September 22nd 12.00-4.00pm Hexham town centre



Decorate your Bike competition! Prizes given for all those who turn up with a decorated bike and a special prize for the overall winner.

Also, two supervised rides to Warden and back for adults at 1.00pm and 2.30pm. Please sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/onyerbike-hexham-22nd-september-8km-5mi-guided-rides-to-warden-tickets-1012001643157?aff=oddtcreator>

Please spread the word to friends and relatives!

Free online session – The Skills Revolution

Please see attached flyer regarding a free online session for parents and carers to help young people in developing skills to succeed in skills based employment.

You can find the flyer here:

<https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Parent-Invite-Skills-Revolution.png>

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

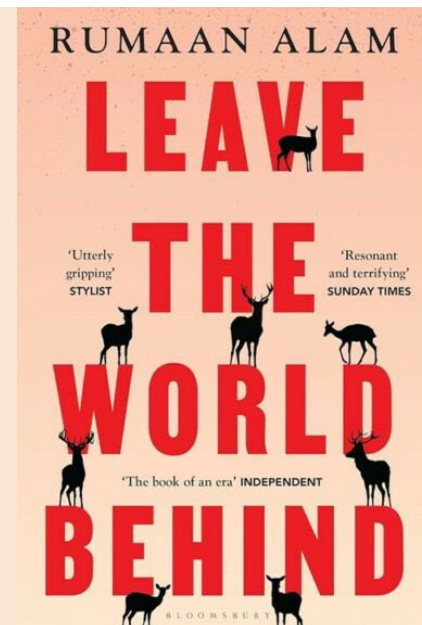
The LRC recommended read this week is *Leave the World Behind*, by Rumaan Alam. Strangers who are forced together in a remote corner of Long Island for a long weekend, what could possibly go wrong?

Amanda and Clay are enjoying a taste of the good life when Ruth and GH, an older couple who claim to own the remote holiday home they are staying in, arrive seeking shelter.

These strangers say that a power outage has swept the city, but with no phone service and the internet down, the facts are unknowable.

What had happened back in New York? Is the holiday home a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one another?

Also a film on Netflix!



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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@gehs.net

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