

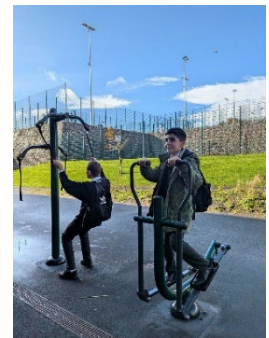
18 October 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 7

Dear Parent/Carer



We were delighted this week to welcome Councillor Fairless-Aitken and Mayor Kennedy to the high school to see the outdoor gym equipment that was installed. They both worked alongside our PTFA to secure the funds to buy the equipment. It has been well used by the students at break and lunchtime. Our PTFA also held its Annual General Meeting. The parents who give up their time to fundraise and support



events for the school do a wonderful job. As a school we benefit from their positivity, creative thinking and our students love their half termly tuck shop. If you would like to be involved, please contact them qehs.ptfa@gmail.com. Thank you to the PTFA, Councillor Fairless-Aitken and Mayor Kennedy for the gym equipment – QE students are very grateful!

Hadrian Learning Trust

Kate MacLachlan, parent of pupils in HMS, has been appointed Chair of the Trust Board. Veryan Johnston steps down as Chair to become Vice Chair. We thank Veryan for her time as Chair and indeed all trustees for their excellent support of both schools. For full details of the trust's governance activities, please see [here](#).

Respect

Car Park Use

As you know, the safety of our students is our main priority. Since the start of this term, we have noticed an increase in the number of vehicles on and around the school site. School staff continue to be present around the site, including on Whetstone Bridge Road. We are asking for your support with the following arrangements.

Morning drop off

If parents could avoid driving onto the school site to drop-off, that would be a big help. Please consider:

- Whether local children could walk to school.

Queen Elizabeth High School
Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB
T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net
www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**
Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

- Whether children could be dropped off away from the school site to walk the final part of the journey.
- Whether car share arrangements could be made.
- Whether public transport could be used.

However, if none of these is practical and you do need to drop your child at school, please note the following:

- Stay in the flow of traffic to the top of the car park. Please do not drop off at the corner but pull along the top lane towards the EVC bays. This speeds up drop off for all users.
- Only drop your child off at the designated area (fenced off for safety) – do not park up in a bay or look for shortcuts in the car park as this is dangerous.
- Do not overtake other vehicles in the car park. We have witnessed near misses due to overtaking. If you can't wait, please use an alternative drop-off away from the site.
- Do not drive across car park spaces/lanes(?) unless you are parking up to visit school. (Not sure I understand this one).

When leaving the car park, it would help if vehicles could **turn left**, avoiding the need to stop the flow of pupil movement as they cross Whetstone Bridge Road.

End of day collection

We ask parents/carers to consider whether you could meet your child elsewhere to reduce the number of vehicles on and around the school site.

- The car park should not be accessed after 3.15pm.
- If you arrive before 3.15pm, you should drive into the car park, stay on the outer loop and park your car with your engine turned off.
- If you arrive after 3.15pm, you should park off-site and not enter the car park.
- There will be no vehicle movement in the car park between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.
- Any vehicles moving will be asked not to use the car park in future. This is important to keep all pupils safe as they leave school.
- Once the barriers are removed, vehicles can leave the car park, taking a left turn at the exit.

Attendance

We believe that attendance at school helps students to progress socially, emotionally and academically. Being in school, meeting people and doing activities helps social development and positive mental health. 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 11 October				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	95.6%	92.4%	92.4%	93.9%

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to our Bronze and Silver students who received their certificates and badges this week for completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Silver teams (Red, Blue & Yellow) gave excellent presentations to an audience telling of their expeditions – highs, lows and advice for next year’s cohort. Well done to all involved!



Cross Country success

Last week our cross country teams travelled to Temple Park for the first round of the English Schools Cup cross country team event. In appalling conditions, the runners were fantastic. Some excellent individual performances and some impressive pack running! Our Inter (Y9/10) girls and boys teams both came 3rd and our Senior (Y10 & 6th form) girls and boys teams both won.

The Senior boys ran a brilliant tactical race. Two boys from another school set off very fast. However, our boys had worked out that the rest of that team was way down the field. So they let the two runners go off and have their own battle while our boys ran as a pack, winning the team event by a big margin! All four teams move forward to the next round in Middlesbrough at the start of November.

Human Rights Group

On Wednesday 23rd October we will be hosting a cake stall to raise money for a local homeless charity. This will take place in the dining hall during morning break. Students will be able to buy the cakes for a cash donation. Please help to support this. Further details about the charity can be found here [What We Do - Oasis Community Housing](#).

Swimming Gala

Last Thursday the students took part in the Schools Team Swimming Championships for the North East Region. The standard of swimming by the students was outstanding and a number of teams finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. Well done to all students involved for their outstanding efforts.

Aspire

Career of the week

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

Job of the week: [Family Support Worker](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob5zVtHiBRw&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc - IOca4dJRIPatZ&index=77](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob5zVtHiBRw&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc-I0ca4dJRIPatZ&index=77)

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/family-support-worker>

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.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA Fundraising

The PTFA will be running a celebratory half-term tuckshop in the dining hall at lunchtime on **Thursday 24th October** for all students. There will be mix-up sweets, other confectionery and canned drinks for sale. Both cash and card payments will be accepted (please note, payment cannot be made through school lunch accounts). Providing your child with some money to spend at the tuckshop is a great way to support the PTFA if you can't help out in other ways or volunteer in person.

Another way you can support the PTFA is through donations to our JustGiving fundraising account: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/qehs-crowdfunder>.



Crowdfunder for QEHS PARENT TEACHER & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Help Rebecca Elton raise money to support QEHS PARENT TEACHER & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

www.justgiving.com

We are currently fundraising for specialist theatre equipment to enhance performance events and support student audio-visual skills learning.

The QEHS Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) is a Registered Charity (no.1201950) run by volunteer parents, teachers and friends of the school who work together to make the school an even better environment for children to learn and thrive in, engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils. If you would like to know more about how funds are used, please email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com.

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 gehsprizedraw@gmail.com.



Online Safety Update

Parental Supervision - How Far is Too Far?

Many parents will opt to use apps to track and monitor the location and online activities of their children. These apps can be really beneficial (e.g. physical safety) but as with anything there are drawbacks (e.g. invasion of privacy).

Using the voices of young people Voicebox have put together an excellent article which parents can use to give a more informed opinion of these apps and to use as discussion points with their children.

You can find the article [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Sixth Form

Sixth form noticeboard

Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university are 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, 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@gehs.net.

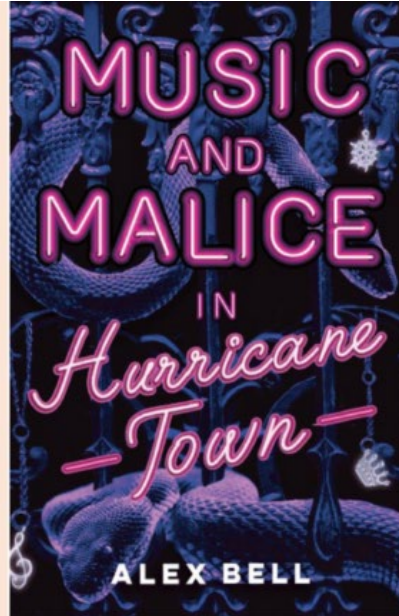
LRC recommended read

Music and Malice in Hurricane Town, now available in the QEHS LRC

"There are no angels in Baton Noir. Only devils."

Jude Lomax scrapes a living playing the trumpet on the neon streets of Baton Noir. Then she is invited to play at the funeral of the infamous cajou queen, Ivory Monette. Passing through the cemetery gates, Jude finds herself possessed by the murdered queen's spirit. And Ivory won't rest until she's found the person responsible for her death.

If Jude wants to be rid of the vengeful spirit, she must take a journey deep into the dangerous underbelly of the city, from the swampy depths of the Black Bayou to the velvet opulence of the vampires' secret jazz clubs. But as Jude untangles Ivory's web of secrets, she is confronted with a few dark truths from her own past.



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.

News from the community

Dance opportunity

A free opportunity for people aged 12+ to be involved in the creation and performance of a dance film, The Lighthouse, over the October half-term in Hexham.

This is absolutely perfect for complete beginners as much as those who may have danced before. The film will combine a new composition from an emerging local folk musician, a duet between two local professional dancers, and a dance developed by the participating cast via 2 half-day workshops and a filming day.

[Application Form](#).



Find Take-over Festival

The Take-over Festival will take place on Wednesday 30 September at the Queen's Hall in Hexham. Click [here](#) to see the poster in a bigger format.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 16 October – Thursday 24 October	Mock Exams	Year 11
Wednesday 23 October	Parents' Evening	Year 13
Thursday 24 October	School closes for half term at 3.20pm	All year groups
Friday 25 October	Teacher Training day	All year groups
Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November	Half Term Holiday	All year groups
Monday 4 November	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups

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