



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

25 October 2024

## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 8



Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the end of our first half term, and it has been a productive eight weeks here at QE. There have been countless sporting events including netball, cross country, rowing, football, sixth form geography students visited Iceland, our new outdoor gym equipment arrived, successful DofE students received their awards, we welcomed the new Y9s, Y11s sat their first set of mocks and we welcomed Y9, 10 and 11 parents in for our inaugural ‘meet the tutor’ evenings.

A highlight was our open evening where the school was showcased to prospective parents and students. The evening was a celebration of our facilities, our staff, the extracurricular offer but most importantly our amazing students. When I met with the Head of PE today, she mentioned how well the students conduct themselves at fixtures or when doing cross country. Our ethos of respectfulness, engagement and aspiration is lived in our community. The students (and staff) have worked incredibly hard this half term and I hope that they all enjoy a well-earned rest.

### **Nasal flu vaccinations**

Please note that the nasal flu vaccinations will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This is a live vaccination which will be offered to all students in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11. Please ensure you have completed the circulated form if you would like your child to receive this vaccination in school.

### **Respect**

#### **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 18 October**

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>All years</b>
Percentage	95.6%	92.4%	92.6%	93.9%

### **Queen Elizabeth High School**

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[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Engage

### QEHS Rowing - Year 9 and New Starters Parents Evening

The Parents Rowing Evening was well attended with parents and students discovering how to transition into the Rowing Club, for those that missed the presentation this can be found [here](#).

The important parts of the presentation were:

1. Club Standing Order Form which needs to be completed and to school by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at the latest.
2. Links to order club kit.
3. Dates for Rowing for new starters over half term will be Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. No session Saturday and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November due to Annual Tyne Tour, kayaking.
4. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> will be the start of the indoor sessions at school 15.30 to 1730. Please note this change. On the water both days at weekends only.

Any questions please email [pwalton@qehs.net](mailto:pwalton@qehs.net).

### Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 Netball team represented QE in the U16 country Netball tournament. The girls demonstrated great teamwork and played some excellent netball in very windy conditions. Well done!



### Year 9 Football

Despite playing way below their best the Year 9 boys managed to win 4-2 away at Bede Academy. The goals were scored by Charlie H, Lucas P, Dan C & Hugh A.

A good start to the season with 2 wins from their first 2 games.

### Year 9 and Year 10 Rugby

Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Cramlington to play another set of 7 a side fixtures. Both teams demonstrated excellent respect for each other and the opposition. Goals from Maisie and Rose B. Well played everyone!



### Zones of Regulation Parent/Carer Workshop

You are invited to join us to find out more about 'The Zones of Regulation' - a strategy to support your child's emotional wellbeing. The session will be held at Hexham Middle School on Thursday 7th November 5.30pm. Sign up is required. Click [here](#) to be directed to the flyer on our website.

## Aspire

### Apprenticeship drop in session

Claire Angus of the DWP will be holding a drop in for anyone interested in an apprenticeship in the LRC at lunchtime on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. All students welcome.

### Career of the week

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

Job of the week: [Graphic Designer](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brEdKUBnxsA>

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/graphic-designer>

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](http://unifrog.org/code).

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

### PTFA Fundraising goal

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

### PTFA clothes recycling fundraiser

If you're planning to have a good clear-out this half term, a clothes recycling bin can be found at the carpark driveway entrance. We welcome new or used donations of the following items in good, undamaged condition, placed in bags tied at the top:

- adults' and children's clothes
- shoes (tied in pairs)
- accessories (bags, belts, jewellery etc)



No branded uniform, damaged or bulky items such as pillows, duvets or curtains, please. School uniform donations should be handed directly into the school office for the uniform recycling scheme instead.

The recycling scheme is a great way to support the PTFA if you can't volunteer in person or help out in other ways. Fundraise & Recycle Ltd make a donation, shared between QEHS PTFA and HMS PTA, for every kilo of clothing collected. If you would like to know more about how the clothes are recycled by them, email [admin@fundraiserecycleltd.co.uk](mailto:admin@fundraiserecycleltd.co.uk)

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](http://www.justgiving.com)

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 [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.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 [qehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - My Family's Digital Toolkit

There are so many really good resources out there for parents/carers about how to help keeping children safe online, but it can quickly become really overwhelming.

Internet Matters has a really great resource for parents called My Family's Digital Toolkit. This is a personalised resource which gives age-specific advice, advice to deal with specific concerns, recommendations for digital tools to support children's interests and more.

The toolkit is free and you can find more details [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](mailto: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](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net).

### LRC recommended read

Carole has created a fantastic display to showcase books that reflect the spooky season. From classics to graphic novels, all are available to borrow. Please come in and take a look!

As a reminder, QE LRC is a fantastic resource in the heart of the school and is open to all students, every day. We have a full range of dyslexia-friendly novels, graphic/illustrated texts, short reads, and exciting new fiction. There is a 'reading well' section that covers bereavement and other life events, plus texts on mental health and wellbeing. The current textbooks for many GCSE and A-Level subjects are also available for reference and use in the LRC.



### 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

### Parent Carer Workshops

See [here](#) for more information on two workshops run by the local 'Be You' team. The first session will focus on anxiety and worry. The second will focus on coping with exam stress.

### 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 October at the Queen's Hall in Hexham. Click [here](#) to see the poster in a bigger format.



### Rotary competitions

The Rotary competitions give participants the chance to express themselves through art, photography and writing, the competitions are run over three stages, club level, district and culminating in the national final. Click [here](#) for further information or download the competition pack [here](#).

### U16 Girls football (year 10 and 11)

New players wanted for the Hexham Lionhearts!

Training: Tuesdays 18:45 – 20:00 @ QEHS.

Matches: Saturdays

Contact: Steven +44 7956 901436



### West Northumberland Family Hubs

Click to see: [What's on in November & December](#)

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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
Tuesday 5 November	DWP lunch time drop-in session apprenticeships	All year groups
Wednesday 6 November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Y9, Y10, Y11
Thursday 14 November	<a href="#">Sixth Form Open Evening 4.45pm</a>	Prospective students, parents/carers

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](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@qehs.net](mailto:attendance@qehs.net)