



# Queen Elizabeth High School

*spes durat avorum*

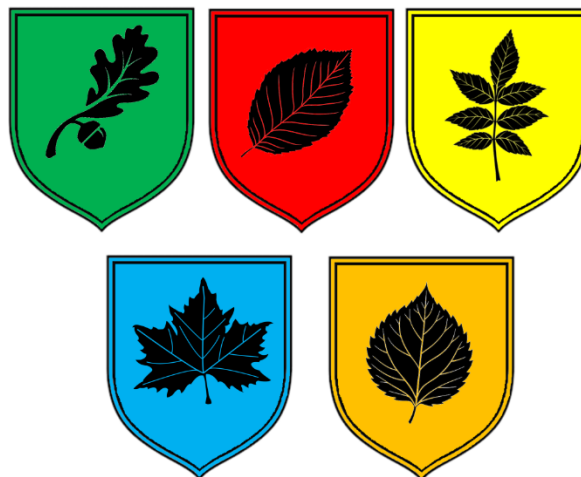
8 November 2024

## QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 9

Dear Parent/Carer

Each week there are events or incidents in school that can fill the heart with joy. These can include watching a performance or visiting a really hard maths lesson and understanding what is being taught – this rarely happens. This week we had the joy of the house assemblies. The students in the high school have been split into 5 houses named after trees – ash, beech, birch, oak and sycamore.

Each of the house leaders spoke to their houses, celebrating house P points and encouraging them to select a charity for fundraising. The leaders have asked students to volunteer to join the house committee and there will be house competitions running throughout the year. At the end of the year the house with the most points will win the cup. I look forward to updating you on the progress of the various houses.



### Respect

#### Positive Noticing Day

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November we are delighted to be joining in with Positive Noticing Day, a national event supported by When The Adults Change Network.

We will be spending some time during the day thinking about the power of positive noticing. It is simple, practical, and highly effective. Being positively noticed by others builds self-esteem, supports behaviour and promotes good mental health.

We will be encouraging pupils (and staff!) to positively notice one another.

### Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

We encourage families to join in at home too. You can write positive notes for family members on luggage labels, Post-it notes or pieces of paper. We know that children who are positively noticed by the adults in their life are happier, healthier and more resilient and secure.

You may wish to use Positive Noticing Day as an opportunity to start daily positive noticing in your home. You can create and share positive labels as a family and save them - stick them on the fridge, the back of the door or put them in an old picture frame.

Thank you for positively noticing with us this week – we hope you enjoy the day!

### 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 25 October				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	95.4%	92.5%	92.7%	93.9%

### Engage

#### 'Children in Need' fundraising

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our annual staff netball match in aid of 'Children in Need'. Students can pay a (minimum of) £1 if they would like to spectate. This can be brought along on the day or a donation can be made via the school website. This year's theme is '[The Heaviest Backpack](#)' and has a focus on mental wellbeing. The event will take place in the Sports Hall on Thursday during lunchtime

#### Emotion Coaching – Support with parenting your teens

Mrs Curry is now an accredited Emotion Coach as part of the Emotion Coaching UK network: <https://www.emotioncoachinguk.com/>

To complement the staff CPD program this year we would like to invite parents/carers to attend a session delivered by Mrs Curry at school on

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 5.30-6.30pm.

The session will explore what emotion coaching is as well as some of the benefits and some practical ways to make use of it at home. If you would like to attend this session please email [dgradwell@qehs.net](mailto:dgradwell@qehs.net) to register your interest by 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Year 10 football**

The Y10's drew 4-4 (our scorers were Elliot P x2, Oli G and Jack T) after a thriller against Marden last night in the U15's cup, showing great resilience to come from behind twice. Unfortunately, we lost 12-11 on penalties.

The lads were great and conducted themselves brilliantly in what is a very cruel way to lose a game.



### **Cross country success**

5 Teams from HMS and QEHS travelled to the regional finals of the Cross Country Schools Cup. This event was held at Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. This saw the best teams from Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire competing for three qualifying places in the national final which will be held in Leeds this year.

The event winners are decided on the cumulative total for the first four runners from each school.

The Inter Girls team put in some good performances with Emilia (25), Eleanor (30) backed up by Beth, Winnie and Madeleine. Unfortunately, on the day in a very strong field, the girls did not qualify for Nationals but an amazing achievement for them to reach the regional stages.

The Inter Boys team were looking to qualify again and there were some strong runs from Arthur D (8th), Wilfred (22nd), Leo (24th), Billy (25th) with Fred and Arthur B completing the team. They finish 3rd securing a place at Leeds for the second year running.

Next up were the Senior Girls also looking to qualify for the second year running. In a bigger field than usual there was some great pack running with Esme (8th), Ania (16th), Emma (19th), Emily (20th) and Maria (22nd). This ensured 3rd place and qualification for Leeds.

The last race of the day was the Senior Boys. The boys ran a tactical race, letting 2 fast runners go off as they knew that those boys didn't have the team backing them up. Some great pack running with Magnus (4th), Arthur Di (5th), Arty (10th), Joe (13th) and Isaac completing the team. With such strong performances the boys won the event and with it their place in Leeds (and the back row seats of the bus on the way home!).

It was a brilliant performance by all runners. This is the second year in a row that we have had teams qualify for the finals. HMS Junior Boys team also qualified. It is a great achievement and we are excited to see how all our teams can compete at the National final in December.

Mr Gaines and Mrs Southern were very proud of all performances on the day. The excited buzz from all the athletes was infectious. Well done everyone.

## QEHS Rowing Teams

Last weekend, QEHS rowers attended Durham Head, the last of the Long Distance Sculling races of the autumn season. It was a day of very close races, with Seth achieving the only QEHS win of the day in the j18 singles. However, there were a lot of close 2nd places and lots of impressive racing across the board.



Division 1 saw the j18 quad of Seth, Felix, Benji, and Adam finishing with the 2nd fastest time of the division, a great improvement from the start of head season. Other notable results included some very close racing between the 2 j15 boys' quads, an impressive result from the j15 girl's quad and Morty in his j15 single posting a time that rivalled some of the much more experienced scullers.

Division 2 saw the year 9 girls, after only 6 weeks of rowing, complete their first race in a very impressive fashion (apart from a minor tangle with the infamous Elvet bridge). A great achievement for them to race so soon into their rowing careers. Both boys' and girls' fours (Benji, Josh, Dennis, Felix, cox Edward and Astrid, Millie, Beth, Lauren, cox Edie) showed great maturity, racing in senior categories to post great results against lots of good adult crews. Jennifer and Isla came a very close 2nd in the j15 2x, less than 10s from winning.

Division 3 had fewer QEHS crews in, but the best result was the j16 boys four (Alex, Jacob, James, George, cox Edward) again racing senior and posting a great time and beating lots of adult crews.

All in all, it was a great day of racing, with more experience gained before the bigger races in the spring before the older rower's attention turns to Rutherford Head, the biggest head race in the north-east.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Sustainability Officer' as we marked Green Careers Week.

The following link will take you to further information regarding this career on 'Unifrog'

[Sustainability Officer - Unifrog](#)

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://unifrog.org/code).

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

### **What is the PTFA and what does it do?**

The QEHS PTFA is a group of volunteer parents/carers, teachers and friends of the school who work together to make it an even better environment for children to learn in. The PTFA supports the school by raising money to enhance, enrich and improve learning experiences for pupils. We fundraise through events, other activities (such as the clothes recycling bank) and by applying for grants for specific projects (eg the outdoor gym).

We have close ties with the school community, helping to connect school and home life, so parents/carers have opportunities to become more positively engaged with school. There's also a social aspect to the PTFA: Parents/carers can get together, those with children in different year groups and work alongside each other while raising money for school and supporting its aims.

### **How does the money raised by the PTFA get allocated?**

There are three main ways we use the funds raised:

- A Hardship Fund and Uniform Bank – so that all children can have access to the right equipment and experiences no matter their financial situation.
- Teachers can make a funding request for something which adds to the children's education and can't easily be funded by school.
- Grants from other organisations are used for specific projects, activities or pieces of equipment that the PTFA and School have agreed to apply for.

### **Who runs the PTFA?**

The QE PTFA is run by a committee of volunteers, currently: Kate Robson (Y9 parent), Becky Elton (Y10 and Y12 parent), Suzanne Cadge (Y12 parent), Lorna Beech (Y9 and Y13 parent), Karen Wright (Y9 and Y12 parent), Nicky Palmer (Y10 and Y13 parent), plus Mr Seaton and Mrs Currie. We are a Registered Charity, so the parent committee members are also Trustees of the charity.

### **How can I join the PTFA?**

If you are a parent/carer of a child at QE, you are automatically a member. Anyone else with an interest in supporting the school can join with committee approval.

### **What kind of things might I be expected to do if I volunteer?**

We organise and run fundraising events, so one common task is helping out at fundraisers, for example serving refreshments. As importantly, you can help us decide what activities we do and plan for the future at meetings or in our WhatsApp group. But don't worry - we won't make you sign up to become a committee member (unless you want to)! If you're interested, talk to us about what you'd like to be involved in or skills you can offer. We hold meetings on a weekday evening once a month – you'd be warmly welcomed!

### **How much time will it take up?**

We are happy for you to volunteer as much time as you can reasonably give. If you want to come to meetings, commitment helps the PTFA work at its best, but there are no set rules; everyone has other responsibilities that might mean missing an occasional meeting. You'll be able to read the minutes of any meetings you can't attend. If you can't make meetings at all, perhaps you could volunteer at fundraisers 'on the day' or take on a role that operates mostly from home.

#### How can I contact the PTFA?

Email us at: [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/QEHSPTFA/>) or on Instagram (@qehs\_parent\_teacher\_friends)

#### 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

#### Character AI

Online safety advisor Alan McKenzie pointed out to us a 'What Parents Need to Know' article by Internet Matters: [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

### Sixth Form

#### Politics and Photography workshop

Politics and Photography students enjoyed a workshop run by David Campbell from the VII Foundation. The Foundation educates photographers on how to be ethical and safe when documenting dangerous situations (for example wars and riots). He talked us through a history of photojournalism and then showed us footage of the Storming of the Capitol in 2021, describing the experience of the photographers there. He then ran a smaller session exclusively for photographers on ethics and AI in photography. The talk was fascinating and the students had some excellent questions about the future of photojournalism.



#### Sixth form noticeboard

Places on the Sicily Residential 2025: If you will still be in Sixth Form next academic year there is an opportunity for you to come on the Sicily residential. The cost of the trip is £1030 and will take place on the 10th to the 14th October 2025. If you have curriculum links to Science, Classics, History or Photography you are eligible. Please contact Miss Dudill to find out more.

Opportunities and advice for employment, volunteering and university are regularly 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### News from the community

#### Tynedale Orchestra

Tynedale Orchestra has a concert in the QE main hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.

We are performing Brahms's Violin Concerto with the soloist Iona Brown who is a Principal First Violin with the Northern Sinfonia. This is a fantastic opportunity to see a top professional violinist at QE!

Tickets are just £1 for U18 (£15 for adults). Details are on the flyer on our website: [here](#).

#### 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](#)

### 'Be you' 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.

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 13 November	Drama trip to War Horse (Sunderland Empire stadium)	Y11/Y13 drama students
Thursday 14 November	<a href="#">Sixth Form Open Evening 4.45pm</a>	Prospective students, parents/carers
Friday 15 November	Health & Social Care Health Campaigns	Year 11
Thursday 28 November	A Christmas Carol performance	Y10/Y11 students
Wednesday 11 December	Winter Concert	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](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

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