

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 12**

Christmas beckons with the switching on of Hexham Christmas lights last Friday, accompanied by HMS and QE musical talent. We also enjoyed a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' for Y10 and Y11 this week. The sixth form also spent their personal development session mindfully making Christmas decorations.

We also had the privilege this week to hear from Micala and Lee Trussler, the parents of Holly Newton. They spoke to all the high school students about their experience as the parents of a child who was in a coercive, controlling relationship and how to identify red flags in unhealthy relationships and access support. The presentations coincided with the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence towards women and girls.

**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 22 November**

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	95.2%	92%	92%	93.5%

**November!**

As you may have seen, Mr Manns is growing a particularly impressive moustache to raise awareness and funds for men's health - specifically prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. If you are able to support this worthy cause, please donate via <https://movember.com/t/qehs-mos?mc=5>

## Engage



### QEHS Winter Concert

Tickets are now for sale on 'MCAS store' for the QEHS Winter Concert on December 11th! Follow this [link](#) for more information, it promises to be a great event! There are about 90 students participating (from both schools) and there is a fantastic range of groups and soloists performing! It's likely to sell out, so if you do want a ticket either ensure you get in early.

### Emotion Coaching Workshop - Monday 2 December 5:30-6:30

This a reminder for the parents that have signed up to the emotion coaching workshop. Please head to the main reception on arrival, the session will be held in the LRC.

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. There are a few places left. If you would like to attend, please email [dgradwell@qehs.net](mailto:dgradwell@qehs.net).

## Aspire

### February Half term fully funded STEM course

The Engineering Development Trust (EDT) are now accepting applications for their FULLY FUNDED Newcastle Face to Face 3-day Routes into STEM course for Years' 9 and 10 students that will be taking place over the February Half Term. This course normally costs £190 for the 3 days but due to funding received they are able to offer students from your school FULLY FUNDED FREE PLACES!

Routes into STEM is a three-day experience that provides young people with an amazing chance to help understand the different routes available into further STEM education and career pathways. Students will gain first-hand experience of life at STEM educational providers and companies, spending one day at each.

As this is a fully funded course, we do expect many applications so please apply ASAP to avoid disappointment. See [here](#) for more information.

### Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Quality Assurance Manager'.

The following links will take you to further information on 'Unifrog':

Quality Assurance Manager: [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 'QEHSparent' on this page: [unifrog.org/code](http://unifrog.org/code).

### QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

#### PTFA Lottery - Christmas Special draw!

The QEHS Lottery is a simple, low cost way of supporting the PTFA and the School.

Tickets cost £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes.

**\*\* Sign up for December's draw by completing the form below and depositing your ticket money by 10th December and all tickets will be eligible for the chance to win an *additional* £50 M&S voucher! \*\***

Entry is simple and can be done online. More information and the application form can be found [here](#). For queries, please email: [gehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:gehsprizedraw@gmail.com)

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### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - Second-Hand Devices Guide

Often when children get their first or subsequent devices, particularly mobile phones, it's a hand-me-down, for example when a parent gets a new device on contract. This can be a real positive, mobile devices are very expensive and the latest/greatest devices often have very limited additional functionality over older devices.

But it's really important these devices are configured correctly for younger users. thankfully Internet Matters have a full guide to help parents navigate all the different features and settings, plus how to choose the right second-hand device, safety concerns and much more.

All information and guidance can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

## Sixth Form

### Social Mobility Foundation

If your child achieved at least 4 grade 7s at GCSE or distinctions at Level 2 and they meet criteria, they could apply to the Social Mobility Foundation for support around securing work experience and mentoring for university.

Year 12 students should either:

Be entitled to Free School Meals or have experience of the care system

Or

Meet two from the following criteria : neither parent has been to university/holds a higher level qualification; the household income is less than £45,000; the highest wage earner is in a 'target occupation' (their website will define these) or is unemployed

For more information about the opportunities offered on their programs please watch this short video [here](#) and find further detail on the [Sixth Form Noticeboard](#), within the university section.

### Work Experience Placements

Since the pandemic it has become increasingly difficult for students to secure work experience. If you are able to offer a work experience placement during week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025, please contact [sixthform@qehs.net](mailto:sixthform@qehs.net). The year 12 students would welcome the opportunity to spend anywhere from one day to a week in a different work environment. Across the year group of 200 students there are a wide range of skills and interests, so all sectors welcome.

### Sixth form noticeboard

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.

## LRC Recommended Read

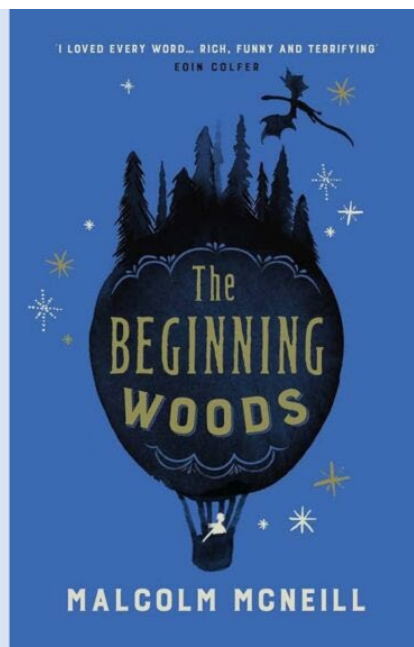
A mystery no one can solve... the vanishings started without warning! This week's LRC Recommended Read comes from Malcolm McNeill, *The Beginning Woods*.

The Vanishings started without warning. People disappearing into thin air – just piles of clothes left behind. Each day, thousands gone without a trace.

Max was abandoned in a bookshop and grows up haunted by memories of his parents. Only he can solve the mystery of the Vanishings.

To find the answers, Max must leave this world and enter the Beginning Woods. A realm of magic and terror, life and death. But can he bear the truth – or will it destroy him?

Greater than your dreams. Darker than your fears. Full of more wonder than you could ever desire. Welcome to the ineffable Beginning Woods...



## 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

### Northumbria Police County Line Awareness Week

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media. Some of the platforms used are lesser known: Signal and Kick are two examples. Follow this [link](#) for further information.

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 2 December – Friday 13 December	GCSE Mock Speaking Exams	Year 11
Monday 2 December – Tuesday 3 December	Politics trip to London (Sixth Form)	Year 12 & Year 13
Monday 2 December	Assembly – preparation for taster day	Year 11
Tuesday 3 December	Assembly – Safer Driving	Year 12
Wednesday 4 December	Assembly – Green Careers	Year 10
Thursday 5 December	Assembly – Green Careers	Year 9
Thursday 5 December	Parents’ Evening Q-band (4-7pm)	Year 11
Friday 6 December	Assembly – Green Careers	Year 12 & Year 13
Monday 9 December	Parents’ Evening E-band (4-7pm)	Year 11
Wednesday 11 December	Winter Concert – 7pm	All year groups
Thursday 19 December	Rewards Afternoon	All year groups
Friday 20 December	Non-uniform day	All year groups
Friday 20 December	School closes at 1.30pm	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)