



Queen Elizabeth High School

spes durat avorum

6th December 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 13

The countdown to Christmas continues as we prepare for next week's Christmas lunch and winter concert. This week our students learned about green careers and sixth formers were given a superb talk from the fire service on safer driving. Y11 students are doing their languages mock speaking exams, and our sixth form team are preparing for Y11 to take part in taster day and, for some, to visit Newcastle College.

On Wednesday the catering team will be preparing over a thousand Christmas lunches to be served across both schools. To accommodate the demand there will be no breaktime service, although some of our fundraising groups will use that time to hold bake sales to raise money for charities. Students who want to buy a sweet treat should bring cash. Y9 will be released from class at 12.15 on Wednesday to ensure there is time to serve all the lunches.



End of Term Sixth Form

Sixth formers will finish school at lunchtime on Thursday 19 December. Y12 will be in their scheduled lessons periods 1, 2 and 3. They will have their Christmas lunch at lunchtime and then finish for the holiday. If they wish to remain in school for the afternoon to work independently, they should contact sixthform@qehs.net.

Year 13 will have their scheduled lesson period 1, a festive activity period 2 followed by Christmas lunch at 11.30. They can leave school after their lunch. It is important to remind Y13 students that the school has zero tolerance approach to alcohol. Any student arriving in school intoxicated or in possession of alcohol will be subject to our substance abuse policy and be suspended for 5 days or more.

End of Term Y9-Y11

School term ends for Y9-11 at 1pm on Friday 20 December. During the week students will have their celebration assemblies in year groups and will attend scheduled lessons on the last day. A light lunch serving will be provided at 12.30 and the PTFA will run their termly tuck shop at lunchtime. The last day is non-uniform day, and you will be able to make donations through MCAS. The money donated will be split between the five charities selected by houses.

House

Ash
Beech
Birch
Oak
Sycamore

Charity

Teenage Cancer Trust
Dementia UK
Daft as a Brush
Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team
Great North Air Ambulance

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Exam Certificate Collection

Wednesday 18th December, 3.30pm – 6.00pm from the Winter Gardens

Students collecting certificates should bring some form of photo ID. If someone else is collecting on your behalf, please send written consent to the exams office. This can be an email or letter containing your name and email address and the name of the person collecting on your behalf. The person collecting your certificate should come to school with their photo ID.

Emails can be sent to exams@qehs.net



Hooded Tops

We have seen a recent rise in students wearing hooded tops for school. Whilst we understand that during the colder weather students may wish to wear an additional layer, hoodies are not allowed. Students need to wear a jacket or zip-up top, as per the uniform policy. Please remind your child of this policy. Hoodies will be confiscated if worn to school and logged as a uniform issue.

Attendance

Last week the attendance of our Y11 students fell below 90%. This represents a significant amount of missed schooling for those students who are absent so close to their GCSE exams. Unfortunately, winter does lead to more illness. However, we would encourage students to maintain high attendance and be in school unless seriously unwell.

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 | 94.3% | 90.9% | 89% | 91.9% |

Engage



QEHS Winter Concert

There are some tickets left 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!

Festive reading

QEHS LRC has a new range of beautiful festive books to borrow over the upcoming break. From classics such as 'A Christmas Carol' to 'The Christmas Movie Cookbook', there is something for everyone. Come and take a look!



Rowing

Last weekend, QEHS attended Rutherford Head, one of the biggest races in the region. It attracts crews from all over the north of England, as well as many from Scotland and even Oxfordshire. With only quads, fours and eights being raced, it was the years 11, 12 and 13 representing QEHS. Division 1 saw very fast conditions for racing, with the boys eight (Benji, Dennis, Mack, Alexis, Jacob, Josh, Alex, Felix, cox Adam) finishing an impressive 27th out of over 130 crews. They beat many senior club and university eights in the process. There were also great rows from the two girls quads entered, with the year 13 girls (Chloe, Ellen, Evie, Rachel) finishing 103rd and the year 10/11 girls (Isla, Jennifer, Imogen, Millie) coming 120th.



Division 2 was a bit windier, but still great conditions for racing compared to previous chilly Rutherford races. There were 3 boys quads entered, who came in 60th, 63rd and 99th overall. The boys four (George, James, Alex, Adam, cox Edward) raced very competitively against some top school crews to post an impressive 79th overall. Rounding off the QEHS entry was the year 11 girls

8 (Astrid, Millie, Cora, Hannah, Evie, Olivia, Beth, Lauren, cox Elodie), who finished 124th. All in all it was a great day of racing, gaining valuable experience for important races in the new year.

Aspire

Dance student success

Jacob Hornsey, a former QEHS student, has returned to the North East to take on the iconic role of Romeo in Ballet Cymru's stunning production of Romeo and Juliet. His former teacher, Sarah Morgan, attended Tuesday's performance with her current QEHS Year 10 and 11 BTEC Dance students.



"Seeing Jacob on stage was such a proud moment," she said. "It's incredibly inspiring for our students to witness someone from Hexham achieve so much in the world of dance. The performance itself was a stunning interpretation of Romeo and Juliet."

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 'Restaurant Manager'. This video was shown to students during tutorial: [Restaurant Manager](#).

The following link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog': Restaurant 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.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

PTFA Prom Pop-up Shop

Last year's Pre-loved Prom Pop-Up Shop, in partnership with Tynedale Hospice at Home, was such a success, with so many students managing to bag themselves stunning Prom outfits at a fraction of the cost of buying new.

The pop-up shop will be returning in early 2025.

If you have any outfits - dresses, suits, shoes, accessories - that you no longer need you can:

Donate them to the PTFA (sale proceeds would go to the PTFA) - please drop outfits off at school, clearly marked as a donation, message us or email gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

OR you can

Sell them through the pop-up shop for a 20% fee taken by the PTFA to support the school by filling in this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyEMBMwRgOkOUluWqHbxVd3TIM-l3PPiZtEX6-mDkwoS3Odg/viewform?>

Thank you for your support in helping our students access affordable outfits, whilst also supporting the re-use of clothes and the PTFA's fundraising efforts.

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

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Online Safety Update

For Parents - Loot Boxes

For many children and young people playing games is predominantly about socialising with their friends. Because of this there can be significant peer pressure to look and be better than everyone else, to get further in the game than other and more. In-game purchases such as loot boxes capitalise on this peer pressure, essentially enticing users to get ahead more quickly by spending money.

Loot boxes have been a concern for a long time. A few years ago in the UK it was thought that loot boxes would come under the updated Gambling Act but this never happened due to a lack of research, however it is though my many (including myself) that loot boxes can be a gateway or lead-in to gambling.

Concerningly, a BBC investigation has found that, out of the top 45 biggest games on the Google Play store, most are not disclosing that the games contain loot boxes properly. Many parents rely on the information that is available on the various game/app stores as well as ads to decide what is/is not appropriate for their children and this lack of important information is inexcusable.

The BBC article can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Sixth Form

Christmas Festivities

Years 12 & 13 started the Christmas festivities with a visit from Inspired Pots of Hexham during Personal Development. Everyone chose a ceramic Christmas tree decoration to paint with their own design while enjoying hot chocolate and festive baked treats. There were some incredible works of art created and we can't wait to see the finished results once they have been fired in the studio. [View photos on the school website](#).

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.

History, Politics and Classics trip

We have had a fantastic two days in London. On Monday all students attended the PoEcon conference hearing questions put to politicians including: Nigel Farage, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Michael Gove, Stephen Kinnock and Stella Creasy.

On Tuesday, Classics students enjoyed a tour of the British Museum and were able to further their understanding of ancient civilisations by viewing the Elgin Marbles and Egyptian and Italian artefacts.

History and Politics students met their local MP Joe Morris at the Houses of Parliament and had a tour of the Commons and Lords. They then watched the opening of Parliament by the Speaker and watched from the gallery as Chancellor Rachel Reeves took questions from other MPs on Treasury priorities.

The students were an asset to the school and conducted themselves impeccably.



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 9th June 2025, please contact sixthform@gehs.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@gehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

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.

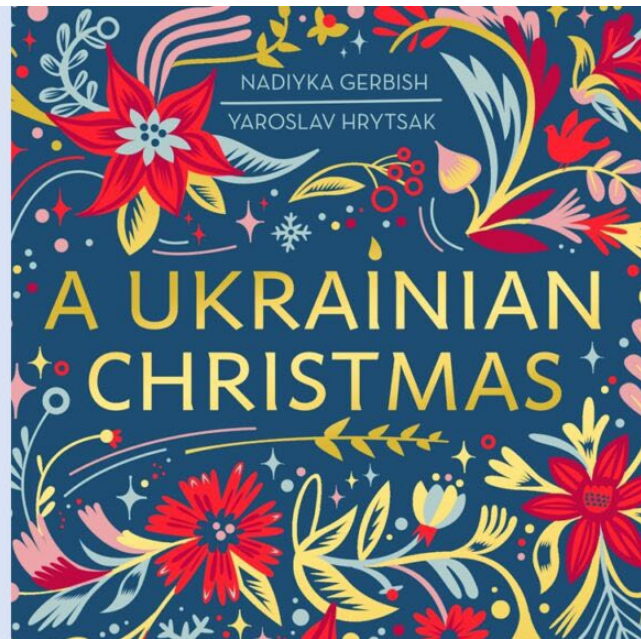
LRC Recommended Read

A beautifully illustrated and powerful book, looking back through the country's rich and troubled history through the perspective of the festive season.

A Ukrainian Christmas, by Nadiyka Gerbish & Yaroslav Hrytsak

From Christmas music to gifts and food, as well as a look back through the country's rich and troubled history through the perspective of the festive season, this beautifully illustrated and powerful book introduces readers to Ukraine's unique Christmas traditions.

In a country where East and West meet, this is a fascinating and unmissable guide to capturing the spirit of one of the most important times of year and a powerful reminder of the strength of holding on to your culture and beliefs, even as others try to take everything from you.



News from the community

Supporting your child parent app

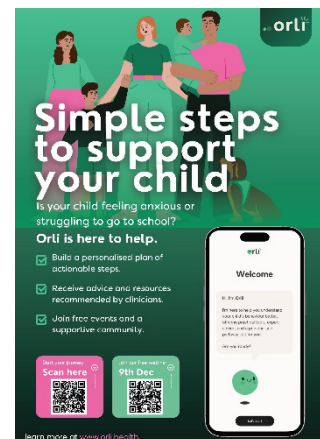
Please find below links to information about a new app designed to help parents support children with anxiety.

www.Orli.health

[Orli Flyer](#)

Tynedale Lions Young People's Bursary

Tynedale Lions have a bursary scheme to highlight, celebrate and reward the exceptional achievements of young people that, more often than not, go unseen and even unrewarded. They are looking for young people who "aspire to excellence" and deserve to be recognised for their hard work and/or exceptional achievement. Attached you'll find more information and a nomination form.



Reminders/ Key Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Monday 2 December – Friday 13 December | GCSE Mock Speaking Exams | Year 11 |
| Monday 9 December | Parents' Evening E-band (4-7pm) | Year 11 |
| Wednesday 11 December | Y9-Y11 Christmas lunch | Y9-Y11 |
| Wednesday 11 December | Winter Concert – 7pm | All year groups |
| Thursday 12 December | Home study day | Year 12 and Year 13 |
| Thursday 12 December | Sixth form taster day | Year 11 |
| Thursday 12 December | Newcastle College visit | Year 11 |
| Thursday 19 December | Sixth form Christmas lunch | Year 12 and Year 13 |
| 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

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