

13th December 2024

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 14

Today marks the end of the penultimate week of this term. Christmas arrived at the high school with the winter concert and Christmas lunch on Wednesday. Our dedicated catering staff did a phenomenal job preparing and serving over 1,000 Christmas lunches. On Thursday our Y11 students either visited Newcastle College or had the chance to experience sixth form, as they prepare to make decisions about what to do next year.

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 1.30pm 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.

Respect

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



Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

Attendance

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	94.7%	91.8%	91.4	93.2%

Engage

Winter Concert

We had a truly successful and fantastic sell-out Winter Concert at QE this week. 90 students across QE and HMS were performing in a range of solo and ensemble pieces. It was a great representation of the range of music-making we have going on at QE and the joint groups across QE and HMS.

Chess

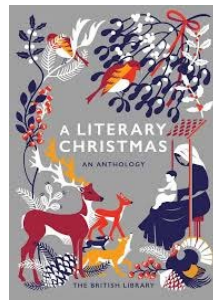
Congratulations to William D who won the final of the year 9 chess competition, beating Sam C in an enthralling and entertaining match today. Many year 9s took part in the competition which ran over several weeks, so very well done to both finalists getting as far as they did, with particular well done to William. Thank you to everyone who took part.

In other chess news, we wish the best of luck to the school's 'A' team which has drawn Ponteland High School 'B' team in the next round of the regional heats of the English Schools' Chess Championships. The match will take place on Tuesday 14 January at Ponteland.

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!





Northumberland County Rugby

Six year 10 and 11 students represented Northumberland County Rugby at Under 16 Level against Cumbria last week. They comfortably won all 3 games played on the day.



Aspire

Career of the week

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

Job of the week: [Social Worker](#)

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

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/social-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 'QEHSparent' on this page: unifrog.org/code.

Apprenticeships information evenings

[Agriculture](#) – Hexham Auction Mart Monday 13th January - 5pm-7pm

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/1FAIpQLSfyEMBMwRgOkOUIuWqHbxVd3TIM-I3PPiZtEX6-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

PTFA Lottery

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

The ABC Checklist

With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the

devices they have (plus any new Xmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child.

One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

- A - Activate parental controls.
- B - Balance screen time.
- C - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Sixth Form

Think Cambridge Webinar Series (Year 11 and Year 12)

Cambridge Opportunities can be found at the bottom of the noticeboard page.

Access and Application programme (Year 12)

Current year 12 students, considering applying to a competitive university, please also see below link. As a guide for the entry requirements, students would typically have a GCSE profile of mainly 7s or higher and be performing at A Level at least in line with, or exceeding their previous GCSE performance. The deadline is Monday 6th January.

[Link to the Cambridge Opportunities](#)

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

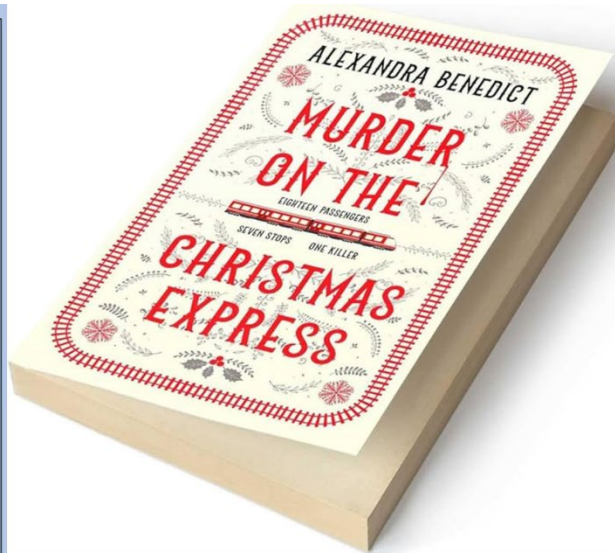
LRC Recommended Read

Eighteen passengers. Seven stops.
One killer.

In the early hours of Christmas Eve, the sleeper train to the Highlands is derailed, along with the festive plans of its travellers. With the train stuck in snow in the middle of nowhere, a killer stalks its carriages, picking off passengers one by one.

Those who sleep on the sleeper train may never wake again.

Can former Met detective Roz Parker find the killer before they kill again?



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

AEET Grant aid for school trips

If you are looking for support towards school trips, the Allendale Exhibition Endowment Trust may be able to offer grants towards the cost of the trip for any eligible students - those who live, or whose parents or guardians live, in the civil parishes of Allendale or West Allen. Please see attached for more information.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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	Birds of Prey display	Year 9
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