



Queen Elizabeth High School

spes durat avorum

20th December 2024



QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 15

This week has been a joyful celebration of the festive season with sixth form singing, Christmas lunch, rewards afternoon, and carols at the Abbey.

On Monday we welcomed back some of last year's Y13 students to our celebration evening where their academic successes and contributions to the community were recognised. Susan Stevenson, consultant plastic surgeon specialising in hand surgery, delivered an inspiring speech with some powerful messages that aligned with our school ethos. She told the audience that respect, civility and kindness are essential qualities. She also explained that advancing and being aspirational is not about stepping on others to reach the top but helping other people up along the way. The evening was an excellent celebration of our students and their talents including musical performances from Imogen H on clarinet, the school Jazz Trio and singing from Ilia.



I hope that you all have a very lovely holiday. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Term begins again at 8.40am on Monday 6 January.

Respect

Non-uniform day fundraising

Friday is the last day of term and non-uniform day. This year each of the houses in the high school is fundraising for a different cause.

We know that this is an expensive time of the year and that not everybody will be able to donate. However, if you are willing and able to make a donation this Christmas, you can select to give money to your child's house charity.

House	Charity
Ash	Teenage Cancer Trust
Beech	Dementia UK
Birch	Daft as a Brush
Oak	Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team
Sycamore	Great North Air Ambulance

To make a donation please use the MCAS app. School shop > charity donations > then choose the correct house and donate.

Queen Elizabeth High School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

The collections will be kept open next term if you would like to wait until the new year to make a donation.

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 (week ending 13 December)				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94.5%	91.6%	91.2%	93%

Engage

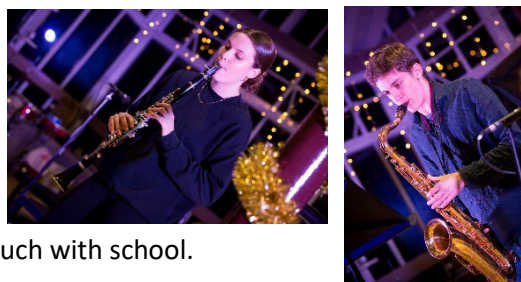
Winter Concert

We now have some fantastic [pictures](#) up on our website, as well as a [video](#) with some highlights of the evening.

Music tuition

Will one of your new year's resolutions be to learn an instrument or to have singing lessons? If so, please get in touch with the school as we offer lessons for students in the following:

Violin; cello; harp; flute; clarinet; saxophone; singing (musical theatre/classical/pop and rock); trumpet; trombone; French horn; euphonium; tenor horn; baritone horn; tuba; guitar; bass guitar; drum kit; piano.



Find out more from our Music staff once you get in touch with school.

Ethics cup



On Tuesday 9 students from Years 11 – 13 took part in the first North Eastern Regional Ethics Cup competition at Durham University. All students demonstrated excellent public speaking, rational arguments and collegiality in their approach to some difficult and interesting topics.

After a tense first heat against two sixth form colleges, the team advanced to the semi-finals and ultimately succeeded in beating five other schools and will advance to the national finals in St Andrew's this summer. They were successful against many other excellent debaters. We're incredibly proud of their success!

Children in need total

We are delighted to let you know that we raised £333.99 for BBC Children in Need. Our activities included an entertaining staff netball match, played in good spirits with many staff members showcasing their talents.



Thank you to all who were able to support our fundraising events.

Aspire

Career of the week

Job of the week: [Transport Planner](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJBVOWP_Hi8&list=PLVEWa7uIDT769WGUTc-IOca4dJRIPatZ&index=90

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/transport-planner>

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](https://www.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

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

For Parents - Emotional Safety on Roblox

The Jed Foundation have put together a great guide for parents regarding emotional safety/wellbeing on Roblox. Although the guide refers to US teens, I would say this guide is appropriate for all children, not just teens. It covers cyberbullying, signs a teen might be struggling online and what parents can do.

You can find the guide [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.

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.

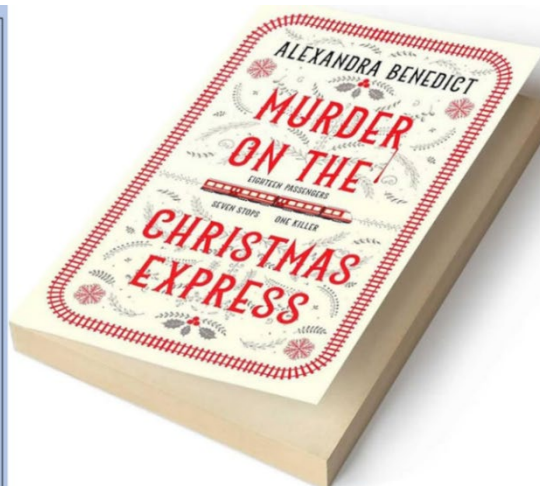
LRC Recommended Read

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.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 6 January	School reopens for all students at 8.40am	All year groups
Thursday 16 January	Q Band parents' evening 4-7pm	Year 9
Monday 20 January	E Band parents' evening 4-7pm	Year 9
Wednesday 5 February	Parents' evening 4-7pm	Year 12

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