

31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

**QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 19**

Food, glorious, food, consider yourself, and pick pocketing all featured last night in the outstanding production of Lionel Bart's, 'Oliver'. The students have spent months perfecting their roles, helping with the tech, and doing the set. The singing was impeccable, the musical score was performed par excellence and the acting perfect.

Well done to all the cast and crew for brightening up a dark winter night. A special thank you to all the staff involved in supporting but particularly to Jude Long, Head of Humshaugh School, QE parent and friend of the school, who produced our last three school shows. Jude volunteers her time to make sure that our students benefit from being part of a theatre production and ensures that the long history of QE Youth Theatre continues.

Tickets are still available for the performances of Friday 31 and Saturday 1 February but are running out fast – [book online](#) now.



**Respect**

**Being Safe**

There have been reports of anti-social behaviour in the community. We would appeal to all our students to remain safe, discuss with families about safe routes home and to report any incidents that make them feel threatened or uncomfortable.

**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 24 January)**

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94.1%	91.1%	90.1%	92.5%

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**  
Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

## Engage

### Human Rights Group

We are currently collecting food and toiletries for the West End Refugee service. Please see [here](#) on our website for more details of the items requested. There will be collection bags/crates in all form group classrooms, in the LRC and in the Winter Gardens. Please send in what you can, even if it's just one item! The last day of donations is the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

Emma Ross (Community Engagement Officer) and her colleague will be coming to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> February to give a short talk to the Human Rights group about their service. Any students who would like to attend this should come to HC5 on the Social Science corridor on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 12.35pm.

### SEND Crisis

Parliament's education select committee has launched a major inquiry to find solutions to the growing crisis in special educational needs and disabilities provision. The committee is now inviting evidence from students, parents and education professionals.

Please contribute to the evidence at the link below:

[SEND Crisis Evidence Questionnaire](#)

### Rotary Club of Hexham Young Photographer of the Year Award

Congratulations to budding photographers, Iryna G who won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the photography competition and Alastair W was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

## Aspire

### Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was: [Food Technologist](#)

Further information, including a short video, can be found on [Unifrog](#):  
<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/food-technologist>

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 the 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://www.unifrog.org/code).

## QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

### PTFA Prom Pop-up Shop – 7 and 9 February

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. It will take place at the Tynedale Hospice at Home shop on 7 and 9 February.



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 [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.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](#).

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 [qehsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:qehsprizedraw@gmail.com).



## Sixth Form

### Sixth form option meetings

The sixth form options meetings for our current year 11 students run until 21 February. Any student considering our sixth form will require a meeting. Parents can make the appointment via the MCAS app or by telephoning 01434 610312.

Select the following link to view the [sixth form options booklet](#).

### HE Guidance: Student Finance, Scholarships & Budgeting - UEA - February 6th

In a step-by-step guide to understanding loans, bursaries and scholarships, Higher Education Advisers from UEA join us on 6th February to offer clarity and reassurance around Student Finance at university.

For students, advisers and parents/carers, the UEA team will discuss when and how to apply for student finance as well as explore eligibility for reduced fees or sources of additional money available to help support students' studies. UEA will also demonstrate how to use the finance calculator.

In the final third of the session, we will address questions the audience has about Student Finance and, based on experience of previous sessions, the team will stay on until all the questions have been responded to.

- **February 6 @ 16:30 - 17:15** HE Guidance: Student Finance, Scholarships & Budgeting - UEA (16+)

[Find out more »](#)

### Work experience week

Year 12 students undertake a compulsory week of work experience to give a greater understanding of the world of work in their chosen area and help build links for future employment opportunities. The school will help where possible, but ultimately it is down to students themselves to organise their placement. Work experience week takes place from Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June.

Students who haven't already found a placement are encouraged to use

<https://www.unifrog.org/placement/guides>.

### 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](mailto:sixthform@gehs.net). Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

### LRC Recommended Read

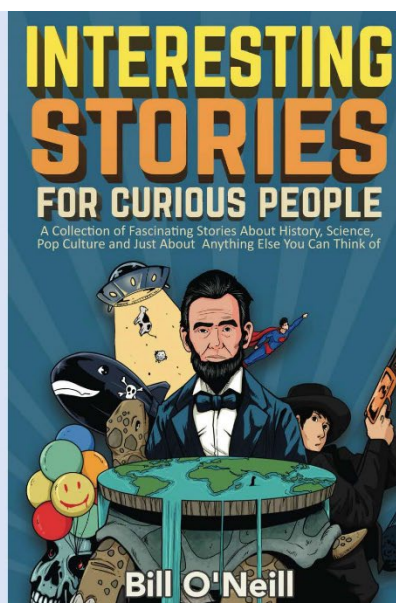
This week's LRC recommended read is Bill O'Neill's 'Interesting stories for curious people'

A collection of fascinating stories about history, science, pop culture and just about anything else you can think of.

Example chapters:

- E.T. Are You Out There?
- I have brain-freeze, bro.
- When Terminator becomes Real
- Who Knew Bigfoot was a Snow Bird?

And many, many more...



## Online Safety Update

### For Parents - What is Doomscrolling?

Doomscrolling is where someone gets caught in a continuous cycle of negativity and fits in perfectly with algorithmic literacy above. Whilst doomscrolling is often intentional, it can also be a result of the decisions the algorithm makes and being led down a rabbit hole of doom. This can have ongoing effects such as anxiety and other negative effects on wellbeing.

Internet Matters has a great article about doomscrolling, including things to look out for and advice for parents. You can find the article [HERE](#).

### 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
Friday 31 January	<a href="#">Youth Theatre 'Oliver'</a> 7.30pm	All
Saturday 1 February	<a href="#">Youth Theatre 'Oliver'</a> 7.30pm	All
Wednesday 5 February	Parents' evening 4-7pm	Year 12
Friday 7 February	<a href="#">Prom pop-up shop</a>	Year 11 (all welcome)
Sunday 9 February	<a href="#">Prom pop-up shop</a>	Year 11 (all welcome)
Monday 10 February to Friday 14 February	Barcelona residential - Art	Year 12 (group)
Friday 14 February and Monday 17 February	Centre for Life – Biology	Year 13
Friday 21 February	Teacher training day	All year groups
Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February	Spring Half term holiday	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)