



14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## **QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 21**

### **Student voice**

This week we had the privilege of the Y9-11 student council attending a meeting of the leadership team. They brought various issues relating to jewellery, the food at lunchtime, and form time reading. It was helpful for school leaders to hear the views of students. We were also able to discuss with the students their views on Bromcom and the use of planners. It was agreed that we would review the book choice for form time reading, speak to the catering team about bringing back curry sauce and adapt the planners to make them more useful to the students.

### **Vehicle movement around school**

As always, we are keen to encourage careful and considerate vehicle movement on journeys to and from school, particularly in our surrounding streets. Some damage was caused to a neighbour's car on Alexandra Terrace by a passing vehicle on Tuesday morning this week. If you think you may have done this by accident or seen what happened, please do let us know.

### **Respect**

#### **Piercings**

A reminder that the school uniform policy allows students to wear two plain stud earrings. Any other piercings are not allowed and students will be asked to remove jewellery and replace it with a clear retainer. Students who fail to meet this expectation will be placed in Seclusion until they remove their piercings. All piercings, including clear retainers, must be removed for PE lessons.

#### **Attendance**

I would like to remind all parents/carers that taking your child out of school during term time may result in a fine, in line with government policy on school attendance. Regular attendance is essential for your child's education, and leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

For more information, please refer to this [government guidance page on term-time holidays](#)

Thank you for your cooperation.

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

**Queen Elizabeth High School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@qehs.net](mailto:admin@qehs.net)

[www.qehs.net](http://www.qehs.net)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

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 7 February)				
Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94%	91%	90.5%	92.4%

## Engage

### Indoor Athletics Championships



In January Magnus R won the North of England Indoor Athletics Championships in Sheffield winning the men's U17 800m. Magnus backed up that 800m performance on the 9th February claiming a silver medal at the England National Indoor Championships competing against athletes from across the UK. Magnus ran 1:53.48 which puts him 4th on the all time list. This coming weekend Magnus has been invited by England Athletics to run in the [Keely Klassic](#) at the Utilita Arena Birmingham. The event brings together a host of Britain's world-class track and field talent, culminating in a historic attempt by Keely Hodgkinson on the longstanding world 800m short track record. The event is live on BBC red button.

### North of England Girls rugby

Huge Congratulations to Erikka R and Ruby W who were selected to represent the North of England in rugby against North West and Yorkshire in Leeds at the weekend. In two very physical games, both girls played very well, winning one and losing one.



### Year 12 Photographers

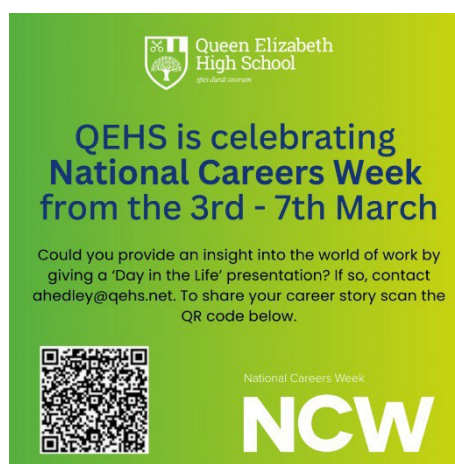
Year 12 photographers are using Photoshop to mess with art history to make a point and have some fun. Check out [more photos](#) on our website and see what they did.

QEHS will be celebrating **National Careers Week** from 3rd – 7th March.

Would you like to help engage and build the aspirations of our students? Could you provide an insight into the world of work by giving a 'Day in the Life' presentation (a PowerPoint framework will be provided)?

If so we would love to hear from you!  
We have times available throughout the week but if you are unavailable, then we will happily accommodate you whenever is convenient.

Please contact [ahedley@qehs.net](mailto:ahedley@qehs.net) or scan the QR code below to share your career story!



The poster is green and white. At the top left is the Queen Elizabeth High School logo with the motto 'the best always'. The main text reads 'QEHS is celebrating National Careers Week from the 3rd - 7th March'. Below this is a call to action: 'Could you provide an insight into the world of work by giving a 'Day in the Life' presentation? If so, contact [ahedley@qehs.net](mailto:ahedley@qehs.net). To share your career story scan the QR code below.' A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. In the bottom right corner, it says 'National Careers Week' above the large letters 'NCW'.

## Aspire

### Careers opportunity for Y10 students:

We are delighted to announce a new partnership between Queen Elizabeth High School and The Lord Crewe Arms in Blanchland as part of the Hospitality Connect project.

The aim of Hospitality Connect is to introduce school students to the world of hospitality via a meaningful partnership with a local hotel or hospitality venue.

Objectives include:

- Improving awareness of the occupations available by delivering inspiring activities that will inform school students on the breadth of opportunity in the hospitality sector.
- Highlight pathways for learners aged 14 to 16+ and amplify technical education options that lead into the sector.

The project will be open to Y10 students interested in a career in hospitality. There will be up to ten places available. The project will offer the students a number of opportunities to find out about life as an employee at the hotel in a range of different departments and will culminate in a week long work experience placement in the first week of June: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June.

To register your interest, please complete this short form: [Expression of Interest Form](#). If you would like further information, please email: [ahedley@qehs.net](mailto:ahedley@qehs.net)

### Royal Society Partnership Grant STEM lead

We are looking for a volunteer STEM lead to help develop a project at QEHS which we hope will be funded by the Royal Society. The funding comes from an offshoot of their "Partnership Grants" programme under the heading "Tomorrow's Climate Scientists". The STEM lead will take an active role in helping the students form a research question on an aspect of biodiversity, and help to

deliver or direct the research activities. QEHS is working with Northumberland national park who will facilitate access to the Hadrian's Wall Wetlands Landscape Recovery project area to develop this idea. Although we can have multiple STEM advisors, the STEM lead has a specific role which is integral to the grant application including signing off the project proposal, assuring the Royal Society that the scientific method is embedded. For more [information](#), please have a look on our website.

### Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was: [Tree Surgeon](#)

Further information, including a short video, can be found on Unifrog:

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/tree-surgeon>

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://unifrog.org/code).

### QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

Last week's Prom pop-up shop with Tynedale Hospice at Home was a great success. Thank you so much to everyone that donated outfits or allowed us to sell them on their behalf.

Please let your young people know that next Thursday (20th) there will be a lunchtime tuck shop in the dining hall for all year groups - both cash and card payments accepted.

If you can spare a small amount of time and would like to help support the PTFA's fundraising activities by helping 'on the day' with activities such as serving drinks/refreshments, selling sweets & treats at lunchtime tuck shops etc, please do get in touch with us so we can add you to our pool of volunteers to call upon. We'd also be very happy to hear from anyone that has any particular skills or interests they think would be useful to us. Email [qehs.ptfa@gmail.com](mailto:qehs.ptfa@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 [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](#).

### 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.

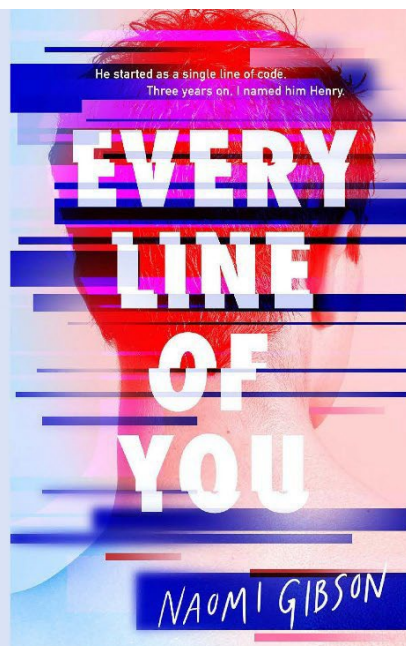
### LRC recommended read

Next week's recommended read is a cyber thriller: Every Line of Code by Naomi Gibson.

**Lydia has been creating her AI, Henry, for years – since before her little brother died in the accident that haunts her nightmares; since before her dad walked out, leaving her and Mum painfully alone; since before her best friend turned into her worst enemy.**

Now, Henry is strong, clever, loving and scarily capable: Lydia's built herself the perfect boyfriend in a hard-drive filled with lines of code.

But what is Henry really – and how far is he willing to go to be everything Lydia desires?



## News from the community

### Resources to support kinship carers in our community

The Department for Education funds Kinship, the national charity for kinship carers, to offer free online and in-person workshops and a network of peer support groups open to all kinship carers, regardless of legal arrangements.

A kinship carer is a friend or family member who raises a child when their parents can't.

For further details please see the [Kinship website](#).

### Hexham Windowful Project

Windowful is an exciting new community project led by Queen's Hall Arts, taking place at the end of half term. They are inviting people who live or work in Hexham to decorate their windows to create a magical walking trail across town on **Friday 28 February & Saturday 1 March, 6 – 9pm**.

[More information and some handing hints on getting started can be found online here.](#)

### Northumberland Parent Carer event

The NPCF are offering support with employment, education, training and volunteering. Hear more about the Working for Carers project and the Northumberland Parent Carer Forum, including projects and opportunities you might want to get involved in. Find out more about the [parent carer learn work grow event](#) on Tuesday 18 February 10am - 1 pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington.

Autism Family drop ins.

The latest [schedule of family drop in sessions](#) is available on our website.

### Corbridge Cricket Club

Corbridge Cricket Club is running an U13 and U15 girls half term coaching camp. Sessions: Monday 24 February 5-7pm, Tuesday 25 February 6-8pm, Wednesday 26 February 5-7pm.

Please message Karen 07917 066545 if your daughter would like to come along to all sessions or even if they just want to come along and give it a try.



## 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 21 February	Teacher training day	All year groups
Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February	Spring Half term holiday	All year groups
Monday 3 March	School re-opens for students at 8.40am	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@gehs.net](mailto:admin@gehs.net)

For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email [attendance@gehs.net](mailto:attendance@gehs.net)