



21st February 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 22

Half term has arrived. Y11 students finished their mocks this week and can enjoy a well-earned break. Y13 will have time to prepare for their mock exams which begin after the holiday. The end of a very busy half term was marked with Y9 taster sessions for option choices, the PTFA tuck shop and the return of chips and curry sauce at lunchtime after the student council convinced SLT of the need for their return.

I look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 3 March.

Respect

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 14 February)

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94%	91%	91%	92.4%

Engage



Men's U17 800m success

Following winning the men's U17 800m North of England Indoor Athletics Championships in Sheffield last month, Magnus R competed at the Keely Classic in the U17 800m and won the race, beating the current Scottish champion and in a time of 1:53.66.

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement, Magnus!

Aspire

National Careers Week (3-7 March)

- We will have a 'National Career Week' assembly with follow up activities in tutorial.
- Staff are displaying posters on their doors giving details of their career journey.

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Head of School: Neil Seaton

- Students will be able to sign up to presentations and workshops giving details of 'A day in the life...' of a range of employers and employees.
- There are some student and parent webinars for National Careers Week on Unifrog:
 - Hidden careers in the creative industry - 3 March (4:30pm)
 - How to stand out to get into your dream career - 3 March (5:30pm)
 - How to get the job you want - 4 March (4:30pm)
 - For parents: career options and supporting decision making - 4 March (5:30pm)
Parents can sign up to Unifrog using the code / info on 'Job of the Week'.
- Further information for parents about National Careers Week:
<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/nationalcareersweek>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7kx47h#z9xfjfr>

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was: *Conservation Scientist*

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/keywords/conservation-scientist>

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 clothes recycling fundraiser



If you're planning a clear-out over the half term week, don't forget that you can place bags of unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories in the PTFA recycling bin at the main car park entrance. We welcome new or used donations of the following items in good, undamaged condition, placed in bags tied at the top:

- adults' and children's clothes
- shoes (tied in pairs)
- accessories (bags, belts, jewellery etc)

No branded uniform, damaged items or bulky items such as pillows, duvets or curtains, please. School uniform donations should be handed directly into the school office for the uniform recycling scheme instead.

PTFA Volunteers

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 gehs.ptfa@gmail.com

PTFA Lottery

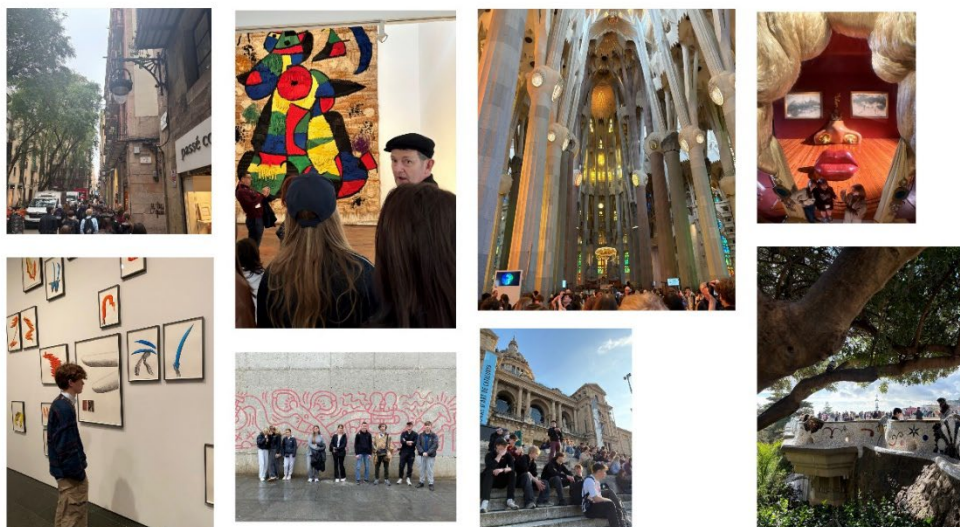
Tickets for the lottery are £1 per entry with 2 monthly cash prizes. Entry is simple and online. More information and the online application can be found [here](#) or email gehsprizedraw@gmail.com.



Sixth Form

Barcelona Trip

Year 12 Fine Art, Photography and Graphics students had a brilliant time in Barcelona last week! The students visited many Art Galleries, Sagrada Familia, Park Guell, Salvador Dali Museum in Figueres. We explored the city taking photographs, drawing sketches, and researching artists respectively towards their up and coming Year 13 Personal Investigation projects. There were some lovely moments captured during our week away with our fantastic students....



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. 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

Ideas for the February Half Term

👥 Hexham Youthy 👥 🌱 Planting Party 🖐️ – The Sele Park 🪟 Windowful 😊 – Help Hexham shine bright 📺 DISH 🎮 - Hexham Trinity Methodist Church 🌐 Planetarium Show 🍷 at the Twice Brewed Inn 🏀 Full of Beans 🎯 – Multi Activity Sports Club 📅 National Stottie Week 📍 – The Great Stottie Trail 🚒 Durham Fire & Ice 🎭 – A musical journey around the city.

Have a look on our website for [more information](#).

Student community engagement- Girlguiding

Girlguiding in Tynedale is very fortunate to have a number of QEHS students volunteering with local units. The students are fantastic role models for the younger girls. They show great communication and organisational skills, and make a real difference. Thank you to Laura W, Neave D, Phoebe T, Katie R, Lauren T, Kitty P, Lauren F, Millie S, Izzy S, and Ella H- their contribution to the local community is really valued.

Online Safety

Last week was 'Safer Internet Day'. For tips for parents and carers please follow the below link:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

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 3 March	School re-opens for students at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 3 – Friday 7 March	National Careers week	All year groups
Tuesday 4 March	Y9 Options evening 4 -7pm	Year 9
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day	All year groups
Wednesday 19 March	Scotty's Day activities - pm	Year 12 and Year 13
Friday 21 March	Red Nose Day	All year groups
Tuesday 25 March	Author Visit - Moira Buffini	Year 9
Thursday 27 March	Green Careers Fair	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

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