



7 March 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 23

The new half term started off well and we were delighted to welcome Y9 parents into the school for options evening. It has also been National Careers Week with an array of visiting speakers in school and staff sharing their career journeys with students. On World Book Day we had the Masked Reader competition and there was even a pancake tossing house competition for Shrove Tuesday.

Respect

Prayer room

During Ramadan we have a dedicated prayer room set up during lunch time. Should a parent or carer like to talk to a member of staff about supporting access to the prayer room during Ramadan or beyond please contact the school.

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 21 February)

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	94%	91%	91%	92.5%

Engage

House Pancake Tossing Competition

Thanks to all students who represented their houses in the pancake tossing contest. It was great to see such a big turnout to support. Congratulations to our winners who scored as follows:

3rd place – Phoebe T who managed 42 flips – she scored 25 house points for Birch House
2nd place – Alistair W who managed 70 flips – he scored 50 house points for Birch House
1st place – Troy P who managed an impressive 87 flips – he scored 100 house points for Beech House

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

All entrants received 25 p points, there will be more competitions soon so please do get involved next time!

Hexham Book Festival – Moira Buffini

We are delighted to announce that the Hexham Book Festival will be bringing author, director and screenwriter, Moira Buffini, to QEHS to present to Y9 on the morning of Tuesday 25th March. Moira Buffini is one of the UK's leading playwrights and screenwriters whose credits include 'Jane Eyre' (2011), the Bafta-nominated 'The Dig' (2021) and Olivier-award-winning play 'Handbagged' (2025).

Moira's talks use film and TV to engage young people into storytelling. She is promoting her new YA book, Songlight. This dystopian coming-of-age novel explores the social and environmental challenges facing today's young people.

<https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/whats-on/schools-festival-2025>

If you would like to order a copy of Moira's book at a discounted rate of £7.00, please follow the link below to Hexham Book Festival's bookseller, Opt Indie Books. All books will be made ready for collection on the day. Please put your order in by **Tuesday 18th March** and let them know **the name of your student and their school in the notes in checkout.**

Please note that this order is not organised by QEHS and is therefore not on MCAS. You are making the order directly with Opt Indie Books.

<https://www.optindiebooks.co.uk/store/p348/Songlight.html>

Cross Country Cup

Two QEHS teams completed in the finals of the ESAA Cross Country Cup. This event was held at the Grammar School in Leeds. This venue provides a quick and testing course. It is a good challenge and provides good racing.

The IBs raced over 4090m. Arthur D had the best run of the day finishing an excellent 13th place. The other runners backed him up with Billy B in 54th, Leo DS 102, Adam B 127th and Arthur B140th. This is a team event and your team total is worked out from the first four finishers. QEHS came 18th team out of 28. Well done boys.

QEHS had a Senior Boys team racing as well. They raced over 5230m. It is always an impressive site to watch this race start!

Magnus R was the first home in 34th. Arthur DL finished in 42nd. Arty W got his pacing spot on to come through the field in 52st. Joe E battled to 73rd. While Joe Mc showed tremendous leg speed on the finish straight to finish 134th. These were impressive results as most of these boys still have one or two more years in this age group. Their team total put them in 11th place overall.

Mr Gaines would like to congratulate all the boys for their effort in reaching the finals this year. It has been a privilege to watch their team focus to reach each round. They also looked superb in their new QEHS running vests!



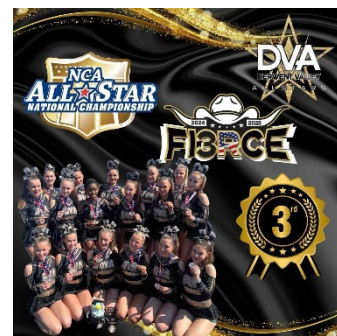
Student success - The Derwent Valley Allstars Cheerleading Club

Congratulations to The Derwent Valley Allstars Cheerleading Club, whose team Fierce (Level 3 U18) competed at the recent NCA Championships in Dallas, Texas.

In an extremely competitive division and facing stiff competition from the best cheer programmes in the world, the girls hit the stage twice at the weekend, making the coveted finals and then competing for the second time in the final round, 'hitting zero' and securing a bronze medal position.

Over 30,000 athletes from 43 US states and 9 countries competed at this event. Over 1750 teams competed across various divisions. So this is a fantastic result!

Athletes from QEHS who are part of this successful team are Imogen H, Daisy A, and Eve C. Congratulations to our students and to the rest of the athletes in team, Fierce!



Aspire

Career of the week

To mark National Careers Week and to celebrate the start of the Hospitality Connect project with 'The Lord Crewe' in Blanchland, the career sector of the week was 'Hospitality and Tourism'.

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

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/careers/sectors/direct/hospitality-and-tourism>

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 from Unifrog. This can be found in 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.

QEHS Parent Teacher & Friends Association news

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 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.



Sixth Form

Sixth form options process

We are pleased to have completed our 6th form options process. After the summer exams, we will put in writing your option choices and the details of the summer admissions process.

As in previous years, any current QE or external students who now wishes to make option choices at QE should contact Joanne Smeatom on sixthform@qehs.net – space on courses will be reserved for option meetings that take place before Easter, after Easter students will be added to a waiting list and space will be confirmed after the summer results.

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@qehs.net. Equally, if you would like to advertise local job opportunities (paid or voluntary) please send the details.

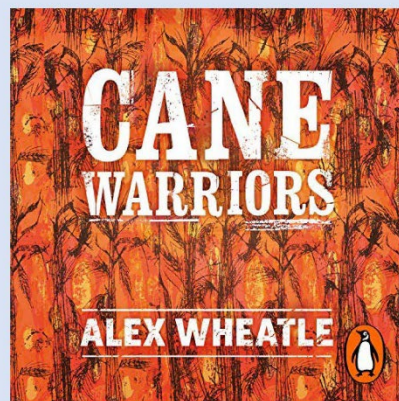
LRC recommended read

Next week's recommended read is Alex Wheatle's 'Cane Warriors'

Moa is fourteen. The only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky.

Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa and his friend Keverton must face their first great task: to kill their overseer, Misser Donaldson. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches ...

Irresistible, gripping and unforgettable, Cane Warriors follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.



News from the community

Hexham Family Hub

The [What's On Guide of activities](#) being held at Hexham Family Hub for March/April 2025 is available on our website.

Online Safety

Making Online Viewing Safer for Children

There is so much amazing content online for children and young people, but as we all know, some of that content isn't suitable for younger eyes and ears. Much of the most serious and concerning content is being viewed and consumed at home, often in the child's bedroom. It is vital that parents and carers know there is plenty of help and support available to them, including from organisations such as Internet Matters who have a fantastic advice guide to make online viewing safer for children.

Within this guide there is advice on filters and parental controls, advice about watching and browsing together, screen time and more. You can access the guide [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

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
Tuesday 11 March	School Photos	Year 11
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