



14 March 2025

QEHS WEEKLY UPDATE 24

QEHS Parent/Carer Survey

Each year we survey parents and carers to seek their views on various aspects of the school's provision. In recent years, the feedback has led to a return to face-to-face parents' evenings, a reworking of the Y9 options processes and a review of our behaviour system. It has also helped us to sustain the good work we have been doing, and share positive messages with staff.

The survey is live from now until Friday 11 April. Please take the opportunity to complete.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iweWTAZG7km2yjj7_FSi632vHzT1VPxKugNuKlkw9TpUQlo3TkFCR1VRWUg3WTJTSjdZU0NLVFLWC4u

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 7 March)

Year group	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	All years
Percentage	93.8%	90.9%	90.7%	92.3%

Engage

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

Queen Elizabeth High School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@qehs.net

www.qehs.net

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Neil Seaton**

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>

Girls football success

Year 9 and 10 girls represented QE in 7 a side football fixtures on Monday afternoon. Year 9 with a narrow 2-0 loss in a closely contested first game and a 1-1 draw in the second. Goal from Grace P. Year 10 lost their first game however, demonstrated excellent resilience to battle back in the second coming from behind to draw 3-3. Goals from Una and Philippa both playing a year up.



Aspire

Career of the week

This week's Career of the Week was 'Forestry worker'.

The following link will take you to further information on 'Unifrog':

Forestry worker: [Unifrog](#)

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.

Additional notice

School Transport Arrangements

We have been asked to make parents/carers of children and young people who currently access the school transport service aware that following a review that has been undertaken recently changes to your child's school transport arrangements may arise from w/c 28 April, immediately after the Easter Holidays. The Council's School Transport team will write to you before the Easter Holidays with the updated details which could include changes to your child's transport provider as well as their pick up or drop off times and locations. If you have any queries or concerns regarding this matter then please get in contact with the School Transport team directly by emailing schooltransport@northumberland.gov.uk.

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

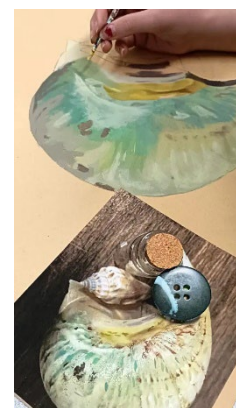
Y12 'Still life' paintings

The art department is thrilled with the [current year 12's 'still life' paintings](#), based on their own photography. We are excited to see the outcomes more developed, the students are working incredibly hard and really enjoying this creative task.

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

News from the community

Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evening

The Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evenings are scheduled for

Friday 21st March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.
Wednesday 26th March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.

Hexham Air Cadets are open to those who are in year 8 and are older than 12 years old.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>

Hexham Book Festival 2025: Now open for booking



We are very fortunate in Hexham to have our own inspiring and engaging book festival. Events have now opened for booking. We would encourage our students across all year groups to take a

look at the programme for this year. From the latest fiction, to maths, science, farming, fashion, history, poetry and politics, there is something for everyone.

<https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/>

The Tenth Avenue Band Presents A World of Music

24th March | 19:00 – 22:00

This accessible session is a celebration of music from around the globe and is aimed at anyone who has an interest in world music and has at least some basic facility on their instrument.



While a knowledge of a few scales and some basic technique are certainly enough to access the session, intermediate players and professionals are welcome too! The music on offer is accessed by whole communities and is best played this way!

[More information](#) is available on our website.

Online Safety

Wearable Tech

More and more children are being given technology that can be worn, e.g. smartwatches and whilst there can be benefits the risks aren't always apparent.

This article from Internet Matters explores wearable technology for children and gives advice on:

- The different types of wearable tech, e.g. smart watches, glasses, VR headsets and fitness trackers.
- Whether wearable technology is safe and what some of the concerns are, e.g. privacy and data collection, impact on body image.
- How wearable tech can support wellbeing.
- And more.

You can find the article [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
Wednesday 19 March	Scotty's Day activities - pm	Year 12 and Year 13
Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March	English Literature trip	Year 13 English students
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@qehs.net

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