

December 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Queen Elizabeth High School – Information Update**

As the Christmas holidays draw near I wanted to write and thank you for your support during what has been a very busy term. The weather caused significant disruption to school at the beginning of December and I must thank our site staff who worked so hard during this period to ensure the school grounds were safe for our students and staff to return. Below are a few news items which I hope you will find interesting.

#### **School Website Relunched – Monday 13 December 2010**

During the bad weather many of our parents commented that they found our website useful. I am pleased to tell you that our web developer, Marcel, has now introduced his new and exciting ideas that we believe make the site more user friendly as well as being even more informative. Please take a moment over the holidays to log on ([www.gehs.net](http://www.gehs.net)) and let me have your feedback in the New Year.

#### **Astroturf Funding**

In sporting terms, I am naturally “over the moon”, that we have been successful in our bid to obtain finance from the Housing Developer Fund to put towards the cost of replacing the Astroturf pitch. The current pitch is close to unplayable and the £50,000 grant will help us tremendously in achieving our goal. The replacement of this surface will allow the school to not only use the facility during the day but also develop greater community use. Work is programmed for the summer holidays next year.

#### **End of Term Arrangements**

The Autumn term will finish on Friday 17 December 2010. School will end at 12.15pm for sixth form students and at 3.00pm for Years 9, 10 and 11. Buses will leave school at the normal time. Students will be allowed to wait in school until the normal finishing time should they so wish.

The new term begins on Tuesday 4 January 2011.

#### **Carol Service**

QEHS annual Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 14 December 2010 at Hexham Abbey. The service will start at 7.30pm. All are very welcome to attend what is always a great start to the festive season. Wrap up warm!

#### **Youth Theatre Production – “Into the Woods” - Postponed**

The weather caused so much disruption to rehearsals, stage and costume design that the decision was taken to postpone the Youth Theatre Production. New dates will be announced soon and we hope that you will be able to come along to enjoy this unique twist on traditional fairy tales.

#### **Post 16 Advice Evening – 17 January 2011**

Parents of Year 11 students are invited to attend our Post 16 Advice Evening on Monday 17 January 2011 (4.30-7.00pm). Full details will be sent out to parents/carers at the start of the Spring term.

#### **KS4 Courses – Parents’ Information Evening – 25 January 2011**

In the first half of the Spring term students in Year 9 will receive a booklet about the curriculum in Years 10 and 11. This begins the process of choosing options for students at GCSE. There will be a parents’ information evening on Tuesday 25 January 2011 beginning at 7.30pm in the main hall. Further details will be sent out to parents/carers at the start of the Spring term.

### Winter Weather Reminders

Should we experience further severe weather conditions, we will use both the school website and ParentMail to provide up to date information should it be necessary to close the school. The Northumberland County Council Severe Weather Information guidance is available on QEHS and NCC websites. If you are not registered for ParentMail a registration form can be found on our website or contact Susan Boath (telephone: 01434 610338 or email [sboath@qehs.net](mailto:sboath@qehs.net)).

### Community & Leisure Programme – Spring & Summer 2011

The Spring & Summer 2011 programme will be posted on the school website on Tuesday 14 December. A number of new courses have been added for the Spring and Summer terms including Bicycle Maintenance, Life Drawing and Card Making.

### Calendars

The full QEHS Events Calendar 2010-2011 and QEHS Assessment Calendar 2010-2011 are available on the school website. Both are updated on a regular basis. The assessment calendar will inform you of deadlines for important coursework and assessments; the events calendar details parents' evenings; school visits etc.

### Academic Tutoring – On-line Reporting to Parents

The second round of academic tutoring for the 2010-2011 academic year is scheduled to take place as follows:

<b>Wednesday 19 January</b>	During tutorial each student will be given their latest subject monitoring data and they will be able to note this in their planner.
<b>24 January to 4 February</b>	During this period each student will have a meeting on a one to one basis with their academic tutor to discuss progress and review targets set at the previous meeting.
<b>Tuesday 25 January</b>	*Data will be uploaded on Monday 24 January 2011 and parents/carers will be able to access their child's latest monitoring data on-line from Tuesday 25 January.
<b>A reminder that parents can also access their child's school report online. Year 11 reports were available from 8 November and Year 9 reports will be available from 25 January. Paper copies of reports will only be distributed to parents who have opted to receive them in this format.</b>	

To access data on-line for your child please follow the guidelines issued previously. If you have any problems accessing your child's information or have misplaced your user name and password please contact Susan Boath, Data Manager (telephone: 01434 610338 or email [sboath@qehs.net](mailto:sboath@qehs.net)); or Julia Main, Data Assistant, (telephone: 01434 610359 or email [jmain@qehs.net](mailto:jmain@qehs.net)).

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Neil Morrison*

Neil Morrison  
Headteacher