

HEXHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
JULY 2018

Women Of The Wall writing competition

On Monday, three lucky year six girls who were selected as finalists in a county-wide writing competition visited The Sill outdoor learning centre to attend an awards ceremony. Whilst they unfortunately weren't chosen as winners, they enjoyed watching the awards being given out and listening to tales from author and Roman enthusiast Caroline Lawrence. She then read out each of the winning entries. The girls were fortunate enough to meet her before the event, purchasing some of her novels and getting them personally signed. Thank you to all who took part in the competition and a special well done to Elodie, who received a commendation award and book token for her beautiful artwork which she submitted alongside her story.



Junior Platform X Competition

Key Stage 2 pupils were invited to enter a competition to design the station of the future. A number of teams entered and we were fortunate to have four girls shortlisted for the final. On Wednesday 18th July, Izzy Worthy, Rose Nicholson, Grace Robertson and Chloe Cox were invited to attend the grand final at The Discovery Centre in Newcastle. In a Dragon's Den-style competition, the girls were asked to present their solution to a panel of judges, explaining the different features of their idea, together with the type and function of materials used.

All our finalists worked very hard to prepare for their presentation and we are proud of all pupils that took part in this competition. However, we are delighted to announce that Grace and Chloe were selected as winners in their category! Both girls received fantastic prizes for themselves, their families and for the school. Very well done girls!

Scrub up on Science

In June, Mrs Gregory and five Year 8 girls attended the *Scrub up on Science Bubble Challenge Final* in Manchester. The girls submitted an entry as part of science club and, after presenting their findings to a panel of judges on the day, were selected from 75 national entries as runners up! Well done girls!

Pupil Voice Conference 2018

On Friday 29th June, the Year 6 cabinet councillors attended the Hexham Schools Partnership annual pupil voice conference at QEHS. This year's theme celebrated 70 years of the NHS. The pupils took part in drama activities exploring many aspects of the NHS and the changes in health care over the last 70 years. All had a fantastic day working with pupils from other schools with the final performance being filmed by Hexham TV.

Lord Shipley Visit

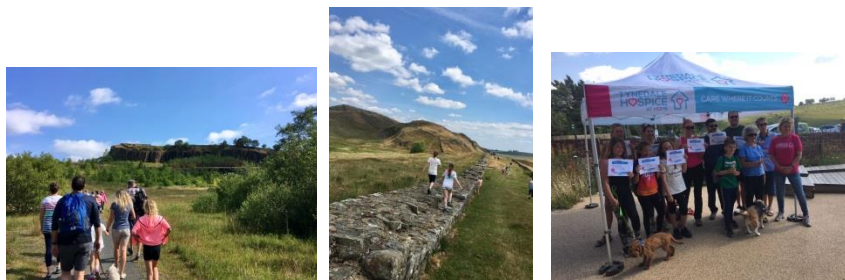
As part of the Peers in School Programme, members of HMS Parliament and School Cabinet had the privilege of meeting Lord Shipley who visited school on Friday 22nd June to talk about the role of the House of Lords. During the visit, pupils had the opportunity to ask questions covering aspects of Lord Shipley's professional and personal life. Lord Shipley's visit was one of many opportunities afforded to HMS pupils in recent years to engage with the British political system.

Energy Quest - Tomorrow's Engineers

On Wednesday 27th June, Tomorrow's Engineers were invited into HMS to work with Year 7. The workshop gave pupils an opportunity to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of science and design technology. Pupils were challenged to build electrically powered cars and to compete against other groups to propel these as far as possible. The car models were deliberately sabotaged and pupils had to use their problem solving skills to find solutions to increase the distance travelled by these cars. It was a fantastic opportunity to use problem solving skills in a real-life scenario.

Hadrian's Hike

On Saturday 14th July, Hexham Middle School was delighted to take part in Tynedale Hospice's first Hadrian's Hike. This was a sponsored event which was a 6 mile walk along a beautiful part of Hadrian's Wall. The walk started in Walltown and finished at The Sill where there was a finishers' reception which included delicious cakes! The weather was glorious and despite certain parts of the walk being challenging, spirits were high and everyone involved had a fantastic day. We would like to thank Cathy Bates from Tynedale Hospice and volunteers who organised the event and provided interesting rest stops, snacks and encouragement throughout. We would also like to thank the children, parents and families who took part and raised money for such a valuable cause. If you would like to donate to this you can do so by visiting our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/HMSHadriansHike.



French Trip 2018

On 5th July, leaving early evening, 36 Year 7 pupils and 5 members of staff travelled to Chateau Beaumont, Laval in the Loire Valley. The journey was long but well worth it. On arrival, we were greeted by glorious sunshine which lasted for the whole weekend. During the visit, pupils experienced many aspects of French culture and enjoying their time at Fougères Castle and the impressive Mont Saint Michel. Pupils also had the opportunity to speak to the locals in French whilst at the market.

The French night was a particular highlight for all pupils where they sampled local delicacies such as snails and frogs legs. The pupils also enjoyed a French Quiz and a competition to build the Eiffel Tower. A fantastic time was had by all and our thanks go to all of the staff who made this trip possible.



Hexham Middle School Summer Fair 2018

Huge thanks to HMS PTA for organising our Fayre. Children and adults from our community enjoyed the exciting activities on offer which included: racing pigs, a human fruit machine, a scrumptious sweet stall and a delicious

brilliant Summer

barbecue; there was something for everyone. New this year was a giant inflatable, an adopt-a-bear stall, ice cream scoops and floats. A huge amount of time and effort goes into an event like this by the PTA and it is very much appreciated by school. Over £3,000 was raised on the day which will be used to help pay for new computers for the school.

Music news

At the end of the term we say goodbye to Year 8 pupils as they move on to high school. The music department will be losing some excellent musicians and singers who have participated in so many different events during their time at HMS. Thanks to members of the orchestra, choir, ceilidh band, rock band, and to individual musicians who have worked so hard in their lessons.

As in previous years, we have a good number of up-and-coming musicians who will in time develop the skills and experience demonstrated by our older pupils. Thursday 5th July saw our Orchestra Play-Day to introduce new members to the orchestra. It was great to see so many young instrumentalists joining in with experienced members of our orchestra. Pupils enjoyed the experience and played really well. Thanks to the parents who were able to come along and give their support to our flourishing musicians. (Mr Holdsworth).

RSPB visit to year 6

Year 6 had a visit from the RSPB this half term to explain their important work in trying to secure a future for one of the UK's most beautiful and threatened birds of prey – the hen harrier. Pupils found out about bird's habitat and its food web. They also heard about the work the RSPB are doing to conserve and monitor the hen harrier through satellite tagging, on-the-ground monitoring, nest protection and investigations work. Another important part of the RSPB's work is awareness-raising and working with volunteer raptor field workers, landowners and local communities to protect hen harriers across northern England and southern and eastern Scotland.

Sea Cadets Marine Engineering workshop

As part of their science work on *Forces*, Year 7 had the opportunity to participate in a Sea Cadets Marine Engineering Pathway workshop. The workshop taught pupils about the principles of engineering through the use of marine based real-life scenarios. Pupils worked in teams to design and make a boat and then competed to see which one would hold the most marbles before sinking!

KS3 author visit – Dan Smith

At the end of June, pupils in years seven and eight were treated to a visit from north-east author Dan Smith who provided an engaging and interesting presentation. He spoke about his love of action movies and how these have inspired his creative writing. One of his novels, *Big Game*, has been made into a movie starring Samuel L. Jackson and this proved especially popular with the pupils. Many thanks go to our school's PTA who supported this event.

Ti-Jean et la Chèvre

Thanks to support from the HMS PTA, Year 5 were able to spend an afternoon watching *Ti-Jean et la Chèvre*, a theatrical production by Théâtre Sans Frontières based on a magical feast of tales from around the French speaking world – Canada, Africa and the Caribbean. It was a fun-filled show told through live action, puppetry and catchy songs. All of the pupils enjoyed themselves and had great fun singing along to the songs.

"The costumes were really cool and the acting was great," said Benjamin, Year 5.

"When I didn't understand the words I looked at the props then I understood what was happening," remarked Abigail, Year 5.

Food Technology

Pupils have recently been trying their hand at Food Styling in Food Technology lessons. I am sure you will agree that the results are stunning!



Super Splash Heroes

Year 5 and 6 had a great morning this half term being entertained by the Super Splash Heroes gang. They presented an interactive play, which gave a very important message about how valuable water is to us all. A fun and informative time was had by everyone involved and we came away with some water saving top tips!

HMS SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Athletics

Since Easter, HMS has been involved in a number of athletics competitions. The first competition saw the triangular event between HMS, Corbridge and St. Joseph's with the best athletes moving on to compete for a place in the Hexham area competition. A large contingent of HMS pupils were subsequently selected to represent Hexham, from which a group made it into the Tynedale athletics team. The county athletics event was held on a Saturday at the Wentworth Leisure Centre. The weather was fantastic and there was a real buzz around the event. Hugo McNichol competed in two events on the day and managed to win both the 200m and Long Jump to become a double county champion, which is an outstanding achievement! HMS successes were:

- Josh Wallace who competed in the ball throw and came 1st.
- Josie Ferguson who ran in the 100m and came 2nd.
- Leon Hall who ran in the 200m and came 3rd.
- Jack Denham who competed in the discus and came 3rd.

Wimbledon

On Tuesday 3rd July, ten excited pupils met Mr Healey and Ms Carruthers at Newcastle Central station to head down to London ready to watch one of the four major tennis grand slams at Wimbledon. The gates opened and the pupils had a quick stop on Murray Mound before heading straight to the outer courts to catch a glimpse of some players warming up. We soon moved onto the 'play tennis' marquee where LTA volunteers showed the pupils round a selection of games including paddle tennis, reaction board and a fastest serve tunnel. Having found a shady spot for lunch, we enjoyed the iconic Wimbledon strawberries and cream.

Play started at 1pm on both Court 1 and Centre Court, where pupils took their seats to watch some of the best tennis players in the world: K Edmund, P Kvitova, N Djokovic, G Muguruza, R Nadal and S Halep. It was a fantastic day for the pupils and an experience they will never forget!



Cricket

HMS has been heavily involved in cricket this summer with all years experiencing outdoor softball competitions. The year 8 boys have been fantastic all year and managed to win the county competition making them the indoor and outdoor county

champions! The whole team did extremely well with all players making a brilliant contribution during some testing times whilst batting.



Bikeability

Ten pupils from Y6 recently took part Bikeability Transition training. This course builds on what pupils have learned in L2 training but gives them the additional skills and knowledge needed to plan and ride a safe route to their school. Pupils rode from HMS via a safe route to QEHS and back. The feedback from trainers and pupils was very positive and we shall look to run this course again next year.

Northumberland County Council has funding to run L3 Bikeability training which is open to pupils in Years 7 and 8. L3 training equips young riders to negotiate difficult road junctions and roundabouts under close supervision. We hope to run this course next year, so please keep an eye out for further details.

Bookings are currently being taken for KS2 Bikeability L2 training for October 2018.

Continued canoeing success for Ryan

Ryan Dodd is going from strength to strength in the sport of canoeing. Ryan is currently ranking 38th in the country nationally of all division 2 men and juniors, which is an outstanding achievement given that he began with a ranking of 178! Ryan and his partner Chloe are 10th in the country in the C2 event, proving that team work and dedication pays off. Well done Ryan!

HMS World Cup

Whilst England were playing some amazing football out in Russia, so were the teams in the HMS World cup which saw some fantastic football in the knockout stages. The finals were held at lunchtime on the KS2 and KS3 sports days. Pupils who weren't involved could spectate on the sidelines to create a great atmosphere for those who were playing. Well done to all pupils who were involved! The winners were as follows: KS2 Winners – Spain, KS3 Winners – Mexico.

Sports Day

The sun shone on both the Key Stage sports days this year which saw pupils selecting six competitive events on a rotational basis. This year the scoring system changed slightly to create an average points score per pupil rather than the overall total – this meant that every point counted!

Orienteering

43 pupils recently attended the Northumberland County Orienteering Championships at Wallington Hall, organised by Newcastle and Tyneside Orienteers. Pupils competed in pairs navigating around a course using a map. HMS pupils did exceptionally well again this year winning five out of the six age categories:

- * Maria and Ania - Y5 girls
- * Oscar and Daniel - Y5 boys
- * Isabel - Y6 Girls
- * Ben - Y6 Boys
- * Daniel and Andrew - Y8 boys.

These great performances contributed to the success of HMS in the Year 5 and Year 6 team prizes. Mr Gaines is now looking to enter HMS teams into the British Schools Orienteering Championships which will be held in the north of England in November this year.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this a vibrant and exciting year at HMS!

School closes on Friday 20th July and re-opens to pupils on Tuesday 4th September 2018.

On behalf of all the staff of Hexham Middle School, we send our very best wishes to staff and pupils who are leaving us this term and wish everyone a happy and relaxing summer break.

