



## HMS Newsletter: November 2017

### **Canoeing champion!**

Ryan Dodd, in year eight, is now competing at national level in Cabo Slalom. He is currently ranked 40th out of 143 with good results over the summer races and in more recent events. Recently, Ryan attended a week's training camp in Grandtully in Scotland with the Northern and Yorkshire squads, demonstrating outstanding progress. Congratulations to Ryan on his recent success and we wish him well in all upcoming events.



### **Key Stage 2 bikeability**

Sixty pupils in KS2 have participated in Bikeability over the last few weeks. The Bikeability instructors always speak very highly of the pupils at HMS and this year was no exception. We were complemented on the pupils' behaviour and their commitment to having a strong cycling culture in Hexham.

We would like to thank all pupils who participated. Certificates will be posted to school and presented in assembly. Mr Gaines is looking to organise another course for the pupils who were unable to get a place on the October courses. The extra course, if it can be arranged, will be after Easter.

### **STEM workshops**

Year seven will be working with representatives from Newcastle University on 16<sup>th</sup> November to further develop their science, technology, engineering and mathematical skills.

### **Volunteering in School**

Very many thanks to the parents who have kindly offered their time once again this year to support children's learning in school. We would welcome anyone who is able to help with literacy and numeracy or whose job may be of interest to pupils from a curriculum or future careers perspective. Please contact Mrs Minto in the first instance if you are able to help.

### **No Pens Day**

At the beginning of the month the whole school participated in the annual 'No Pens Day' with the aim of increasing confidence in communication and finding alternative ways to learn without putting pen (or pencil!) to paper. Many creative and interesting lessons took place in all subjects and the day was, once again, a huge success.



### **Tynemouth trip**

Year six enjoyed a (very soggy!) day at Tynemouth studying the geography of the North East coastline whilst familiarising themselves with the location from the novel they're currently studying in English: Kingdom by the Sea. They enjoyed sausage and chips just like Harry does in the story and, although they were disappointed to have to return to school early because of the torrential rain, an enjoyable day was had by all.



### **Kids' Lit Quiz**

Our year eight team of avid readers has been practising hard for next week's annual Kids' Lit Quiz. They'll be participating in the regional heats at Gosforth Central Middle School along with other schools from all over the North East. This year's quiz is more popular than ever – so oversubscribed, in fact, that each school has only been allowed to enter one team rather than the usual two! We wish them the very best of luck and hope that all their reading practice pays off.

### **Equipment Donation**

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Miss Kingett's father who has very generously donated a full class set of headphones which will be used initially to support pupils taking part in online intervention courses. We are extremely grateful to him for his kindness.

### **Book Fair arriving**

Our school is looking forward to hosting a travelling book fair which will arrive on 17<sup>th</sup> November and will be open to pupils during the school day (including at lunch time) from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> until it leaves on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The fair will be located in Fellside Hall and will stock a wide variety of both fiction and non-fiction which we know will interest our school's keen readers. We look forward to seeing many pupils there and using the money raised to provide new and exciting stock for our school libraries.

### **Little Princess Trust**

One of our pupils, Sophie in 6EKI, made an incredibly generous decision to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust whilst having it cut recently. Seeing the amount she wanted trimmed, her hairdresser was quick to suggest a hair donation be made to the Trust, so that Sophie's hair could be made into a wig for a child who has lost hair due to cancer treatment. Sophie immediately agreed and we're very proud of her for this generous and kind act. Following on from Sophie's donation, Mrs Allen also had her hair cut over half term and decided to donate it too!

### **Jeans for Genes Fundraiser**

Many thanks for your generous donations on our Jeans for Genes day last term. A grand total of £438 was raised to support families of children born with life-altering genetic disorders.

### **Upcoming dates for diaries:**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: PTA disco  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November: Open book evening 4-6pm  
17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November: Book Fair in Fellside Hall  
21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Year 6 parents' evenings  
5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December: Year 5 parents' evenings  
18<sup>th</sup> December: Carol Service in Hexham Abbey

**House Totals**

<b>Aln</b>	<b>Coquet</b>	<b>Tweed</b>	<b>Wansbeck</b>
184	169	151	148

**Attendance**

<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>
98.3%	97.2%	96.7%	95.4%