

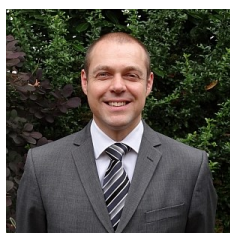


@HexhamMiddle

"The newsletter for you."



Welcome to the Christmas edition of the HMS newsletter. Thank you for the positive feedback on the last edition – it is good to know that you appreciate being kept informed in this way. Please also remember to sign up to our 'tweets' and Facebook posts, and to check in with the news section of our website too.



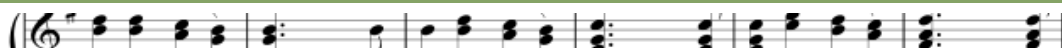
As you'll see from this edition, the pupils continue to benefit from wonderful opportunities at HMS. As ever, thank you to the staff who put so much on and to the PTA who are behind a number of great activities. Please keep encouraging your child to participate and to take advantage of what is on offer at school, so that they continue to develop and broaden their interests and talents. With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. G. Atkins (Executive Headteacher)

Food Bank Christmas Appeal



Once again, we are so thankful to the wider school community for helping to donate further items to support West Northumberland Food Bank.



A Christmas carol or two

A huge thank you to all of the children who took part in this year's Carol Service on Monday evening. Readers, Singers and Musicians have all worked extremely hard and performed beautifully. Thanks also to the ushers for their help and support.

It has been a busy time for music, especially since half-term. I must also thank the orchestra for their great performance at the Christmas Lights Ceremony at the bandstand in the Sele Park at the end of November.

We will have a well-deserved rest from choir and orchestra in January before we start to



prepare for our summer show. Thank you again and have a merry musical Christmas.

Mr Holdsworth

House Plus Totals

ALN —676 points

Coquet —686 points

Wansbeck —580 points

Twweed—589 points

In this edition:

- We Schools Project
- Forest School
- Kids' Lit Quiz
- Parliament Week
- Success Assemblies
- Christmas Challenges
- Sports Update

Looking ahead for diaries

- Year 7 Parents' Evening - 22 & 24 January
- Year 8 Parents' Evening - 12 & 14 February
- SATs Evening - 31 January
- Ski Trip - 2 - 9 February
- Last Day for pupils - 14 February
- Staff Inset Day -

15 February

Attendance

Year 5 - 96.6%

Year 6 - 96.9%

Year 7 - 95.3%

Year 8 - 96.4%



Some Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in a workshop led by We Schools (part of the We Movement family). This entailed a morning session with a We Schools representative, supporting the pupils in a range of activities culminating in focus for charitable action.

The group began with Zip-Zap-Boing, a game designed to make sure they were focused and energized. They then played Issues Bus — a game designed to help pupils to weigh up the various merits of tackling different issues both locally and globally. This then led to the group undertaking a public

speaking exercise so that they could hone their public speaking skills.

The final stage of the workshop saw pupils developing an action plan that was agreed democratically. Pupils chose to look further at the issue of homelessness. The main idea for making a change on this issue includes pupils making emergency gift bags for homeless people.

Pupils will develop this project in the new year, looking to promote and develop this with wider school community support.

PTA Christmas Pop Up Shop

The recent PTA Pop-Up Shop was a tremendous success, with lots of gifts wrapped up and expecting to be under many Christmas trees. Thank you for all the items donated which has helped raise significant funds for the PTA.



Forest School Update

We are now in our second year of a Forest School programme. Pupils are led by a qualified Forest School instructor. Activities that pupils undertake give them opportunities to gain confidence, develop team working skills and enjoy learning outdoors. Activities undertaken can also help HMS gain credit for the Green Tree School Award.

In Forest school you can do lots of things, but we can build dens and do whittling and hammering with wood too.

When you have done some of the activities we all sit in a circle and we have treats. It could be a hot chocolate, pizza or marshmallows.

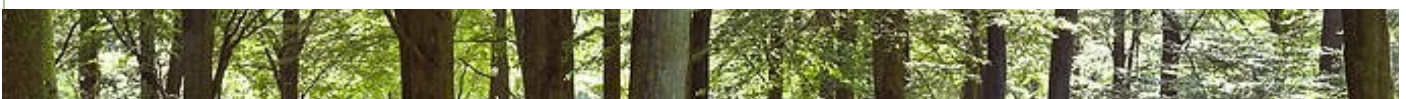
Lucy (Year 6)

Steps to make the marshmallow sandwich:

1. Get some plain biscuits and marshmallows.
2. Put the marshmallows inside the biscuits.
3. Put the biscuit over a fire and then you are done.

We also made some poppies out of leaves for Remembrance Day. I made them with Lucy which was really fun. When we have time, we can make or finish our dens, if we have made one, or do other fun outdoor things.

Lily Rose (Year 6)



Key Stage 2 News

It's Panto Season

On Friday 14 December, all of KS2 enjoyed a trip to the pantomime. Aladdin was the performance that we were treated to. A thoroughly professional performance had us all singing along to it, as well as laughing at the antics of the pantomime dame and good old baddie. We were all well entertained and arrived back at HMS very much in the Christmas spirit!



Fit Bit Trials #letsgetfit!

We have had a successful trial with our Active Band initiative. In the new year we will be analysing the data, but in the mean time, if Father Christmas would like an extra request on his wish list it would be that more pupils get an Active Band to join the fun we are having in PE. The healthy lifestyle active bands retail at around £20 from LETSCOM on Amazon. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mr MacMillan and Mr Gaines



Last term, four of our KS2 pupils entered a competition to design a railway station of the future. We were delighted that Grace and Chloe were declared overall winners in their age category, but also that Izzy and Rose came a very close second. All four girls, as part of their prize, enjoyed a day at Newcastle station along with Mrs Cave where they were the guests of train company LNER. They all spent a fascinating day behind the scenes at the station exploring all the different roles that people have there. The girls even had time to make a station announcement as well as have a turn at trying the driver train simulator. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed this whole experience and are delighted that they took on the Platform X challenge.

Barnardo's Visit

Year 6 pupils all welcomed representatives from this organisation to deliver workshops on how to stay safe, but in particular they were made aware of the issue of domestic violence at an age appropriate level. As ever our pupils were engaged and mature during their workshop.



Further to our Autumn 1 newsletter edition, Year 5 pupils had a fantastic day on the last day of Autumn Term 1. Well done to the winners of the Aztec head dress competition pictured above.

Next term Year 5 will start a geography unit their developing knowledge and skills in using and interpreting maps. Looking ahead we are planning a trip to Vindolanda.



Year 6 Film Festival

On Thursday 15 November, Year 6 attended the 'Into Film Festival' at the Forum Cinema in Hexham. The film shown was Zoo which is based on the true story of a young boy's efforts to save an elephant from Belfast Zoo during WWII; this was perfectly linked to our current explore topic 'A Child's War' and enabled the pupils to develop some understanding of what it could have been like to be a child during the war.



We all thoroughly enjoyed the film and have since used the film as inspiration for letter writing in our English lessons. Many thanks to The Forum Cinema for hosting us all.

**INTO
FILM
FESTIVAL**

Kids' Lit Quiz



On Wednesday 7 November, Hexham Middle School entered two teams into the annual Kids' Lit Quiz. The Northeast heat was held at Gosforth Central Middle School in Newcastle where the teams competed along with 33 other school teams. The children were asked 10 rounds of 10 questions; the categories ranged from unicorns to fantasy to rocks and stones. Both teams did fantastically well. Year 7 really held their own being some of the youngest at the competition.

The Year 8 team, who showed off their knowledge and understanding of literature, were joint 3rd but were sadly pipped to the post in a tie-breaker question. Well done to both teams.

A super result.

Book Fair

In November, pupils were once again keen to welcome our bi-annual book fair which took place in Fellside Hall. Every lunch time saw pupils from all year groups flock to the shelves to browse and purchase reading material. In addition, a range of stationery, book bags and posters was available which proved very popular. Thanks to the librarians and volunteers who 'manned' the fair each day, we raised a whopping £580! The next book fair will coincide with World Book Day in March 2019.



In November, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in an animation workshop organised by Queen's Hall and Children and the Arts. Working alongside artist Sheryl Jenkins, pupils were inspired by the Blast exhibition in Queen's Hall to develop some animation using tablets. Plastic products were used to help raise awareness of the damaging effects of plastic pollution in water environments. Pupils also developed their skills at creating hand-drawn flip books. The experiences gained during this workshop and the previous shadow puppetry activities led by Elena Miller form part of the pupils' Discover Arts Award which they are in the final stages of completing. Many thanks to the organisers for providing our pupils with such an enriching experience.



Mandarin Club - Confucius Institute

What an exciting 7 weeks we have had at Mandarin Club. Pupils have started to develop their understanding of Mandarin; they can now introduce themselves and ask basic questions. Pupils have also learnt a lot about Chinese culture. They have been able to master the use of chopsticks and practise their calligraphy with Chinese characters. We look forward to Mandarin Club continuing in the New Year. 圣诞节快乐 (Shèngdàn jié kuàilè meaning Merry Christmas).



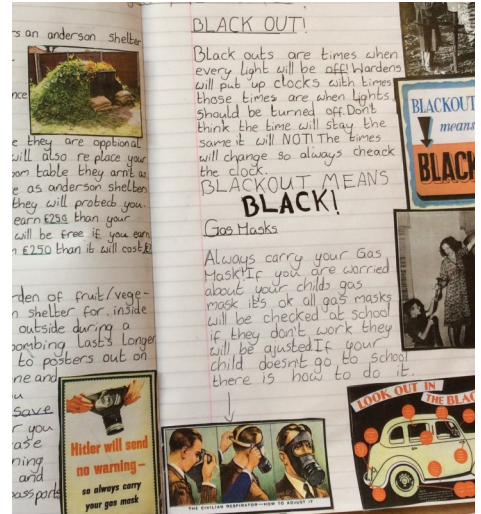
The Sill



Year 8 enjoyed a visit to The Sill, The National Landscape Discovery Centre in Once Brewed, Northumberland, where they experienced WW1 workshops: life in the trenches, literature, weaponry and nursing. The two sessions were very different in style and saw children re-enacting historical battles, using artefacts and listening to poetry being performed. This week pupils have been treated to watching War Horse as part of their studies in English.

Year 6 Explore Day

To celebrate the end of their project of 'A Child's War', Year 6 were treated to an engaging day of activities incorporating maths and English lessons. Some pupils took part in war-time dancing workshops whilst others made ration-book style cakes (without egg!).



Pupils in Year 6 have worked so hard during the unit of study, not just developing their written skills but also their knowledge about World War 2.



Pastoral Leaders' Column

A huge thank you to all our pupils who have all worked so hard this half term. I must say I am so proud, not just of their academic achievements but all the extra things they have so enthusiastically contributed to, such as the Children in Need Fayre and the collection for West Northumberland Food Bank. This shows yet again what kind and thoughtful people our pupils are. May you all have a happy and safe festive break. See you next year!

Mrs Cave (Head of KS2)

This term our key stage 3 pupils have excelled both inside and outside of school. Our pupils have shown great levels of leadership and professionalism in readings at the Hexham Remembrance Day service, the HMS carol service as well as the delivery of sporting events from other schools. As we enter 2019 my challenge for pupils is to ensure they are engaging in new challenges both in the classroom and in the wider curriculum. In order to do this pupils must aim to be in school every day and remain organised for each and every lesson. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fantastic 2019.

Mr Barry (Head of KS3)

Once again we have had a very busy and successful term at Hexham Middle School. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support. Merry Christmas to all.

Mrs Frankish

(Deputy Headteacher)

Parliament Week



On 13 November, Parliament Education Services and Northumberland County Council Youth Cabinet joined HMS for their Parliament Week activities. Year 7 pupils attended a Campaigning workshop during the morning session, and School Parliament and Cabinet Council attended some bespoke sessions aimed at raising their awareness of Parliament and the skill of debating. For the past three years, HMS have taken part in Parliament Week. Many pupils were inspired by the way politics can impact on positive change in our society. Some pupils have even started to consider their own campaigns to raise awareness of specific issues.



Mr. Guy Opperman (MP for Hexham) also visited on 9 November to take part in a Q&A session. The whole school got the chance to meet and listen to him. He was very complimentary of our pupils, praising them on the quality of their questions and maturity.

Parliament Update:

Members of School Parliament have met during December and some representatives have attended a Senior Leadership meeting to discuss issues raised. MPs raised that pupils across the school have praised the integration of i-pads in lessons, the range of visitors brought into school to support the curriculum, and the quality of extra-curricular provision.

Suggested actions have also been outlined to further develop the school environment. Early in the Spring Term, Parliament will liaise with the pupil body.



New Chef is in town!

There were plenty of smiles from the Base recently when Jake Reader found a recipe for success by cooking for HMS staff. Our budding Year 8 chef pulled out all the stops when he served a two-course meal to staff on December 3rd.

Jake, who has a passion for cookery and hopes to be a chef when he is older, created a Spaghetti Bolognese from scratch followed by a festive dessert – Spiced apple mess. The

dessert proved particularly popular with staff opting for seconds and thirds.

Supported by Ms Richardson, Jake prepared and cooked both dishes from scratch and was happy to share his recipes with his happy diners.

Everyone in the Base is very proud of Jake and we look forward to sampling more of his homemade dishes next year. Well done Jake!



Science Club News

Science Club is a great, fun and exciting club to go to. Every week we do a different experiment. In previous weeks we have: made crystals, bouncy balls, burned different metals and chemicals, made phone speakers, extracted DNA, carried out flame tests and made slime.

The science leaders are friendly, funny and helpful every week. They tell us what is happening and how to do it. Mrs Gregory runs Science Club and is always helpful and kind. They are all why Science Club is so excellent.

Anyone can come to Science Club if they are in Year 7. It is on every Friday lunch time and it is in Mrs Gregory's laboratory. It is amazing and a great way to spend your time.

In Science Club we hope to do more experiments and for more to come and give it a go. It does not take all of your lunchtime either.

Come along!

The Science Club



November and December have been busy months for Bikeability this term. This year is the first time we have run three different levels of Bikeability. The first course that ran was the Level 2 (L2) course that is for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6. We had 24 pupils participated on this course which is based on the school site and more basic junctions just outside Hexham Middle School, building pupils skills and knowledge to stay safe on a bike.



Any pupils who have passed L2 training can participate in Bikeability transition. This is the second year we have run this course and 18 pupils took part on this course. This course is designed to teach pupils how to plan a safe route to cycle from HMS to QEHS.



Bikeability Level 3 is the new course for HMS this year. This course takes pupils onto more challenging roads and traffic conditions. We had 17 pupils take part over three days. Pupils planned a route to cycle around Hexham. The instructors looked at leading pupils along three cycle routes that pupils could use for cycling to school. Pupils also spent time learning to deal with roundabouts and busy roads on route. The feedback from pupils on this course was very positive. Pupils enjoyed learning to ride safely and confidently on their local roads.

We plan to run all three courses again next year. All courses are free and have a positive impact on helping pupils to become knowledgeable and safe cyclists. Mr Gaines wants to thank the instructors from Cycle Experience for their expertise and care when riding with our pupils.



Mr Gaines (Head of Physical Education)

School Building Improvements



Over the Autumn term there have been significant improvements made to the roofs of Fellside, following on from works carried out to Beaumont building last year. Fellside has a Grade 2 listed building status. This has meant any restoration work has needed to meet strict building standards.

We are very proud how the school community has continued to function despite an occasionally disruptive experience. The completion of works now provides pupils and staff with water-tight roofs, especially as we embark on the remaining part of Winter.



Young Reporter Competition

Pupils are encouraged over the Christmas holiday to submit a report or story as part of this National competition. Full competition terms and conditions can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/41366824>. The deadline is Sunday 6 January. The finished report is not required but there are useful tips for entering on the website. Parental/Carer permission is required before a pupil enters. The competition is only open to pupils 11-18 years old.

Autumn Term Success Assemblies

Well done to all our pupils who have been nominated by their teachers for contributions made across all subjects. The pupils below have been successful in being runner up or overall winner (bold text).

Subject	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Art & Design	Lucas Jopling	Lucas Newbury	Tesni Owen	Fin Turner
Computing	Lily-Ann Brown Vinnie McVay	Archie Bolton Amelie Osbourne	Daniel Guthrie Nancy Molinos	Ellie Lambert Sam McVay
Design Technology	Orla O'Farrell Fingal Thompson	n/a	Sophia Birley Nancy Molinos	Alice Di Lullo Natalie Baker/Luca Alderson
English	James Toward Molly Lauder	William Venn Lilli Finlayson	Summer Newton Edward Dando	Alex Heard Hannah Clark
Explore	Freddie Crow Ciara Richmond	Adam Wilson Melissa Brown	n/a	n/a
Food Technology	n/a	Joe McCardle David Dodd	Joshua Wallace Elizabeth Van Hindsbergh	Ben Hindmarch Elizabeth Little
French	Tess Atkin William Stewart	Eve Crawford Honey Shipley	Sophie Robson Tom Carr	Katrine Connor Edan Osbourne
Geography	n/a	n/a	Elodie Heath Martha Harrison	Hannah Clark Nadine Birchall
History	n/a	n/a	Olivia Walton Sophia Birley	Harry Wilson Nadine Birchall
Mathematics	Athon Melstrom Hannah Hickman	Lilli Finlayson Maria Gaines	Izabelle Watson George Baxter	James Shaw Nadine Birchall
Music	Orla O'Farrell	Emma Nicholson	Jasmin Alderson-Brown	Felix Hayler-Hughes
PSHE	Theo Crow Seamus Russell	Libby Heeley McVay Sam Marshall	Sophia Birley Jacob Williams	Luca Alderson Cara Haliburton
Physical Education	Sasha Farley Magnus Riddell	Aran Maughan Maria Gaines	Zach Maurice Sarah McGregor	Oliver Lowe Sienna Ball
Religious Education	George Brotherton Olive Taylor	Rowan Shreeve Orin Grey	Ben Enchanique Macy Barber	Lucy Stith Ebony Lough
Science	Charlie Maw Poppy Forster	Nathaniel Jones Asia Robson	Thomas Bisp	Lily McKenzie Luca Alderson

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” (Mahatma Ghandi)



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.



The bells are ringing,

You know what that means...

It's Christmas time!

put on your jolly jeans.

The lights are flashing,

Hanging upon a tree.

You know what that does...

it fills you with glee.

The wrapping is tearing,

the noise is pleasing.

You know what that means ...

the presents need seizing.

The guests are eating,

The wonderful dinner.

You know what that means...

The food is a winner.

Everyone is admiring,

the awesome gifts.

You know what that means...

Santa read their lists.

Everyone is tired,

after a great day.

You know what that means...

the day hasn't been grey.

The bells are ringing,

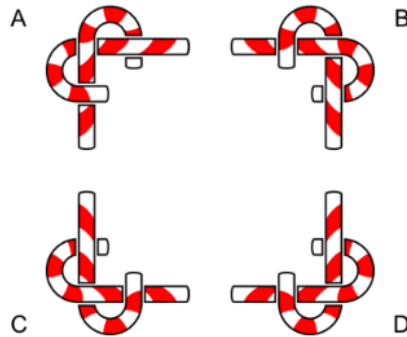
you know what means....

It's Christmas time!

Put on your jolly jeans.

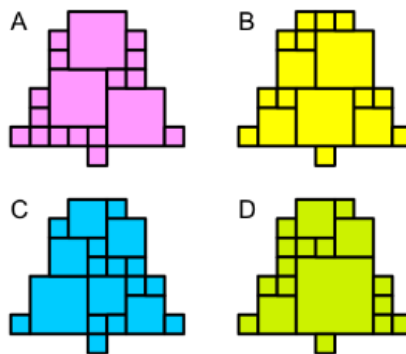
By Ebony Lough, Year 8

Well done to Jacob Ferrier who received 4 House Pluses for his completion of the last newsletter puzzle page. Why not have a go at these festive-themed challenges.



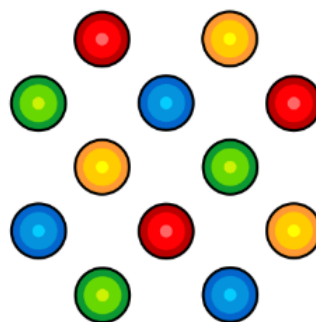
Three of the four tangled pairs of candy canes are identical. Which one differs?

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D



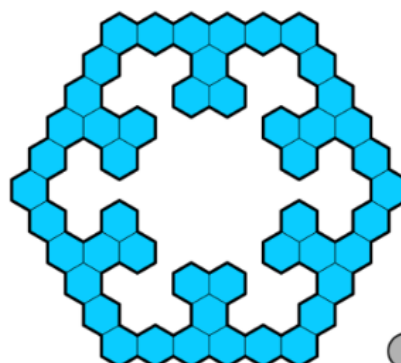
The bells to the left are made from pixels of different sizes. Which bell has more pixels?

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D



How many rectangles and squares of any possible size and orientation can you find in the pattern? To count, the rectangle must have four bulbs placed

☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20



How many unit hexagons are needed to complete the big hexagon?

☐ 40 ☐ 41 ☐ 42 ☐ 43

Each of these tasks are worth 1 House Plus.

Christmas music quiz Festive Fun Facts

1. **Where nothing ever grows, no rain nor** _____

(From Band Aid, Do they know it's Christmas time?)

2. **Shepherds quake at the sight. Glorious stream** _____.

- A) Heaven afar
- B) Love's pure light
- C) Infant so mild
- D) Thy holy face

3. **Thus** _____, **and forthwith appeared a shining throng.**

(From while shepherds watch their flocks by night)

- A) spake the seraph
- B) said the angel
- C) spake the shepherd
- D) spake the angel

4. **Pray you** _____, **dutifully prime** (From Ding Dong Merrily On High!)





















- A) Your matin chime, ye singers
- B) Your matin song, ye singers
- C) Your matin chime, ye ringers
- D) Your eve'time song, ye singers.

5. **There'll be parties for hosting,** _____

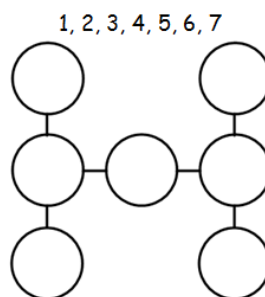
(From It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.)

- A) marshmallows for toasting
- B) a big turkey roasting
- C) cosy feet a 'toasting
- D) carollers boasting

1. The earliest known Christmas decoration is an apple.
2. The first ever artificial tree was made from goose feathers.
3. Kissing underneath a mistletoe is a Christmas tradition that originates from ancient Scandinavia. The mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship, which may be the reason people kiss beneath it.
4. The traditional colours of Christmas are green, red and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolises the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
5. The often shortened form of Christmas or Xmas was first used in Europe in the 1500s — it is derived from the Greek alphabet in which X is the first letter of Christ's name — Xristos.
6. 45% of the world's population celebrate Christmas
7. Although Rudolf the Reindeer may be perceived as a male, it may not be so. Male Reindeer shed their antlers at Christmas time. So it could be Santa's reindeers are in fact female.

					15
					32
					34
					12
29	10	25	18	11	

Solve the value of each festive symbol. How can algebra be used to solve this problem?



Place numbers 1 to 7, using them only once in each circle. Each line must total 13.

Total: 13

Each of these tasks are worth 1 House Plus.

Christmas Dingbats

Sports Update

Christmas

Night	Night	Night
Night	Night	Night
Night	Night	Night
Night	Night	Night

Nigmassht

Tofrankuch

PPPPP
Our planet

A3 tortilla A4



TREE RI_GE TREE



We have continued our showcased an incredible extremely busy start to the commitment to sport. Some 2018-2019 school year with students have gone on to competitions throughout the represent their district.

age groups. Hexham pupils have shown great dedication and professionalism in each sport.

Year 5 have continued to make fantastic progress in sport this year and have competed in a number of events. However the area cross country performance of some pupils resulted in top 10 finishes in outstanding fashion. Lots ahead for Year 5 in January.

Year 6 have been in action in dodgeball, cross country, football and more. The level of each performance has been incredible with winning performances in the area cross country showing the level of skill and dedication in year 6 sport. Year 6 boys and girls are still in their respective county football cups with major fixtures awaiting in January.

Year 7 have been exceptional this half term. They have won the area 5 aside football competition thanks to a nerve wracking penalty shootout, area cross country and also

Year 8 boys remain undefeated in the football league and the year 8 girls performed exceptionally well in the area 7 aside football competition finishing runners up. They have also competed in interschool dodgeball matches. However a highlight was the organisation and professionalism shown by our sports leaders who helped run fixtures for over 120 pupils in November showing great leadership.

A huge thank you to each and every pupil who has taken part in sport this year. Please continue to develop your confidence and ability in the diverse range of activities on offer in lessons, during lunchtime recreational clubs and after-school training.

Sporting Clubs- Staff at HMS provide a range of extra-curricular sporting activities. Details can be found on our school website.