



NE46 14U Current

"Outstanding eagerness to promote good learning"



@HexhamMiddle

"The newsletter for you."



Edition: Summer Term 2 - 2019



Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2018-19 academic year. As with previous editions, it is jam-packed with details of the great activities that have been taking place over the past half-term. Thank you to our newsletter editor, Mr Freeman-Myers, and to the staff who put so much on for the pupils. Thank you too to our numerous volunteers who help us out in various ways over the course of the year, and to our splendiferous PTA for the huge contribution they make. All very much appreciated.

Enjoy the newsletter, and have a great summer!

Mr Atkins

Year 6 Provisional Outcomes

We are absolutely delighted with our Year 6 pupils and their fantastic outcomes from the KS2 SATs. These results are testament to their outstanding work ethic and resilience as well as our brilliant teaching and support team. The pupils all worked so hard this year and we are confident that they will progress into the secondary phase of their education with the knowledge and understanding required. We hope they were all as equally proud as we were!

For more information including the full provisional outcomes, please see our [Key Stage 2 Results](#) page.

Mr Watters and Mrs Roff

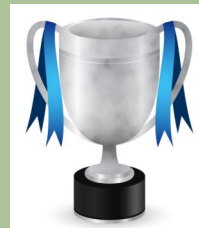
This half term, we say goodbye to our year 8 pupils who move onto the next stage of their lives (be that at QEHS or further afield.) Year 8 pupils were treated to a final Leavers' Disco. For our pupils, this is a memorable occasion. This year, we had a photo-booth, along with a great hot and cold buffet, and refreshments kindly supplied by the PTA. Our year 8 pupils were able to enjoy one of the final social events of the school calendar. The school rock band, as always, made an appearance to entertain the party guests. We wish year 8 the very best of luck in the future. Keep in touch and let us know how you get on— we hope your future destinations are exciting and fulfilling!



The Barnett Award

This year we are proud to announce that the Barnett Award winner is Sophie Lauder in year 8. Mr Gaines and Mr Barry spoke highly in the year 8 success assembly about Sophie's determination in sport. Well done Sophie.

Aln win Sports Day



Well done to Aln for winning the Sports Day trophy this year. It was a close call with Wansbeck coming in second place.

House Plus Totals:

ALN - 185 points

Coquet - 242 points

Wansbeck - 219 points

Tweed - 257 points

Attendance:

Year 5 - 96.4% Year 6 - 96.3%

Year 7 - 95.4% Year 8 - 96.5%

Looking ahead

2 September 2019: **Staff Training Day**

3 September 2019: **Back to school for pupils**

13 September 2019: **The Railway Children (M&M Productions) for Key Stage 2**

19 September 2019: **HMS Opening Evening**

20 September 2019: **Jeans for Genes Day (whole-school charity event)**

23-26 September 2019: **Individual school photographs**

27 September 2019: **HMS Open Morning**

30 September - 2 October 2019: **PJ Murray author visit and book signing event**

3 October 2019: **The Riot Act - Y8 Performance**

15 October 2019: **Year 6 Assessments**

17 October 2019: **Local Democracy Week (Town Mayor Visit)**

21-22 October 2019: **Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Y5 & Y6)**

25 October 2019: **Staff Training Day**

Year 3 Taster Day

We had the pleasure of hosting another successful year 3 Taster Day this half term, with a significant number of pupils taking part in a range of workshops. With the help of some year 8 pupils, prospective year 3 pupils took part in science sessions, design technology workshops, and some orienteering in the school grounds.

In science, pupils had the opportunity to use some scientific equipment and made a rainbow with acids and alkalis. In design technology, pupils put their creative skills to work and designed a clock face, which they were able to take home. As ever, orienteering was also very popular and well-received by the pupils, despite the rain coming down for one group.

It was great to receive such positive feedback from the pupils and staff who came along to support the event. We look forward to hopefully seeing these pupils again at our Open Evening in the autumn term.

Careers Guidance

Year 8

This half term we have undertaken a pilot project to explore the use of independent careers advice in year 8 as part of our Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) offer at HMS. A small group of pupils were selected to have an interview with a careers advisor. A short review of the interview has been produced by our careers advisor and has been forwarded to parents/carers to share with their child.

Next year, we intend to extend the careers interviews to all year 8 pupils. This will take place in the autumn term in preparation for their option choices when they move onto high school. During the autumn term, PSHE will focus on careers education and we will be having another HMS Careers' Day. Look out for further newsletter updates and social media feeds.

Mr Freeman-Myers

Author Visit by Katherine Rundell

Year 8

A group of year eight pupils enjoyed a visit to Corbridge Middle School this half term, watching Katherine Rundell (children's author) deliver an energetic and engaging presentation of her new novel, *The Good Thieves*.



At HMS, we are so fortunate to have superb library facilities and we certainly encourage pupils to become avid readers. Next year we have the return of 3 authors in the autumn term with a book signing after each event.

Mrs Roff

Humanists UK

Year 7

All of our year 7 pupils this half term had the opportunity to meet Stuart Dearlove (a representative from Humanists UK). Each pupil took part in an hour-long workshop exploring the value of questioning, to help develop a greater understanding of evidence, to support belief systems. We have also planned to involve Humanists UK next year with year 7.

Pupils were asked to come prepared to ask Stuart a range of questions about his own beliefs and viewpoints in life. Earlier this year, some year 7 pupils had the opportunity to meet university pupils from a Baptist church in Waco, Texas.

At HMS, the religious education curriculum has been changed this year, and there are plans for September 2019 for pupils to explore further non-religious viewpoints as

well as the religious perspectives on different topics. Religious education, as a subject, allows our pupils to gain a greater understanding of the world we live in. Across other subjects, such as English, PSHE, and history, pupils need to gain a greater appreciation of how religion has played a significant role. An example of this can also be explained through pupils understanding of British Values, the rule of law and democracy which was developed in a world and country influenced by religion.

Mr Freeman-Myers

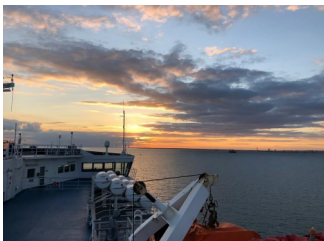
French Trip 2019

Wow! What a trip that was! It was fun and enjoyable! The teachers that came were lovely and kept us calm and let us enjoy our experience in France. On the French trip we did treasure hunts, nightline, swimming and believe it or not we even did fencing! It was a long journey to and from France; the coach trip took about eight hours with stops and the ferry took six hours and another 2 hours on the coach to get to the Château. You got to try different foods such as frogs legs and snails and surprisingly they were good! We went to the market and the hypermarket where there was delicious food, homemade crafts and lots more. The trip cost a bit but it was worth it. We got to see the Bayeux tapestry and it was even cooler because we learnt about it in history. It felt like forever walking around the Bayeux tapestry because it's around 70m long. We also went to the 360° cinema which you could see the film everywhere you look. The film we watched was about D-Day; an important part of World War 2. On the Sunday we went to Fougères Castle, it is the biggest medieval castle in Europe. For the French evening you could dress up. We did a quiz, made a mini Eiffel tower and searched for objects. It was a great experience and we would recommend it to every year!

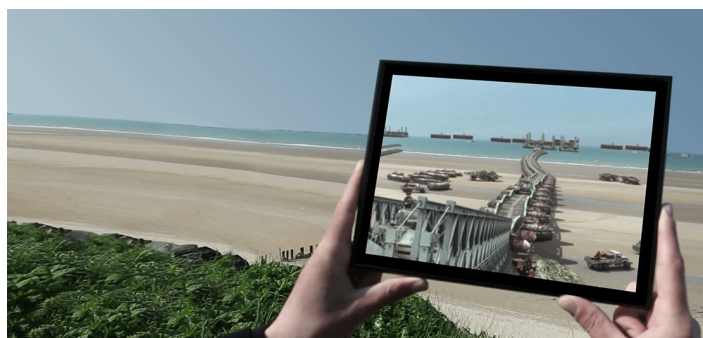
By Betsy and Freya (year 7)



With most trips to France, the ferry crossing is one of the highlights. On the hottest day on record for France (45°C), our crossing was somewhat breezy; La Manche (The English Channel) was also very choppy.



In a much cooler 28°C heat, we had the chance to meander down 'Diagon Alley' picking up the odd souvenir and possible crêpe or ice cream to cool down.



On the final day, we visited Arromanches to understand the story of the Normandy D-Day beach landings as well as the events that followed to help liberate mainland Europe from Nazi rule.



At the bottom, we all got the chance to look up towards the destination of our pilgrimage to Le Mont St. Michel.



Whilst back at Château Beaumont, the pupils took part in a range of physical activities. Here, the pupils are taking part in Nightline. On a very hot day, it was perfect that we all headed into the woods to cool off.



At Le Mont St. Michel, pupils had plenty of steps to climb before they got to the very top.

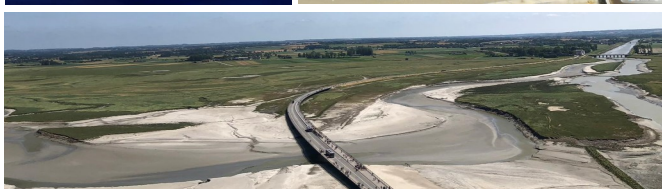
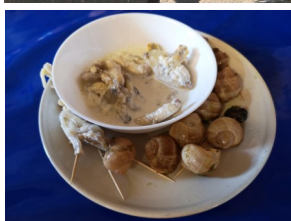
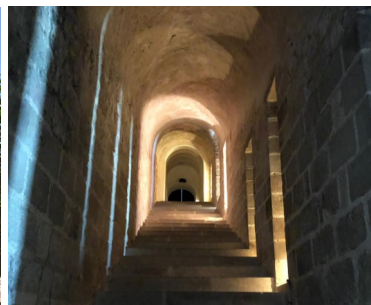


Le Mont St. Michel is the second most popular tourist attraction in France, behind the Eiffel Tower. For many pupils, they said this was the highlight of the trip.



Every pupil had the chance to practise their fencing skills including the Lunge - the basic attacking move; the Parry - a defensive action where the fencer blocks the opponent's lunge; and the Riposte— a counter attack by the fencer who has blocked the opponent with a Parry. En garde...

En vacances en France



Looking across La Manche towards the English Riviera (well someone over there)! The view from the top of Le Mont St. Michel was worth the trek up.

100% Super Star! A massive congratulations must go to Morgan Rowe in year 8 for having 100% attendance during her 4 years with us at HMS. We are also aware that she had 100% at her first school. This record is testament of Morgan's determination and commitment to being in school. Attendance really does matter! We hope you like our gift Morgan and would like to say well done from all the staff at HMS.

Year 7

Student Suitcase



On 5 July, year 7 pupils participated in a 'Student Suitcase Workshop' which is an interactive session bringing university life into the classroom. The aim of the session is to increase aspirations among our pupils. Pupils had to consider what items they would take to university, manage a budget and think about which societies they would like to be members of. Pupils were able to ask questions and enjoyed finding out about university life. This activity is part of the career programme at HMS.



Mr Armstrong

HMS Parliament

The current HMS Parliament voted to reform next year:

- There will be **NO** Councillor roles next year.
- Each form group will have 2 Members of Parliament i.e. **32 HMS MPs** in total.
- There will be a **separate KS2 and KS3 committee** of MPs that will **meet every 2 weeks** - only 1 MP from each form group has to attend. This meeting will be chaired by one of the 4 senior pupils (i.e. head pupils). These senior pupils will write up minutes and ensure they are distributed to each form group.
- Key Stage committees will **meet during lunchtime from 12:30-1pm** and will be provided with an **MP early lunch pass**. These committees will raise issues from the Key Stage. Year group committees could be established at a later date, if desired, to discuss year group specific matters (this however did not receive popular appeal).
- **Parliament (all 32 MPs) will meet once a half term (last week) in Beaumont Library.** Motions will be put forward in advance (derived from Key Stage committee meetings). These **motions will be related to whole-school matters**. All 32 MPs will vote on these matters. The results of these votes will be discussed by **HMS Cabinet**.
- 1 MP from each year group will form part of **HMS Cabinet**. MPs from each year group will vote on who they would like to take on the role of Cabinet Member. These cabinet members will receive the minutes from their Key Stage committees every two weeks and will be published so all form groups are aware of discussion points raised. **HMS Cabinet will meet at the start of every half term following a parliament session** to discuss any action votes. It will be **HMS Cabinet that liaise with Middle Leaders/SLT**.



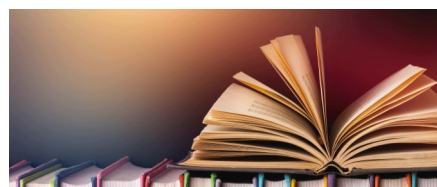
Year 7

Year 8



On Thursday 27 June Hexham Middle School entered two teams in the informal Kids' Lit Quiz. The competition was held at Corbridge Middle School where the pupils competed against 4 other local Middle Schools. The pupils were asked 6 rounds of 10 questions; the categories ranged from transport to animals to recent releases. Both teams did fantastically well. The Year 7 team really held their own and finished joint 2nd. Sadly they were pipped to the post in a tie-breaker question so came home in 3rd place. The Year 8 team had a great afternoon and showed fabulous team spirit. Well done to both teams. A super result.

Miss Kingett



Year 6 Safety Works

In our last edition, we shared how our year 8 pupils visited Safety Works in Benwell. This half term, our year 6 pupils were offered the chance to experience the centre. Many thanks again to the fantastic staff who helped to teach our pupils how to stay safe in a range of different situations. Year 6 pupils reported that they had a great time and that they would like to go back again. We will look to continue this trip as it is a very important part of a child's right to stay safe.



Year 7 Year 8 Gardening Club update



This half term we have experimented with the grassed area in Beaumont Quad. It is now much more common to leave areas of grass to grow longer to improve biodiversity.



Thanks to Miss Kwella for donating some courgettes. We have planted them and are keeping them well fed and watered.

Year 5 Year 6 Year 7 Year 8

End of Year Trips

Year 5 and 6 were treated this year to a trip to Centre for Life to visit Game On 2.0. The North East of England has a significant growing digital economic sector. It is well documented that digital technologies are likely to make substantial contributions to the region's growth. The gaming world has benefitted from talented individuals working in the north east. Like it or not, the gaming world is here to stay. The growth of online gaming has also drastically increased.



Year 7 were treated to a trip to Haltwhistle Swimming and Leisure Centre to take part in some physical activities led by Mr Barry and other year 7 form tutors.

It is becoming a tradition that year 8 have their very own beach party at the end of the year. This year, pupils visited King Edward's Bay in Tynemouth. Pupils were given the opportunity to spend time with their friends, take part in a range of sporting activities, listen to music and take a dip in the North Sea. Some pupils brought their own picnic; others chose to have some fish and chips.

A very well done to all of our pupils who have worked hard this year in all of their different subjects and contributing to the wider life of the school.

Summer Music Evening

Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

The last week in June saw a celebration of the musical talent we have at HMS in our Summer Show. Parents, carers and family members were treated to a wide range of music including: popular songs sung by both our Key Stage 2 and 3 singers, Geordie songs, Film themes played by our orchestra, piano recitals, ceilidh tunes played by our string group, various soloists and even some heavy rock from the rock band.

All of the children involved had worked extremely hard to try to perfect their pieces and it was great to see how well they performed to a packed Fellside Hall.

I need to thank all of the staff who helped me on the evening and to Hilary Dawson and Charlotte Howes, our piano and violin teachers, for their hard work and support. Also, a huge thanks to Alice Di Lullo, who helped me by playing a variety of piano and keyboard accompaniments for some of the songs.

Finally, thanks to all of you who came along to support the children.

Mr Holdsworth



Forest School Update



Andy Goldsworthy Inspired Natural and Landscape Art

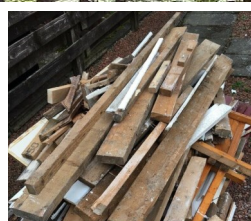
The Forest School group have continued to meet this half term, benefitting from the new facilities that have helped create a stimulating environment. The Forest School zone on the school site has now established an identity of its own.

Recently, some of our Forest School pupils have been creating some natural art, being inspired by the artist, Andy Goldsworthy. We would like to thank Mrs Hall and Mrs Gray for their support in helping to grow our Forest School this year.

Mrs Hall - Forest School Co-ordinator



If you have any supplies of timber that you no longer require please contact Mr Freeman-Myers. To support a range of outdoor construction projects planned for next year, we would gratefully receive off-cuts of soft and hardwoods as well as manufactured boards. Similarly, any screws, nails or knock-down fittings would be very useful.



Year 7

Year 8

Mandarin Club Update

We are delighted to announce that HMS Mandarin Club will be continuing in September (after school). We are very lucky to have this opportunity and look forward to developing our partnership further with the [Confucius Institute at Newcastle University](#).

Mandarin Club is open to all year 7 and 8 pupils. We are keen to allow pupils from year 7 this year to continue, but we welcome interest from our current year 6.

We would like to thank Lily from the Confucius Institute for supporting our pupils this year. Those pupils that have taken part this year have shown a great deal of progress.



Mandarin is regarded as a modern foreign language. Pupils that go on to study Mandarin could open so many doors of opportunity in the future. There are over 1.1 billion people in the world that speak Mandarin compared to 983 million English speakers. We would ask you to encourage your children to have a try.

Mr Armstrong

Robots are coming!

Year 5

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

We are excited to reveal that, in our next academic year, we will be offering a Robotics Club. This is aimed at boys and girls alike. All pupils should try and get involved in this exciting opportunity.

It is so important to learn new skills, especially in today's technology-driven world. Learning about robotics increases the ability to be creative and an innovative thinker. Robotics can open a whole new world with exciting opportunities.

This club will give pupils an opportunity to learn a new programming language. Learning to programme a computer is an important skill meaning pupils will be more likely to get a job in the future. Robotics is a simpler way to understand programming and makes it more fun.

The exciting part of this club is that pupils will have the opportunity to create something tangible and make it perform actions that they programme it to do. This is combining creativity with engineering and technology. How exciting! Pupils find it cool to create something interactive, and we are eager to see what their creativity will produce.

The STEM working field has a projection to grow 17% in the next decade. The Economist has reported that over 15,000 drones are now being sold. This sort of growing industry need people who can create new and innovative ideas; they need to be equipped with knowledge and experience to compete in such a technical future world. Over half of the available jobs for our youngsters will be in the STEM field.

The really great thing about Robotics is that it is a field that is easily accessible



to a wide range of pupils with different talents and skills. It has the ability to empower young girls in the classroom. Pupils respond to the consistent, calm and clean interactions that robotics gives them.

We are looking forward to running this innovative club at HMS. We cannot wait to see many of our pupils sign up to something that can only bring them a sense of joy and accomplishment.

Keep your eye out for future information coming soon.

FUN FACT – DID YOU KNOW?:

"Researchers have made a breakthrough in the field of non invasive robotic device control. Using a non invasive brain-computer interface (BCI), researchers have developed the first-ever successful mind-controlled robotic arm exhibiting the ability to continuously track and follow a computer cursor." Want to read more?

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/06/190619142542.htm>



Mrs Tanner

Wider Enrichment Opportunities

At HMS we strive to provide outstanding wider curriculum opportunities. The articles contained in our newsletters are just a flavour of life at our school. You can also keep abreast of other enrichment activities on our social media feeds. Please encourage your child to get involved in as much as is practicably possible.

E-safety update

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to draw parents' and carers' attention to a great resource (internetmatters.org) for providing online safety advice. The links below will direct you to a video file of safety tips and a downloadable guide.

[Year 5 and 6](#)

[Year 7 and 8](#)

There is also an app that can be downloaded to help parents and carers talk about online safety with children. [App link](#) Another growing area of concern is the controlling of privacy settings on mobile apps. [Social Media Guides](#)

Hexham Cake Fest

The Hexham Cake Fest took place on Saturday 6 July at Hexham Community Centre. The festival involved making an edible map of Hexham from cake. The bakers from the Hexham community baked iconic buildings and bridges from Hexham out of cake. All of the cakes were incredible and it was a fantastic event!

Miss Kwella and 5 Key Stage 3 pupils took on the challenge and constructed a model of the Fellside building from cake. Hannah Clark, Halle Seymour, Edward Dando, Katherine Hinchcliffe and Luciana Armstrong all worked very hard over a period of a week to make the cake. Well done to all the pupils and a huge thank you to Hannah and Mrs Clark for collecting the cake from HMS and taking it to the festival on the day. Benedict Sanderson and Jack Beech from year 7 also participated and constructed Egger in their own time which also looked fantastic.



Miss Kwella and the pupils were delighted to have taken part and were really pleased with the cake.

Miss Kwella

Acceptance without exception



We have signed up, as a school, to raise funds for the organisation known as Stonewall. Pupils have also recently expressed interest in becoming Stonewall Champions, to help raise awareness of accepting others without exception. This year, it is the 30th anniversary of Stonewall. At HMS, we pride ourselves on being an open community, allowing all individuals to express their identity without prejudice and discrimination. By being an inclusive community we are able to support the holistic development of all. Next year we will be holding an Equali-Tea event organised by our new Stonewall champions. We will promote this more in September.

New statutory frameworks will come into force in September 2020, requiring schools to make reference to the different types of relationships that exist in our society. At HMS, our PSHE curriculum is already planned to include this, but as ever, we are not complacent and we are always looking to review the offer we provide to young people.

High Borrans Year 8



Year 8 pupils enjoyed the annual residential visit to High Borrans in the Lake District, where they got the opportunity to show how brave they were, be that jumping into a lake off a boulder or scrambling through a tight squeeze in a cave. For many pupils, the memories created on school residential trips are priceless and will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The staff that kindly took the pupils away during the start of a half term holiday all said that they laughed from start to finish! How great is this? High Borrans has already been booked for the next academic year. We look forward to seeing many new year 8 pupils signed up.

Pastoral Leaders' Column

We can not believe that we are at the end of yet another academic year. Our thanks to you, our parent, and carers for all your support this year, in terms of ensuring your child is equipped and in the correct uniform for school. Our thanks also for working with us on attendance - this is a key factor in ensuring all our pupils achieve their full potential in school.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you and working with you in September.

Best Wishes

Mrs Frankish, Mrs Cave and Mr Barry



[#itstheexperiencethatcounts.](#)

Trashion Project

Tour of Britain

Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

Mr Cousins and a dedicated group of pupils have worked incredibly hard over the past few months to develop a range of T-shirts fusing reused plastic and using artistic techniques such as embroidery and applique. During an assembly this half term, a selection of pupils modelled the collection of T-shirts to an appropriately themed tune. The Trashion Show formed part of a bigger assembly linked with Miss Kingett's and 8 pupils' Global Goals Pupil Voice Conference. An area of the pupil voice conference this year focused on the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Mr Cousins

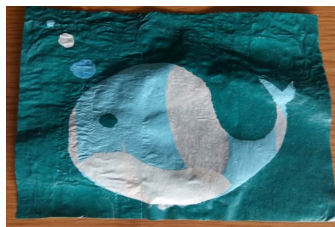


Well done to Beth Robinson in year 5, who had her Jersey design selected for a design competition organised by Northumberland County Council and Ovo Energy in advance of the Tour of Britain in September. She started this entry during a Transfer Day lesson, in design technology, themed around plastic. Beth and others learned about the prevalence of plastics in the textiles industry. Beth came third place in the middle school category of the competition. We have won £250 to spend in school on sporting activities or a school trip.

Plastics Workshop

Below are some photos from a Transfer Day plastic pollution workshop. The pupils had to fuse plastic bags together which makes a durable recycled material. I gave them the theme 'animals' and they had to create textile motifs using plastic bags.

Miss Kwella



Operation Encompass

We are pleased to share with you that our school has been given the opportunity to take part in a new Home Office approved project. It is being led by Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird and Northumbria Police in partnership with Barnardo's and Operation Encompass. The project, named Operation Encompass the Next Steps, aims to form part of a wider strategy to break the cycle of Domestic Abuse through education and support. The project will help all children in Northumbria to learn about friendships, relationships, emotions and rules so that they can live and work together safely. Our school will also benefit from having one of twelve School Safeguarding Liaison Officers who will:

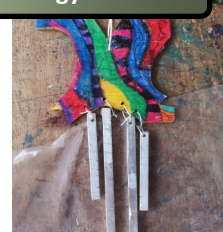
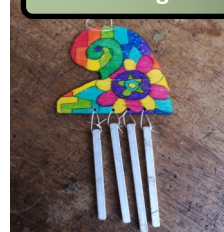
- Work with our teachers to deliver an age appropriate session exploring aspects of Domestic Abuse/friendships /relationships/emotions
- Be available in school at specified times so that children and parents can talk about issues that they may have around relationships and Domestic Abuse.

Year 5

The Colours of the Wind



Year 5 design technology outcomes



Year 5

Year 5 pupils had a great half term with two stand out highlights. Highlight one came as the year 5 girls competed at an extremely high level against tough opposition in a recent rounders fixture. A second stand out moment came from Magnus Riddell finishing second in the county championships in an incredible performance!

Year 6

Year 7

Both year 6 and year 7 girls performed very well in recent rounders matches, showing fantastic displays of sportsmanship. However, the year groups performed exceptionally well this half term in orienteering, athletics and rugby league. In orienteering, HMS took home championship gold in both the boys' and girls' competitions in both year groups. A gold then followed in the boys' year 7 relay as the team of Zach, Sam, Sam and Josh (who also won silver in the 100m) won a very close race. Alex took home bronze in the ball throw, Will took the silver in the 70m hurdles and Tom is the high jump county champion after a perfect jump performance.

Both year groups combined in the Newcastle Thunder plate finals at Kingston Park where Hexham Middle School were triumphant in back-to-back finals, with the girls winning 24-12 and the boys winning 24-16. This is a fantastic start to rugby league. Individual honours were also awarded to Katie and Charlie for players of their respective matches.

Year 8

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our year 8 pupils who have been involved in sporting events throughout their time here at HMS. They have represented the school incredibly well and we know they have bright sporting journeys ahead of them. All of us here at Hexham Middle School wish them the best in all that they do in the future.

Mr Barry and the PE Department

Sports Update



The love of sport!

We pride ourselves on offering excellent sporting opportunities at HMS. We are also very keen to increase participation across the whole school; it is not a matter of only the best that counts.

At the start of next year we will update our clubs' list which will then be uploaded to the school website. Pupils will also get a copy of this list to stick into their planners. Throughout our assemblies programme every year we like to signpost sporting clubs. We will continue to do so next year. At HMS pupils can get involved in competitive or recreational pursuits. There should be something for anyone. If there isn't, let us know and we can look into that.

This summer, pupils may want to consider taking up a new sport. The media often presents the significant health benefits of staying active.