

### HMS Weekly Update

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

#### **Update on life in school**

It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school this week - we could feel their excitement to get back into routine and to enjoy spending time with friends in school. We have all been very impressed with everyone's attitude to learning and it has been great to see lots of smiley, happy faces around the school site once again. I'll be visiting classrooms next week so I look forward to speaking to lots of the children about their learning, the return to school and seeing all of their hard work across the curriculum.



This week, our Fellside Hall has transformed into a COVID testing site. A HUGE thank you to our amazing testing team made up of staff members and parent volunteers. They have worked exceptionally hard to test all of our KS3 children three times in school and have done so in a calm, reassuring manner. We are so proud of the pupils who have approached the testing with maturity and resilience. We now move to home testing and a letter has been sent home to KS3 children to explain the approach. The home test kits (and guidance) are coming home with the pupils (years 7 and 8 only) today.

#### **Year 9 options choices**

At this point, our year 8 children would usually have 'Taster Days' at QEHS. Due to current restrictions these visits are not possible, so the high school have produced informative videos for the children to enjoy which will help them make their options choices. On Thursday, year 8 spent the morning with their form tutors to learn more about the options process and to watch the videos from QEHS. Mrs Hodgson has also sent a letter with much more detailed information about the process.



Following Thursday's session, please could you discuss the options with your child at home and submit their choices via the [online form](#). QEHS request that the form be completed by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Mr Barry has also shared a helpful [video](#) with the year group to explain the virtual process further. If you have any questions, please get in touch and we will answer them or get them answered by staff at the high school.

## House Point Totals

Below are this week's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this week.**  
Well done to each and every one of them.

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	19,579	1	Ella H	1	Poppy A	1	Sasha F	1	Emily T
Coquet	17,576	2	Aidan T	2	Maddie G	2	Robert D	2	Johnny M
Tweed	17,624	3	Zaid Z	3	Janey A	3	Owen D	3	James R
Wansbeck	17,035	4	Christopher S	4	Maisie M	4	Farah A	4	Josh N

## Pupil support

We have a comprehensive approach to pupil support ready to launch next week. Our approach to academic support involves three strands:

- Priority intervention: for children who have gaps in learning from the lockdown period and need support to address these.
- RAPID intervention: for children who are struggling to grasp key concepts in class and need more practice time.
- Weekly sessions: for children who need more practice to secure key skills (this may involve arithmetic support or Reading Plus, for example).



We also have support groups established for:

- Resilience and social/ emotional support
- Behaviour and anger management
- Life skills

If you have any questions about our support provision, please contact Mrs Adams (SEND), Mrs Toor (KS2) or Mrs Haigh (KS3) via the school office.

## International Women's Day



Congratulations to Pia in year 6 on winning the 'Art Award' for her amazing Grace Darling and 'The International Young Woman Award' for her jewellery and support of local food banks with the proceeds from her sales. You can watch a [video](#) here celebrating the award.

## Extra-curricular

Our [extra-curricular provision](#) will re-launch next week as we believe this to be a fundamental aspect of school life which also supports pupil wellbeing. We really want to encourage pupils to get involved and to take new opportunities in school.

The new extra-curricular schedule is on our website. Pupils should contact the teacher running the club to sign up. If you would like to speak to a teacher regarding a club, please contact them via the admin email address.

Please note: the below PE clubs will be running until Easter. After Easter, we will update the list to reflect the summer provision.

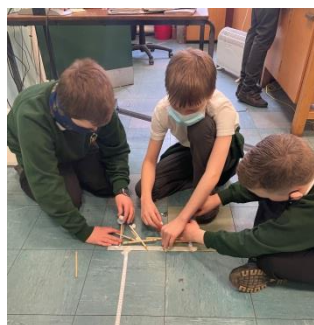
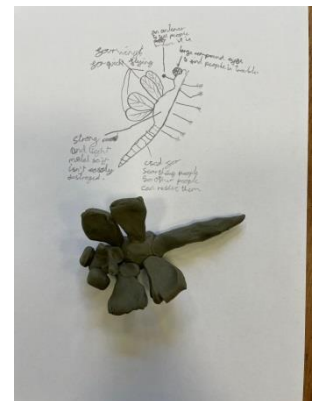
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y5 Football	Y6 Football	Y6 Tag Rugby	Y5 Tag Rugby Y7 Rugby Y8 Netball	Y8 Badminton Y8 Rugby

### British Science Week 2021

It's been exciting to be back in school this week – we have been able to celebrate British Science Week across our lessons!

We started celebrating early with year 5 taking part in the build a boat online workshop to explore buoyancy with Sally from the Marine Society and Sea Cadets. Year 5 pupils rose to the challenge of designing and building a boat to carry as much cargo as possible.

The theme of science week this year is *innovating for the future*. Year 6 pupils learnt how many scientists are inspired by nature. Insects have evolved lots of fascinating features to help them survive in almost every habitat on Earth. These amazing abilities have inspired robots used for things such as rescue missions and even space exploration! Year 6 had a go at designing and making a prototype of their robots inspired by insects to help solve challenges like search and rescue, exploration and construction.



The North East of England has a strong history of amazing inventions and innovations and our key stage 3 pupils had a chance to discover some of them and then perfect a very old innovation inspired by our Roman history. They had the chance to build catapults! Often engineers study existing designs to improve them, so just like the Romans, they made changes and design tweaks which allowed them to achieve better range and accuracy. Year 7 have also had an online demonstration lecture with Newcastle University, showing how light and our perception of colour are fundamental to our daily lives via some colourful and spectacular chemical reactions!

Year 8 had the opportunity to take part in a virtual STEM DEN just before our return to school led by the Engineering Development Trust looking at renewable energy. Our pupils came up with some incredible inventions as part of this but we received special acknowledgement about two of our pupils for their creativeness and hard work:



- Daisy Birney – reusing plastic bottles and other waste for building materials
- Joe Elstob – edible water bottles made from seaweed

Well done! Through the STEM DEN, 95% of pupils said they now knew more about STEM careers and 90% are considering a STEM job in the future which is brilliant news.

Over the next couple of weeks, KS3 pupils will have the opportunity to continue to 'meet' real working scientists through the '*I'm a scientist, get me out of here*' activity. They will read profiles of scientists in different careers, chat with scientists in real time, ask them questions and then vote for their favourite scientist to win £500 towards their research.

We're very confident at HMS that we will inspire the next generation of innovators and scientists. A huge thank you to Ms Carruthers, Mrs Gregory and the KS2 science team for their hard work this week.

### **Art work wanted**



Miss Lawton would like to ask pupils to bring their excellent artwork made during the lockdown period into school. HMS will be taking over shop windows and empty spaces in Hexham with artwork made by our pupils.

We want to share all the amazing creativity our pupils have between Year 5- Year 8 with our community! You might have made an excellent mask or a fantastic painting.

Please bring in work before Monday 15 March and leave it with Miss Lawton in the art room (bottom studio). All artworks will be returned to pupils after the exhibitions have finished (In the summer term).



### **Reminders/ Dates**

**Monday 15 March:** Extra-curricular provision re-launches

**Friday 19 March:** Red Nose Day (more information to follow)

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

Yours faithfully

Mr Watters

**Deputy Headteacher**