

1 October 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

We have had another fantastic week in school. It has been wonderful to welcome you into our new school and to offer tours of the new site. If you were unable to make this week's 'Welcome Evenings', I have uploaded the slides to the [school website](#). Next week, we will be holding our House Hustings to vote for our new House Captains and appointing new Head Pupils - good luck to all Year 8 pupils applying. On Friday 8 October, pupils can wear **yellow** (or non-uniform) to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day – voluntary donations for '[Young Minds](#)' can be made via School Gateway. We will also have our themed assemblies focused on mental health and 'The Five Steps of Wellbeing'. On Thursday 7 October, we have our Pastoral Evening – appointments will now be confirmed on Tuesday in your child's planner – thank you for your patience.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Mr Freeman-Myers has worked with the HMS team to put together an outstanding extra-curricular offer. A new in-school and after-school activity list has now been sent home. Pupils should sign up to in-school clubs with the staff member leading the session. For after-school clubs, parents/ carers are asked to complete the online form and await confirmation of their child's place/ start date of the club. Please do encourage the children to get involved in lots of the brilliant opportunities on offer.

Peter J Murray returns to HMS!

We were delighted to welcome Peter and his wife, Cath, back to HMS this week. Peter is a very successful children's author who is best known for his *Mokee Joe* series. We could hear the laughter from the hall throughout school as Peter told his spooky tales and stories. Thank you to Mrs Roff for inviting Peter back to HMS and to Mrs Hayler-Hughes for supervising the exciting book signing in our new library.



COVID-19 update

It is important that we are reinforcing safety guidance around COVID-19. We will continue to issue these reminders in school.

- KS3 should be testing twice a week at home (more tests sent home today). Results should be reported to this [link](#). Any positive cases should be reported to school immediately.

Hexham Middle School

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



- Hand hygiene is hugely important – sanitiser is available throughout school.
- The ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ approach should be adhered to.
- Face coverings are advised for travelling on school and public transport.



House Point Totals

Below are this week’s House Point totals as well as the ‘**Top 4**’ pupils in each year group this week. P points are awarded for character value such as **resilience, respect, engagement and responsibility**. Well done to each and every one of them.

House Totals		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	1,731	1	Connie R	1	Finley A	1	Chloe W	1	Frazer K
Coquet	1,881	2	William M	2	Amber L	2	Logan L	2	Ruby C
Tweed	1,780	3	Gaby R	3	Christian T	3	Bruce K	3	Alex H
Wansbeck	2,039	4	Noah M	4	Lucy M	4	Daisy W	4	Beth R

Respect, Engage, Aspire: Pupil Awards

To capture our school’s ethos more prominently, we are now focusing on three key words: **Respect, Engage, Aspire**. Each week, staff will make nominations in recognition of pupils showing these characteristics in and around school.

	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Respect	Peter M	Michael B-P	Jack T	Leo W
Engage	Devin R	Madelyn C	Neve S	Phoebe P
Aspire	William M	Emilia S	Tiana M	Ben C

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Learning Support

Our Base is now open at lunch times for those pupils who need a little bit of a quieter time. It is open to all year groups. The Learning Support Team have been busy making it look nice and comfortable for students. We also use the Base for some of our intervention sessions and as a space for those who might need some time out.



This week, we have enjoyed seeing some of the children playing card games together and some of our older students have been helping younger pupils with their homework! It is a great for staff to see some lovely friendships developing.

Attendance – top 5!

1	2	3	4	5
6JJO 99%	5EKI 98%	7BLA 97%	8PGA 97%	6RAL 97%

Allergy information

I would like to bring to your attention that our school endeavors to be, as far as is possible, a nut free environment. This is because we have some pupils who have a severe allergy to nuts or nut products and they can be seriously affected by someone else who is eating, or who may have recently eaten, such items. Therefore, I am asking that parents exercise care and consideration when planning the contents of packed lunches or when providing snacks for your children. We also ask that no nuts and nut products are brought into school for food technology lessons. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **Pastoral Evening (for all years):** Thursday 7 October 3.45pm – 6.15pm
- **Hello Yellow Day (World Mental Health):** Friday 8 October
- **HMS Open Evening (for prospective parents and pupils):** Wednesday 13 October 6.00pm
- **HMS Open Days:** Thursday 14 and Friday 15 October (bookable tours for prospective parents)
- **Individual Photographs (Year 5 and new pupils):** Tuesday 12 October

I hope you all have a lovely weekend!

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters
Head of School

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