



15 October 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer



HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Here we are at the end of another school week. It has been brilliant to open our doors to prospective pupils and families this week for our Open Evening and Open Day tours. The atmosphere around school has been wonderful – calm, focused and positive. Thank you to the many pupils who supported the evening and helped the staff team to deliver a wide range of exciting activities. Last Friday, we raised £194 for Young Minds as part of ‘Hello Yellow’ day – thank you for your support.

This week, it has been great to see high levels of attendance at our extra-curricular sessions. Fixtures also returned – it was brilliant to see the above teams enjoying competing again – happy faces all round! KS2 have enjoyed the ‘Zoolab: Environmental Time Machine’ session inspired by COP 26 with a focus on averting climate issues, exploring climate data and understanding how wildlife continues to be impacted.

COVID-19 update

We have been advised that there has been further confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school. NHS Test and Trace will contact any individuals who have been identified as close contacts to let them know if they are required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice. **The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend if they remain well.** Please be assured that we shall continue to follow the guidance both in relation to dealing with individual cases and in relation to wider control measures in school. A reminder that we ask children in **years 7 and 8 to take twice-weekly tests at home** and report all results at this [link](#). It is important that your child builds testing into their weekly routine. If you need more test kits, please contact the school office.

Head Pupils

This week, we were delighted to appoint our new Head Pupils and Deputy Head Pupils. All of the candidates were truly outstanding. Each of them approached the process with confidence and positivity. They presented to senior leaders and had their first experience of an interview. A huge well done to the successful applicants: Beth and Olivia (Head Pupils) and Geoffrey and James (Deputy Head Pupils). All of the other applicants, who did a wonderful job, will now become our new



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Peer Mentors and will be trained to provide support to younger pupils and will lead a pupil drop-in service. I was very proud of each and every one of them.



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	4,965	1	Noah S	1	Charlie T	1	Chloe W	1	Alani-Jo H
Coquet	5,531	2	Toby C	2	Poppy C	2	Tiana M	2	Ralph D
Tweed	5,088	3	Anna M	3	Annabelle O	3	Laura W	3	Freddie C
Wansbeck	5,626	4	Alfie M	4	Lewis H	4	Darcy S	4	Jasmin J-T

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	Mia S	Lorien V	Cole H	Orla O'F
Engage	Kuba M	Lewis P	Olivia A	Phoebe P
Aspire	Robbie S	Imogen M	Will E	Lily A-B

A message from Guy Opperman MP: Christmas Card

Guy Opperman has contacted school to launch his 2021 Christmas card design competition which is open to children in Years 1 to 6. The winning design will be turned into his constituency Christmas card for this year and will be sent to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet members. **The deadline for entries is Friday 19 November**. Guidelines for entry are below:



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1. All entries must be submitted no later than Friday 19th November 2021. They should be sent to: Guy Opperman MP, Suite 2, St Matthew's House, Haugh Lane, Hexham, NE46 3PU.
2. Winners will be notified by no later than Friday 3rd December 2021.
3. All entries must be portrait and submitted on white, unfolded A4 paper and submitted by post.
4. All entries must have the name, age and school of the entrant on the reverse.
5. Originals will sadly not be returned.
6. Entry is limited to one per child.
7. By submitting an entry to the competition, participants agree that artwork can be used as the Christmas Card for the Member of Parliament for the Hexham Constituency, and that it can be reproduced in local media, local literature or both parliamentary and political purposes.
8. The final judgement will be made by a panel of no less than three people.
9. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Attendance – top 4!

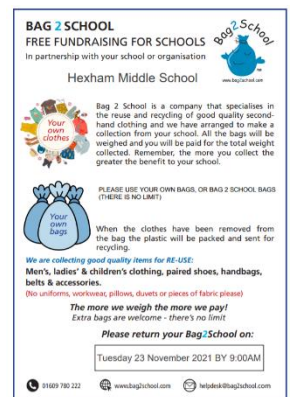
1	2	3
6JJO 99%	5EKI 97%	6RAL, 6MDO and 8EST 96%

HMS PTA News

The PTA will be holding their **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday 3 November at 7pm in The County Hotel, Hexham. We would like to welcome all parents/ carers to join us to find out more about the brilliant work of our PTA group. The PTA are already planning several events for the children to enjoy over the coming half term – more information to follow soon!

Bag2School collection

The PTA have confirmed this term's 'Bag2School' collection. This is an opportunity for you to send in clothing items from home to be reused and recycled. This will support the fundraising of our PTA. Bags can be brought in by the children or, if it's easier for you, we will hold parent/carer drop-offs on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 November in the car park from 9.00-9.30am. Thank you for your support.



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **School closes for half term:** Thursday 21 October (*Friday 22 October is INSET Day*)
- **Year 6 Parents' Evening:** Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 November (online – information to follow)



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- **HMS PTA Annual General Meeting:** Wednesday 3 November 7.00pm at The County Hotel (all welcome to join us)
- **Y7 and Y8 'Be Safe' PSHE workshops:** Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 November
- **Year 5 aerospace STEM workshop:** Wednesday 10 November

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend. Thank you for your continued support of school life.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters
Head of School

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