

19 November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

This week, KS2 enjoyed a long-awaited visit from M and M Productions – this performance was first booked for the spring term in 2020 but, due to restrictions, it has been postponed a number of times. The laughter and singing could be heard across the school and it was definitely a ‘feel good’ afternoon for our year 5 and 6 pupils – it was so lovely to hear such enjoyment – great for mental health and wellbeing! I have continued to visit lessons across both schools this week and have enjoyed speaking to many pupils about their learning in a wide range of subjects. It is always exciting for me to drop into lessons and feel the ‘buzz’ around teaching and learning across our school. The teachers are delivering an engaging, rich curriculum and the pupils are responding very well to it. Another great week at HMS...

Sporting update

Sporting fixtures are back at HMS and the PE staff are excited to see their teams competing once again. This week, the year 7 boys football team were in action in the National Cup at Staindrop Academy. Mr Barry reported in his update that it was an incredible performance by HMS who won 2-0 and will now travel to Stockton in the next round. We are all very proud of the team! Goals were scored by Robin and Ollie and man of the match was awarded to Archie H.



Monday the 15th of November saw HMS pupils competing at the Tynedale Area Cross County championships at Ovingham Middle School. 17 HMS pupils took part in age group races looking to be selected to represent Tynedale at the County Championships in January. Weather conditions were perfect for running; good, soft surface and light drizzle to keep the runners cool. Magnus R was one of our standout performers; he won the junior boys race in which he beat all the Y9 competitors to finish first. Louis R also had an outstanding race; he resisted the early frenetic pace to work through the field and came a superb second. Anya C was the first girl home for HMS and fourth overall, in the Y7 girls’ race. The results indicate that 8 HMS pupils will be selected to run at the next round, to be held in Temple Park, South Shields. Well done to all HMS runners: Mr Gaines was very proud of the effort that you all put into your race and the superb encouragement and team spirit on display.

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Drop-off/ collection reminders

- Hexham Police have contacted us to remind parents/ carers that the police station is not a suitable drop-off/ collection point for our schools. Unfortunately, the police officers have reported that their entrance and car park are becoming very congested which is making both access and exit to attend emergencies more challenging. Please could I ask that you avoid this area going forward.
- Parents/ carers are able to drop children off on site by driving into the car park and following the 'loop' around. Children should only get out of vehicles when at the top of the car park – they should not be walking across the car park as we have moving vehicles dropping off within the school grounds.
- Whilst we understand that some parents/carers need to drop their child off, we would continue to encourage local children to walk to school. We also ask for your support in avoiding drop-off/ collection in the surrounding streets, where possible, to ease congestion and traffic around Whetstone Bridge Road. Thank you for your support.

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	Ossie D	Dulcie M	Charlotte A	Ben C
Engage	Zach D	Finley A	Isobel C	Charlie H
Aspire	Florence O'B	Alfie B	Lacey D	Jack H



PTA Events

The PTA are working very hard to plan lots of events for the festive season. **Tuesday 23 November** is the deadline for donations for the 'Bags2School' collection – thank you for the many bags received so far. The PTA will be organising their very successful '**Christmas Gift Shop**' and pupils will soon receive order forms to look at the wonderful gifts available. We will also be holding KS2 Movie Nights (dates

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below). Due to ongoing restrictions for KS3, we will be looking to organise events for them in the spring term.

- **Wednesday 8 December:** Year 5 Christmas Movie Night (details emailed)
- **Thursday 9 December:** Year 6 Christmas Movie Night (details emailed)



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	10,318	1	Bess D	1	Imogen M	1	Laura W	1	Robert D
Coquet	11,586	2	Jyacinth B	2	Emily H	2	Iris A	2	Leo C
Tweed	10,954	3	Stephen W	3	Alannah N	3	Anya C	3	Thomas R
Wansbeck	11,985	4	Tom N	4	Hudson R C	4	Imogen S	4	Oliver S

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6FHI	7BLA and 6JJO	6MDO

Community events

We are pleased to share a fantastic opportunity for a drama workshop taking place at Hexham Abbey in the lead up to Christmas. We have further information on our school website including contact details and the registration form link. We hope that pupils will take this opportunity to develop their inner thespian as well as some essential skills including teamwork, creativity, speaking and listening.

Registration Form Link: <https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Drama-Workshop-Registration-Form-18-Dec-2021.docx>

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spes durat avorum



Reminders/ Key Dates

- **'Bag2School' PTA collection:** deadline for donations is Tuesday 23 November
- **Year 8 Chemistry Workshops:** Wednesday 24 November
- **Year 5 Parents' Evenings:** Tuesday 30 November and Thursday 2 December
- **HMS play the 'Christmas Light Switch On':** Friday 26 November 4.15pm

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

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