

14 January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

The term has started brilliantly and it has been great to see the children getting back into their learning routine following the Christmas break. Next week, myself and other leaders will be visiting classrooms to celebrate the positive attitude to learning and atmosphere around school. I will be issuing awards in books where I see particularly consistent and outstanding attitude to learning displayed in class and in the pupils' books/ work. We are pleased to see that our three key traits – 'Respect. Engage. Aspire' – are visible both in lessons and around our school day in day out. The extensive extra-curricular programme has now been updated and new lists are now available on the [website](#). Any changes to existing clubs will have been communicated. We continue to encourage all pupils to get involved in the wider life of the school and to try new opportunities to continue their personal development.

We are also excited to launch our new 'Peer Mentor' training programme. From Monday, 14 KS3 pupils will start their training with Mrs Adams. They will also access training from other professionals. Once they qualify, they will be providing support to their peers in school with a particular focus on supporting younger pupils at break and lunchtime.

On Wednesday, we held our virtual 'SATS Information Evening' for year 6 parents/ carers and children. Thank you to the many people who were able to attend. If you weren't, the information has been sent home and the slides have been shared on our [website](#). Here you will find lots of supporting materials for home learning (which may also be useful for children in other year groups). Year 6 parents/ carers can now also order CGP support materials via their School Gateway app and should return the paper order form to school as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support.

HMS 'Go Green': Eco-friendly uniform recycling

At HMS, we want to promote greater recycling of school uniform items. To help us build our stocks, we are looking for your support. Please could you send any branded items including HMS school jumpers, polo shirts, PE hoodies and t-shirts (*we can't accept trousers or non-branded items*).

Once we build up a stock, we will let you know how you can request uniform items (email or online form). We are also working with local charity, Rosie's Corner, who will liaise with us directly if families would prefer to contact them with uniform requests. Rosie's Corner provide an amazing local service with pre-used baby and children's clothing,



Hexham Middle School

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shoes, generic uniform items and equipment being provided to families in our community. They no longer have space for a stock of branded uniform, which is where we hope to help.

- Please could you send in any branded items you have in a bag.
- Your child could drop them off at the HMS office (in Fellside Building) or you could drop the bag at the main office (in Hydro) if you are passing.

We will send launch details home once we build up our stocks. Thank you all so much for your support!

Supporting reading

We are delighted to announce that over 60 dyslexia-friendly books are now on the shelves in HMS Library. These new books are in a super-readable format and include the following features:

- A unique, dyslexia-friendly font to make reading easier.
- Accessible layouts and spacing to stop the page from becoming overcrowded.
- Off-white, heavier paper to help reduce visual stress.
- Shorter books and chapters to help build confidence and stamina.

There is a range of content to appeal to varying ages. Many titles are by award-winning authors across all genres. Engaging illustrations also aid comprehension. The books are available to everyone and particularly to those pupils who might find the layout and design easier to read. Please ask your teacher or librarian if you need more information.

Heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful HMS PTA who agreed to fund this initiative.

COVID-19 update

- Children in KS3 are asked to continue taking **twice-weekly lateral flow tests** and reporting their results.
- Children in KS3 are asked to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas unless they are exempt. Any exempt pupil should be wearing a blue badge which they can collect from the HMS office.
- From Tuesday 11 January, the Government has announced that they will temporarily suspend the need for confirmatory PCR test following a positive lateral flow test. If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test from Tuesday, they should self-isolate.
- From Monday 17 January, the [Government has announced](#) that self-isolation can be ended after five full days, if an individual tests negative on a lateral flow test on days 5 and 6 and has

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no high temperature. If a child tests negative the morning of day 5 and day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

- If the tests are positive, self-isolation should be continued until two negative tests are taken on two consecutive days, or until 10 days isolation has passed.
- Anyone unable to take lateral flow tests or who has a continual high temperature can not shorten the self-isolation period.



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	18,555	1	Estella F	1	Freddie H	1	Louis R	1	Sasha F
Coquet	21,171	2	Sam C	2	Charlie T	2	Harrison P	2	Noah M
Tweed	19,555	3	Anna M	3	Freddie Y	3	Jack T	3	Olive T
Wansbeck	20,631	4	Sam P	4	Aidan T	4	Abbi M	4	Freddie C

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	Lyra R	Emilia S	Cameron B	Callum H
Engage	Alfie R-W	Annabelle O	Ollie G	James T
Aspire	Sam C	Evie S	Darcy S	Leo C

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Attendance – top 3 form classes!

1	2	3
7BLA	5HCO	8EST



Reminders/ Key Dates

- Tuesday 18 and Thursday 20 January – Year 8 Parents’ Evenings – bookings open
- Friday 28 January – Year 8 PSHE Road Safety Workshop
- Monday 7 February – Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- Wednesday 9 February – COVID vaccinations (for children aged 12 and above)
- Tuesday 15 and Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents’ Evenings – bookings open
- Wednesday 16 February – Year 7 Marine Engineering Workshops
- Thursday 17 February – Mid-year reports sent home

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

Yours sincerely

Mr Watters

Head of School

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