

7 January 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break. It has been great to welcome the children back to school this week and to get the spring term started. The children have looked smart and have their equipment organised for the term ahead. Extra-curricular clubs including sports fixtures will be continuing this term, and you can find information about the many opportunities [here](#). We do have lots of lost property in school and Mrs Westlake has kindly organised this onto new display rails which can be found at the HMS Office. Please encourage your child to come and have a look if you think they have misplaced something.

This term, we have parents' evenings for year 7 and year 8 – the online booking system is now open for parents/ carers to make their appointments. We have been liaising with the company who have hopefully now found solutions to some of the connectivity issues we were noticing during the year 5 and year 6 evenings. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused, but we have been assured that the situation will now improve. On Wednesday 12 January, we will hold our Year 6 SATs Information Evening online at 6pm – a link has been sent home to parents/ carers. We look forward to 'seeing' lots of you online, although the session will be recorded and made available if you can't attend.

Mr Stephenson shared information on this year's residential visit for year 6. He has asked me to let you know that if you have completed the online form, then your child will have a place on the visit. Further information will be sent home in due course. He will also soon be launching details on our year 5 visit for this year – we are very excited for both opportunities!

A reminder that we are nut-free school. Some pupils have brought in some sweets from their Christmas stocks – we ask that you double check ingredients of anything being brought into school. It is also a timely reminder for pupils that we don't want to see large amounts of sweets and treats being brought into school. Healthy snacks are absolutely fine but some pupils do enjoy a visit to the shops on their way to school.

#### **COVID-19 update including testing**

I sent home a detailed update earlier this week regarding COVID-19, and followed this with a remote education letter. If your child is absent from school due to COVID-19, they will be able to access remote learning. We are always here to help with that so please contact us or visit this support page on our [website](#). If your child does not have online access, please let us know straight away.

#### **Hexham Middle School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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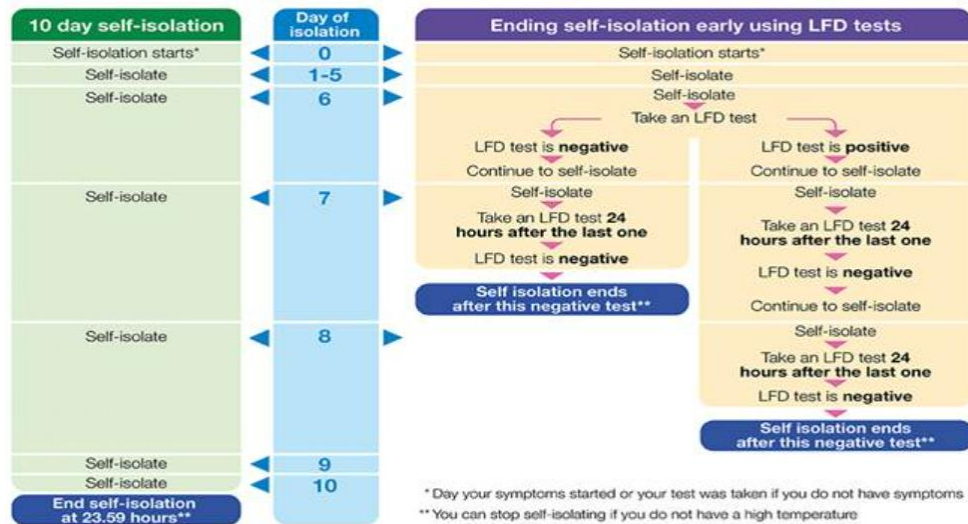
[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



- Thank you for the support from our amazing volunteers who have helped us to run the test site this week – this is hugely appreciated and allowed us to complete testing at both schools in one day.
- Children in KS3 are also 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.
- Below is a helpful diagram which explains the self-isolation rules for testing on days 6 and 7 (or beyond).



## Vaccinations

The Immunisations Team have been in contact with school this week. Year 8 pupils will bring home information and consent form for the HPV vaccinations today. We ask that this form be returned by Tuesday 11 January. HPV vaccinations will be administered in school on Monday 7 February.

We have also been notified that second doses of the COVID-19 vaccination will be available for pupils aged 12 and over on Wednesday 9 February. Consent forms and further information will be sent home soon.

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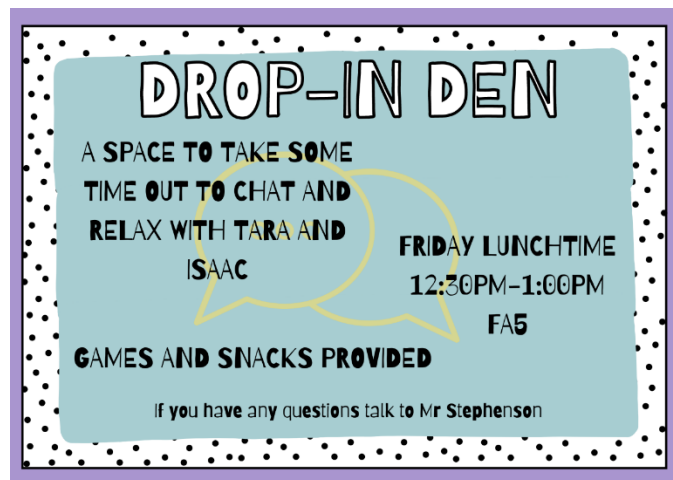
### House Point Totals

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	
<b>Aln</b>	16,863	1	Toby C	1	Daisy L	1	Aston W-W	1	Saul B
<b>Coquet</b>	19,258	2	Layla S	2	Lewis P	2	Poppy A	2	Frazer K
<b>Tweed</b>	17,968	3	Noah S	3	Jack M	3	Thomas H	3	William S
<b>Wansbeck</b>	18,932	4	Hayden D	4	Imogen M	4	Iris A	4	Ralph D

### Drop-in Den

We are delighted to welcome Isaac and Tara from Hexham Trinity Church who have been given a grant and training to support children in our community with social skills, self-confidence, anxiety and resilience following the lockdowns and ongoing issues from the pandemic. As well as working with pupils on a 1:1 basis, they will be offering the new 'Drop-In Den' which we hope the children will enjoy!



### This week's assembly theme

This week, our assembly theme was 'Looking forwards, backwards, onwards and upwards!' and the pastoral team focused on reflecting and setting goals for the term ahead.

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### 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
<b>Respect</b>	Hayden D	Olivia L	Poppy A	Saul B
<b>Engage</b>	Lewis S	Saffron F	Thomas H	William S
<b>Aspire</b>	Alfie M	Patrick F	Lucy C	Ralph D

### Attendance – top 3 form classes!

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5HCO</b>	<b>6FHI</b>	<b>6RAL and 6JJO</b>

### Join the HMS Team!

We currently have some support staff vacancies at our schools. You can find more information at this link: <https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/index.php/vacancies/>.



### Reminders/ Key Dates

- Wednesday 12 January – Year 6 SATs Information Evening – 6pm – on Zoom
- Tuesday 18 and Thursday 20 January – Year 8 Parents' Evenings – bookings open
- Friday 28 January – Year 8 PSHE Road Safety Workshop
- 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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