

25 March 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

It has been lovely to see the sun shining this week – the children have loved being outside today! This week, Year 6 have had their assessment week and we have been so proud of all of them. They have displayed fantastic focus, resilience, and a positive attitude to learning throughout the week. Following their assessment week, Mr Stephenson surprised year 6 with a special breakfast to say a huge well done for their positive attitude, focus and resilience this week. We are so proud of them all! The children enjoyed breakfast, music and.... the much-anticipated opening of their new MUGA/ playground space.

I was so touched to hear that, as a school community, we have collected £1,145 to support the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for your support.

#### **A big week for girls' sport!**

##### *U11 Football*

On Tuesday night, the U11 girls were in football action. A strong showing by the girls saw them record a great draw and a narrow defeat in their two games! Mr Gaines spoke highly of their determination and effort throughout.

##### *U13 Football*

On Tuesday night, the U13 girls continued their fine form picking up an impressive win bouncing back from a narrow defeat to the table toppers. The girls are growing in strength ahead of the home ties next week – exciting times ahead for this talented group!

##### *Y7 Rugby League*

Team of the week this week goes to the **Y7 girls rugby team** in their first ever tournament. The girls were incredible from the off. Their first game was against a Whitburn team who looked impressive in the opening attacks. A string of brilliant tackles from Tiana and player of the match, Abby, kept the opponents at bay. Charlotte made a great burst through the defence supported by Lucy to help send Abby over for the opening try of the game. Beau then picked up the ball to power her way over for a second! The defensive wall stood firm with Rosie, Isobel and Adelle making crucial tackles to keep Whitburn at bay. Anya then raced away to seal the win. 3.1 HMS.

#### **Hexham Middle School**

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*spes durat avorum*

In the second game, Ponteland were the opponents. The game got off to a rapid start with Ponteland scoring the opener. This was the time for player of the match Anya to step up to score three tries in quick succession to put HMS firmly in control. Moment of the match came in successive tackles when Tiana put in a monstrous hit followed by Charlotte who stepped up with an incredible diving tackle. The defensive wall and quick thinking of Jennifer, Lucy, Isobel and Adelle helped keep the opponents at bay! Rosie and Beau then teamed up to drive HMS up the pitch time and time again before Abby finished off with a lovely try in the corner. 4.1 final score.

HMS girls now go through to the grand final in a few weeks where they will be competing to represent the North East of England in the national round

## Vashti Hardy visit

We are so excited to announce that author, Vashti Hardy, will be visiting pupils in Years 5 and 6 on Wednesday 30 March – we are so looking forward to welcoming Vashti to our school. Huge thanks to Mrs Hayler who always looks for new opportunities to celebrate reading at HMS, and to our brilliant PTA and The Hexham Book Festival for their generous funding.



## Pupil Success

Magnus Riddell really enjoyed the experience of travelling to Kent with the Northumberland team for the English Schools Cross Country Championships. He enjoyed the event and ran well. There were 330 boys in his race (Juniors, Under 15) and he came 140<sup>th</sup> and we think he was 5<sup>th</sup> for Northumberland. Northumberland were 5<sup>th</sup> overall in his race in the team results (out of 46 counties). Thank you to Mr Barry and Mr Gaines for putting Magnus forward for the qualifying rounds and for the encouragement and support given to him over the years he has been at HMS.

## Linguacuisine visit to Newcastle University

On Friday 18 March, 18 year 7 pupils visited Newcastle University to take part in a language and cooking workshop (Linguacuisine). Linguacuisine aims to promote the learning of **digital literacy, languages, cuisines and cultures**. It does this through co-design of **downloadable apps and social recipes**, using an authoring tool to develop an **online community of practice**.

Pupils learnt about traditional Spanish food and had the opportunity to make a traditional Spanish tapas 'datiles con queso' (dates with cheese) using digital technology. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed sampling this delicacy and some pupils suggested that they would go home and make some more!

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## KS2 STEM Club

For the past couple of weeks in KS2 STEM Club, students have been designing and building towers with the success criteria of being able to withstand an earthquake. Using inspiration from the 'Skytree Tower' in Japan, the students drew their own architectural plans and brought them to life! We tested them using a classroom earthquake simulator, and they were generally a great success!



## School Health

School Health are relaunching the ChatHealth Texting service for 11–19-year-olds in Northumberland. This service offers all young people in Northumberland the chance to access online advice and support from a School Nurse through offering a discreet and quick text messaging service that is safe and easy to use. Whilst we continue to see young people face to face, ChatHealth offers all young people access to health advice in a quick, secure way.



Any vulnerable young people who are facing adversity or challenges and would benefit from advice or support are welcome to use this service.



## 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		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	<b>36,223</b>	1	Carrie G	1	Livia M	1	Poppy A	1	David C
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>39,534</b>	2	Sophie A	2	Daisy L	2	Jack T	2	Ruth J
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>36,285</b>	3	Poppy K	3	Poppy C	3	Katie A	3	Mack O'B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>39,296</b>	4	Robyn	4	Imogen M	4	Cameron B	4	Ben C

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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>	Tom P	Hope C	Nathaniel O	Jack H
<b>Engage</b>	William I	Imogen S	Tegan C	Lexi G
<b>Aspire</b>	Benson H	Alfie B	Matthew R	Lucas J

**Attendance – top form classes!**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6FHI</b>	<b>8ETA</b>	<b>6JJO</b>



**Reminders/ Key Dates**

All week	Assessment Week	Years 5, 7 & 8
	Bikeability	Year 6
Monday 28 March	Covid vaccinations for those who have consented	Pupils aged 12+
Tuesday 29 March	Chess Tournament at St Mary's, Newcastle	Years 7 & 8
	KS2 Easter Disco, 6-7.30pm	Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 30 March	Author Visit, Vashti Hardy	Years 5 & 6
	Girls' Rugby League, Ponteland	Year 8
	KS3 Easter Disco, 6-7.30pm	Years 7 & 8
Saturday 11 June – please save the date!	Queen's Jubilee Summer Fair, 1-3pm	All years

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters  
**Head of School**

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