

4 March 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

This week has flown by – I can't believe I am sitting down to write the next weekly update already! The school calendar is bursting with enrichment opportunities over the next few weeks (key dates are listed below). Next week is National Careers Week and our assemblies will focus on this theme as well as follow-up work in form time and many events throughout the week. We pride ourselves on providing a well-rounded curriculum experience both in and out of the classroom. I thank the pupils for always getting involved and giving things 100%, and the staff for going above and beyond to provide these enriching experiences.

This week I have spoken to the children about the devastating situation in Ukraine. I know that the children will be aware of the invasion and may have read news or seen images in the media which will be upsetting. I have reassured the children that they can speak to members of the HMS team if they are worried or concerned, and staff have been provided with resources to support these discussions. We will be holding a collection to support Ukrainian citizens – details can be found below.

Situation in Ukraine

Pupils and colleagues have expressed a wish to fundraise for the people who are displaced. Over the next two weeks there will be tutor time allocated to look at what is happening in the Ukraine, along with opportunities to raise awareness and show support. We are going to fundraise on behalf of the school and pass our donations to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) – please see below a link to their Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. We have looked at alternatives and see this as the quickest way to help organisations operating in the region. If you would like to make a donation via the school, you can do so through the School Gateway. This will remain open until Friday 18th March.

https://www.dec.org.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiAjoerBhAJEiwAYY3nDGdCJC3G8cLNWa2zMxVSDzrdqmCKc7UeqPIOWRwq_ZK_YwUP-OPUsRoCyhQQAvD_BwE

Technology Update

Our Technology classes have swapped over so those pupils who were studying DT for the first half of the year are now studying Food Technology and vice versa. For pupils who are now studying Food Technology, a list of ingredients can be found on our website (link [here](#)).

Hexham Middle School

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



Hexham Middle School

spes durat avorum

World Book Day

We had a great day celebrating World Book Day with a range of activities yesterday. This included some fantastic entries in our 'Bake a Book' competition – we are always so impressed by the talent of HMS pupils. Pupils who wished to attend in fancy dress as a character from their favourite book. We also had a book swap shop, for which pupils brought in both fiction and non-fiction books. Thank you for all of your support. For more pictures from the day, please see our [website](#)! World Book Day is always important to us at HMS.



But beyond the day itself, reading is very much part of our culture and we continue to promote the importance of reading throughout the school year through our curriculum and special events.

COVID Update

A summary of the updated guidance we sent last week is below. For the full guidance please refer to our email sent on Sunday 27 February.

- Pupils with Covid-19 are advised not to attend school whilst infectious. They are advised to take a lateral flow test five days after the symptoms started (or the day of the positive test result if asymptomatic) and wait for negative test results on two consecutive days before returning to school.
- Please note that the guidance states that there is no longer a legal requirement for people with Covid to self-isolate, but the public health advice remains to stay at home and avoid contact with others for those with any of the main symptoms of Covid or a positive test result.
- The wearing of face coverings within school remains optional and we will support any pupil or member of staff who wishes to wear them.
- Pupils and staff are no longer required to take part in regular asymptomatic testing but should follow the advice on testing for the general population, which you can find [here](#).

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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		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	30,241	1	Jake D	1	Emily B	1	Josh C	1	Kade M
Coquet	33,498	2	Cristina C	2	Lilly May M	2	Joseph H	2	Ben C
Tweed	30,499	3	Charlie M	3	Max H	3	Louis R	3	Molly B
Wansbeck	32,841	4	Carrie C	4	Christopher S	4	Abbi M	4	William S

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	Ellen B	Beth N	Eleanor M	Martha C
Engage	Layla S	Archie D	Julietta O	Molly L
Aspire	Evie M D	Sophie S	Amelie S	Kieran E

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6FHI	7IBO/7BLA	5HCO

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Girls' Cricket

For girls who are interested in cricket, a fantastic opportunity is now on the horizon for girls aged 8-11 to start their cricket journey. Sam Donnison and the Dynamos team are looking to get girls involved in Tynedale Cricket. For all information and to sign up follow this [link](#) (external website).



Reminders/ Key Dates

All week	National Careers Week	All years
Monday 7 March	Dan Smith Author Visit and Workshop	Years 7 & 8
Tuesday 8 March	Individual Photographs	Year 6
	Girls' Rugby, 1.30pm start	Year 7
	'Where Can Languages Take Me?' Seminar	Year 8
	BAFTA Careers Webinar with film composer Roma Yagnik	Pupils in Film Club
Wednesday 9 March	Climate Choices with Newcastle University	Year 7
	Visit to the Queen's Hall – The Speckled Band	Year 7
	Open Book Evening	All years

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

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