

18 March 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Another week has once again flown by! We have had a busy couple of weeks in school with lots of curriculum enrichment activities including theatre visits, drama workshops, a visit from Dilston Physic Garden, author visits, Dan the Skipping Man, British Science Week and many more activities. Our teachers always go the extra mile to plan such varied learning opportunities for our pupils. I hope the children have enjoyed the many events and have discussed these with you at home.

A huge thank you to our PTA who have led this week's 'Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop'. It was brilliant to see the pupils getting involved, browsing and buying lots of lovely gifts for special loved ones in their lives. Thank you for all of your support in sending lots of items into school. The PTA have also confirmed two discos (one for KS2 and one for KS3) on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 March. Letters have been sent home and tickets can be purchased by returning the consent form and payment to your child's form tutor. We hope that lots of pupils get involved and come along for a dance!

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.

Arrival and departure: updates

You are probably now aware that Phase 2 of our new build is well underway with the demolition of the old QEHS lower school building in recent weeks. This area will soon become our new coach park and rugby pitch. Access footpaths including a new route to the middle school will also soon be open for use. We are currently working with the contractors to review signage and line marking options in our car park which will be completed soon. Whilst we await this work being finalised, we ask for your support in enabling us to maintain pupil safety at arrival and departure times.



Arrival:

- We ask that you avoid vehicle movement in the immediate vicinity of the school as much as possible. This helps to reduce traffic on the surrounding streets where pupils are walking to the school site.

Hexham Middle School

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spes durat avorum

- If you do need to drop your child at school (in the car park), please drive safely and slowly (10mph speed limit) in the school car park.
- Please drive straight to the top of the car park, drop your child off at the walkway (not down the car park, please) and then follow the loop around the car park to allow the smooth flow of traffic.
- When leaving the car park, it would help us if you could **turn left** (allowing our pupils to cross the road safely under the guidance of staff).

Departure:

Due to an increased volume of traffic at the end of the day, we are asking for your support in limiting pick ups on the school site, where possible. We need the car park to be stationary to allow our pupils to safely find their bus/ taxi and to move around the car park without moving vehicles.

- If you collect your child, please make alternative arrangements to meet them off the school site. For the time being, we will no longer allow collection in the car park.
- If you are visiting the school during the day, please note that you will be unable to leave the car park after 3.00pm when the buses park up. Please either park off site or in the lower bays of the car park and/or be prepared to wait until the school transport leaves at 3.30pm.

We will review all of these arrangements when the coach park opens and will communicate updated procedures in due course. I thank you for your understanding and support.

Time Travel with the Romans: KS3 Writing Competition

Celebrating the 1900-year anniversary of Hadrian's Wall: At his author visit to HMS on 7th March, Dan Smith launched an exciting new short-story competition for our KS3 pupils. The short stories should be a maximum of 1000 words around the theme of **Time Travel with the Romans**. All genres are welcome: adventure, humour, fantasy, magic, detective or thriller!



Please bring your hand-written or typed entries to Ms Hayler in HMS Library by Monday 25th April. Hexham Book Festival will be hosting an awards event at The Sill on Wednesday 25th May for the winners.



Year 6 Early Birds

Our Year 6 Early Birds began in earnest this week with students arriving and completing maths and English challenges with the support of their teachers. Students were served juice and a variety of pastries to keep their energy up! A reminder that they run every Tuesday and Thursday morning in Fellside Library from 8.15am for Year 6.

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World Book Day Photography Competition!

We are delighted to share with you the winners of our World Book Day photography competition! The theme was 'At Hexham Middle School, we love reading so much we even read...'

...on a jumping horse! Kaden, Year 8

...just... hanging around! Winnie, Year 6

...whilst being very bendy! Abigail, Year 5

These pupils have all won a £10 book voucher. Well done to everyone who entered!

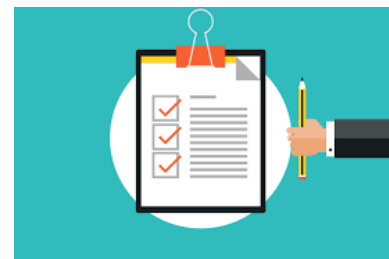


Film Club!

Last Friday, pupils from Mrs Bond's Film Club were extremely excited to take part in a webinar with award-winning film composer Roma Yagnik. Roma demonstrated the impact of music score on films, adverts and more and gave pupils a fascinating insight into careers available within the film industry.

Parent/ Carer Survey

If you have not already done so but would like to give feedback on school life at HMS from your perspective as a parent/carers, I would really appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the feedback survey at this [link](#). The survey will close on Wednesday 23 March. Thank you for your continued support.



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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	34,740	1	Caitlyn H	1	Alfie B	1	Ollie G	1	Mack O'B
Coquet	38,053	2	Mia S	2	Olivia L	2	Gracie T	2	Kade M
Tweed	34,733	3	Nicholas Y	3	Michael B P	3	Arthur D	3	Theo C
Wansbeck	37,641	4	Evie J	4	Cameron S	4	Janey A	4	Olive T

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	Estella F	Alannah N	Morgan W	Caleb R S
Engage	Freddie W	Luke G	Charlotte A	Sophia R
Aspire	Zach D	Emily B	John M	Farah A

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
8IHO/7IBO	7JKW	6MDO/5HCO

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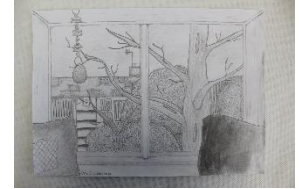
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Art Competition

The deadline for the Art Competition is next Wednesday. Pupils can submit their artwork at Tuesday lunchtime. They will need to note their name, age, title, art materials used and a description of the artwork. This can be why they chose to create that piece of artwork. Full details are on our [website](#).



We have had some excellent entries so far!

Reminders/ Key Dates



All week	Mock SATs	Year 6
	Bikeability	Year 5
Tuesday 22 March	Girls' Champion School Rugby Qualifier, at HMS	Year 7
Thursday 24 March	Boys' Football v Highfield, at HMS (after school)	Year 7
Tuesday 29 March	KS2 Easter Disco, 6-7.30pm	Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 30 March	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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