

27 May 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school



We ended a very busy half term in school with a wonderful Queen's Jubilee Picnic Lunch prepared by our amazing catering team led by Mrs Satow – what a treat it was. We also enjoyed our 'Wear your own uniform day' in support of the upcoming Summer Fair – thank you for your tombola contributions which were gratefully received. This half term has been as vibrant and busy as ever – I am constantly amazed by how much we fit into the school calendar and the wealth of opportunity for our pupils. Huge thanks to them for getting involved, you for your support and the staff team for always going the extra mile!

A very excited Year 6 group left school on Monday morning for their adventure residential. It was great to see such excitement as the children left school with their suitcases - especially as they've missed out on these opportunities due to the pandemic. Happy faces all round! The group returned on Wednesday after an amazing few days – they have loved it! Huge thanks to the team who went along with them. We look forward to the year 5 visit after the half term!



On Thursday 9 June, the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, will be visiting QE and HMS and we look forward to welcoming him for the visit.



Summer Jubilee Jamboree: Saturday 11 June 12pm-3pm

SUPPORT WANTED! We are looking for keen bakers to support the fair by making cakes for our afternoon tea.

- Whole cakes welcome!
- Gluten free and vegan cakes needed (please mark appropriately).
- Please note: we are a nut-free school.
- Donations would be gratefully received in school on Friday 10 June or on the day of the fair.

A reminder that PTA raffle tickets have been sent home and there are some amazing prizes from very generous local businesses and members of the community. If you would like more tickets, please get in touch with us.

Hexham Middle School

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spes durat avorum



Anna C wins the Hexham Book Festival 'Time Travel With The Romans' Creative Writing Award

Many congratulations to Anna who has won the 'Time Travel With The Romans' creative writing competition for Y8. Well done, Anna! The competition was run to celebrate the 1900-year anniversary of Hadrian's Wall and was open to HMS and other local middle schools. At an event hosted by Hexham Book Festival at The Sill on Wednesday 25 May, author and story judge Dan Smith presented Anna with her prize. Dan praised the narrative arc of Anna's story and also read it out to the audience. Thank you to all our brilliant KS3 pupils who entered the competition and extra thanks to Olivia H for accompanying Anna to the event.

Forest School

This week some of our year 6 pupils were able to enjoy forest school with some of the brilliant equipment the PTA funded. We were able to whittle, bug hunt, build, create and cook. A big thank you to our PTA!



Year Six Post-SATs Fun Day

Following a busy few days of SATs, in which every single pupil gave one hundred percent and performed brilliantly, the year six children enjoyed a Friday away from the classroom. After an assembly recognising their effort, the pupils and staff made their way to the dining hall to enjoy breakfast. There was a definite feeling of celebration in the air and lots of smiling faces as the waffles and pain au chocolate were quickly devoured.

Next it was time for some very energetic sports up on the astro. Each class had two teams and the competition was stiff. Clearly year six have as much talent on the sports field as in the exam hall. In both football and rounders nobody wanted to be on the losing team. There were some fantastic individual performances and great teamwork from all four classes. Halfway through the classes were neck and neck - JJO were just in front. Despite a determined effort by the other three classes no one was going to catch them, and it finished with a victory for JJO. More importantly, everyone had lots of fun but there were definitely some tired people around by lunch time.

Luckily, the afternoon was a chance to relax and watch a movie. Shrek was the film and there was lots of popcorn to be enjoyed. There was also a well anticipated visit from the ice-cream van so everyone went home happy. Well done year 6. You should be very proud of yourselves.



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Sport Update

We have had some remarkable sporting success in the past couple of weeks:

Rugby: Huge well done to the Year 7 and 8 boys who performed brilliantly in their opening games of the Inspirational 9's tournament at Kingston Park! Our girls' rugby team has also enjoyed great success. The girls arrived in Leeds on Wednesday ahead of their huge semi-final game against Malet Lambert, who were the Yorkshire finalists. The girls were in 'game mode' from the second they arrived and were hungry for success. Throughout this tournament the girls have been competing against schools with huge numbers of pupils and have taken the underdog mentality and beaten some very impressive schools on their road to get to this point. Everyone watching was amazed at their skill, power and technique in both attack and defence. In a game with fine margins the girls sadly lost 7.3 on tries but we wish Malet all the best in the final!

Football: Congratulations also to Patrick F who competed at St James' Park on Thursday night! He has been performing incredibly all year and deserved his night under the lights of St James!

Equestrian: James A is an incredible equestrian performer and has just been selected to represent Great Britain in the British Dressage squad – utterly amazing!



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	48,719	1	Estella F	1	Chris S	1	Harrison P	1	Kai F
Coquet	52,364	2	Jack H	2	Ellie B	2	Ava C	2	Arthur D L
Tweed	48,716	3	Dylan B	3	Emily B	3	Tyler B	3	Max B
Wansbeck	52,001	4	Noah W	4	Alannah N	4	Josh C	4	CJ B P

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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
Respect	Hayden D	Alex L	Tyler B	Alexis H H
Engage	Annabelle R	Jack M	Laura W	Lexie B
Aspire	Lewis S	Evie W	Josh C	Lola R H

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6FHI	6JJO	6RAL



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 6 – Wednesday 8	Residential Visit, Whithaugh Park	Year 5
Monday 6 June	Personal Guidance Project, Careers Education	Year 8
Thursday 9 June	'Universitree' with Newcastle University (in school)	Year 8
Thursday 9 June	Visit from the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP	All
Saturday 11 June	Summer Jubilee Jamboree, 12-3pm	All

Have a fantastic half term break everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

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