

13 May 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

This week has been **FANTASTIC!** There has been so much to be proud of in the HMS community. Firstly, our Year 6 pupils have been an absolute credit to the school during their assessment week. Their attitude, positive approach and resilience have been outstanding – well done to each and every one of them. They have all had a great day today with breakfast, a sports tournament, movie and a visit from Tyne Valley Ices! Huge thank you to all of the staff who have supported the week so brilliantly.

We have had huge sporting success this week as well as the amazing news that two of our pupils will have their artwork displayed in the Royal Academy of Arts London Gallery. I am so proud of each of the pupils involved – you can read more detailed updates further on.

Mrs Roff is starting her maternity leave today and we can't wait to meet the new addition to her family very soon. We all wish Mrs Roff the very best and I know she'll send us some photographs to share her good news. For the next couple of weeks, Mrs Jolly will be covering Mrs Roff's classes. For the final half term, Miss Wilson (who is an English teacher at QEHS) will be covering Mrs Roff's timetable.

I am delighted to say that Mr Stephenson will be joining the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Headteacher while Mrs Roff is away. Mr Stephenson will remain as Head of Key Stage 2 until the end of the school year and will oversee the transition processes. Miss Wilson will also be covering some of his classes to allow him to take on his new responsibilities. I will update you on who will be stepping into the Head of Key Stage 2 role very soon, as they will be working with Mr Stephenson over the summer term to settle into the role.

The summer term is always a busy one in school as we say goodbye to colleagues moving on and welcome new staff to the school community. I will send a full update towards the end of the school year. Thank you for your continued support of all school staff.

NEW CLUB: Year 5 and 6 Lunchtime Writing Club

Three of the high school's Sixth Form students are running a creative writing club open to Years 5 and 6, starting next week. This will run during the first half of lunch on Wednesday 18 and 25 May in the HMS library. The club will end with a 500-word short story competition with the deadline for entries being the first Monday back after the half term (6 June). There will be a prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries. This competition is open to anybody, even if they have not attended the lunchtime club.

Hexham Middle School

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**



PE after-school clubs

If any parent/carer has completed a consent form for this summer term's after-school PE clubs, you should have by now received an email confirming your son/daughter's place. All activities will run according to the timetable as outlined on our [school website](#) from Monday 16 May unless we inform you otherwise.

Wear Your Own Clothes Day

Friday 27 May will be 'Wear Your Own Clothes Day'! This is to support our Jubilee Summer Fair. We would very much appreciate it if pupils could bring in a tombola prize and hand it to their form tutor on the day. Please see the attached flyer with the types of items we are looking for. If pupils would like to wear their school uniform, this is also fine!

Art Competition Winners

Last half term, 40 of our pupils entered the Royal Academy of Arts competition. There were 21,000 applications across the country, and we have had the fantastic news that the artwork by James V (5HCO) and Annabelle R (5JNI) has been selected by the judges to be displayed in the Royal Academy of Art's London Art gallery for the Young Artists summer show! Their artwork will also be displayed in the online gallery that the London Gallery hosts. This will be on from the 19 July to the 14 August at:

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/young-artists-summer-show-2022>. Congratulations to James, Annabelle and all of the 40 pupils who entered the competition. We hope they enjoyed producing their artwork.



Sports Updates!



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spes durat avorum

We have had an incredible week of sport at HMS. A full report will be on our website, but please see below for a brief summary! On Tuesday the Y7 girls travelled to Leeds to represent not just HMS but also the north east at the National Champion Schools Final 8s in rugby league... and they were simply sensational. If a performance could be summed up in three words it would be: **brave, tenacious** and **togetherness**. On Wednesday our Y7 boys and girls took part in the regional five-a-side football qualifiers. Both teams performed extremely well. The boys now progress to represent West Tyne in the next round on the 24 May!



Yesterday, our Y8 girls travelled to Warrington to play in the national last 8 of the Champion Schools tournament. They had two very tough games but played astoundingly to **get through to the national last 4!**



Newcastle Thunder – Holiday Programme

This half term we have a fantastic opportunity to work with Newcastle Thunder on their holiday programme! Building on the success of our KS3 rugby league teams, this is open to anyone who would like to give rugby a try or to develop their skills further ahead of the summer fixtures! These take place on the 30 May at Cramlington, the 31 May at Kingston Park and the 1 June at Catterick. To book, please go to www.rugbycamps.co.uk/thunder

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Walk to School Week

Next week is 'Walk to School' week. Year 5 are going to be involved in the Living Streets 'Walk to School' campaign. Pupils will be receiving a little booklet to take home and complete. We are offering some rewards for this and hope that they start to consider in more depth the experiences they have when walking to school. Some pupils may not choose to walk all the way to school, but when pupils are walking whatever distances on their journeys, we encourage them to participate in the activities in the booklet.



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	45,601	1	Estella F	1	Ellie B	1	Joseph H	1	Olive T
Coquet	49,225	2	Bess D	2	Marnie C	2	Josh C	2	Theo C
Tweed	45,524	3	Harriet A	3	Xavi F	3	Robin B M	3	Ruth J
Wansbeck	48,523	4	Evie J	4	Joseph O	4	Robson B	4	Mack O'B

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	Benson H	Abigail B	Maisie M	Callum H
Engage	Cristina C	Jack D	Arthur D	Ziena W
Aspire	Tom N	Freya B	Thomas H	Alexis H H

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Attendance – top form classes!

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



Reminders/ Key Dates

All week	Walk to School Week Pupil voice	All All
Monday 16 May	Digital Art Club, after school	Years 7 and 8
Wednesday 18 (and 25) May	Writing Club, 12.30-1pm	Years 5 and 6
Friday 20 May	Holocaust Survivor Talk, P5	Year 6
Thursday 26 May	NHS Height and Weight Checks	Year 6
Friday 27 May	Wear your own clothes day!	All
Friday 27 May	Road Safety Workshop	Year 7
Friday 27 May	School closes for half-term	All
Thursday 30 June	HMS Summer Concert – details to follow!	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

Mr Watters

Head of School

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