

6 May 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

High Borrans 2022

Our Year 8 pupils have been having a fantastic time on their residential trip to High Borrans in the Lake District and we are expecting them back at school this afternoon. The pupils have been enjoying a variety of activities including hiking, high ropes, abseiling, kayaking and ghyll scrambling. Mr Barry has kept in touch with us all week and it sounds like they have all had the most amazing experience. I am sure they will have created memories which really do last a life time. Huge thank you to Mr Barry, Mrs Stewart, Miss Lamont, Miss Taylor and Mr Drummond for leading the residential visit. I can't wait to hear all about it next week!



HMS 'Must Reads'

We are very proud of our new library and Mrs Hayler has been working hard to produce new 'Must Reads' for each year group, which you can view on the reading page of our website [here](#). These are recommended texts which we think the children must read as they move through middle school. Mrs Hayler is always looking to update our recommendations and is keen to hear your ideas and reviews. All of the suggested texts are available in the HMS Library. Can you see how many you can read over the summer term?

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PTA Summer Fair, Saturday 11 June

The PTA summer fair is coming up! The tombola and the raffle are highlights of the day and they would like your help. Please could you send in any tombola prizes (chocolates, unwanted gifts, toiletries etc.) into school as soon as possible.

If you or your business are able to donate a raffle prize please email hmsptachair@gmail.com to let them know and they will make sure your business is named in all publicity. They also need volunteers to help run stalls on the day. Please sign up here if you can help for a couple of hours: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084faaac28a6f85-hmsjubilee>. Closer to the time they will also be asking if you would be able to donate cakes and scones!

JUBILEE SUMMER FAIR

Celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee with HMS on Saturday 11th June



Please send any tombola prizes (chocolates, unwanted gifts, toiletries etc.) into school as soon as possible.

Could you or your business donate a raffle prize? If so, please email hmsptachair@gmail.com

We are also looking for looking for volunteers to help out on the day. Please sign up using the link above.

Thank you!

Chief Constable Visits Year 7 – May the Fourth be with you!



This week we were delighted to have a special visit from the Chief Constable of Northumberland Police, Winton Keenan, supported by his Chief of Staff, Scott Hall. Organised as part of an inspirational talk by Speakers 4 Schools, our Year 7 pupils were able to learn more about the role of the police in society and the contribution that Northumbria Police makes to our region.

Prior to the event, pupils were asked to complete some preparatory research and consider some potential questions that they would like to ask the Chief Constable. We had some fabulous and well-conceived questions shared with the Chief Constable; he was more than happy to answer these in a very open and honest way - something the pupils responded to very well. One pupil asked about the mental health support offered to those that work for the Police. Another question explored the Chief Constable's experiences of difficult situations that required both bravery and resilience. One question which took the Chief Constable by surprise was asked by Katie G; she asked "How are you?". The Chief Constable's response was, "It has been a very long time since someone asked me that question at work, and it is a very good question to ask. In my line of work, being at the very top of the organisation, this is not often asked. It is really important to ask that in the workplace. Talking to people is really important and so important for our mental health and wellbeing"

We would like to thank the Chief Constable and Chief of Staff at Northumbria Police for taking the time to visit our Y7 pupils, providing them with some insight into careers, training opportunities and the essential skills and qualities that are needed to be an effective employee of Northumbria Police. It was a great opportunity to help demystify some possible preconceptions and stereotypes that pupils

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may have had about the Police. The Chief Constable engaged excellently with our pupils, who responded well to the stories he wanted to share.

As a school we look forward to engaging further with Northumbria Police so that our pupils get the opportunity to meet those people placed in strategically important roles that can influence life within the local community.

Road Safety

It is vital that parents/carers bringing children to and from school adhere to the speed limit in local residential streets, some of which are 20mph. This week, there has been a collision with a parked car in a nearby street. Please see below a reminder about arrival and departure procedures as we await the final work on our coach park and additional line markings in the car park.

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.
- 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.

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National Youth Chess Championships

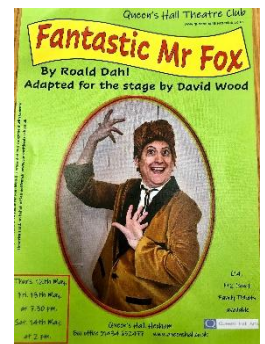
Please note: This is not a school-run event so if you are interested you can apply directly at the links below.

St Mary's is providing a venue for the regional heat of the National Youth Chess Championships, a competition that is run by the English Junior Coaches and Organisers Association. FIDE master Tim Wall is managing this event. The tournament will be held on Saturday 28 May from 10am until 5pm. Competitors will be organised into several age categories (from Under-8 to Under-20) and will play five rounds of chess (each player will have 25 minutes to make all their moves). The winning boy and girl in each category will be eligible to compete in the national final in Nottingham this July.

All the information that a student needs, including details of how to apply, can be found here: <https://ejcoa.co.uk/online-payments/nyc-regional-final>. Further details can also be found here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event-calendar/#event=70309544;instance=20220528100000>

The Fantastic Mr Fox!

The Queen's Hall Theatre Club in Hexham has an adaptation of the Fantastic Mr Fox showing next week at the Queen's Hall, on Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May. Some of our own pupils are performing and the Theatre Club would love as many people as possible to support the production.



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	43,589	1	Mia S	1	Imogen M	1	Louis R	1	Robert D
Coquet	47,170	2	Hayden D	2	Phoebe S	2	Robson B	2	Leo C
Tweed	43,631	3	Benson H	3	Hudson RC	3	Laura L	3	Ralph D
Wansbeck	46,470	4	Sam P	4	Xavier	4	Logan	4	Nathaniel T

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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	Sam Bli	Georgie R	Lacey D	Daniel L
Engage	Sam Bla	Tom S	Harrison P	Max B
Aspire	Annabelle M	Alex G	Neve S	Lily-Ann B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5HCO/5FHA	8ETA	6RAL



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 9 – Thursday 13 May	SATs Week	Year 6
Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 May	National Finals for Y7 and Y8 Girls	KS3 Teams
Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 May	Year 6 Residential Visit	Year 6
Thursday 26 May	NHS Height and Weight Checks	Year 6
Friday 27 May	Road Safety Workshop	Year 7
Friday 27 May	School closes for half-term	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

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