



16 September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

It's been another fantastic week at HMS! As you can see from the update, we have lots of news to share with you all and lots going on at the start of term. I will keep my welcome brief today as there's so much to get through. Just to say, a huge thank you for coming along to our KS2 Welcome Evenings this week – it was great to see you all. We have our KS3 Welcome Evening on Tuesday (6pm) and I will then send home all of the information we have shared in the sessions.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are delighted to share our details of [our new extra-curricular programme](#) which you can find on our website. Staff at HMS work exceptionally hard to provide a wide range of clubs and activities – please encourage your child to get involved. Places for clubs will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and some clubs may have a capacity limit. If clubs are oversubscribed, we may operate a rotation system but we will contact you if this applies.

- For in-school clubs, pupils can turn up to sessions **from next week** and can ask their form teacher for more guidance if they need it.
- For activities which take place after school, please complete our 'Out of Hours Permissions Form' at this [link](#) by Monday 26 September.

Vacancies: Pupil Leadership Roles

This week, Mr Watters promoted opportunities for pupils to join the School Council, the House Captainty Team and become our new Head Pupils. Our School Council positions are open to all year groups and we hope to see many pupils across the school applying. Our prestigious House Captainty and Head Pupil positions are open to pupils in Year 8 only. The application forms include helpful information on how to apply. Form tutors have copies of application forms for different positions. Pupils are asked to submit House Captainty applications by 9.15am on Tuesday 20 September. Please submit applications for School Council positions or Head Pupils by Wednesday 21 September. This enables pupils to complete their application forms over the weekend. Applications can be returned to form tutors.



European Day of Languages: Bake Off!

On Monday 26 September, we will be hosting a European-themed cake competition. Cakes will be judged on taste, texture and how languages-themed the cake is! For full details please see the attached flyer. For those taking part, please bring your entry to CA4 by 8.40am on Monday 26 September.



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

HMS PTA - Annual General Meeting

The HMS PTA will be meeting on Thursday 6 October, 7pm at The County Hotel, Hexham to catch up about the year ahead and to hold their AGM. It would be great to welcome lots of you along to hear more about the exciting events planned for the year and how the PTA support school life. Whether you want to join the PTA or offer some time to help at future events, all support is really appreciated, and we'd love to see lots of new faces. You can contact the Chair on hmsptachair@gmail.com. Thank you all.



Early Birds: Breakfast Club

We are delighted to be launching our new early morning ['Early Birds: Breakfast Club'](#). Bookings can be made via School Gateway now and we'll be launching the sessions on Monday 3 October. Please note, the club can only run if we have the demand for places, so this half term will be a trial period. If you are interested, please be sure to read the attached 'Breakfast Club Policy' which will give you the information on attendance and payments. If you'd like to discuss the club further, please email us via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Applying for Y5 and Y9 school places in September 2023

If you have children who will be starting Year 5 or Year 9 in September 2023, the admissions portal is now open. For full details, please see the end of this update. We will be holding our Open Evening for parents/carers and children on Thursday 13 October – more information [here](#).



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 | 2694 | 1 | Rufus A | 1 | Estella F | 1 | Harry H | 1 | Robbie S |
| Coquet | 2868 | 2 | Etta L | 2 | Noah S | 2 | Patrick F | 2 | Aston W |
| Tweed | 2438 | 3 | Ianto T | 3 | Evie-Mae D | 3 | Carley B | 3 | Josh C |
| Wansbeck | 2805 | 4 | Rosie O | 4 | Evie W | 4 | Bella W | 4 | Ollie P |

Attendance – top form classes!

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 5 JNI / 5 MDO / 7 JKW on 100% | 5 FHA / 6 EKI | 5 HCO |

News from the community

Hexham Holiday Club



Hexham Holiday Club are hosting a Holiday Club Picnic on Tyne Green on Saturday 8 October. This is a free event for all families, regardless of whether they attended the Holiday Club in July. Food will be provided for adults, children and older siblings. If you are interested, please do book a place. Please see the attached flyer with full details!

Girls' Cricket – all years!

Northumberland Cricket Board would love to recruit new girls for their U11 (Years 5 and 6) and U13 (Years 7 and 8) teams. They are running assessments at Walbottle Academy between 6 and 8pm on Thursday 29 September and Thursdays the 6, 13 and 20 October. Please note that no hardball experience is necessary at this stage and the only requirement is that participants should be able to bowl overarm and have played cricket (either hardball or softball) at a club or school competition. If your daughter cannot make these sessions there is also a session during half term at Ponteland Leisure Centre on the 26 October between 10am and 12pm. Further information and links for booking can be found [here](#).



Reminders/ Key Dates

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Monday 19 September | School closed for the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | All |
| Tuesday 20 September | 'Welcome to KS3' Evening, 6pm | Years 7 & 8 |
| Friday 23 September | House Hustings | All |
| Monday 26 September | Individual School Photographs | All |
| Monday 26 September | European Day of Languages Bake off entries to be submitted | All |
| Thursday 6 October | Meet the Tutor Evening (in-school – booking information to be shared next week) | All |
| Thursday 6 October | HMS PTA Annual General Meeting | All welcome to join us! |

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

Appendix 1: School Admissions Information

Applying for a Year 5 place at HMS or a Year 9 place at Queen Elizabeth High School for September 2023

The process for applying for a place at any Northumberland high school for September 2023 opened earlier this month. Should you wish your child to secure a place in Year 5 or Year 9 in September 2023, you need to apply by **Monday 31 October 2022**, irrespective of your child's current school. In other words, the allocation of a place is not automatic.

How to apply

You are able to apply for a high school place now. Applications for HMS and QEHS are managed by the admissions team at Northumberland County Council. Details of the application process can be found at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1/Yr-5-Middle-Yr-7-Secondary-Yr-9-High-entry-applica.aspx>

The admissions timetable is as follows:

12 September 2022: E-admissions portal opens – link [here](#)

Information and Handbooks available on the Council's website. See the [leaflet on how to apply](#) and [portal user guidance](#). If you have questions, please contact schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk.

31 October 2022: Closing Date for Applications:

E-admission portal closes at 12 midnight. Any applications received after this date will be regarded as late and will not be considered as part of the first allocation of places.

1 March 2023: Parents who have applied by 31 October 2022 will be notified of the outcome of their applications for school places.

Any late applications will only be considered for a place after those applications received on time have been allocated. If all places at a school are allocated to on-time applications, this may result in students not getting a place at their preferred school even if they live in catchment or are in a catchment school.

If you do not apply for a place and you are resident in Northumberland you will be allocated to a school after all other applications have been allocated. You will only be allocated to your catchment school if there are still places available. If there are no spaces, you will be allocated the nearest school which has places available. If you would like more information about the application process, please contact the admissions team at Northumberland County Council via email at schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk or telephone on 01670 624889. Alternatively, if you would like to speak to someone at HMS or QEHS, please contact the school office on 01434 610300 or email admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk with HMS queries or admin@qehs.net with QEHS queries.