

23 September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

#### **Update on life in school**

What a great start to the new term we have had. Our new pupils have settled into life at HMS brilliantly and the whole school has had a positive, purposeful atmosphere with excellent learning going on in every classroom. I have been around school this week and have visited classrooms – I have been so impressed with the high standards of presentation, positive engagement and motivation and excellent contributions to learning in every year group. A huge thank you to the many of you who were able to come along to our 'Welcome Evenings' – it was great to see you and to welcome so many new families to the community. All of the information has been shared on our [website](#) for you (please request paper copies from the admin team).

Thank you for the wonderful response to our new extra-curricular programme which can be found on our [website](#) (your child can collect copies from their form tutor). In-school clubs have started this week and have been hugely popular. Most after-school clubs commence on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September (unless you have been notified otherwise) – if you have signed up, please assume your child can attend unless you are contacted about waiting lists/rotations.

A reminder that it's Individual School Photographs on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you to the many Year 8 pupils who have applied for the roles of Head Pupil and House Captain. We will be holding interviews for Head Pupils next week, and our House Hustings and election will take place on Friday. I look forward to announcing our new Pupil Leadership Team in due course.

Finally, the HMS Open Evening will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October for parents/carers and children to visit school ahead of the new admissions cycle. Please help us by spreading the word and sharing our social media posts – we can't wait to welcome lots of people to our school on the evening.

#### **Meet the Tutor Evening**



We would like to invite you to meet your child's form tutor on **Thursday 6 October 2022**. Appointments can be made via the online booking system (you should have now received an online link and guidance document – attached again for reference) but will be held in person at HMS. We feel this is a valuable opportunity to meet a key member of staff in your child's life, to celebrate their start to term and to discuss any questions or concerns you may have at this stage. Please also take the chance to complete this [short survey](#) so that teachers can prepare for your meetings in advance.

#### **Hexham Middle School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

If you can't attend, please let us know and we will arrange for a phone call to be made. Thank you for your support.

### European Day of Languages: Monday 26 September

To celebrate European Day of Languages on Monday, there will be themed snacks in the dining hall at break time and the Bake Off that we advertised last week! For any pupils who are taking part in the Bake Off, please bring the MFL-themed cakes to CA4 (Food Tech) before 8.40am on Monday morning.



### Drama at HMS



KS3 pupils have had a creative start to the year, enjoying brand new drama lessons in the school hall run by Miss Macdonald, Miss Morgan and Mrs Pollock. We have been really impressed with the pupils' engagement and enthusiasm in their first lessons where we've been exploring team building exercises and trust games. Pupils can look forward to exploring ways to make their own short scenes in groups, developing their acting skills, interpreting scripts and learning about the lighting, costume, set and sound design roles that are so important when making plays. It is early days, but we can already see that HMS has some extremely imaginative and curious youngsters, ready to take the theatre world by storm!

### Winter Illnesses

Please see attached a letter from the UK Health Security Agency with information for pupils, parents and carers on general hygiene, respiratory infections including flu and COVID-19, diarrhoea and vomiting and scarlet fever.



### 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	6778	1	Archie D	1	Noah W	1	Sophie S	1	Isobella S
Coquet	6655	2	Lucas C	2	Florence O	2	Abigail B	2	Joshua J
Tweed	6326	3	Joseph D	3	Lewis S	3	Sam M	3	Cori R
Wansbeck	6489	4	Oliver D	4	Genevieve TS	4	Callum BS	4	Anya C

## 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.

	KS2	Year 7	Year 8
<b>Respect</b>	Duncan G	Michael B-P	Luke B
<b>Engage</b>	Aurelia K	Harry C	Jamie P
<b>Aspire</b>	Charlotte D	Alex L	Jullietta O

## Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
7JET	5FHA / 5HCO / 6EKI	5JNI / 7EST

## Harmful Practices

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team will be visiting our school on Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> to deliver sessions to year 8 pupils on the risks and consequences associated with the misuse of potentially harmful substances. The session will discuss the impact of substance misuse on society, the myths surrounding potentially harmful substances, how to keep each other safe, and where to get support. You may wish to visit [Honest information about drugs | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com) for more information about drugs and where to find support.



## News from the community

### Hexham High Streets Heritage Action Zone

The Hexham High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) is looking for residents who would like to share their memories of the market in Hexham as part of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on Saturday 24 September. You would be interviewed and filmed by HexhamTV and the videos will join the Royal Memories Videos and the Memories of Hexham Videos on the HSHAZ webpage: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/.../Hex.../Overview-1.aspx> Each video will last between 5 and 10 minutes and pairs (couples or friends) would be very welcome to be interviewed together. It would be great to have memories from the 40s & 50s but equally as interesting to have memories from more recent times, up to the turn of the century. The filming will take place in the cafe of the Forum Cinema between 2.15 and 3.30pm. To book a slot or for more information please contact: [peter.mawer@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mawer@northumberland.gov.uk)





## Reminders/ Key Dates

<b>Monday 26 September</b>	Individual School Photographs	All
<b>Monday 26 September</b>	European Day of Languages Bake off entries to be submitted	All
<b>Wednesday 27 September</b>	After-School clubs start (see info above and on our website)	All
<b>Thursday 29 September</b>	Open Evening at Queen Elizabeth High School for prospective Y9 parents and students	Y8
<b>Thursday 6 October</b>	Meet the Tutor Evening (in-school) Appointments can now be made (see email link)	All
<b>Thursday 6 October</b>	HMS PTA Annual General Meeting 7pm, The County Hotel, Hexham	All welcome to join us!
<b>Thursday 13 October</b>	HMS Open Evening, 6pm, all welcome For parents/carers and children interested in a place at HMS	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters  
**Head of School**