

9 September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE



All of us at HMS were deeply saddened by the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died at Balmoral yesterday. Following the announcement, we will focus on the Queen's remarkable reign and reflect on her time as monarch over the next few days in school. This morning, the children reflected on the Queen's 70 year reign as part of their form time activities. Over the period of mourning, we will reduce our communication to essential information and will limit our posts on social media. We will be guided by further information from the Department for Education during this period.

A new school year

It has been a joy to start the term with such a positive week in school. On Wednesday, I spoke to every year group in assembly and focused on what a new term means to me. I also talked to the children about the culture of our school and asked them to think of words to describe how a school should feel – I was pleased that their choices matched mine! We absolutely want HMS to be a positive, safe, supportive and engaging learning environment and we are looking forward to the year ahead with many exciting times ahead for the children.

Our new year 5 cohort have had a brilliant first few days in middle school. They have all looked smart, organised and full of enthusiasm for the year ahead. The year 5 teachers have all been really impressed with the positive attitudes and kindness which have been displayed all week. The year 5 children have enjoyed a day of outdoor team-building activities today as part of their transition to middle school life.

We have also welcomed many new children to years 6, 7 and 8 and I have enjoyed speaking to the children and finding out how their move to HMS has gone. It has been lovely to see so many smiling faces around the school – it's always great to hear the buzz of learning around the corridors once again. Children returning to their new year groups have also made a fantastic start and it's been great to see the children making our new pupils feel so welcome.

Over the course of the next few weeks, there'll be opportunities for you to come into school to join us at 'Welcome Evenings' (information below) and to meet your child's form teacher. There will also be a short form to fill in to let us know how your child is settling into their new year group.

Remember if you need to contact us, we are here and happy to help. The best way to reach us is via the main phone lines or via the admin email address – please try to mark your email with the staff member who it is for.

Hexham Middle School

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Staffing

As well as welcoming the children to school this week, several new colleagues joined the HMS team. We welcomed Mr Scott (Head of Key Stage 3), Miss Liddle (Head of Key Stage 2), Mrs Richardson, Miss Bell, Mr Barrass, Mrs O'Farrell and Mrs P Hall to our teaching team, and Miss Kennedy, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Scott and Mrs Richards to our pupil support team.

The Senior Leadership Team for this year is below – myself and Mrs Lloyd will be working together to cover Mrs Roff's responsibilities whilst she is away on maternity leave.

Senior Leadership Team		
Role	Responsibilities	Staff
Executive Headteacher	Overall strategic leadership of Hadrian Learning Trust	Mr Atkins
Head of School	Leadership of HMS Quality of Education	Mr Watters
Assistant Headteacher	Standards, Support and Inclusion Designated Safeguarding Lead SENDCo	Mr Stephenson
Assistant Headteacher	Trust Teaching, Learning and Curriculum (QEHS and HMS)	Mrs Lloyd
Assistant Headteacher	Pupil Learning and Achievement Reading and Literacy	Mrs Roff – <i>maternity leave</i>
Assistant Headteacher	Personal Development Senior Mental Health Lead Careers Education Lead Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Freeman-Myers
Chief Financial Officer	Trust budget planning, financial management and capital bids/projects	Ms Sparke
Trust Business Manager	Facilities, administration, health and safety, HR management, site and catering services	Ms Simpson

Welcome Evenings

We would like to invite you to attend our 'Welcome Evenings'. The sessions will hopefully give you lots of useful information about the year ahead for your child, their curriculum, the pastoral provision

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and strategies for supporting your child's learning at home. You will hear from Mr Watters and Mr Stephenson and you will have the opportunity to meet Miss Liddle (KS2) and Mr Scott (KS3).

If you would like to attend, please could you register your interest [here](#). If you are unable to attend but would like to receive the information, you may select this option on the form.

The dates are:

- Year 5 – Thursday 15 September – 5.15pm
- Year 6 – Thursday 15 September – 6.30pm
- Year 7 and 8 – Tuesday 20 September – 6pm

Drop off and pick up

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. There have been some 'near misses' for pupils. Please see below a reminder about arrival and departure procedures. There has been lots of vehicle movement in the car park in the morning. Ideally, we would ask families to drop their children off outside the immediate vicinity of the school due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic in the morning. However, if you do use our car park for drop off, we need to operate a flow system and there should be **no need to park up whilst dropping off**.

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:

Owing 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.

- If you collect your child, please try to make alternative arrangements to pick them up off-site and avoid the vicinity of Whetstone Bridge Road where students are departing the school.

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- You can access and depart from our school car park at the end of the day but there are still a small number of student transport cars and mini-buses that will take priority and may still cause delays to departing cars.

I thank you for your understanding and support.



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	721	1	Kirstie A	1	Lewis S	1	Phoebe T	1	Josiah D G
Coquet	681	2	Abigail A	2	Ben E	2	Michael B-P	2	Josh C
Tweed	624	3	Sam L	3	Estella F	3	Freya B	3	John M
Wansbeck	716	4	Lewis T	4	Jonah D	4	Leila S	4	Betsy B

Class Charts



Class Charts allows parents/carers to keep up to date with their child's day-to-day school experience. At the click of a button, you can access your child's timetable, school behaviour record and homework calendar. We would encourage all parents/carers to engage by downloading the app to your phone or other device. You can also access Class Charts via a desktop.

Your child has been sent home with the parent/carer login details, as well as their own login details, so that they can access the pupil app if they so wish. If you struggle to access the app, please contact Mr Stephenson via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk for further support. We would really appreciate you taking the time to download and access the app – thank you in advance.

Cost of living update

We are aware that recent increases in the cost of living are adversely impacting many families. In the coming days, Ms Sparke, our Chief Financial Officer, will write to parents and carers to bring to your attention the sources of financial support that may be available to help families in meeting the costs

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associated with school, and to encourage you to apply for any funding or support that you might be eligible for.

Attendance – top form classes!

Congratulations to all of these form classes, who have 100% attendance!

5 HCO / 5 FHA / 5 JNI / 5 MDO / 5 ABA / 6 RAL / 6 JJO / 6 MBE / 7 ETA / 8 IHO / 8 BLA

News from the community

Hexham Abbey Choir



The Hexham Abbey Choir has had a good summer break and is now looking forward to a packed Autumn programme of events, including a visit to Palma in October half term and singing carols in the run up to Christmas. They are now recruiting even more singers of all ages. There will be open days next week: Wednesday 14 September for girls and Thursday 15 September for boys. Please see the attached flyer for details.



Reminders/ Key Dates

All week	Baseline tests	Year 5
Thursday 15 September	Welcome to Year 5 Evening, 5.15pm	Year 5 parents/carers
	Welcome to Year 6 Evening, 6.30pm	Year 6 parents/carers
Friday 16 September	Extra-curricular programme published	All
Tuesday 20 September	Welcome to Year 7 and 8 Evening, 6.00pm	Year 7/8 parents/carers
Monday 26 September	Individual School Photographs	All

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

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