

30 September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

It's been another fast week and the great start to term continues at HMS. The extra-curricular programme has launched successfully and we have been so impressed with the engagement of the children. Lunch clubs have been very well attended and after-school club organisation is being finalised. This can be more complex due to there being lots of interest so I thank you for your patience whilst some plans are finalised.

It has been an absolute joy to read the many applications submitted for the role of Head Pupil. The applicants have shown confidence and maturity and I was very pleased that all candidates could be invited for interview this week. The leadership team will have a difficult decision to make but the new Head Pupils and their Deputies will be confirmed on Monday. This morning, the school gathered in their House groups for our annual House Hustings. The candidates for House Captains gave wonderful speeches and the members of the house cast their votes. The results will be announced on Monday. I want to say a huge thank you to each applicant – it is great to see the enthusiasm for Pupil Leadership roles.



Miss Liddle has exciting developments underway to enhance KS2 playtime. She has ordered lots of exciting new equipment and new benches for additional seating. She will soon be recruiting 'Kindness Ambassadors' from KS2 and 'Peer Mentors' from KS3 to support pupils at break and lunchtime. New lanyards and hi-vis jackets are en-route which she is very excited about! More info to follow next week.

This week, pupils have focused on Harvest Festival. As a team, we have decided to pause our annual collection for The West Northumberland Food Bank and will send out details of our planned collection later this term as we approach the Christmas period.

#HelloYellow
IS BACK
10.10.2022

To raise awareness of 'World Mental Health Day' on Monday 10 October, pupils and staff are invited to take part in 'Hello Yellow Day'. Pupils can wear non-uniform but should try to wear something yellow to promote the day. Optional donations can be made via School Gateway on the day – thank you for your support.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

European Day of Languages Bake Off 2022

On Monday 26 September, we saw the return of our European Day of Languages Bake off. What a fantastic effort by all the pupils who entered. The cakes were very impressive, and the teachers really enjoyed judging the entries. It was very difficult to choose the winners as the standard was so high. To say thank you for their efforts, all pupils who entered will receive a P3 - making a big difference to the house totals. Please see our [website](#) or Facebook for a full photo album of entries!



School Council

We are currently holding class elections for our School Council with representatives from each form group. Our Head Pupils will be chairing the council this year. We look forward to our first Key Stage Committee meetings shortly where pupils will reflect on discussions taking place in form time as part of our personal development curriculum and pupil voice approach. We would also like to promote another opportunity for pupils in Year 7 and 8. This [e-flyer](#) provides information on how pupils can express an interest in being a Youth Cabinet member with Northumberland County Council. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Mr Freeman-Myers.



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	9916	1	Sofia O	1	Wilf C	1	Carley B	1	Nathaniel O
Coquet	9514	2	Archie D	2	Tom N	2	Michael BP	2	Isobel C
Tweed	9285	3	Lewis T	3	Abigail H	3	Marnie C	3	Joshua J
Wansbeck	9447	4	Elsie L	4	Sarah N	4	Freya B	4	Sam B

Children's Commissioner: The Big Summer Survey

The Children's Commissioner's office has launched *The Big Summer Survey* which will provide new insights into how children spent their summer holidays as part of the Family Review. You can access the survey [via this link](#) and you'll also find here activities young people can complete alongside the survey. The closing date for the survey to be completed is Friday 21 October.



Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA	7JET	6EKI

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	Emily A	Hayden D	Archie D	Jamie A
Engage	Owen F	Antony M	Conny S	Harrison P
Aspire	Rory A	Connie R	Alastair W	Lewis D

News from the community

Carbon Neutral Poster/Short Video Competition

Hexham Town Council are running a poster and short video competition for pupils in years 1-13, with prizes available for each year group. This competition is in aid of Hexham's goal to become net zero by 2030. The goal is to protect the environment and for Hexham to be carbon neutral, have clean air, clean streams and rivers, and enough space for plants, insects, animals, birds and people to live healthily. They would very much like pupils to take part in this competition, considering: How we will heat our homes in 2030 / How we will travel sustainably in 2030 / How we will reduce waste in 2030 / How we can use renewable energy in 2030 / What benefits we will see in 2030 from doing the 2022 carbon footprint survey.



The competition is to make an A4 poster or 60-second video on one or more of these questions. All pupils at Hexham schools are invited to take part. The deadline to submit is 5pm on 25 November 2022. Please see the attached flyer with more information!

Grow Hexham



There is a free family 'Fun in the Orchard' event on Sunday 2 October from 2-5pm. This is hosted by Grow Hexham alongside No. 28 Community House at Hexham Community Orchard on Tyne Green. There will be activities provided by Hexham Youthy, free recipe kits to take home provided by Hexham Community Grocery, and free apple bakes to sample provided by Hextol Tans. It should be a fun, community-focused event. Full details on the attached flyer!

Reminders/ Key Dates

Thursday 6 October	Meet the Tutor Evening (in-school) Appointments can now be made Short surveys can be returned here	All
Thursday 6 October	HMS PTA Annual General Meeting 7pm, The County Hotel, Hexham	All welcome to join us!
Monday 10 October	Hello Yellow Day World Mental Health Day 2022 	All
Thursday 13 October	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