

21 October 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

Here we are at the end of a great first half term of the year. All of our pupils have made such a positive start and I am very proud of all the school continues to achieve. It has been a joy to visit classrooms over the past couple of weeks and to speak to the children about their learning: they talk so positively about their school experience. It has also been wonderful to see the engagement of the children in our extra-curricular programme – attendance has been high and we continue to encourage all pupils to get involved in school life as much as they can. From all of us at HMS, we wish you a great half term break – we will see the children back in school at 8.40am on Monday 31 October.



We are delighted to say that our new buildings and facilities won 'Schools Project of the Year' at the 2022 Education Estates Awards in Manchester on Tuesday evening.

New starters' breakfast treat



On Tuesday morning, we were delighted to invite our full Year 5 cohort, as well as new starters from across the school, to a breakfast treat in the dining hall. Our fantastic catering team served up a delicious selection of waffles and pastries: the smell alone had the pupils excited! We have been incredibly impressed with how well all of our new starters have handled their transition to HMS and I know all of the staff share my pride in how maturely they have risen to the new challenges of middle school life. Well done everyone; I can't wait to see what further successes the rest of the year brings!



Dave Burns – PSHE

On Wednesday, Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to have sessions with Dave Burns in school. Year 5 participated in an 'Anti-bullying' workshop and Year 6 worked on being 'Safe on the Streets'. Both sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all students, with lots of participation and interaction throughout. After half term, we are excited to provide the opportunity for KS2 students to be 'Kindness Ambassadors' at break and lunchtimes – putting some of the key messages from these sessions into practice.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

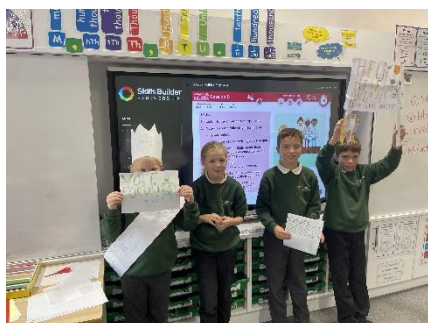
Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Rugby League World Cup

We had a great day at St James' Park on Saturday to watch the first match of the Rugby League World Cup! What a brilliant experience for the children who attended. Thank you to Mr Stephenson, Mr Johnson and Mrs Box for coming along for the day.



Skills Builder Day



On Monday, all pupils took part in another Skills Builder challenge day. Last year we embarked on the Operation Moonbase challenge day; this received lots of positive feedback. We have chosen to undertake two challenge days this year. Our first one was titled 'A Day in Politics'. Pupils were involved in learning more about developing a campaign for a party in politics in the hope that it could make the country a better place. Pupils work to develop all eight essential Skills Builder skills through a range of activities. We are seeking to achieve the silver award this year, building on our success of achieving a bronze last year.

Lego League

We are delighted with the level of interest from pupils for Lego League. We have had three sessions so far which has involved pupils building attachments for the Lego robot. We are fortunate to have three Sixth Form mentors: Rhiannon, Pete and Elspeth and support from Mr Nicholson. We aim to take a team of 10 pupils to the regional competition in March. With thanks to Northumberland County Council for provided kit and a competition mat, we are now set to build the knowledge and skills necessary to compete. The theme for this year's competition is 'Supercharged' focusing on energy. As a team, we will have to complete a range of tasks after designing a robot and also prepare a research presentation. We look forward to providing more updates as we progress as a team in our first Lego League journey.



PTA News

Winter Disco! We are delighted to announce that our PTA are hosting a **Winter Disco on Wednesday 2 November** at HMS. Year 5 and 6 have their disco from 5.30-6.45pm and Year 7 and 8 from 7-8.15pm. We sent information home earlier this week and it is also available on our [website](#). If your child would like to attend, please [complete the consent form](#) and your child should bring the £3 payment to school in a named sealed envelope.

Lottery Winners: Congratulations to our two HMS Lottery Winners Kevin Robson and Kevan Stronach. The PTA will be in touch with your winnings to you. If you would like to find out more or join the Lottery contact hmsprizedraw@gmail.com or follow the link <https://forms.gle/miGYFFUavx3NjrB18>.

HMS PTA annual overview: 2021/22 has been a year of getting used to normal times again. Thankfully no lockdowns and plenty of in school events has meant we've had a fun time for the children and

enabled lots of parents/carers to get involved. We've also successfully adjusted to the new school site for events like the movie night, pop up shops and the summer fair. Thanks to the generosity of the school community during 21/22, we were able to fund over £7000 of additional enrichment activities and facilities for the children at HMS.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all of the teachers and support staff at HMS who have supported our children and the PTA, as well as a massive 'Thank You' to all the parents and carers who have helped throughout the year - the fundraising and events wouldn't happen without you all.

Going forward we are planning more great events for the children such as discos, pop up shops and a new festive evening - more details to follow. We'd always like to have more people involved so if you are interested in contributing some of your time or knowledge please say 'Hello' via our PTA email: hmsptachair@gmail.com

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	18,108	1	Gwilym HD	1	Holli M & Oscar D	1	Isla M	1	Troy P
Coquet	17,443	2	Maddoc H & Abbie A	2	Robbie S	2	Leila S	2	Isobella S
Tweed	16,997	3	Kirstie A	3	Callum J	3	Patrick F	3	Jennifer W
Wansbeck	17,114	4	Dominique H	4	Gracie R	4	Agatha L	4	Daisy W

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
8PGA / 8IHO / 6EKI / 5ABA	7JET	7JKW / 7AMG / 5HCO

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
Respect	Elsie-May P	Ossie D
Engage	Emily W	Sophie A
Aspire	Tyler H	Ciera M

News from the Community



Hexham Youth Initiative: Please see attached the Hexham Youthy October Half Term Activities. You can book via Facebook or text – contact details on the attachment.

Northumberland Libraries: There is a session for The Big Draw Festival at Hexham Library on Saturday 29 October, aimed at 8-16 year olds. This is a wet felting workshop, inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels. The idea is to explore drawing with multicoloured wool to create Northumberland scenes, so it's something a bit different and perhaps not something people have had the chance to have a go at before. Spaces can be booked via Eventbrite. The cost is £2 and the session lasts for 2 hours. All materials are supplied. Please see attached poster or their [website](#) for more information, including a link to book.

Reminders/ Key Dates



Monday 31 October	PSHE - 'Knife Crime' workshop	Year 7
Monday 31 October	PSHE - 'County Lines' workshop	Year 8
Wednesday 2 November	Zoolab visit	Year 5
Wednesday 2 November	PTA Winter Discos	KS2: 5.30-6.45pm KS3: 7.00-8.15pm
Thursday 3 November	English visit to Tynemouth	Year 6
Thursday 10 and Thursday 17 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings	Year 6
Monday 21 November	Supporting Reading: Parent/Carer Session	Information to follow
Monday 28 November	Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session	All years

Have a fantastic half term everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School