

18 November 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

This week, we were delighted to welcome Future First into school to launch our new mentoring programme. I want to send huge thanks to the many members of our local community who gave up their time to talk about their careers. We also welcomed Children North East into school to explore how we can best provide school uniform – thank you to those of you who were able to contribute to their information gathering. Today, the school has gone ‘Spotacular’ to fundraise for ‘Children in Need’ – donations can be made via School Gateway if you would like to.

I have attached this year’s ‘Festive Calendar’ so that you can plan your calendars early before the busy season really begins. We have lots going on in school and we are all looking forward to see lots of you during December at the various events.

HMS Remembers

On Sunday, we were delighted to once again be part of the Hexham Remembrance Service. It is an honour to take part alongside so many community organisations. It was a poignant and powerful service of remembrance. Pupils made this year's HMS wreath themselves covering the range of poppy colours. Mrs Dodds and pupils also worked hard on our school displays this year. Lest we forget.



Collection for Christmas Hampers

This half term, we are seeking donations to support [Hexham Community Grocery](#) (run in partnership with The Message Trust and Hexham Community Church) and [West Northumberland Food Bank](#). Both are vital organisations supporting our local community. If you feel able to, please could you send in any food donations so that we can deliver some festive hampers to the community. If you would like to donate any items, they can be delivered to the HMS Office via pupils or you may wish to drop them off. If you feel you could benefit from additional support from the organisations mentioned, please get in touch and we can support. Thank you for your support.

West Northumberland
**FOOD
BANK**

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Head of School: **Liam Watters**

PTA Christmas Activities!

Pop Up Shops

We are starting to feel very festive and we are delighted to let you know that the PTA Christmas pop-up shop is coming soon! Please send your donations into school before 7 December. Full details and some suggested items can be found [here](#). As always, we are so grateful for your support - thank you!

Festive Forest Evening - Thursday 1 December 5.30 - 7.00pm

This is a brand-new event to kickstart the festive season. Visit our Forest School area for campfire, hot chocolate and festive crafts. Indoor craft activities include 'Wreath in a Jar' and 'Hug in a Mug'. Refreshments will include mulled apple juice, mince pies, cakes and hot dogs! There will be Christmas songs from our musicians. All crafts and food/drinks are individually priced. Please bring cash. This should be a wonderful start to this year's Christmas season. We hope to see you there! 🌲

Key Dates

Please see the below dates for each year group's Christmas trip and our wonderful residential visit opportunities. We are committed to providing a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to enrich their curriculum experience. We also know that the cost of living crisis and other factors are impacting lots of families. Please contact me if you would like to discuss financial support for any of the below opportunities.

Christmas Trips

Year Group(s)	Dates	Visit
5	20 December 2022	Tyne Theatre Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast
6	20 December 2022	Tyne Theatre Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast
7	12 December 2022	Forum Cinema and Wentworth Fun Day
8	19 December 2022	Centre for Life and Ice Skating

Residential Visit Opportunities

Year Group(s)	Dates	Visit	Information
5	7 – 9 June	Whithaugh Park, Outdoor Centre	Released in January
6	21 – 23 June	Whithaugh Park, Outdoor Centre	Released in January
7	27 – 29	London City Break	Sent home
8	1 – 5 May	High Borrans, Lake District	Sent home
7 and 8	22 – 27 June	International Visit: France	Sent home

Future First Mentoring

On Tuesday, we welcomed a representative from Future First. Shannon led a morning workshop with 30 Year 6 mentees and 30 KS3 mentors. During the workshop, pupils explored examples of good

mentorship. Future First had matched up mentees and mentors based on hobbies, favourite subjects and possible future jobs. The culmination of the morning session saw pupils develop a board game themed on making the transition from Year 6 into Year 7.

In the afternoon session, Future First organised a wide range of members of the local community to come into school. Our mentees and mentors had the opportunity to guess what these volunteers did for a living and then learn more about their current jobs. As part of good careers guidance and curriculum, dispelling stereotypes is critical. Pupils learned more about the under representation of genders in particular jobs with the intention of myth-busting generalised attitudes towards different roles.

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	27,397	1	Rufus A	1	Lyra R	1	Robbie L	1	Anya C
Coquet	26,754	2	Maja M	2	Ivy M	2	Carley B	2	Josh J
Tweed	26,094	3	Georgie W	3	Callum J	3	Liv M	3	Cori R
Wansbeck	26,059	4	Etta L	4	Oscar D	4	Michael BP	4	Sam B

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
6EKI / 5MDO	8IHO / 5FHA	5ABA

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	Georgia A	Dylan B	Lorien V	Halle P
Engage	Tilly C	Cory S	Harry H	Brooke C
Aspire	Archie D	Lewis S	Eve W	Thomas E

Emotional Based School Avoidance

Please click [here](#) for an excellent resource for children, parents/carers and school staff on the topic of Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA). There are brochures aimed at children, families and young people to help understand the different views around EBSA. The worksheets, guides and advice are a great starting place for families looking for more information about EBSA.

News from the Community

Tynedale Lions: Bursary Scheme: Tynedale Lions Club has developed a bursary scheme to help in the further and personal development of young people who deserve to be recognised for their hard work and/or exceptional achievement. They have four bursaries of £500 for the period up to the 30th June 2023. Applicants need to be 11-18 years of age and live in Tynedale. Young people with learning difficulties will be considered up to the age of 25. The closing date for applicants is the 13 December 2022. Full details of the scheme, including how to apply, are in the attached document.



Reminders/ Key Dates



Monday 21 November	Careers in the NHS Session	Year 8
Tuesday 22 November	Chemistry Workshops with Newcastle University	Year 8
Friday 25 November	Cressida Cowell, Author Workshop	Years 5 and 6
Friday 25 November	Christmas Light Switch On – HMS Orchestra Playing – Hexham Bandstand	All welcome
Monday 28 November	Emotion Coaching: Parent/Carer Session , 5.30pm	All years
Thursday 1 December	PTA present...Festive Forest Evening, 5.30-7pm	All welcome
Tuesday 6 December	STEM: Marine Engineering Workshops	Year 5
Thursday 8 and Tuesday 13 December	Year 8 Parents' Evenings	Year 8
Thursday 15 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School