

16 December 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Update on life in school

As Christmas fast approaches, it has been non-stop here at HMS. I love this time of year and I hope the children have enjoyed the festive build-up too! We were absolutely delighted to return to Hexham Abbey last night for our annual HMS Carol Service. After two years of virtual services, it was a joy to hear the wonderful choir, orchestra and readers in such a beautiful production. Mr Holdsworth, as always, did a marvellous job of putting together such a joyous service and it was clear to see the hours of dedication and planning which went into the evening (and that go into music generally at HMS!). A huge thank you for your support and to the staff team who supported the evening so brilliant – *a special mention for Miss Lamont's harp playing which was such a great addition!* We will share videos and photographs soon.

Our PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops have been a **huge** success – the PTA have made an amazing **£836.96** profit over two lunchtimes. After a sell-out two days, the Friday shop was unfortunately not able to go ahead. We and the PTA would like to say a massive thank you to all of the parents who donated items and to everybody who helped run the shops. It is another example of your generosity and kind spirit – it is hugely appreciated. We'll be running our 'Mothers and Others Pop-Up Shop' in the spring term.

We have several trips going out next week, Christingle services and Celebration Assemblies – look out for lots of good news in next week's update. Don't forget – school closes at 12.30pm on Friday 23rd December ready for the Christmas break.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday we had our HMS Christmas lunch. What an absolute treat! The catering team did the school proud - a turkey dinner with all of the trimmings including cranberry sauce and Brussels sprouts. We felt very festive, with Christmas music playing in the background. We would like to say a huge thank you to the catering team who worked so hard to provide such delicious food!



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Head of School: **Liam Watters**

HMS library needs you...to return your overdue books!



Please look under your beds, on top of cupboards and in your bags for any overdue or 'lost' HMS library books. There is a green 'returns' tray on the library desk so that pupils can bring back books at any time. The aim is to start 2023 with all books found and back on the shelves. Any overdue books that are not returned by the new year may need to be paid for or replaced by the borrower.

Many thanks for your support.

Wreath designs and tree decorations



We have been busy making tutor group wreaths for our form rooms during Personal Development time. The theme given was 'Peace'. We have some fabulous designs on classroom doors and it is certainly making the corridors look very festive. Pupils were asked to make the wreath using cut-out profiles of their hands. On the back of each hand, pupils were asked to consider what their Christmas wish would be or what they are hoping for in the future. In Year 8 DT, pupils have been making felt Christmas tree decorations. They have been learning about different textiles and textile properties and have used felt and polyester to make these tree decorations.



Josh Green Pedestrian and Road Safety

This week The Riot Act gave a performance of the theatre production 'Josh Green' to Year 8 pupils. This focuses on the Pedestrian and Road Safety Act. This is part of Year 8's personal development curriculum. They shared key messages on how to stay safe as a pedestrian on the road network. On dark nights we are mindful that road safety is especially important. For more information, please see the following document: [Teaching Road Safety: a guide for parents](#).

Clubs during the last week of term

Some after school clubs won't take place during the last week of term. If this affects your child, you should receive a separate email. These clubs include Lego League, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Yoga Club and Basketball Club.



Dungeons & Dragons Update!

After many weeks of character building and (trying) to learn the rules, we were finally able to start a campaign. The much-anticipated tension and hype did not disappoint as we dived headlong (after a quick trip to the tavern) into a confrontation with a group of goblin bandits! Needless to say, three minutes in, Mrs Alderson was incapacitated by a mace in the face and was in need of rescue from the rest of the group! In his role as Dungeon Master, Oliver H is phenomenal, describing the scenes and decisions to be made in such vivid detail that it all felt scarily real and exciting. A fantastic time was had by all and we are all very much looking forward to beating those goblins in the new year.

Citizens Advice

Pastoral staff at both schools have been working recently with staff at Citizens Advice to be able to assist in signposting families to various forms of help that exist offering support and guidance in these challenging times. We have been asked to share the attached advice column and to highlight other advice that can be found on the Citizens Advice webpage [here](#).

Clothes Bank

The PTA, in collaboration with a clothes bank organisation, Fundraise & Recycle, has arranged for the installation of a clothing container at the very bottom of the school car park. The first collection is scheduled for January. Donations are welcome and any funds raised will be collected jointly by the QE and HMS PTAs for the benefit of both schools. Please donate any good condition clothes, shoes, belts, bags, duvet covers and accessories. They do not accept damaged goods, books, duvets, pillows, curtains or any heavy items. Donations should be bagged. Bags are available on request at the Hydro reception and at the HMS office but any bag will do.



PTA Lottery Winners

Congratulations to Lucy Crystal and Samantha Donnison, who are this month's HMS PTA Lottery Winners – Lucy on her very first draw! The PTA will be in touch to send your winnings. If you would like to find out more or join the Lottery, please contact hmsprizedraw@gmail.com or follow the link <https://forms.gle/miGYFUavx3NjrB18>.

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	40,499	1	Zach A	1	Emmie R	1	Ferdi U	1	Isabella S
Coquet	38,328	2	Sinjin R Josh R	2	Lyra R	2	Thomas T	2	Olivia A
Tweed	38,119	3	Nicholas F H	3	Bess D	3	Lilly S	3	Maisie M Betsy B
Wansbeck	37,884	4	Daniel B-M Jude D	4	Evie J Evie A	4	Freddie Y	4	Aston W-W

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5ABA	5HCO	5MDO / 7JKW

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	Duncan G	Anna O	Georgie R	Ryan D
Engage	Eben S	William T	Lucy P	Lincoln S
Aspire	Kirstie A	Ossie D	Alex G	Arthur D

News from the Community



Reminders/ Key Dates



Monday 19 December	Year 8 Christmas Trip to Centre for Life / Ice Skating	Year 8
Tuesday 20 December	KS2 Christmas Trip to Tyne Theatre Panto (return to school at 5pm- collection from HMS main entrance please)	Years 5 and 6
Wednesday 21 December	Celebration Assemblies	All years
Thursday 22 December	Christmas Jumper Day Christingle Services	All years

Friday 23 December	School finishes at 12.30pm	All years
Monday 9 January	Return to school	All years

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School