



13 January 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

Start of term update

Welcome back to a new term everyone and a very Happy New Year to all of you! This week, we have focused on settling back into school routines following a busy festive build-up and a school holiday. Thank you for all of your support during the past term – it was a busy but very successful one with lots to celebrate. As we start a new term, it is always a good opportunity for us to share some hopefully useful reminders.

Pupil Support

Our 'Pupil Support' provision is comprehensive. Please remind your child of the different ways they can access support – their main point of contact is always their form teacher or Head of Key Stage (Mr Scott for KS3 and Miss Liddle for KS2). They may also benefit from support from one of the below staff members who are available during the school day. You can contact staff members by the main office (phone) or by email (admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) to arrange a meeting or conversation.

Name	My Role	Where to find me
Mr Watters	Head of School	Next to the main entrance
Mr Stephenson	Designated Safeguarding Leader SENDCo	B floor – next to The Base
Mr Freeman-Myers	Mental Health Leader	A floor – near the hall
Mr Scott and Miss Liddle	Head of Key Stage	B floor office
Mrs Adams	Assistant SENDCo	B floor – next to The Base
Mrs Dodds/Mrs Richards	Pupil Support Workers	B floor – RESTORE
Mrs Toor/Miss Scott	Academic Support	B floor – FB4/FB16
Mrs Harle, Mrs Spalding, Mrs Brotherton and Mrs Westlake	Admin Team First Aid Support	HMS office

Online Safety

We know new devices may have been high on many Christmas lists. Please can you try to regularly check your child's devices and apps to ensure that they are staying safe online. Online safety features throughout our PSHE, computing and assembly programmes and we'll be covering further key themes this term. We will also continue to send home app guidance via our social media platforms. We are always happy to provide further support and guidance if you need it.

Hexham Middle School

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www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Routines

A reminder that school starts at 8.40am and pupils should be lined up with their class at this time. The school day ends at 3.15pm for all HMS pupils.

Uniform

Our pupils have returned to school ready for a new term and looking very smart. You can find all of our school uniform information [here](#). A few reminders that would be worth discussing with your child at home:

- Jewellery and make up – pupils can wear a watch and one stud earring per ear. No other jewellery, including hoop earrings and rings, is allowed. Any jewellery beyond a watch and stud (per ear) will need to be removed and stored securely in the HMS Office. Make up must not be worn in school.
- Jewellery in PE – all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons – this is non-negotiable due to health and safety regulations.
- A reminder that pupils should only bring roll on deodorants to school when they have PE – sprays will not be allowed in the changing rooms.

Attendance

We continue to focus on great attendance in our weekly celebration assemblies and to discuss the importance of attendance at school. We are always very proud of our levels of attendance. We do know that there were so many germs and bugs around before Christmas and lots of pupils were sadly poorly in the run up to Christmas. As the new term develops, we continue to encourage children to be in school unless they are absolutely unable to come in. If your child is absent, please call the main office as early as you possibly can to let us know.

Being ready for learning

As well as knowledge, we want to equip our pupils with the essential skills they will need as they progress through school and into the world beyond. One key aspect of this is 'great organisation' and we would love to see pupils checking that they have the necessary equipment in school every day. I would really like to encourage the use of folders to encourage organisation – something like the one shown can be really helpful. If you need any support in purchasing school equipment, please speak to me. The school equipment list can be found [here](#) and in your child's planner. Thank you for your support.



Extra-curricular

Our action-packed [extra-curricular programme](#) continues this half term. If your child is no longer planning to attend an after-school club, please let us know via the admin email. If your child would

like to apply for a place at an after-school club, please [complete the online form](#). All in-school clubs require no sign up and children are encouraged to go along.

New additions/changes: Mrs Richardson has introduced an exciting new **'Shakespeare Society'** for Year 7 pupils – Thursday after school. Mr Nichol is launching a new **'Warhammer Club'** for all year group – Thursday after school. Please sign up [here](#). The KS2 after-school football will be for Year 6 until February half term and Year 5 from February until Easter.



Staffing update

As you may know, Mr Scott had an operation last term and has sadly struggled with ongoing complications. Mr Scott is in school in his role as Head of Key Stage 3 but is unable to teach his PE classes. In the meantime, we are delighted that Mrs Barnett and Mrs Southern will be covering his timetable so that the children have access to specialist PE teaching. I will keep you updated as to when Mr Scott will return to his PE teaching timetable.

SATS Information Evening

Our 'Year 6 SATS Information Evening' takes place on Tuesday 31 January at 6.30pm in the HMS Hall. If you would like to attend, please confirm how many seats you will require on this [form](#). Children may attend this event if they wish, although they will get lots of information in school as we move towards the assessment period in May. The evening will have helpful information about what the assessments are like, when they are taken and how you find out about your child's results. There will also be information on how we help the children with their learning and ways you can further support your child's learning at home.

HMS Library needs 'Library Champions'

Is your son or daughter interested in books and reading? Are they keen to learn new skills? If so, perhaps you would like to discuss with them the possibility of becoming a Library Champion, in which they would volunteer in the HMS Library at lunchtimes. For further information and a brief application form, please tell them to see Ms Hayler at the library desk. Thank you.

HMS Library – Environmental Book Launch



This year, why not set your son or daughter a New Year's resolution to read more widely! Here at HMS Library, we are delighted to announce a range of new titles with an environmental theme.

Whether pupils are interested in climate-change activism, volcanoes or discovering new places, these fiction and non-fiction books are bound to inspire children to become more informed about the world and how to change it for the



better. So many of our pupils are passionate about the environment: many have joined in climate change protests or are keen to improve the planet. We hope that this new collection will continue to inspire their journey of discovery through different environmental themes.

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	45,574	1	Sinjin R	1	Clara H	1	Sophie S	1	Josh J
Coquet	43,062	2	Finlay H	2	Sam C	2	Alex L	2	Katie A
Tweed	42,980	3	Emily W	3	Noah W	3	Carley B	3	Elsa B
Wansbeck	42,357	4	Lewis T	4	Zach D Toby C	4	Alastair W Gabriel B Martha B	4	Sienna H Josh D Jennifer W

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
5FHA	7JKW / 6RAL	7EST / 6EKI / 5MDO

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	Dylan B	Bella W	Logan L
Engage	Harry G	Cody B	Sarah M	Anja B
Aspire	Maja M	Lewis S	Charlotte P	Ryan D

News from the Community



Citizens Advice

Pastoral staff at both schools have been working recently with staff at Citizens Advice to be able to assist in signposting various forms of help that exist to families in these challenging times. We have been asked to share the attached advice column, which covers issues for which their offices are currently seeing more enquiries or where they are aware there is a cause for concern.



Reminders/ Key Dates

Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 January	Year 5 PSHE Workshops	Year 5
Wednesday 18 January	HMS PTA Meeting, The County Hotel, 7pm	All welcome
Thursdays 19 and 26 January	Year 5 Parents' Evenings	Year 5
Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 January	KS3 First Aid Training	Year 7 and Year 8
Tuesday 31 January	Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Year 6

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters
Head of School

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Stephenson / **Deputy Leaders:** Mr Scott and Mr Freeman-Myers

Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Stephenson and Mrs Adams

Pupil Support Workers: Mrs Dodds and Mrs Richards

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email (admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).