



# Hexham Middle School

*spes durat avorum*

20 January 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

## HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

### Update on life in school

What a snowy and cold it has been – thank you to all of our site team who worked tirelessly to keep the school running with minimal disruption after the sudden snow on Monday morning. It's been a great second week back with pupils back in their learning routines and engaging well both within and beyond the classroom. Our already packed extra-curricular provision has grown further with the addition of Warhammer Club, Shakespeare Society and Chess Club – please encourage your child to get involved as much as they can.

Year 5 have enjoyed workshops with 'The CO Crew' to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide; a group of KS3 pupils have taken part in a chilly cross country in South Shields and a very lucky group from the HMS Choir joined students at QE for an inspirational session with opera singers from the Samling Academy.

The HMS PTA met this week to plan our events for the rest of the school year – we have an exciting spring and summer ahead. Look out for more information including dates very soon. **The next meeting of the PTA will be at 7pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at The County Hotel** – you are all welcome to join us.

### Potential Strike Action

Parents/carers will be aware that the National Education Union has announced a series of potential strike days, which for us in the North East would be 1 February, 28 February, 15 March and 16 March should they go ahead. As a school, we are now in the process of determining the nature and extent of the provision we can put on for pupils given reduced staffing and will update you further as soon as this becomes clear.

### Water bottles

Please could you check that your child has a water bottle to bring to school, and that this is clearly named. We would recommend a sturdy plastic or metal bottle. After Christmas, many pupils have been bringing in 'Air Up' bottles, which are quite expensive. We know that water bottles can often be misplaced so please encourage your child to keep them safe. If your child doesn't have a bottle, we have lots in school – please ask them to see Mr Watters.



## Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

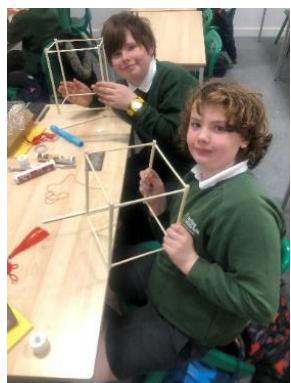
T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)

[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Mandarin Club and our Chinese themed lunch



This week, we have been delighted to start our **Mandarin Club** once again. In celebration of Chinese New Year and Spring Festival, pupils have started to construct their own Chinese Lanterns. Pupils have worked hard to build the framework and, next week, they will be decorating their lanterns as well as trying out some traditional paper cutting techniques.

Furthermore, as part of our celebration of **Chinese New Year** we will be having a Chinese themed lunch on Tuesday 24 January. If your child doesn't normally have school lunches and wishes to take part, please make sure they have sufficient funds on their account. The Chinese themed lunch menu is at the end of this update.

## County Cross Country Success

The **Northumberland County Cross Country Championships** took place at Temple Park, South Shields. The day was cold and bright with a light dusting of snow on the course. Ten HMS pupils had qualified to run at this event. Despite the A69 being closed en-route, we arrived just in time for the Y7 boys to race first. The race was run over 2600m and is always one of the largest fields of the day. **Wilfred P** had a magnificent run to come back in second place. **Billy B** came in quickly in an excellent 13<sup>th</sup> place. Both Wilfred and Billy have been selected to run at the Inter County Championships to be held at Silksworth Sports Complex. **Patrick F** ran strongly to finish as our third runner.



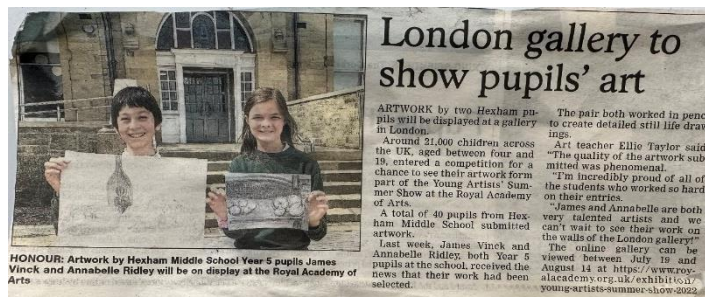
The Y7 girls performed brilliantly: **Emilia S** finished an excellent fifth and **Beth N** backed up her great run at Ovingham with a 13<sup>th</sup> place. Both girls are selected to run for Northumberland. **Winnie L** and **Esther A** made an excellent debut in this race, finishing well in 37<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup>. We had two Y8 competitors, who had a challenging race against the Y9 pupils. **Arthur D** has shown that he is a great prospect for next year's race; he finished well inside the top third of the field. **Charlotte A** gained valuable big race experience being our only Y8 girl competitor. All runners were a pleasure to take to this event. It was great to see them sprinting hard for the line, wearing their HMS badge with pride.

## The Young Royal Academy of Arts competition is back!

Pupils from Hexham Middle school have the opportunity to enter an art competition which could lead to their artwork being displayed in a London art gallery! Each pupil can submit **one** piece and there is no theme. The deadline to submit to Miss Taylor is the 23 March 2023. When pupils enter, they will be asked to submit an image of the artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why they made it. The artwork can be made using any material: it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination.



Last year two HMS pupils, James V and Annabelle R, won, and their artwork was displayed in the London art gallery! If your son or daughter has any questions about the competition or their artwork, Miss Taylor can help.



## Year 7 English

As part of their study of Romeo & Juliet, Miss Richardson tasked her lovely Year 7s to design a ball masque for their homework. Here are a few examples – impressive, we're sure you'll agree!



## PTA Clothes Bank

If you are clearing out old clothing after Christmas, please consider donating to our **new clothes bank**. This has been arranged by the QE and HMS PTA, in collaboration with the clothes bank organisation Fundraise & Recycle. This is at the very bottom of the school car park. The first collection is scheduled for this month. 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. Thank you for your support.



## PTA Lottery Winners!

Congratulations to our two HMS Lottery Winners, Angela Lambert and Sarah Applegarth. The PTA will be in touch to get your winnings to you. If you would like to find out more or join the Lottery, contact [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto: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	
<b>AIn</b>	42,293	1	Sinjin R	1	Devin R	1	Thomas E	1	Isobella S
<b>Coquet</b>	46,398	2	Daniel B-M	2	Tom P	2	Livia M	2	Josh J
<b>Tweed</b>	46,288	3	Rosie O	3	Cristina C	3	Robbie L	3	Cori R
<b>Wansbeck</b>	45,381	4	Mia R	4	Jake D Evie A	4	Alex L	4	Anya C

### Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
8PGA / 5MDO / 5FHA	7EST / 6MBE	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	Year 7	Year 8
<b>Respect</b>	Oliver B	Ben E	Thomas T	Emma M
<b>Engage</b>	Katie R	Clara H	Charlotte K	Bradley C
<b>Aspire</b>	Jimmy B	Jake D	Abbie W	Jullietta O

## News from the Community



### Support for families

As part of Northumberland County Council's response to cost of living pressures, they have allocated a fund to support children and young people. Research released by Newsround captures this: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/pnqxa7g7gf/cost-of-living>.

The fund has four broad categories – eating, sleeping, playing and learning. Examples of what the fund can support are: personal hygiene products, travel passes, learning equipment, warm clothing, school uniform and food.

If you would like the school to apply on your behalf, please complete this [form](#), providing brief details of the support that would help, as well as your contact details and consent for us to share the information with Northumberland Communities Together.

Many of the wellbeing support and activities can be found on the Northumberland Frontline website: <https://northumberlandfrontline.org.uk/>.

### Support for parents to develop healthy relationships

Northumberland County Council are running two free groups in the coming months to support parents in developing healthy relationships. These are 'Getting it Right for Children' and 'Arguing Better'. Each group runs for three consecutive weeks.

*Getting it Right for Children:* This group is for parents who have separated and find it hard to communicate about their children. The ideal situation is if both parents attend this although they will never be in the same group. The next 'Getting it Right for Children' groups start on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28 February, 8-9pm (online)
- Thursday 2 March, 10-11am

*Arguing Better:* This group is for couples who find it hard to communicate about their children and who may be having arguments or heated conversations. The ideal situation is for parents to do this group together. This can also be offered to individual families. The next 'Arguing Better' groups start on the following dates:

- Thursday 2 March, 11.15am-12.15pm
- Thursday 16 March, 8-9pm (online)

Please see the attached posters with details.



## Reminders/ Key Dates

<b>Monday 23 January</b>	Year 5 PSHE Workshops	Year 5
<b>Tuesday 24 January</b>	Chinese New Year Lunch	All years
<b>Thursday 26 January</b>	Year 5 Parents' Evening	Year 5
<b>Friday 27 January</b>	Year 7 'The Speckled Band' Theatre Workshop	Year 7
<b>Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 January</b>	KS3 First Aid Training	Year 7 and Year 8
<b>Tuesday 31 January</b>	Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Year 6

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters  
**Head of School**



# Chinese New Year Themed Menu Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January



Sweet and sour pork (GF)  
Chinese chicken curry  
Vegetarian Chinese curry (V)  
Vegetable spring rolls served with sweet chilli sauce (V)(VG)

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served with either noodles or rice (VG) (GF)



Sweetcorn

Prawn crackers (GF)

Selection of salads

\*\*\*\*\*

Dessert

Chinese 5 spice cake (V)

Mandarin cheesecake (V)

fresh fruit salad (VG) (GF)

Chinese 5 spice muffin (VG) (GF)



V - Vegetarian GF - Gluten Free VG - Vegan

A selection of sandwiches will also be available should your child not wish to take part in the themed menu.