

21 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

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.

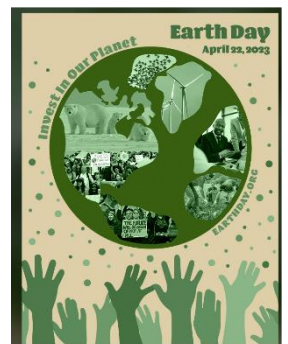
House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	76,421	1	Lily H	1	Noah W	1	Robbie L	1	Isobella S
Coquet	70,051	2	Annabel H	2	Evie A	2	Phoebe T	2	Luke B
Tweed	71,827	3	James T	3	Ben F	3	Winne L	3	Josh J
Wansbeck	71,036	4	Tilly C	4	Marc B	4	Luke G	4	Laura W

PTA Lottery Winners

Congratulations to our two HMS Lottery winners, Genevieve Crosby (£25) and Tom Schatzberger (£15). 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 or follow the link <https://forms.gle/miGYFUavxNjrB18>.

Earth Day Menu

As part of our commitment in supporting the global effort on climate change we are hosting an Earth Day themed lunch on Wednesday 26th April. Hadrian Learning Trust has sustainability at its heart. We try to use local suppliers and buy as much local produce as possible. We ensure the suppliers we do use take sustainability seriously. Our fish products are all MSC certified.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

As always, a selection of sandwiches, salads and jacket potatoes will also be available as an alternative should your child not wish to take part in the themed menu. If you would like to learn more about Earth Day, please visit the following website: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>

This Week's Assembly Focus

This week our assembly focus was **'The creative works of William Shakespeare'**, led by Mrs P Hall and Mr. Stephenson. Mrs Hall provided the following update on the activities students took part in.

The Bard's Birthday!

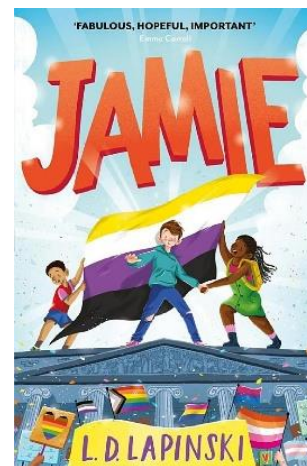


This week, students have been learning about Shakespeare in assembly to celebrate World Shakespeare Day on 23 April. The date of both his birth, in 1564, and his death, in 1616, this date is celebrated around the world as we acknowledge the amazing contributions he made to literature. Did you know that Shakespeare is credited with adding over 2000 words to the English language? Words such as 'eyeball', 'uncomfortable', 'fashionable' and 'bedazzled' are ones you might not expect. Students were also surprised to find out that many common phrases they use also first appeared in Shakespeare's works, such as: 'in a pickle'; 'vanish into thin air'; 'laughing stock'; 'seen better days' and 'heart of gold'. You could ask your son or daughter if they can remember any others!

Alongside this, Shakespeare is credited with creating some of the most powerful and moving storylines which are still used by writers today as the basis for their own adaptations. ***Can your child remember the play on which The Lion King was based?*** Over 400 years later, we are still celebrating the life and works of possibly the greatest ever English playwright, whose contributions to the English Literary Canon are limitless. The beautiful language, the powerful plots and the unforgettable characters have rightly stood the test of time and for that we are eternally grateful. Thank you, Shakespeare!

Hexham Book Festival

Hexham Book Festival kicks off this Friday – do take a look through their fantastic programme of events. As part of the festival we are very much looking forward to welcoming **LD Lapinski**, author of the best-selling ***Strangeworlds Travel Agency*** series, into school on Wednesday 26 April. LD's latest book, ***Jamie***, is a beautiful and uplifting story about how to make your own place when the world doesn't think you fit anywhere. 'A sensitive, moving story about fighting for acceptance and change'. The Guardian **You have the opportunity to pre-order a copy of *Jamie* at a special discounted price (30% off RRP) for signing by the author on the day. To order, click [here](#).**



Author Visit for KS2 Update: Cancellation

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Elle McNicoll has had to cancel her visit to the Hexham Book Festival and also to HMS on Tuesday 25 April. This is sad news and we hope that Elle will be able to reschedule her visit to later in the year. Hexham Book Festival will refund any book orders directly.

Free Young Writer Drop In

Are you aged 9+ and do you want to write fiction or poetry? Come and meet our young writers' group leader, Amanda Quinn. You'll be able to try some fun creative writing exercises and chat to Amanda about your writing. Everyone welcome (including parents/carers) – drop in at any time between 10.30-11.30am. Free but ticketed. To book, click the following link: <https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/Event/young-writers-drop-in>

Boot bank – Physical Education



All pupils are required to have a pair of moulded studded boots for various units of work in their Physical Education lessons. At several times throughout the academic year, pupils will use the 3G pitch for their lessons and it is compulsory to only wear studded boots on this playing surface. We hold a 'boot bank' within school. If a pupil wishes to borrow studded boots for a set period of time, they just need to give a £5 deposit to the PE department for a pair of studded boots to keep as their own and to take home. If the boots become too small or a pupil no longer needs them, they just need to return them to the PE department and they will receive their £5 deposit back, or collect a larger size.

Girls' Cricket

On the last day of term, nine HMS girls travelled to the Walker Activity Dome to play indoor cricket. These girls qualified for the event after winning the Tynedale event. We played four games over the day and ended up in the final against Ovingham Middle. Batting first, we set a good target to defend with great scores from Abby, Tiana, Hannah and Beth. Hannah opened the bowling and quickly bowled two players out. HMS bowlers made good progress in bowling and catching Ovingham batsman out. This meant that HMS were in a strong position to win the game. The last over! Ovingham needed three to win! A very hard-hit shot bounced out of HMS hands. Another superb one-handed catch saved a six. Last bowl, a great bowl from Hannah Ovingham, took a quick run. HMS were decisive in the field but lost by one run! It was a great effort in the final. All girls played a very high standard of game. It was disappointing to lose by one run, especially as HMS were on top for a lot of the match. Well done girls, Mr Gaines was very proud.



Art Club

In Art club since September, we have started to create life size trees. Pupils in HMS was given the task to create a tree sculpture. We have used cardboard, paper mâché and a plant pot for the base. Year 6 have taken a large role in creating the tree over the first two terms. The tree was created for our paper cranes to be put onto; this was a form time activity that all pupils in HMS took part in. The tree is now our new HMS Peace Tree!

Key Stage 3 Football Fixture

This week, Mr Scott and Mr Nichol took the Year 7 and Year 8 teams to an away fixture at Ovingham Middle School. The Year 7 game started quickly, with all players communicating well. Due to an excellent through ball, Charlie H quickly scored the opening goal. Ovingham responded well, but the Year 7s defence was immovable. In the second half, Charlie H scored yet again, before the game was swiftly put away by Anthony C. An outstanding 3-0 win for the HMS boys.

The Year 8s began with some quick passes, but the Ovingham Year 8s began to press them well. It was a strong, pacey game from both sides, but the HMS Year 8 boys were able to maintain their composure and get through the tough Ovingham defence. Due to some excellent passes and dribbles, the Year 8's were able to leave with a terrific 6-3 win over Ovingham.



Overall, Mr Scott and Mr Nichol were incredibly impressed with not only the talent on display, but also the excellent sportsmanship being displayed by the boys. They all engaged well and showed respect to their teammates and the opposition. Well done boys!

QEHS Spring Concert

If you enjoy live music, QE musicians would love your support at the Spring Concert, which is taking place on Wednesday 26 April at 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 and available on the door.

Attendance – top form classes!

1	2	3
7-ETA/6-FHI	5-JNI/7-EST	7-AMG/5-ABA

Reminders/ Key Dates

Tuesday 25 April	LD Lapinski Author Visit, Hexham Book Festival	Key Stage 3
Thursday 27 April	Art Trip to Baltic	Pupils from all year groups
Friday 28 April	Art Trip to Baltic	Pupils from all year groups
1 May	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Tuesday 2-Friday 5 May	High Borrans Trip	Year 8
Thursday 4 May	Height and Weight Checks	Year 6
Friday 5 May	Story of Earth, Newcastle University	Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 5 May	24 Hours in A&E, Newcastle University	Year 7
Friday 5 May	Girls in STEM, Newcastle University	Year 7 and 8 Girls
Monday 8 May	Bank Holiday for Coronation of King Charles III	School Closed

News from the community

Free After School Activities at the Hexham Community Garden

Hexham Community Garden is offering the opportunity for children of all ages to do some gardening, play, relax and meet friends after school (3:30 – 5:00pm) on Fridays. All ages are welcome, but young children must be supervised. If you're interested, visit the garden's Facebook page.





Hexham Wombles – The Big Help Out

The Hexham Wombles have signed up to The Big Help Out as part of the coronation weekend's celebration of community volunteers, as proposed by HRH King Charles III; <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>. Please come along and join them on The Corbridge Road, meeting at Hewson Court car park at 11am on Saturday 13 May. The Wombles are amazing and really do make a difference to our communities. Please do support if you can.

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).