

28 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

**Update on life in school**

Another week has flown by – we have two shorter weeks ahead with the Early May Bank Holiday followed by the additional Coronation Bank Holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. It has been fantastic to see our updated summer extracurricular programme up and running. With over 45 clubs a week, there really is something for everyone at HMS! It's also been fantastic to see lots of children representing the school beyond the classroom – I continue to be so proud of our personal development curriculum.

To mark the Coronation at HMS, we will be hosting a special afternoon tea style lunch on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May – this will be normal times and price – there's no need to sign up. Pupils can also wear red, white and blue if they wish. There'll be focused history lessons over the next couple of weeks and Ms Kwella is running our 'Coronation Quiche' competition – it would be great to see lots of entries. You can find [full information here](#).

**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>Aln</b>	78,745	1	Annabel H	1	Sarah N	1	Sophie S	1	Isobella S
<b>Coquet</b>	72,326	2	Ollie E	2	Brian T	2	Alistair W	2	Betsy B
<b>Tweed</b>	74,372	3	Wilfy D	3	Annabelle R	3	Sarah M	3	Josh J
<b>Wansbeck</b>	73,366	4	Sinjin R	4	Harriet A	4	Abigail B	4	Josh D

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## PSHE curriculum update

This half-term we will be studying the topics listed below in PSHE lessons. All of the resources used are age appropriate and approved by the PSHE Association. Further information can be found in our [Relationships and Sex Education Policy](#)

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Puberty: recap</li><li>• Puberty: change and becoming independent</li><li>• Positive, healthy relationships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Puberty and emotional changes</li><li>• Menstrual wellbeing</li><li>• Healthy and unhealthy relationships</li><li>• Managing conflict</li><li>• Introducing consent</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationship values</li><li>• Influences on relationship expectations</li><li>• Sexual orientation and gender identity</li><li>• Introduction to consent</li><li>• Introduction to contraception</li></ul>

### Online Safety Advice - do you know which apps your children are using?

It's important for adults in a child's life to be aware of what and who they are interacting with online, and for young people to be aware that what they share online can affect their lives in the 'real' world. For example, sharing their location (school, home) via images can give those who wish to do harm an opportunity to do so. Parents and carers may need help with having these conversations, especially if they feel unsure about the many apps available. [NSPCC – Chat Apps](#) and [Have a Conversation](#) contain helpful advice on how to approach this subject with children and young people. Please share this information with your parents and carers.



### Year 7 and year 8 inspired and engaged by author L.D. Lapinski

We were delighted to welcome Hexham Book Festival and the hugely talented L. D. Lapinski to HMS on Wednesday morning, with visiting schools St Joseph's Middle and Samuel King's. L.D. read from and talked to pupils about the book, *Jamie*, which features a non-binary main character. This joyful story celebrates acceptance, friendship, bravery and changing the world. They explored the themes of raising awareness, activism, rights to peaceful protest and freedom of expression. Year 7 and year 8 asked L.D. many thoughtful, insightful questions about life experience, becoming an author, how to plan a story and how to get it published. Inspiring, creative and entertaining, L.D. Lapinski engaged us all. Huge thanks to Sharon West and Hexham Book Festival for making L.D.'s visit possible. Copies of *Jamie* and

L.D.'s *The Strange World's Travel Agency* are now available to borrow from HMS Library.



## Year 6 Technology

In design technology, year 6 pupils have been developing their knowledge of structures, modelling skills and the ability to use different tools, equipment and materials. We have been exploring the career area of landscape design as well as the concepts of sustainability. At present, our year 6 pupils have the design challenge to come up with a masterplan for our school grounds. We are looking forward to seeing some of the brilliant ideas that pupils have. It was amazing to see how one pupil, Evie, took her technology learning one step further and developed a new model for a playground structure using a range of different materials. Well done, Evie, for showing two of our school values - Engage and Aspire. Evie's model is now on display at the front of the school. It just shows what, with a little bit of determination, we can achieve. Our current Skills Builder skill this half term is **creativity** - Evie's model is a testament to this.



### Key Change

This is a great opportunity for HMS pupils to get involved with an exciting local project - the Key Change group are planning their very own **music festival** in Hexham! If any young people aged 11 – 18 would like to be involved, they can join the fortnightly Key Changers group which will next meet on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May from 4.30 – 6.30pm at The Queen's Hall, Hexham. Young people can go along in person or join on zoom. You can [find out more here](#) and watch the latest workshop video [here](#).

### Congratulations Katie!

Year 5 Katie G entered a design for the BBCF Puss in Boots Last Wish competition. She came the top 10 in the UK for the competition, which is amazing! The prizes which she received are great and very well deserved. Huge well done for your creativity, Katie – we are very proud of you!



### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-RAL/5-FHA	5-JNI/7-EST	8-PGA/7-ETA/6-FHI

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
1 May	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Monday 1-Friday 5 May	High Borrans Trip <i>(9.00am departure Monday morning)</i>	Year 8
Friday 5 May	Story of Earth, Newcastle University	Year 5 and Year 6

<b>Friday 5 May</b>	24 Hours in A&E, Newcastle University	Year 7
<b>Friday 5 May</b>	Girls in STEM, Newcastle University	Year 7 and 8 Girls
<b>Friday 5 May</b>	Coronation Lunch, Afternoon Tea	All pupils
<b>Monday 8 May</b>	Bank Holiday for Coronation of King Charles III	School Closed
<b>Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 May</b>	Bikeability Course	Year 5
<b>Tuesday 9 – Friday 10 May</b>	SATs Week	Year 6
<b>Thursday 11 May</b>	Ushaw Ensemble, Jazz Workshops	Year 7 and Year 8

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).