

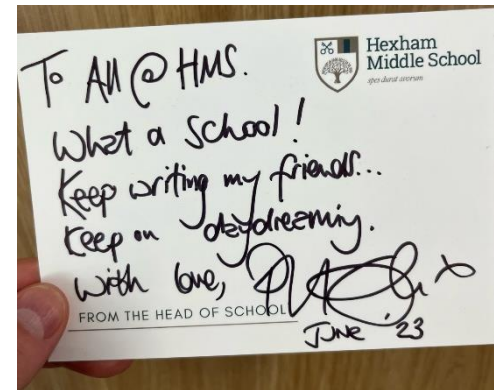
16 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

#### **An update on life in school**

The sun continues to shine and it's been another action-packed week here at HMS! It has been a delight to welcome visitors into school this week including singer, Zak Hull, and author, Phil Earle. Year 6 have finished their visits to the Queen's Hall for art and The Old Gaol in history. Our NU Futures programme has continued and we had a team of successful athletes representing school at Wentworth on Thursday (*updates to follow*). Phil Earle was a total inspiration – we are so thankful to him for visiting HMS – he left us this note which is on proud display in our library. Huge thanks to Ms Hayler and Forum Books for their organisation of the event.

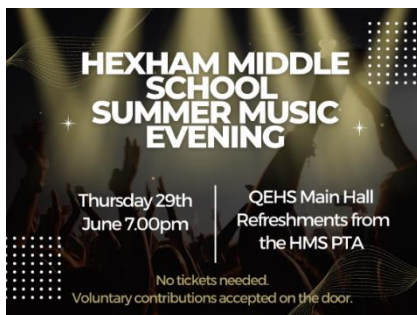


As we look ahead to the end of term, information has now been shared regarding the 'End of Year Visits' – see schedule below:

- **Year 5** – Kirkley Hall Zoo – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July
- **Year 6** – Haltwhistle Swimming Pool – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July
- **Year 7** – Dukeshouse Wood Centre – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July
- **Year 8** – Tynemouth Beach Day – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

We are also delighted to announce the return of our **Year 8 Leavers' Celebration** on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm – 8pm. It is festival themed with DJ, live music from the HMS Rock Band, buffet and ice creams. The PTA will be serving sweets and drinks. This is a free event but pupils can bring a small amount of money for the PTA stall. [A sign-up form link is here](#) – this needs to be completed for pupils to attend.

#### **HMS Summer Music Evening**



We are delighted to invite you to our HMS Summer Music Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 7pm in the QEHS main hall. Voluntary contributions can be made on the door. This is always such a special evening where pupils can showcase their musical talents through a wide range of performances. It would be great to see lots of you there to support our pupils. Mr Holdsworth is very excited about this year's event and it has been great to hear the rehearsals happening this week.

#### **Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## 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>	89,744	1	Lewis J	1	Marc B	1	Carley B	1	El B
<b>Coquet</b>	82,410	2	Archie D	2	Sam B	2	Archie B	2	Isobella S
<b>Tweed</b>	85,537	3	Evan W	3	Brian T	3	Freya B	3	Lincoln S
<b>Wansbeck</b>	83,462	4	Joshua D	4	Clara H	4	Sam M	4	Morgan W

## Year 6 visit the Old Gaol

Mr Johnson and the Year 6 team have loved visiting the Old Gaol this week. This visit is to support learning in history where the children are exploring the lives and times of the Border Reivers and understanding their role in our local community. The children have enjoyed their visits and look forward to exploring their learning further in the classroom. Thank you to the staff at The Old Gaol for the warm welcome. We look forward to visiting again next year!



## Reminders

The weather has been lovely but please remind pupils to wear sun cream and to bring a water bottle to school with them. Please also remind pupils that uniform rules apply until the end of term. It is important that we maintain high standards throughout the summer term.

Thank you for your support with the new car park drop off arrangements. The new system seems to be working well and the car park feels safer for all users. We will continue with this approach for the remainder of this half term and review as needed. Please ensure you only drop off in the top row of the car park in the designated drop off zone. Do not let your child out of the car on the drive up to the drop off zone as we do not want children walking in this area where cars are moving.

### **Phil Earle Author Visit**

'Fantastic!' Harry S, Y5

'Funny and cool. Inspired me to read his book.' Daniel B-M, Y5

'Absolutely brilliant! I really loved it!' Phoebe T, Y7

'Relatable and engaging,' Miss Richardson

Award-winning author, Phil Earle, presented to all of HMS on Tuesday. Funny, moving and captivating, Phil said that when he was at school, he struggled to read a whole book. He would much rather have been eating Frazzles, kicking a football around and devouring comics. However, in his 20s, he read a book that changed his life, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and he began to write. Phil reminded us that we are all storytellers – all we have to do is keep our eyes peeled and our ears open. He also stressed that, 'Writing can be a great way of dealing with difficult feelings.'



In an event highlight, Phil recreated one of his favourite superhero characters, Parallel Parking Man. All credit must go to Joe in Y6 for bringing him to life! Phil shared with us the true events that inspired his newest title *Until the Road Ends*. Phil's stories are filled with suspense, adventure, humour and, most importantly, friendship and love. Many of Phil's books are in HMS Library and copies of *Until the Road Ends* are now available to borrow.

Thanks again to Phil Earle for a motivating and enriching visit and to all the wonderful staff at Forum Books, Corbridge, for making it possible.

### **Zak Hull Performances**

On Monday, all pupils enjoyed a performance from singer, Zak Hull. Zak performed a range of songs and delivered a workshop focused on mental health, online safety and cyber bullying. All children enjoyed the performance and took away some important messages from the workshop. We look forward to welcoming Zak back into HMS soon!



### **Year 8 Careers Education**

Year 8 have now started their careers advice and guidance sessions. Groups of pupils have been meeting with specialist adviser, Emily, from Career Wave. We are delighted to be offering targeted advice and support for all of our pupils before they make the move to high school life.

### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6EKI	7ETA	5FHA

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Dan Smith, Author Visit and Workshops	Year 8
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Team Athletics Tournament	Year 7 (group)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	QEHS Assessments	Year 8
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 6 Residential Trip	Year 6
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Career Wave, Group Guidance Sessions (first day of several)	Year 8
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	KS3 France Trip Departs	KS3 (group)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 visit QEHS	Year 7
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June and Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 8 visit Safety Works (PSHE)	Year 8
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	NE Raising Aspirations Event	Year 5
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Transfer Day	All years
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5, 6 and 7 meet their new form teacher	Y5, 6 and 7
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Professor Martyn Amos, Computer Science, presentations/workshops	All years
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	STEM workshops	Year 6
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Theatre Sans Frontiere performance	Year 5

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

#### **Pupil Support and Safeguarding**

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

**Heads of Key Stage:** Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

**SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo:** Mr Stephenson and Mrs Adams

**Academic Support Coordinator:** Mrs Toor

**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)).