

23 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

An excited group of Year 6 pupils left HMS on Wednesday for this year's residential adventure. We have heard lots of happy tales from the group and look forward to sharing more photographs next week when the team return to phone signal and wi-fi! Last night, our KS3 group departed Hexham for France. The group made their way to Portsmouth for their ferry crossing and Mr Armstrong reported that everyone was super excited. We will share more updates next week! We are busy preparing next year's programme of '**Great Experiences**' and will share more residential news with you before the summer holiday.

Continuing our focus on 'Significant People', Mr Forster has delivered thought-provoking and powerful assemblies to all year groups this week focused on Alan Turing. The assembly focused on Alan Turing's remarkable and world-changing achievements including his developments in code breaking which are thought to have saved countless lives and significantly reduced the length of World War II. Mr Forster powerfully linked his achievements to his subsequent treatment and prosecution for being a gay man, which was illegal during his lifetime. Despite his wonderful achievements, he was punished, lost his job and had to endure medical treatment in an attempt to change who he was. The assembly focused on the abolishment of these laws in 1967; tragically too late for Alan Turing to be rewarded for his achievements, and his subsequent Royal Pardon in 2013. This assembly shone a light on the importance of recognising Pride Month. Thank you, Mr Forster.

I have been contacted by Hexham Police Station to remind parents/carers that children should not be dropped off at the entrance/exit to the police station site. This is blocking the access and could be dangerous in emergency situations.

We are now looking to replenish our stocks of used uniform to strengthen our hugely popular '[Go Green: Recycling Service](#)'. As we come to the end of the year, if you have uniform you no longer need, please send it in if you can. We are now able to accept **school shoes** – if you are able to send in any pairs you no longer need, we'd really appreciate this - these can be requested via our online form. We are also looking to re-build stocks in our 'PE Boot Bank' if you have any boots that the children have now outgrown. Thank you for your support!



#### **Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Staffing update

At this time of year, we get ready to say goodbye to colleagues who will be moving on from HMS as the academic year comes to an end. This year, Mr Barrass and Mrs Coldwell will be leaving HMS at the end of the term - we will say proper goodbyes and good lucks to them both soon. Ms Kwella will be starting her maternity leave and will be away from school next year. Mrs Wade returns to her role as Subject Leader of English on Monday following her maternity leave. We send thanks to Mrs Banks who has been with us on long-term supply.

We are also excited to welcome new staff members to Team HMS in September. Miss Tauk and Miss Scott (our current Academic Mentor) will join our KS2 teaching team. Miss Storey will be joining the school as our new Subject Leader of Maths (leading and teaching maths across all year groups). Mrs Matthews (currently teaching at QE) will be taking care of food technology while Ms Kwella is away.

Next week, I will confirm class arrangements for September and your child will have a chance to spend time with their new form teacher on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

## 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>	<b>91636</b>	1	Holly W	1	Ben F	1	Harry H	1	Elsa B
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>83959</b>	2	Georgia O	2	Cameron S	2	Martha B	2	Adam L
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>86672</b>	3	Annabel H	3	Noah H	3	Theo H G	3	Anya C
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>85222</b>	4	Alfie L	4	Poppy K	4	Carley B	4	Lincoln S

## 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.



## Rugby Finals

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, HMS were selected to represent the North East at the 'National 9's Exhibition Championship Festival' at Warrington. Despite travelling through some horrendous weather en route to Warrington, we managed to avoid any major rain throughout the day.

Throughout the day, the girls put in some excellent performances, managing to win three of their six matches. Their toughest match was against 'Airdale Academy' who eventually finished second overall. Despite losing the game 10-0, it was the girl's best performance in the competition. The team were amazing during the matches, showing true HMS spirit with determination, resilience and courage. There were also some exceptional individual performances and magic moments across the day - Mr Scott couldn't be prouder of the team. Well done to all involved. The team finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall - a fantastic achievement!



## NU Futures Programme

During our visit to NUCastle, some of our year 7 and 8 pupils were able to learn more about STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics. They were given the opportunity to discover more about e-sports and the growing e-gaming industry. They all had the chance to use the e-sports computer lab. Pupils were also involved in a fun, interactive, Sphero Robot challenge which involved some

coding. They also learned more about the contribution STEAM makes to our economy and the opportunities involved. A final bridge design challenge gave them all the opportunity to showcase their 'Skills Builder' skills.

Pupils had a great time, and even got the chance to have a tour of the other facilities including the 4G pitch on the roof. A big thank you must go to Newcastle United Foundation for overseeing this visit - it has been an excellent addition to the careers and aspiration programme we are running this year.



## Pupil Success

We are very proud to say that Betty F in Year 5 has been recognised for her poster entry into Northern Gas Network's Carbon Monoxide Safety competition. This followed our engagement with the CO Crew Workshops earlier in the year. Betty's poster included top tips for staying safe as well as what to do in an emergency situation. The sessions promoted a key strand of our staying safe curriculum as part of our wider personal development approach. Well done, Betty!

## Athletics Finals

HMS athletes have been in action over recent weeks. 28 pupils were selected to compete at the Tynedale Area Athletics Championships. This event saw pupils from Haydon Bridge, Prudhoe, Ponteland, as well as Hexham, competing across the range of running, jumping and throwing events. This event is also a selection event for pupils to represent Tynedale at the County Athletics Championships, which will be held at Gateshead Stadium this weekend. It was brilliant to see HMS pupils competing to a very high standard. We had four winners on the day including Y6 girls 80m and both Y7 boys and girls 1500m. HMS also had 17 pupils selected to compete at Gateshead Stadium. Mr Gaines and Mrs Southern are delighted with the commitment, respectful attitudes and engagement that all our athletes have shown this year in both athletics and in cross country. We look forward to seeing what excellent performances we have this weekend. We know that the HMS values will shine through as always!



On Monday 19th June, 24 Year 7 pupils attended a Northumberland School Athletics Team competition at Wentworth Leisure Centre. The standard of competition was very high. Both the girls' and boys' teams performed well throughout the day and put in maximum effort. Overall, the girls managed to secure 5<sup>th</sup> place which was an excellent achievement. There were some notable individual performances, with Isla M coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m, scoring 18 points and Emilia S scoring 23 points in the 1500m finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. The HMS girls relay team won the 4 x 100m relay - a brilliant race with some polished changeovers - well done

Isla, Phillipa, Eliza and Rose. Special mention to Thomas who scored a whopping score in shot put!

## Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5FHA	5HCO	8BLA/6MBE

## News from the community

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is an annual event aimed at 4 – 11-year-olds. Children are encouraged to read six (or more) books of their choice during the summer holidays with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a medal and certificate for every child who completes the Challenge.

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready,  
Set,  
Read!

Presented by The Reading Agency.  
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

This year's Challenge [Ready, Set, Read!](#) is focused on reading, sport and play and aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. We will have lots of brilliant events, competitions and prizes to be won. Full details will appear on our library website [www.mylibrary.co.uk](http://www.mylibrary.co.uk) and social media pages. Soon, our pupils will receive bookmarks as invitations to join the Summer Reading Challenge and we look forward to awarding prizes in the autumn term for everyone who participated. Happy reading!

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	KS3 France Trip	KS3 group
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 8 Careers Guidance (continued)	Year 8
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	HMS Summer Music Evening, 7pm, QEHS Hall	All welcome
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
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/Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	NEU Strike Days (information to follow)	TBC
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	STEM workshops	Year 6
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Theatre Sans Frontiere performance	Year 5
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Skills Builder Day	All years
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Sports Day	Year 5 and 6
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	KS3 Sports Day	Year 7 and 8

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)).