

7 July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE**

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

It's been a busy week looking ahead to September. We were delighted to welcome our new Year 5 cohort to spend the day with us on Tuesday. Pupils joined their new form classes, met their teacher and spent a day settling in and getting to know each other. The children also enjoyed a PE lesson and a visit to our Fellside Forest School. It was great to welcome parents/carers on the evening and to see the children so excited to show off their new classroom and school.

Year 8 also had a great day over at QEHS (or their chosen high school) and we have been hearing all about it as they returned to HMS yesterday. Year 8 have a busy few weeks ahead with their end of year trip, Leavers' Party, Leavers' Assembly and other special events to celebrate their time at HMS.

We have our annual End of Year Trips coming up – please can you double check that you have completed the consent forms. The next couple of weeks are as action-packed as ever – the schedule is included at the end of this week's update for you.

#### **Food Technology... an update!**

We really value food technology as part of our curriculum, and our pupils have produced a wide range of dishes this year. Next year, we would like to build on our curriculum experience by introducing an even broader range of skills and a greater level of complexity.

We know that providing ingredients can be costly and stressful for parents/carers. As a school, we have made the decision that **we will provide pupils with the necessary ingredients** for each food technology practical session. We believe that this approach will save time for parents/carers, reduce costs, limit waste and eliminate any risks involved with transporting ingredients between home and school.

- From September 2023, ingredients will be provided in school for all pupils in all year groups.
- In September, we will ask for a one-off voluntary contribution from parents to support this plan (between £15 and £20 per year).
- The pupils will need to provide a suitable, secure container to take their food home in.
- If your child has specific allergies or dietary requirements, you may wish to provide them with their own ingredients from home. Please let us know via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).
- If your child would like to add extras to the recipes, this will be discussed with the food technology teacher during lessons.

#### **Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

We have tried to keep the contribution as affordable as possible, whilst allowing the pupils to continue to work individually during practical lessons. As always, financial support is available, and all children will be able to participate in all lessons.

### 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>95209</b>	1	Joanna R	1	Annabelle R	1	Imogen S	1	Daisy W
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>86193</b>	2	Kirstie A	2	Sam C	2	Lilly S	2	Iris A
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>90013</b>	3	Mia R	3	Marc B	3	Charlotte K	3	Elsa B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>88491</b>	4	Lauchlan H	4	Noah S	4	Madelyn C	4	Morgan W

### Year 8 visit Safety Works

Year 8 visited Safety Works in Newcastle as part of their PSHE curriculum. Pupils enjoyed workshops involving staying safe around railway lines, Metro stations and water and fire safety. Pupils also engaged in a session with Northumbria Police focused on raising awareness of the dangers of drugs. Pupils enjoyed their visit which is always an engaging and important part of our PSHE and personal development curriculum.



### Library news

#### HMS Library: Summer Book Swap and bake sale

Our fantastic Library Champions will be holding the HMS Summer Book Swap in the library at lunchtime on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Please bring a book to exchange! There will also be a cake sale to help raise funds for new books for the library. We would be so grateful if you are able to bake or donate cakes for this. All biscuits/cakes must be nut-free. Thank you.

**Reminder: please return all HMS Library books by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.**

This is to allow for a stock check before the end of term and to make sure that all books are present and correct for the new school year. Any queries, please contact Ms Hayler in HMS Library.

## Sports Day



Mr Gaines and Mrs Stewart are busy planning our Sports Days for next week. Information has been sent home today. Sports Day will take place for KS2 on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and KS3 on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday is held as a wet weather reserve day – fingers crossed for sunshine!!). Please have a read of the email as pupils are asked to wear their house colours if possible. We will share lots of photos and videos from the day, as well as our results.

## Pupil Fundraising

The amazing Jacob in Year 5 is on a fundraising mission. Along with his Dad, he has challenged himself to walk Hadrian's Wall in only five days. Jacob is raising funds for the Great North Air Ambulance and the Newcastle Rugby Foundation. To support Jacob's outstanding challenge – please follow the links below. Good luck!

Link 1: <https://newcastlerugbyfoundation.enthuse.com/pf/jacob-alltree>

Link 2: <https://justgiving.com/page/jacob-alltree-1686074383493>

## Attendance – top 3!

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5FHA</b>	<b>5ABA</b>	<b>5JNI</b>

## North-East Book Awards: Winner - Tom Palmer for 'Resist'

Congratulations to Tom Palmer who has won the North-East Book Awards 2023 for 'Resist'. Resist shines a light on the incredible work of the WWII Dutch resistance, in a story inspired by the childhood of Hollywood legend and UNICEF ambassador, Audrey Hepburn. This dyslexia-friendly book will be available to borrow from HMS Library in September. The other four titles on the shortlist will also be available. Huge thanks go to Alastair W (Y7), El Baxter (Y8) and Adam L (Y8) for taking part in the NEBA for KS3. They read the nominated books in record time, submitted brilliant book reviews and voted for their favourite books. Well done to you all!





PLEASE HELP !

Hello my name is Jacob and I am 10 years old. Starting on the 30th of July me and my dad are going to walk Hadrian's wall in ONLY 5 days to raise money for two amazing charities below ! Please scan the QR codes to read more and donate even if it is a small amount. Thank you !

Newcastle Rugby Foundation (reg. charity 1107851) is the official charitable arm of Newcastle Falcons and Newcastle Thunder professional rugby team. Our purpose is to make RUGBY+ the positive difference that changes lives for good.



The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) rescues hundreds of severely injured or ill patients every year throughout the North East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria. Their doctor-led critical care teams deliver life-saving treatments at the scene of the incident whether that is on a fell top, a roadside or in a city centre. The charity responded to 1,640 call outs last year



## Summer Reading Challenge for KS2: Ready, Set, Read!



Just a reminder that local libraries are launching their 'Ready, Set, Read!' challenge for the Summer. This year, the theme is Sport and there will be fantastic games and activities being run in libraries over the holidays. Please take part by joining online or visiting your local library. There are certificates and medals to be won! Each KS2 pupil has been sent home this week with an information 'bookmark' in their bookbags. Please follow this link for more information <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	North East Raising Aspirations Workshops – transition to secondary education	Year 6
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
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Tyne Rivers Trust Workshops	Year 6
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 End of Year Trip	Year 5
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 8 End of Year Trip	Year 8
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 End of Year Trip	Year 6
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 End of Year Trip	Year 7
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 8 Leavers' Party ( <a href="#">please remember to complete the online form</a> )	Year 8
Final Week	Summer Celebration Assemblies	All years
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	School closes at 1.30pm for all pupils – school transport has been arranged	All years

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)).