

9 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE

An update on life in school

It's been another great week at HMS with children out on residential, representing the school in cricket, new clubs starting and rehearsals getting underway for our Summer Music Evening (information attached the update email today). This half term is always such an exciting and busy time in our school with a wide range of opportunities and events taking place – I have included an overview of the next few weeks in the calendar section and will continue to update this on a weekly basis for you. Have a great weekend everyone – hopefully the sun continues to shine!

At this time of year, we start to think about transfer as Year 8 get ready to join QEHS and we get ready to welcome our new Year 5 pupils. Transfer Day is on Tuesday 4th July – Year 4 will spend the day here with us and Year 8 will spend the day at QEHS. All other pupils will get to meet their new form teacher on Tuesday 4th July and spend time with their classmates ahead of September. Further information will follow in due course.

Year 5 visit Whithaugh Park

Year 5 have just returned from an adventurous few days in the Scottish Borders. What a week they have had! The sun has shone and the children have loved every minute of their adventure. The staff have been so impressed with the engagement and approach shown by each and every one of our pupils – you should be so proud of them all. We have struggled to post updates due to variable signal and internet connection but Miss Liddle will share a more detailed update next week. I hope everyone has a good night's sleep tonight! Happy memories all round!

HMS PTA Summer Fair 2023

The PTA Eurovision Summer Fair is happening tomorrow, 12-3pm. The whole community is welcome for an afternoon of fun at HMS. We have an amazing selection of raffle prizes and we have, once again, been blown away by the generous support of the Hexham community. We will be accepting cash and card payments, and operating a token system on the day. We can't wait to see you tomorrow!



Hexham Middle School

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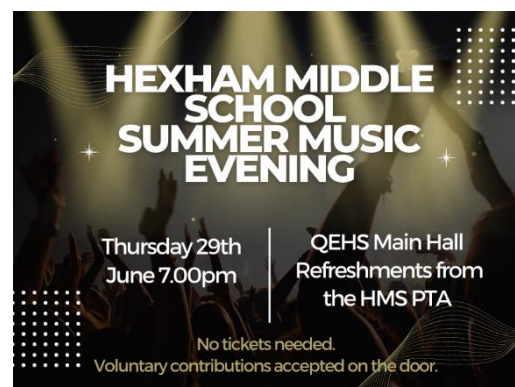
www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

HMS Summer Music Evening

We are delighted to invite you to our HMS Summer Music Evening on Thursday 29th 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.



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 | 87,049 | 1 | James D-S | 1 | Evie A | 1 | Robbie S | 1 | Bella S |
| Coquet | 80,125 | 2 | Lewis J | 2 | Brian T | 2 | Alastair Wa | 2 | Robin B-M |
| Tweed | 82,984 | 3 | Rose K | 3 | Isobel S | 3 | Luke G | 3 | Janey A |
| Wansbeck | 81,015 | 4 | Emily G | 4 | Tom W | 4 | Eve W | 4 | Laura W |

Attendance – top 3!

| | | |
|----------|----------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5MDO 99% | 5JNI 98% | 6FHI/6RAL 97.5% |

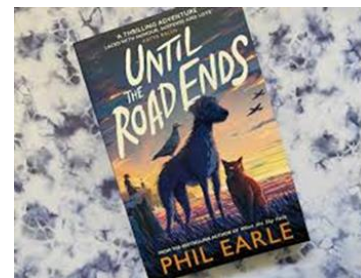
Year 6 visit the Queen's Hall

It has been a delight to see Year 6 classes visiting the Queen's Hall this week in art lessons. Pupils are visiting the new exhibition by Ukrainian artist, Anna Shevel. This visit will inspire our pupils in their new project focused on food paintings inspired by the work of Sarah Graham. Anna even managed to pop into the gallery to say hello to some classes! All Year 6 classes will visit the Queen's Hall and we are looking forward to building new links with the gallery and theatre over the next year.



Phil Earle Author Visit

We are thrilled to announce that Phil Earle, acclaimed author of *The Bubblewrap Boy* and *Demolition Dad*, will be visiting HMS on Tuesday 13th June. He will be sharing with us his newest paperback *Until the Road Ends* as well as his experiences and inspirations as an author. When Phil became The BookTrust's writer-in-residence, he said 'there is a story out there for every child, waiting to ignite their imaginations. I want to talk about how we are ALL storytellers too. We all hold stories within us, and I want to show people how we can tease them out.'



Phil's new book *Until the Road Ends* focuses on friendship, courage, and overcoming adversity. "When Peggy saves a stray dog from near-death, a beautiful friendship begins. Peggy and Beau are inseparable: the only thing that can ever come between them is war. Peggy is evacuated to the safety of the coast, but Beau is left behind in the city, where he becomes the most extraordinary and unlikely of heroes. But then disaster strikes, changing Peggy's life forever. But Beau has a plan to reunite them . . ."

To order a copy of the book, please visit **School Gateway by Sunday 11th June**. The price is £6.00 (a discount on the RRP of £7.99). Please indicate in the payer comment box whether or not you would like Phil to sign the book. Copies will also be available to borrow from HMS Library. **A huge thank you to Forum Books, Corbridge, for making this visit possible.**

Community News

Queen's Hall Arts Centre – Hexham Pride Event

Queen's Hall has organized an inclusive programme to highlight Pride Month in June. Events start on 3 June with a book club launch, a film fest on 4 June, showcasing films such as *Strange World* (PG) and *God's Own Country* (15). On 6 June Northumberland Archives will be presenting 'Looking for Ethel', about Dr Ethel Williams. There will also be music, a pop-up museums event and a creative youth challenge for children aged between 11 and 19 years old. To see the whole schedule of events and to book tickets, click [here](#).

Reminders/ Key Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Saturday 10 th June | HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12pm – 3pm | All years |
| Monday 12 th June | Zak Hull – Mental Health, Online Safety and Cyber Bullying Workshops | All years |
| Tuesday 13 th June | Phil Earle, Author Visit | All years |

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Wednesday 14th – Friday 16th June | Year 6 classes visit the Old Gaol, history curriculum visit | Year 6 |
| Thursday 15th June | Tynedale School Athletics Championships | All years (group) |
| Monday 19th June | Dan Smith, Author Visit and Workshops | Year 8 |
| Monday 19th June | Team Athletics Tournament | Year 7 (group) |
| Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June | QEHS Assessments | Year 8 |
| Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd June | Year 6 Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| Wednesday 21st June | Career Wave, Group Guidance Sessions (first day of several) | Year 8 |
| Thursday 22nd June | KS3 France Trip Departs | KS3 (group) |
| Friday 30th June | Year 7 visit QEHS | Year 7 |
| Friday 30th June and Monday 3rd July | Year 8 visit Safety Works (PSHE) | Year 8 |
| Tuesday 4th July | Transfer Day | All years |

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).