



# Hexham Middle School

*spes durat avorum*

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 2

### Update on school life

It's been another great week in school and the children have continued to settle into the new school year brilliantly. Year 5 enjoyed a special breakfast with Miss Liddle and the team to celebrate their start to term and how well they have handled the transfer to middle school – we are very proud of them! We are now recruiting our new Head Pupil team and would appreciate the support of Year 8 parents/carers to encourage applications. We are also recruiting this year's House Captain team and our new School Council representatives.

We were delighted to share this term's **Extra-Curricular Clubs** list earlier today. You can see the phenomenal range of clubs and activities being offered [here](#). Team HMS have worked very hard to make sure our offer is broad, balanced and exciting – we hope the children sign up and get involved as much as they can. The sign-up sheet for [after-school clubs is here](#) and you can read more information on the letter sent out earlier. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

### Meet the Tutor Evening – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September



We would like to invite you to attend our '**Meet the Tutor Evening**' on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The online booking system is now open for you to make an appointment but the meeting will take place in school, face-to-face. We feel it is helpful for you to meet your child's form teacher in person at this stage of the term. The meeting will celebrate how well your child has settled into the new school year as well as allowing you to address any questions or concerns you may have.

You can make appointments via the [School Cloud system](#) - guidance on how to do this is attached for you. To allow form teachers to prepare for the meeting, please could you [complete this very short survey](#) in advance of the meeting.

### We love reading at HMS!

Ms Hayler is delighted to announce that the **HMS Library opens for borrowing on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**. We have lots of new stock on the shelves for the children to enjoy. From next week, English classes across all years will start to visit the library during their lessons. The library is also open every break and lunchtime and always proves a very popular addition to our social time. Ms Hayler will soon be looking to expand her team of '**Library Champions**' and will share information with the children soon.

### Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB


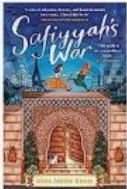
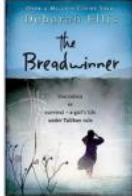

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[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

As part of our form time programme, we have carefully selected a series of novels to be read as a class throughout the year – the first novels for each year group are shown below. The children listen to and follow the story before discussing the themes and messages within. You can ask your child about their ‘Book Talk’ sessions and how they are enjoying the stories so far.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
 <p>The Lion Above the Door By Onjali Q. Rauf</p>	 <p>Safiyyah's War By Hiba Noor Khan</p>	 <p>The Breadwinner By Deborah Ellis</p>	 <p>Kick By Mitch Johnson</p>

Ms Hayler has also planned two hugely exciting author visits for this term – she will share more information closer to the time.

- Hiba Noor Khan – the author of **Safiyyah's War** – will visit Year 5 and 6 on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Huge thanks to Forum Books.
- Peter J Murray will return to visit the whole school in November with his latest release – *The Darker Side of Wight*. We look forward to welcoming Peter and Kath back to our school.

### HMS PTA News

The HMS PTA committee are once again excited to work with school to help organise engaging events for the children and to raise funds which are used to further enrich school life - *more details to follow for this term.*



We will soon be arranging our AGM and would love to welcome new members to our group. Lots of our current members are nearing the end of their HMS years and are also leading the newly-established QEHS PTFA. **We really do need new members and new supporters** - any amount of time you can spare is really helpful, so please do get in touch if you'd like more details by emailing Sheryl on [hmsptachair@gmail.com](mailto:hmsptachair@gmail.com). We hope to see you all soon!

The **HMS Lottery** is a fun, hassle free and inexpensive way of supporting the HMS PTA. It's ideal if you don't have the time to volunteer but still wish to help the PTA fund causes like buying dyslexia-friendly and careers books for the library, subsidising school trips, providing equipment for clubs and launching our new, whole-school music project. Tickets cost £1 each per month (you can buy as many as you like) and we hand out prizes of £35 and £15 monthly. You can sign up [online](#) and you can contact the Lottery Secretary, Kate Robson, at [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:hmsprizedraw@gmail.com) with any queries. Thank you so much for your support.

## 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>	4321	1	Jack B	1	Duncan G	1	Noah H	1	Madelyn C
<b>Coquet</b>	4076	2	Robin M	2	Theo T	2	Evie W	2	Sophie S
<b>Tweed</b>	4106	3	Jessie T	3	Freddie H	3	Lola B	3	Josiah N
<b>Wansbeck</b>	3913	4	Alexander E	4	George F	4	Evie A	4	Abigail B

## Spotlight on Careers... Miss Lamont

I grew up in Rothbury and attended school in Morpeth – which was a school very similar to QEHS, so it has been lovely to come and work as part of a Trust that strikes a familiar chord. I attended the Sixth Form College at my high school, studying biology, maths, history, and chemistry. After school, I attended University of Leicester, studying Biological Sciences. This course was ideal for me as it had a broad scope of modules, which allowed me to focus on topics I was really interested in! These included biochemistry, neuroscience, and physiology.



From fifteen onwards, I had always had part-time jobs, and I continued with this at university. My favourite was working at Starbucks – partially for the chats with customers, and partially for the unlimited free coffee, an addiction that I have not quite managed to shake since becoming a teacher!

When I finished my course, I really was not sure what I wanted to do – I wanted a profession that was science based, but I had no idea what! I tried some research work experience at the Newcastle University laboratories, but it was not for me, so I saved up and went travelling! Some of my travels included marine conservation, and part of this was teaching children on a Malay Island about preserving their environment – I think this is where the teaching bug started!

When I got back from travelling, I started working at Boots as a trainee pharmacy advisor while I applied to do my PGCE in Secondary Science. Through this course I trained at two very different schools, which brought varied challenges, but I loved it. I knew I wanted to return to Northumberland to teach, as I loved the three-tier school system myself and was very lucky to be accepted to work at Hexham Middle School. I am now starting my third year of teaching and have also just started doing my master's degree in education – so I have busy year in store!

## Attendance – top 3!

1 – 99%	2 – 98%	3 – 96%
5ZSC, 5EKI, 5FHA, 6YTA	7JET, 7PGA, 5JNI, 8BLA, 7AMG, 6JJO, 7EST	8IBO, 5MDO

## Respect. Engage. Aspire Awards

Each week, teachers nominate pupils for awards to celebrate those who have demonstrated our school values and to recognise the brilliant achievements of our pupils. The awards celebrate children who have shown great respect, who have engaged well in all aspects of school life and who have shown high aspiration during lessons and around school.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Dylan W Catelin D Archie S Will M Kai B	Leo H Evan W Walt McG Noah C Rufus A	Sophie A Alivia A Evie Atkinson Samuel B Ciera M	Charlie T Jonah F H Phoebe S Rose C

## News from the community

### Hexham Holiday Club Free Family Bowling Party

There's a free family bowling party tomorrow at 3pm down at Wentworth Leisure Centre. All families welcome!

## Reminders/ Key Dates



You are very much invited to:

**The Hexham Holiday Club Free Family Bowling Party!**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 3-5pm  
The Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham.

We'll have snacks to nibble and plenty of time to catch up with you after the Summer Holidays.

We are looking forward to seeing you all!

Children will need to bring an adult.

Please let us know if you are planning to come by emailing

[holidayclubhexham@gmail.com](mailto:holidayclubhexham@gmail.com)

Or messaging 07906534639



Date	Event	Who
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Applications due for Head Pupils	Year 8
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Individual School Photographs	All years
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Welcome to KS3 Evening 6.00pm	Year 7 and 8 parents/carers
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 6 visit to the Discovery Museum	Year 6
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Year 7 Backstage Tours at Queen's Hall – Drama Launch!	Year 7
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Story of Earth, STEM event, Newcastle University	Year 5

<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Meet the Tutor Evening (in school – information to follow next week)	All pupils
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	House Captain Hustings	All years
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	HMS Open Evening (for prospective parents/pupils)	All welcome
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	HMS Open Day Tours (for prospective parents/pupils)	All welcome

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 Miss Liddle

**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)).