

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 3

Update on school life

It's been another brilliant week at HMS. This week, the senior leadership team have been visiting lessons to celebrate the positive engagement across the school. It has been a joy to visit so many lessons and to see what an excellent start to the year our pupils have made. Year 6 visited the Discovery Museum to enrich their current studies in history and English – they are reading Emma Carroll's 'Letters from the Lighthouse' set in WWII. Our HMS Choir, accompanied by students from QEHS, took part in a special performance as part of the Hexham Abbey Festival of the Arts. Seven choirs from across Hexham came together to perform and it was a really special event.

Our in-school clubs started this week and we are looking forward to most after-school clubs starting from Monday. We have had a huge uptake for our clubs – this is exactly what we want – but we have had to work out fair rota systems for some clubs where we were oversubscribed. We are so proud that we now offer [53 clubs](#) across our school – what an enriching offer for our pupils! If you haven't managed to sign up, there is a [new online form here](#) so that we can manage new requests.



This week, I met with the HMS PTA to plan our programme of autumn events. We can confirm the return of our much-loved discos before October half term and the return of the amazing 'Festive Forest Evening' in December. None of this would be possible without the amazing team of members and volunteers who support school life so much. We really need new members and new supporters as many of our current team will soon be moving on as they reach the end of the school year. If you want to find out

more and feel you could support us (there is no need to sign up and all support – big or small – is really valued), please join us at our AGM and next meeting at the County Hotel, Hexham at 7pm on Tuesday 12th October. It would be great to see lots of you there!

Welcome to Arlo!

We are delighted to welcome the newest member of staff to Team HMS. Arlo will be joining our Pupil Support Team very soon and we can't wait to see him around school! He is a working cocker spaniel puppy and will be working with pupils who may be struggling with anxiety, self-regulation and attendance.

We know that not all children like dogs and there is no expectation for all pupils to interact with Arlo in school – he will be working in specific areas of our schools.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

There is more information attached to today's email and you can contact us in the usual ways if you have any questions or concerns.

Year 6 visit the Discovery Museum

Year 6 enjoyed an engaging day at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle this week. Pupils enjoyed a series of workshops in The Grand Hall focused on our current topic, World War II. Activities included a focus on artefact recognition, rationing, the Blitz over Tynemouth and research-based activities. The children then had chance to explore the museum! What a great way to support our current learning in English and history. Huge thank you to staff at The Discovery Museum!



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.

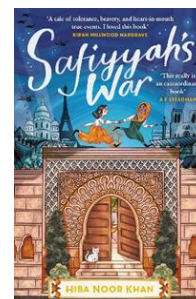


Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Blake T	Bertie T	William M	Carley B
Maxi C	Mia R	Noah H	Daisy B
Ben R	Rosie O	Bea S	Alistair Wi
Thea H	Ella R	Alex G	Archie B
Michael C	Ben S	Cory S	Vincent C

KS2 author visit: Safiyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan



We are very excited that Hiba Noor Khan will be visiting HMS on Tuesday 10th October to present to KS2. **If you would like to order a copy of the book for your child, please pay via School Gateway by Wednesday 4th October.** The price is £7.00 (a discount on the RRP of £7.99). Orders and payment will open on Friday 22nd September and close on Wednesday 4th October to allow time for delivery. Please note that cash payments cannot be accepted.



Copies will also be available to borrow from HMS Library. A huge thank you to Forum Books, Corbridge, for making this visit possible.

Meet the Tutor Evening – Thursday 28th September

A reminder that we will be an opportunity to meet form teachers next Thursday. You can book appointments via the [online booking system](#). You can also complete our [short start of term survey here](#) – this will allow form teachers to prepare for your meeting. We are looking forward to seeing you in school then.

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	6,846	1	James D	1	Oswald B	1	Summer T	1	Alex L
Coquet	6,498	2	Joey R	2	Lily R-B	2	Lily B	2	Abigail B
Tweed	6,513	3	Poppy M	3	Amelia P	3	Beatrice S	3	Sophie S
Wansbeck	6,408	4	Elise C	4	Lewis T	4	Bess D	4	Robbie L

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5JNI - 5MDO	6RAL	7AMG – 7EST – 7ZSC

Reminder – Free School Meals

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals, please consider applying as soon as you can. As well as supporting you and your child, HMS will receive additional funds to continue to improve the educational experience and resources in school. To find out more about the eligibility criteria, please visit our 'School Meals' page.

To apply, please [complete the online form via Northumberland County Council](#).

COVID

Government guidance no longer advises that we test for covid. We do not expect our pupils to test, even if they are symptomatic. The Government published the following [guidance](#) on school attendance. In line with this, we would expect pupils to come to school with general cold symptoms such as a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Pupils should not come to school with a temperature of 38 degrees or above. If your child is not well enough to come to school, please notify school by calling the absence line.

Cycle to School Week starts on Monday 25 September

Organised by The Bikeability Trust and Sustrans, Cycle to School Week is a fantastic opportunity to get children talking about cycling and its benefits. Throughout the week, families are encouraged to try cycling or scooting to school. Why? It's a great way to build physical activity into everyday life while improving fitness and mental wellbeing. Oh, and it's good for the environment!

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 25 th and Tuesday 26 th September	Year 7 Backstage Tours at Queen's Hall – Drama Launch!	Year 7
Wednesday 27 th September	Story of Earth, STEM Event with Newcastle University	Year 5
Wednesday 27 th September	BBC 500 Words Competition Launch	Year 5
Thursday 28 th September	Meet the Tutor Evening, 3.45pm – 6.45pm	All pupils
Friday 29 th September	House Captain Elections	All pupils
Wednesday 4 th October	Dave Burns Workshop, PSHE	Year 5
Thursday 5 th October	HMS Open Evening (for parents/carers/children looking for a school place in September 2024)	Open to all
Friday 6 th October	HMS Open Day (Tours 9.30am and 1.30pm)	Open to all
Friday 6 th October	Women in STEM, Newcastle University workshop	Year 7
Tuesday 10 th October	Hiba Noor Khan, Author Visit	Year 5 and 6

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).