

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 4

Update on school life

It's been another very busy and lovely week in school – week 4 already! After-school clubs started across school this week and attendance has been phenomenal! Democracy was in action across school today with our annual House Hustings and elections for this year's House Captains. All of the Year 8 candidates delivered excellent speeches to their houses and the votes have been counted and verified. Results will be announced on Monday morning in our whole-school assembly and I will share details on our website/social media too! A huge well done to everyone who applied for this role – it takes real confidence to put yourself forward and to deliver a speech in front of so many staff and peers – I was very proud of all of the candidates.

Our **Open Evening** is next Thursday (5th October, 6-8pm) and we are excited to welcome prospective pupils and parents to our school. We want lots of our pupils to be present on the night and your child will need permission to help out – please check their bags/planners for letters and return the form early next week.

Head Pupil Team

I was delighted to receive so many applications for our Head Pupil role this year. All of the applicants were outstanding – both their letters and interviews demonstrated our school values loud and clear. After a very difficult decision, we were thrilled to appoint Sam and Imogen as Head Pupils, and Alastair and Phoebe as Deputy Head Pupils. Well done everyone!

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy Update

Our RSE policy has been updated. As a school, we ensure that our policy is regularly reviewed in line with the latest guidance. As part of the review, we want to share our policy and approach with parents/carers for your views. It is important the policy serves our whole school community well and that parents/carers understand the curriculum content, how it is delivered and when. You can find more information on our PSHE/RSE curriculum [here](#). The updated policy document is attached to today's update email. You can return your views, comments and any questions via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk. Mr Freeman-Myers is now leading this important curriculum area in our school, in conjunction with his leadership of the personal development curriculum.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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	9,608	1	Leela H	1	James C	1	Lily B	1	Theo HG
Coquet	9,104	2	Elise C	2	Aurelia K	2	Summer T	2	Livia M
Tweed	10,106	3	Meike O	3	Joshua D	3	Hope B	3	Lily S
Wansbeck	9,022	4	Catelin D	4	Duncan G	4	Lola B	4	Wilfred P

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
Adina C	Joseph D	Kayden W	Emilia S
Jack B	Harry G	Stephen W	Ferdi U
Lucy E	Tilly C	Khloe M	Isla R
Isla T	Betti A	Billy B	Abigail B
Chloe K	Aurelia K	Auryn B	Alannah N

Welcome to Team HMS: Miss Storey

I grew up in Acomb and attended Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School so I am thrilled to be back and now teaching at HMS. I started my working life as a waitress at the age of 13. I worked in a coffee shop in Hexham on weekends until I left for University at 18. I thoroughly enjoyed this job, I got to work with two of my best friends and it allowed to me still focus on my studies in sixth form. At 18, I had no idea what I wanted to do so I was encouraged to pick a subject I enjoyed and pursue that at university. I had always enjoyed maths as I liked the logical steps to solving a problem and the satisfaction once completed, so I decided to study maths at Manchester University. I loved all

aspects of University and living in Manchester - I even got to meet Cristiano Ronaldo when he played for MUFC!

I kept a part time job whilst studying and worked as a store assistant in Karen Millen. When I finished my degree, I moved to London to be a fashion analyst for the same company. Although I enjoyed the job and was excited to be working in fashion and putting my maths degree to good use, I missed my family, friends and the North East so I decided to come home and have a change.

That's when I decided to become a Maths Teacher. I trained at Durham University and secured my first teaching job at Excelsior Academy in Newcastle. I taught at excelsior for 13 years and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. Whilst on maternity leave, I applied to be Head of Maths at Hexham Middle and was delighted when I was successful. Both pupils and staff have been so welcoming and I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone properly and to getting involved with everything Hexham Middle School has to offer.

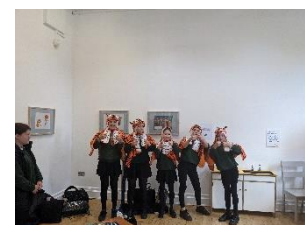
Year 5 STEM Workshop

Year 5 enjoyed an inspiring visit from Newcastle University yesterday. The workshop presents the 'Story of Earth' from its very first day through to now with a variety of exciting experiments along the way. Mr Nichol enjoyed being asked to join the show along with some pupil volunteers.



Year 7 visit Queen's Hall

Year 7 had an inspiring and engaging trip down to The Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham. Whilst there, they got to meet the Artistic Director, Katy Taylor, who gave an interesting talk to our pupils about job roles and opportunities in the arts industry. Pupils also had a backstage tour and got to watch a professional dance company in rehearsal. They met the director who delivered a question-and-answer session in the main theatre, whilst pupils watched the set being constructed and discussed the technical aspects of putting on a show. Pupils also found out about opportunities such as workshops, theatre performances and events organising. Many pupils seemed keen to get involved in such events in the future.



Hadrian Learning Trust

Due to movement on the Hadrian Learning Trust Board, we are looking to establish one of our existing trustees in the formal role of Parent Trustee. Three of the Board are current parents (with three other trustees parents of former students). Each of the three current parents met our selection criteria at interview last year and were duly appointed, with the intention now to establish one of them as Parent Trustee. If a parent outside of the current board wishes to be considered, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, by 6 October.

Go North East: Strike Action

We have been informed that there will be a series of strikes at Go North East which will disrupt some public bus services to QEHS/HMS from several depots from Monday 2nd October to Friday 6th October and Monday 16th October to Friday 20th October inclusive. Click [here](#) to go to the Go North East website for more information. We understand that this action may cause additional challenges in getting to school and we appreciate the efforts already going on to make alternative travel arrangements. Please reassure your child that there will be no late sanctions issued - we understand they may need to arrive slightly later than usual. If your child is impacted and can't get into school, please let us know as soon as possible via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

PTA Disco Night

We are delighted to announce the first **PTA Disco Night** of the year on **Wednesday 25th October**.

Year 5 and 6: 5.30pm to 6.45pm

Year 7 and 8: 7.15pm to 8.30pm

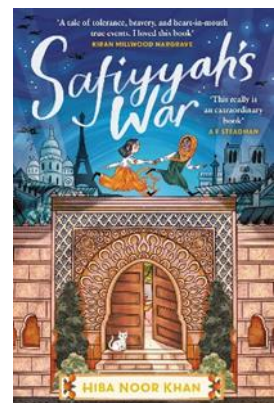
If your child would like to attend, you need to [complete the consent form](#) and your child should bring the £3 payment to school in a named sealed envelope. There will be a tuck shop selling sweets, treats and canned drinks, so you may wish to send your child with a small amount of spending money. Tap water and squash will be supplied free of charge.

Please note **ALL** children must be collected at the end of the disco from the HMS entrance (to the left of the Hydro Building) by an adult who is named on the consent form below - please notify school of any changes to this. ALL children will be signed out of the event by a member of HMS staff. On arrival, children will be signed into the disco by staff and are able to come to the entrance without an adult if needed (i.e. dropped off at the car park). **We won't issue paper tickets** for this event so once your child has submitted their form, they have a place! We're sure we have capacity for everyone who would like to attend however if we do reach the limit on numbers, we will contact you and places will be given on a first come first served basis. As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to another enjoyable evening.

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.



Attendance – top 3!

1 – 100%	2 – 99%	3 – 98%
6-RAL, 5-MDO	5JNI	8-IBO

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
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
Monday 9 th October	Manchester Trip Information Session, 6pm	Pupils and parents of those attending
Tuesday 10 th October	Hiba Noor Khan, Author Visit	Year 5 and 6
Thursday 12 th October	HMS PTA AGM, 7pm, County Hotel, Hexham	All welcome
Friday 13 th October	Hello Yellow Day (wear your own clothes)	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 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).