



Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 6

Update on school life

Happy Friday everyone! This week, we have focused on World Mental Health Day and ended the week with 'Hello Yellow Day' – it was great to see the bright colours around school today! On Tuesday, staff got together for a 'Tea and Talk' session to raise the importance of taking time out of your day to talk to each other. As always, there's lots to be proud of this week with continued engagement at our extra-curricular sessions, Cross Country success, our first School Council meeting of the year with local councilors present and a visit from author, Hiba Noor Khan. The weeks are so enriching and varied at HMS – we really are very lucky!

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	17,635	1	Henry C	1	Dexter B	1	William M	1	Archie B
Coquet	17,451	2	Adina C	2	Duncan G	2	Cory S	2	Noah A
Tweed	17,679	3	Robin M	3	Artie O'B	3	Benjamin F	3	Martha B
Wansbeck	16,811	4	Jessie T	4	Walter M	4	Tristan J	4	Lorien V

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.



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Oliver H Charlie C James B Leela H Sam S	Katie R-B Kosan N Kirstie A Emily C Esme C	Oliver L Sophie A Finn C Charlie M	Sophie S Martha B Alastair W Bella W Penny J

Cross Country Success



HMS pupils competed in the English School Cup this week at Temple Park in South Shields. Unusually for Cross Country, this is a team event, where your team scores are important. The challenge is to finish in the top 5 team places on the day to qualify for the Regional Final. Year 8 girls ran first - Emilia S was the first runner home for Hexham in 11th place. The girls all ran well and finished in 9th place. The Year 8 boys were up next where Wilfred P ran brilliantly for an excellent second place. He was backed up superbly by his teammates - the boys came an excellent 5th place and qualified to run at Middlesbrough.

As part of the day, the organisers run an event for Year 7. These races are not part of the cup competition but are keenly contested. Annabelle M ran strongly in the girls' race finishing 12th. The best results of the day came from the Year 7 boys. The boys all ran excellently to finish as the first team. The boys finished with impressive individual positions: Ossie D 2nd, Nicholas Y 3rd, Charlie M 4th, Kyle R 6th, Benson H 10th and Tyler B 13th. QEHS were also at the competition and between the two schools we had great success. We have four teams qualifying for the regional finals. It was great to see current HMS and former HMS pupils performing to such a high standard. The Regional Final will be held on Thursday 9th November at Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. Well done everyone!

Miss Bell's Trip to Rouen!

Over Summer, I visited Normandy to put my French into practice and to develop new connections with individuals teaching French all across the world. Whilst in Rouen, I attended L'Alliance Française classes each day delving further into French grammar and practising conversational French. I enjoyed further developing my passion and knowledge of French and look forward to bringing this into the classroom this year!

For the duration of my trip, I stayed with a French family and consequently learnt a lot about cultural norms and traditions in France (some of which I have already shared with year 5!) along with a plethora of French colloquialisms. I was also able to explore the culture of Rouen, visiting the Jean d'Arc Museum, Cathédrale Notre-Dame, Gros d'horloge and Musée de Beaux-Arts. I even participated in a pâtisserie class making macarons with a renowned French pâtisserie chef! I am excited to share my experiences from my time in France with Key Stage Two and I have already been so impressed with the new Year 5s and their passion for languages! My trip was such a brilliant experience and one which has inevitably hugely benefitted my teaching of French.

Northumberland Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Well done to the HMS pupils who took part in the Northumberland Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge. Hexham Library has reported that there were a staggering 245 completers of the Challenge this year! Medals and certificates have been awarded to all participants. Congratulations, everyone!



Welcome to Team HMS – Miss Tauk



I was born in Hexham Hospital and grew up - not far away - in Ponteland. I also attended a middle school which I thoroughly enjoyed. My favourite lessons were PE and English. Fortunately, I had a very inspiring English teacher and this ended up being a huge factor into deciding to study English Language and Creative Writing at University of Westminster. I lived in North London for three years and, throughout my degree, I worked as a journalist for the Independent Newspaper. Not ready to give up being a northern traitor, I moved from London to Bristol where I completed a law conversion. However, after completing my graduate diploma in law, I realised it was no longer a career I wanted to pursue.

I stayed in Bristol for a total of three years before moving back to Ponteland where I began my teaching career. My old PE teacher from middle school ended up being mentor which was quite bizarre. But after two years working in Ponteland, I was ready for a new challenge and started at HMS in September in Year 6 and I'm very glad I did! I've started my own creative writing club in school on a Thursday lunch time for KS2 hoping to inspire more budding writers.

Guest Speaker – Year 6

A big thank you to Graeme Redshaw Boxwell who spoke to pupils about his heart valve transplant. He talked about how his symptoms developed, his surgery and his ongoing treatment. Mrs Alderson said it was very informative and she was very impressed with the engagement of the year 6 pupils and the questions that they asked. This talk supported our pupils' learning in science.

Community Food Bank Collection

This year, we would like to gather donations for West Northumberland Food Bank. We know that many people in the UK are struggling financially as a result of the cost of living crisis and rising food prices. Anything you can donate to the collection would be appreciated hugely. Items can be brought into school from Monday 16th October until Friday 20th October. West Northumberland Food Bank are going to collect any donated items from school the following week.



Items that are often very useful include: cereal, tinned meat and tinned fish, tinned fruit, tinned pasta, tinned soup, tinned beans, microwave rice pouches/instant noodles/instant pasta, sugar, UHT milk, cooking sauces, tinned desserts, biscuits, coffee/tea, pasta. A huge thank you in advance for any items you feel able to donate.



Pupil Success

We are very proud of Abigail H who is a dedicated Freestyle dancer and came 1st in various categories at the Rockstars North East Championship Festival. Abigail may be able attend the World Championships in June. Congratulations!

Youth Elections 2024

There is a fantastic opportunity for any pupil in KS3 to represent Northumberland in Northumberland County Council's Youth Cabinet or even the national Youth Parliament. If any pupil is interested, complete the online form (attached) by scanning the QR code. We strongly advice that pupils discuss any interest with a parent or carer first. If any pupil has any questions they can contact Mr Freeman-Myers. Nominations need completing by 8 December.

Guy Opperman Christmas Card Competition

The 2023 Guy Opperman MP Christmas Card Competition is an annual competition open to all school children across the Hexham constituency up to 11 years of age. Designs must be original pieces of work by the pupil and should use paint, colouring pencils, pastels etc. The overall winning design will be used on the front cover of Guy's Christmas card. The card will be sent to a huge variety of local charities, organisations, businesses, and community leaders across the Hexham constituency. Last year's winning design was also presented to the Prime Minister by Guy! There will be one overall winner and also three commendations. Prizes from the House of Commons Gift Shop will be given out accordingly. Please send your entries on A4 paper to Guy's Hexham constituency office at the given address by **Friday 17th November.**

Guy Opperman MP
FAO Liz Yewdall
St Matthews House
Haugh Lane
Hexham
NE46 3PU

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-FHI,6-JJO	6-YTA	7-EST, 6-MBE, 6-RAL, 5-ZSC

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
16 th – 20 th October	West Northumberland Food Collections	All year groups
Wednesday 18 th October	Michael Morpurgo Storytelling Event – Queen’s Hall	Year 5
Friday 20 th October	Manchester Residential Visit	Those attending the trip
Monday 23 rd October	Skills Builder Day	Whole school
Tuesday 24 th October	Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Workshop	Year 8
Wednesday 25 th October	PTA Discos	All years
Thursday 26 th October	School closes for all pupils at 3.15pm (half term)	All years
Friday 27 th October	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)	All years
Monday 6 th November	School re-opens for all pupils at 8.40am	All years
Thursday 9 th and 16 th November	Year 6 Parents’ Evenings (more information to follow)	Year 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).