



24 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 11

Update on school life

It's been another very productive week in school. It's been lovely to hear the HMS Orchestra rehearsing for their performance at tonight's Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On event – you can see them playing at 4.15pm at Hexham Bandstand. We hope to see lots of you there. Alongside today's 'Weekly Update', I have shared our '**Festive Calendar**' so that you can update your diaries and family calendars at home – we know December is always a very busy month with so much going on for everyone in the family so we hope this is helpful.

As a school, we always promote the importance of great attendance. To further enhance our communication, we have a new email address – attendance@qehs.net. This inbox will cover both schools in our trust and should be used to report absences if you can't call the attendance line.

Pupil Support Fund and HMS Go Green: Uniform Recycling

We know this season can be very expensive for families with lots of additional events planned and the Christmas shopping to do. As a school, we are here to support anyone who needs additional support. We want our school to be fully-inclusive and we have support in place to ensure this is the case.

- All children will attend the Christmas Trips if they want to. The PTA have kindly supported school with additional funding and we have funds allocated to ensure children don't miss out on opportunities.
- Our '[Pupil Support Fund](#)' can be applied to at any time – you can find details here.
- Our '[Go Green: Uniform Recycling](#)' service is open throughout the year. We have winter coats and school shoes available as well as the usual items.
- We're collecting Christmas jumpers to ensure we have a stock in school and will be selling them at our Festive Forest Evening.

The key message is – please don't ever feel that you are struggling because of a financial request from school. If you are, please contact Mr Watters to discuss support available.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

RESPECT ENGAGE ASPIRE

News from the HMS PTA

Event	Information
Festive Forest Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 5th December, 5.30 - 7.00pm • All of the family are welcome to attend! • An evening of Christmas crafts (indoor and outdoor), forest school, hot chocolates and hot dogs! • Wrap up warm! • The event is cash and card payment – each activity is individually priced and some will be free of charge!
Christmas Pop-Up Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December, lunchtime • Pupils can buy gifts for their loved ones - £2 each – gifts will be wrapped up to bring home for Christmas! • Donations now wanted – please send items into school. • Non-uniform day to generate donations on Friday 1st December.
Christmas Jumpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas jumper donations also wanted. If you have any spares or any your child has outgrown, please send them into school. • This will help us make Christmas Jumper Day fully inclusive.

Our amazing PTA needs new members to join our committee. As lots of our phenomenal team will be moving on to QEHS soon, we really want to meet those of you who may be interested in joining the team and taking our work forward. If you are interested, please contact us via hmsptachair@gmail.com or message us on the HMS PTA Facebook page.

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
Alex U	Ollie E	Alfie M	Wilf P
Claudia D	Ida H	Evie T	Thea S
Frank K	Betty F	Freddie W	Lucan B
Charlie M	Georgia O	Emmie R	Aidan T
Sam G	Ella R	Sam B	Patrick F

Bikeability

A group of Year 5 children have enjoyed their Bikeability: Cycle Training course this week. They have been out and about developing their safe cycling skills and have loved the course. Huge thank you to the instructors for delivering this important session. We have confirmed a **further course for Year 5 in February** and application forms have been sent home (paper copies) this week. Please complete it and return it if your child is interested. We will then confirm whether your child has secured a place.



STEM: Chemistry Workshops

Newcastle University's Street Scientists visited Year 8 yesterday for a STEM Day delivering chemistry workshops. There were lots of exciting demonstrations which helped pupils to learn about the properties of elements of the periodic table. Thank you to Newcastle University for visiting HMS once again. We look forward to seeing you again soon!



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	31,240	1	Adina C	1	Lily A	1	Henry W	1	Martha B
Coquet	30,947	2	James D	2	Zahra W	2	Anna O	2	Charlotte K
Tweed	30,938	3	Edward H	3	Leon B	3	Ruby P	3	Eliza F
Wansbeck	29,866	4	Dylan W	4	Josh R	4	Benjamin F	4	Livia M

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-RAL	6-MBE, 5ZSC, 5EKI	8-BLA

Sport Updates

It's been a busy few weeks of sport at HMS and it's been a joy to hear how brilliantly the children have represented the school – well done everyone! The Year 6 boys took part in the 6 a-side tournament hosted by NUF at Cochrane Park in Newcastle. After winning the first two games comfortably, HMS found themselves narrowly losing the next two, but managed to squeeze through to the semi-finals by finishing 2nd in the group on goal difference.



The team took their opportunity in the semi-final, running out deserved 1-0 winners to make it through to the final. Despite playing a very strong side from Tyne View in the final, the boys from HMS gave it their all one last time but it wasn't enough to take the win. All 8 players performed brilliantly throughout the tournament and represented the school brilliantly. The goals were well spread out with Alfie, Walt, Finley & Ben all finding the net, whilst Ossie made some excellent saves at the other end. Well done boys - great team spirit from all!

Online Safety

It has come to the attention of school that there has been an increase in inappropriate groups that pupils are being invited to on Whatsapp. These groups have been reported as sharing offensive and inappropriate material and pose a significant safeguarding risk. They are entitled "Add all your friends..." or similar and can often have hundreds of individuals from all over the world in them - no pupil should have access to anything of this nature. I ask for your support in checking and removing pupils from any inappropriate groups on Whatsapp and any other social media platform.

Please also see this link regarding NSPCC advice (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>). If you believe there to be a safeguarding risk to your child or any other pupil within school then please contact us.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 27 th November	Indoor Athletics Competition	KS3
Tuesday 28 th November	Dave Burns - PSHE Workshops	Year 6
Thursday 30 th November & Thursday 7 th December	Y5 Parents' Evenings	Year 5
Monday 4 th December	KS3 Indoor Athletics	XC team

Monday 4th December	Beamish Visit	Year 5
Tuesday 5th December	Festive Forest Evening 5.30-7.30pm	All welcome
Wednesday 6th December	Katherine Rundell, Author Workshop	Year 5
Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th December	Safety Works Visits (PSHE)	Year 8 (information to follow)
Monday 11th December	STEM: Chemistry Workshops	Year 7

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).