

12 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 16

Update on school life

Happy New Year! It has been a joy to welcome our pupils back to school this week. It's been a very positive start to the new term and the children have had a great week. This week, myself and Mr Stephenson spoke to each year group in assembly about the importance of positive routines. It's always a good time of year to look ahead, set our goals and aspirations and to re-focus.

Year 8 Parents' Evenings are being held on Thursday 18th (in school) and Thursday 25th January (online) – bookings are now open via School Cloud. We would encourage all parents/carers to attend to hear about your child's learning and progress in school. For the in-school appointments, teachers will be based on A floor and there will be a room list available.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Dodds (Pupil Support Worker) is returning from maternity leave to re-join our Pupil Support Team. She'll be working alongside Mrs Richards and the rest of the team to provide targeted support for our pupils.



Year 5 Team Building Day



To welcome the children back to a new term, the Year 5 team planned a fantastic team building morning this week. Year 5 enjoyed a morning of activities including Glow Sports (which they absolutely loved!), dodgeball and outdoor learning activities down in the Fellside Forest. It was great to see the children communicating well, working together and building relationships ready to start the new term positively. Huge thanks to the team at Full of Beans for their brilliant activities.

Year 7 'The Brain Game'

It was great to welcome Newcastle University back to HMS yesterday. Year 7 enjoyed workshops focused on neuroscience and the brain. Pupils were learning about the different brain lobes and their functions. They were also able to take part in some brain lobe tests to explore the different functions.

It's always great to work with Newcastle University and we look forward to welcoming them back to HMS as part of our STEM curriculum soon.



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

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	42,183	1	Catelin D	1	Zahra W	1	Bess D	1	Robbie L
Coquet	42,020	2	Alexander E	2	Lily A	2	Alivia A	2	Lilly S
Tweed	41,703	3	Isabelle C	3	Emily W	3	Jyacinth B	3	Madelyn C
Wansbeck	39,900	4	George L	4	Oswald B	4	Billy B	4	Olivia L

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-YTA	6-JJO	8-IBO, 5-MDO, 5-FHA

Strong school attendance is vital to allowing children to learn and fulfill their potential. Attending school well supports a child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Research shows that those with the highest attendance throughout their time in school achieve the best GCSE and A-level outcomes. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please contact Miss Liddle, Mr Scott or Mr Stephenson.

Year 6 SATs Information Evening

We will be holding our 'SATs Information Evening' for Year 6 parents/carers on Tuesday 30th January at 6.30pm. The session will be held in our hall here at HMS. The session will give you lots of information on the Year 6 assessments being held nationally in May 2024, the key dates, information about the test style and content and how we will support the children to achieve their full potential. We would like to see as many parents/carers as possible on the evening.

[Please sign up to book spaces using the form sent home.](#)

Year 8 visit to High Borrans Centre

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to join the High Borrans trip this year. We can now confirm that everyone who has already signed up has a space on the trip. If there is anyone else who would like to come on the trip, there are spaces available. Please contact Mrs Stewart or Mr Scott to discuss your participation on the residential.

Bikeability Reminder

A reminder that we have a second Bikeability Course running in February which is open to Year 5 pupils who missed out on a place before Christmas. If your child would like to take part, please complete the paper form. Forms were sent home before the Christmas holiday. If you can't find it, please ask your child to collect a spare letter from the HMS office.



Children's Commissioner for England - The Big Ambition

Dame Rachel Da Souza (Children's Commissioner for England) is promoting this year's ['The Big Ambition' survey](#). We would like to bring this to your attention so you can complete this as a parent/carer. You can go through these questions from the perspective of a parent/carer or pupils could complete the questions themselves. We will be promoting this with pupils in school via a notice in an assembly.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 15 th January	Buddhism workshops	Year 6
Monday 15 th January	PSHE: Knife Crime Workshop	Year 7
Monday 15 th January	Islam workshops	Year 8
Tuesday 16 th January	Judaism workshops	Year 5
Tuesday 16 th January	Cross Country Tournament	Y7 and Y8 XC runners
Thursday 18 th January	Y8 Parents' Evening (face-to-face)	Year 8
Monday 22 nd January	Shakespeare Workshops	Year 7
Tuesday 23 rd January	Shakespeare Workshops	Year 8
Thursday 25 th January	Y8 Parents' Evening (online)	Year 8

Thursday 25th January	Y8 parents' evening (online)	Year 8
Friday 26th January	Head of School Award Breakfast	Group of pupils
Monday 29th January – Thursday 1st February	First Aid Training	All year groups

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 Morgan 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).