

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 18

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
Archie J	Lacey-Mae M	Summer T	Eliza R
Penelope W	Edward S	Anna M	Lizzie B
Evie L	Esme C	Zach D	Robbie L
Sam S	Annabel H	Evie W	Charlotte B
Charlie M	Phoebe B	Mila B	Callum B-S

Head of School Awards

This month's Head of School Awards focused on our core skill of 'staying positive'. One of our core 'Skills Builder' themes is 'staying positive' and I was delighted to see the children being recognised for their wonderful approach to school life. It was great to celebrate the positive contribution each pupil makes to our school community - I am very proud of each of them. Pupils joined me for a special breakfast today (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Zain B	Dominique H	Marc B	Bella W
Jessie T	Ella R	Harriet A	Michael B-P
Elsa B-P	Grace M	Evie W	Theo H-G
Edward H	Georgia O	Henry W	Alastair Wa
Dylan W	Jacob A	Evie J	Jack M

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

Great Attendance

This week we have received a letter from Chris Witty, Chief Medical Officer for England, who has written to schools to discuss attendance concerns which have become more prevalent since the COVID pandemic which resulted in most children being asked to stay at home. Although our average attendance is above local and national levels, we have still not fully returned to pre-pandemic levels of attendance within our school community. As always, we want to work closely with families and children where attendance is a cause for concern in order to help each pupil to achieve their potential. Please contact Steve Hodgson (HMS Attendance Officer) or your child's Head of Key Stage if there are any issues which impact your child's attendance. Each day's absence results in at least five missed lessons - this is a significant amount of learning time. A pupil who has 90% attendance will miss over one hundred lessons in an academic year and miss out on the many opportunities afforded to them at Hexham Middle School. We thank you for your continued support.

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	47,221	1	Adina C	1	Alfie L	1	Cristina C	1	Theo HG
Coquet	47,050	2	James D	2	Zahra W	2	Henry W	2	Jessica J
Tweed	46,245	3	Jessica C	3	Leon B	3	Paloma P	3	Archie B
Wansbeck	44,290	4	Ewan W	4	Aurelia K	4	Kayden W	4	Lucy H

1623 Theatre - Shakespeare Workshops

We were delighted to welcome '1623 Theatre Company' to HMS this week. Each of our KS3 pupils had the chance to join a very engaging drama workshop to bring their studies to life. Year 7 focused on Romeo and Juliet which they are studying in class. The session included a wide range of Shakespearean greetings and language from the play. The class were split into Montagues and Capulets and used lines from the play including biting their thumbs and the taking parts of Princes and Officers. Year 8 focused on their studies of Julius Caesar and used interactive games to explore the dynamics of Rome and its leadership to set the scene for how the characters developed. Year 8 were able to use lots of language and lines from the text. Huge thanks for visiting us!



INSIGHTS Holmes Lecture – Newcastle University

A group of 50 KS3 pupils attended a Holmes Lecture at Newcastle University last night. It was great to hear Professor Graham Morgan discussing the question of 'Who will win?' between humans and AI. The session focused on video game technology which so many of our pupils enjoy and the evolving influence of AI in today's world. What a fantastic experience for our pupils who were taking notes and asking very interesting questions. They also loved the special gifts and prizes available! We can't wait to visit future public lecture events!



Hexham Partnership Careers Fair

We are so excited to be planning a 'Careers Fair' for Year 8 pupils in the Hexham Partnership. We are in the early stages of planning the event and know we have so many parents/carers (and family members) who would be able to help us making this an engaging and memorable event.

We are looking for employers and organisations to attend the fair event and those who could lead small group sessions/talks/Q&A with our young people. If you think you would be able to join the 'Careers Fair' event, please contact us via admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk to let us know! Thank you very much for your support.

HEXHAM PARTNERSHIP CAREERS FAIR

JULY 2024

COULD YOU SUPPORT OUR YEAR 8 CAREERS FAIR...?

Local and regional organisations and employers wanted
Local apprenticeship providers wanted
International organisation representation wanted
Exciting and varied careers wanted

If you feel you could support our Year 8 pupils...
please contact us on admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

HMS Library Updates

Highlights in HMS Library for January are some of the latest 'mood boosting' and 'reading well' books by inspirational authors such as Marcus Rashford, Leah Williamson and Matthew Syed. We also have lots of new fiction and non-fiction arrivals for KS2 and KS3: a mix of genres, styles, dyslexia-friendly and graphics/illustrated books. All are available for borrowing, or reserving if they are already on loan. Please come and take a look!

Emily G in Y6 has written the second in our new series of book reviews by our fantastic 'Library Champions'. A copy of the magical adventure 'Hedgewitch' is available in HMS Library for borrowing. Many thanks to Emily for her recommendation!



HMS Library Champion book review	
	<p>Title: <u>Hedgewitch</u> Author: Skye McKenna</p> <p>A wonderful adventure from a boarding school to a magic hedge. The hedge is magical because it is full of speaking trees, twisting paths and magical beings. Cassie Morgan must train to be a witch in the magical village of <u>Hedgely</u> with the help of her friends, Rue and Tabitha. But with her mother missing, will the evil creatures' bribes be too tempting? I highly recommend this book. It kept me entertained to the very end.</p> <p>Review: Emily G, Y6</p>

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5-JNI, 6-YTA	6-FHI, 6-RAL, 8-IHO,5-ZSC	7-JET, 6-MBE

Head of Key Stage Updates

KS2 Updates from Miss Liddle and Mrs Downes	KS3 Updates from Mr Scott and Miss Lamont
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date for your diaries: Ford Castle Information Evening - Wednesday 7th February, 5pm, HMS Hall. • A huge well done to Ben in 5ZSC for his tennis achievements - we can't wait to see how well you do in future! • Next week, Y5 and Y6 have a really exciting opportunity to get involved in First Aid training - be sure to ask them about it when they get home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a successful initial district trial last Friday, 5 of our talented girls have been invited to come back for an additional trial this Friday. Congratulations and good luck to Beth N, Maisie H, Una C-W, Philippa M and Grace B. • YR 7 & 8 really enjoyed the Shakespeare workshops this week. Really proud to see Jack M volunteer for the role of Caesar – it was wonderful to see such confidence from all involved. • Excitement is building... the KS3 Ski trip departs next weekend. Make sure bags are packed and you're all set. Have fun... from a very jealous, Mr Scott! • Our recent Year 8 parents' evenings have been very well attended and such a positive experience. We look forward to the Year 7 parents' evenings coming up. Please make sure you are signed up!

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 29 th January	First Aid Training	Year 7
Tuesday 30 th January	First Aid Training	Year 8
Tuesday 30 th January	SATs Information Evening	Year 6
Wednesday 31 st January	First Aid Training	Year 5
Thursday 1 st February	First Aid Training	Year 6
Saturday 3 rd – Saturday 10 th February	Ski Trip	Year 7/8
Tuesday 6 th February	Struggling Reader Workshop	Invited parents/carers
Wednesday 7 th February	Ford Castle Information Evening	Year 5
Thursday 8 th February	Co-Crew Safety Workshops	Year 5
Thursday 8 th February	Mid-Year Achievement Reports Sent Home	All years
Thursday 8 th and Thursday 15 th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening (bookings now open online)	Year 7
Friday 9 th February	Co-Crew Safety Workshops	Year 5
Thursday 15 th February	Non-uniform day in support of our Mothers and Others Pop Up Shop – donations gratefully received	All years
Thursday 15 th February	School closes for half term break	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
Strategic Inclusion Lead: Mr Stephenson
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