

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 23**

**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
Poppy M-B Ayla B-D Nancy M Riley B Owen B	Daneil B M James D S Emily D Sinjin R Anna F	Oliver L Harriet A Tristan J Amelia M Ollie P	Martha B Sophie S Jessica J Jonah F H Imogen S

**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	
<b>Aln</b>	58,989	1	Isabelle K	1	Tilly C	1	Esme B	1	Jessica J
<b>Coquet</b>	59,474	2	Michael C	2	Emily W	2	Tristan J	2	Eve W
<b>Tweed</b>	57,863	3	Adina C	3	Lily A	3	Anna O	3	Robbie L
<b>Wansbeck</b>	56,023	4	George R	4	Elsie L	4	Benjamin F	4	Bella W

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Ford Castle

Our Year 5 group had an absolutely fantastic adventure at Ford Castle this week. It was an action-packed trip of making lifelong memories and the children enjoyed a wide range of activities at the centre. Miss Little said the Ford Castle commented on how brilliant our pupils were – so engaged, resilient and well-mannered – it was great to hear!



## World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success once again. Everyone enjoyed our 'Masked Reader' film during form time and identified the staff members reading behind a range of disguises! All children got a special gift bag with a 'book and a brew' to enjoy at home - huge thanks to our PTA and Mrs Crosby for their support. The 'Big Book Bake Off' was full of creative and imaginative entries - great baking talent on display once again. The Book Fair was visited throughout the week, the Book Swap was a great success led by the Library Champions and the library has been as busy as ever. Thank you for supporting the day as always. Huge thanks to Ms Hayler, Miss Kingett and Mrs Roff!



The 'We love reading so much...we even read at....' photograph competition is open until the after Easter break - please keep sending us your entries.



Big Book Bake Off Winners were: Catelin D (Y5), Katie R-B (Y6), Walt M (Y6), Bess, Bea and Evie A (Y7) and Imogen (Y8) – huge congratulations everyone and well done to everyone who entered this year!

## Aladdin Theatre Visit

A group of Year 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to Sunderland Empire for a performance of West End show, Aladdin, yesterday. The show was an amazing production and we were all blown away by the talented singers, dancers, actors and musicians. I think the Genie was a particular favourite... Going to live theatre is such an inspiring and uplifting experience and we can't wait to book future shows!



## Sports Updates



## Mothers and Others Pop-Up Shops

Huge thanks to our PTA for running this week's 'Mothers and Others Pop Up Shops' which were, once again, a big success. Thank you for supporting the event with generous gift donations. There were so many amazing gifts to buy and our pupils loved coming along to something special for a loved one.

## NCC Youth Cabinet Elections – results

The results from the Youth Cabinet & Parliament elections which took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> February were declared at County Hall last week. 7000 students voted across the county and two students from QEHS won a seat on the Youth Cabinet. Congratulations to William C and Ralph D who began their two-year term as cabinet members on Friday last week.

## National Careers Week

This week, our pupils have been learning more about the career paths of teaching and support staff across the school. Staff have been sharing profiles around the school, focusing on the skills that we have developed in our working lives. We would encourage all parents and carers to use National Careers Week as an opportunity to share their career paths and skills developed as part of this journey. As parents/carers are fundamentally the first teachers of children, you also have a crucial role in helping to raise aspiration and break down stereotypes about the world of work. We endeavour to show our pupils that it is good to have ambition and to aim as high as possible with life aspirations. For further information about careers please also refer the Career and Enterprise Company's (CEC) [parental guide](#).

## Reading Plus – Top 3

All of our KS2 pupils now access the Reading Plus platform. We have been so impressed with the motivation and engagement so far. Each week, the top 3 users in each year group will be recognised in assembly and will get a special book token to choose their own book to take home and enjoy! The below pupils will get their book tokens next week. Well done everyone!



**So far, we have read 966,436 words – so close to the 1 million milestone!**

Year 5	Year 6
1. Thomas M 2. Archie S 3. Orla P	1. Henry C 2. Lily A 3. Jude D

### **Attendance – top 3!**

1	2	3
5-ZSC	5-EKI	6JJO, 8-ETA

### **Online Safety Updates**

#### **What is Palworld?**

Palworld is a new game similar to Pokemon and Digimon with a PEGI rating of 12 for fantasy-character-style violence. Given its similarity to Pokemon there's every likelihood that younger children will be playing this game and so Internet Matters have compiled some advice and guidance for parents about the game: what it is, how it works, safety settings etc. You can find the article [HERE](#)

### **News from the community**

#### **Wellbeing support for children and adults**

[Kooth](#) and [Qwell](#) offer free mental wellbeing support for children and adults respectively. Please find attached their March newsletter.

#### **Girls' cricket opportunity**

TYNE DALE CRICKET CLUB- GIRLS DYNAMOS CRICKET COURSE - 8 - 11 YEAR OLDS

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/Course/9775a829-dd4c-41c3-9175-cc4fbb50a707>

There is a cost to this course which goes to the ECB. Pupils on FSM can ask for a code which covers the cost. Please contact school for this code.

## Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week	All year groups
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Spring Games	Year 5
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Colin Addy, STEM presentations	All year groups
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Girls' Rugby 7s Tournament	Year 8 team
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Coffee Morning with Mr Morgan and Mrs Adams	Invited parents/carers
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Lego League Competition	Lego League members
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Junior Chess Tournament	Invited pupils
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – fundraising and activities	All year groups
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Head of School Award Breakfast	Nominated pupils this month
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Rugby Tournament at Percy Park	Year 8 teams
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 Parents' Evening – re-scheduled	Year 7
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Girls Indoor Cricket Tournament	Year 8
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Woodhorn Museum Visit	Year 8
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Discos	All year groups
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Celebration Assemblies	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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).