

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 25**

**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
William G	Monty C	William I	Lucy P
Leo C	Rosie O	James L	Sophie W
Damir P	Zahra W	Lucia L	Mateo R
George T	Holly W	Benson H	Bella W
Cody G	Evie R-C	Lucas S	Christian T

**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>	63,528	1	Dylan W	1	Duncan G	1	Billy B	1	Ferdi U
<b>Coquet</b>	64,395	2	Catelin D	2	Jacob A	2	Cory S	2	Lucy P
<b>Tweed</b>	62,583	3	Adina C	3	Rosie O	3	Kayden W	3	Martha B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	60,593	4	Philippa U	4	Neve B	4	Poppy K	4	Noah A

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Resonate

It was International Day of Happiness this week and we were delighted to welcome Nu Sound Brass to school in conjunction with Core Music and HMS PTA as part of our all new 'Resonate' music project.

The band performed an amazing set for the whole school across the day and led workshops focus on New Orleans Second Line music and rhythms. The workshops concluded with the Key Stages coming together to work with the band to write a new second line piece of music! It has been an immersive, engaging and high-energy day with the whole school enjoying a live music performance and getting involved in music workshops. Up next, we will be developing in-class workshops to build on the day and working with our pupils to find out what extra-curricular opportunities they'd be keen to enjoy! HUGE thank you to Nu Sound Brass for today and to Core Music, Hexham and our amazing PTA for planning and funding the project!



## Kay Greyson Workshop



Rap and hip-hop artist from here in the North East, Kay Greyson, ran dynamic, energy-filled writing workshops for lucky groups of Y8s and Y9s this week. Kay is signed to a record label, has performed at The Royal Albert Hall and is about to embark on a project for BBC Three. Described as getting 'the room on board from the off' we couldn't agree more! Kay set out the three rules of rap verse: it needs to rhyme, have 16 lines and a theme. The young people worked together to create and perform their raps with brilliant results. Heartfelt thanks to Kay and all at the wonderful Hexham Book Festival for making this visit possible.

## HMS Library Champions' 'Must Reads'

Many thanks to Poppy K in Y7 who has written no. 8 in our series of book reviews by our fantastic 'Library Champions'. Poppy's book and her review are on display in HMS Library with the other recommendations. All are available for borrowing - please come and take a look!

## Dysregulation and de-escalation parent workshop

Dineo Brittain Dodd from Northumberland's HINT (High Incidence Needs Team) delivered a wonderfully informative parent session exploring dysregulation and de-escalation strategies to support young people. We were joined by sixty parents/carers and finished the talk with a productive Q and A session alongside the Be You team. We were delighted that Dineo and Be You joined us and offered their expertise to help parents/carers support their children outside of school. We have shared

HMS Library Champion book review	
	<p><b>Title:</b> The Beast Of Buckingham Palace</p> <p><b>Author:</b> David Walliams</p> <p>I really like this book because it has a lot of adventure which makes you want to read it more and more. You want to get to the next chapter as quickly as possible!</p> <p><b>Review:</b> Poppy K, Y7</p>

the [resources](#) on our website for parents/carer to review and engage with. Dineo has asked that if you were at the session, and you can spare a few minutes, to please fill in the attached form (<https://forms.office.com/e/DFGMYw6RDP>).

### Red Nose Day – Hair Competition Winners

Red Nose Day – Crazy Hair Style Winners							
Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
1	Tabitha S	1	Jacob E	1	Charlie M	1	Alastair W
2	Sadie B	2	Rosie O	2	Ruby C	2	Charlotte K
3	Nick T	3	Doran K	3	Evie A	3	Evie S



### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-YTA, 7-JET	6-RAL, 8-BLA	7-AMG, 5-EKI

### Online Safety Updates

#### New Facebook Checklist

As tech companies introduce new features, including safety features (see more below) it can be difficult to keep up. With the most features of any social platform, Facebook has always been the most frustrating to go through all the settings to make sure they are appropriate to the individual. Thankfully, the days of all the features reverting to their default settings after every update are behind us, but still there is a lot to go through. SWGfL have updated their Facebook checklist for 2024. You can access the checklist [HERE](#). (For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)

#### News from the community

Hexham Canoe Club and Slalom North would like to invite you to get involved in a great day of paddling fun. Canoe Slalom Development Day: Sunday 24th March. They are hosting a Canoe Slalom Development Day at Tyne Green, with support from British Canoeing England Talent Program and with support from clubs across the North of England.

This is a brilliant chance for any interested people, (aged 8 - 98), to develop their paddling skills, have some fun and if they want, get involved in canoe slalom. There will be on-water fun slalom sessions designed to introduce the sport and develop skills. There will be a short presentation about the sport in the clubhouse and refreshments will be available after your session. People will need to follow the link here or in the poster to sign up and secure their place.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/HCCDDMAR>

### Message from Northumbria Police

#### WhatsApp group encouraging self-harm in young people

CNTW NHS Trust has made us aware of a WhatsApp group called “everyone you know x” which is circulating in North Tyneside. It is aimed at Y6 students.

There are currently 500 members, and the group encourages members to self-harm.

Three young people (two from Gateshead and one from Northumberland) are in hospital following overdose and they have disclosed that there is a social media trend whereby young people are being encouraged to take overdoses on a points scoring system e.g. if admitted to hospital, if a liver specialist has been contacted etc.

As these young people are not from the North Tyneside area, and there is potential for this to affect other year groups, we are making all schools in our force area aware.

The NSPCC website has information about helping children who may have been affected by such content [Content promoting self-harm, suicide and eating disorders | NSPCC](#)

#### **Reminders/ Key Dates**

Date	Event	Who
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Woodhorn Museum Trip	Year 8
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Woodhorn Museum Trip	Year 8
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Disco – <a href="#">sign up here</a>	All year groups
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	EXIT Newcastle – Escape Rooms	Selected pupils
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	HMS Council Meeting	HMS Council
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for Easter	All year groups
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Non-uniform Day for House Point Winners	Winning House
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens at 8.40am	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)).