

19th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 27

Update on life in school

As you know, our school was inspected this week. We will share the report with you all once it is published. For now, I want to extend huge and heartfelt thanks to our amazing pupils who were an absolute credit to the school as always. Thank you also to those of you who were able to complete the parent survey as part of the inspection and for the many messages of positive support we received – this is always hugely appreciated by all of us.

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	68,241	1	Lauren D		India R		Esme B		Emilia S
Coquet	68,915	2	Leela H		Lara G		Mary W		Martha B
Tweed	67,138	3	Owen B		Jacob A		Emmie R		Charlotte K
Wansbeck	64,911	4	Isabelle C		Tilly C		Cristina C		Lilly S

Young Minds Advice

We wanted to share this useful link to [Young Minds](#) as we approach a busy exams period. Whether this be relevant for Year 6 assessments or for older students at home, it is a worthwhile read. We make every effort to reduce pressure on our pupils and use the assessments as a chance to celebrate the pupils' progress. However, we know that some children feel nervous, and this information will hopefully be helpful. We also provide targeted intervention support in school for pupils who are feeling particularly anxious. Please let us know if your child would benefit from any further support.



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**

Science Curriculum Update

Mrs Gregory and Miss Lamont want to make Year 7 parents/carers aware that the children will be starting their focus on human reproduction next week in science lessons. Parents/carers may find that the children have questions to ask at home. If anyone wants any further information, please contact Mrs Gregory. You can also find full curriculum information on our [website](#).

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
Finlay F	Josie A	Caitlyn H	Max H
Aoife B	Katie G	Sam C	Abigail B
Archie B	Robin W	Ben F	Ben H
Aimee C	Holly W	Shona R	Daisy B
Alex E	Archie G	Jaiden D	Harry R

Trustee recruitment

Following the recent departure of two long-standing trustees, the Board of Hadrian Learning Trust is keen to appoint two new trustees. We are particularly looking for individuals who have either professional experience of special educational needs in schools or a professional background in organisational finance. However, we are open to receiving expressions of interest from people with a more general interest in school governance and are not limited to parents or carers. If you would like to express interest or would like to find out more, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, via avellinga@qehs.net by Friday 26 April. For more details, please see the attached.

Abi Elphinstone Author Visit

'Ember Spark and the Thunder Of Dragons'

Praised by The Times as 'a worthy successor to CS Lewis' and a previous World Book Day author, we are thrilled to be welcoming Abi Elphinstone to HMS on Thursday 2nd May. Abi will be presenting her latest adventure book 'Ember Spark And The Thunder of Dragons' to Y5 and Y6. She will be revealing where she finds her ideas – from shower gel bottles and street signposts to adventures in the Arctic and Mongolia – as well as showing pupils how to plan their own stories, dream up titles and nail that opening line. This is an event that champions the joy of reading and writing while encouraging kids to be curious, courageous and kind.



If you would like to purchase a book for your KS2 pupil, please visit School Gateway. The books are priced at £7.00 each. Please note that there are no cash payments on the day and orders will open on Friday 19th April and close at midday on Thursday 25th April. This is to give the publishers time to deliver the books. Copies will also be available for borrowing from HMS Library as soon as possible after the event. Huge thanks to Forum Books, Corbridge, for making this visit possible.

London Trip July 2024 - Additional Information and Parents Information Evening

Thank you to those that have already completed the online [form](#) requesting some key information to support further planning of the trip. This form needs completing by Wednesday 24 May. If you are having trouble completing the form, please contact the school. We also look forward to welcoming parents/carers to the information evening on **Tuesday 21 May at 6pm in Fellside Hall**.

HMS Library Champions' 'Must Reads'

Bella W in Y8 has written the ninth in our series of book reviews by our fantastic 'Library Champions'. A copy of the book is available in HMS Library for borrowing. Many thanks to Bella for her recommendation!

HMS Library Champion book review	
	<p>Title: The Animals Of Farthing Wood</p> <p>Author: Colin Dann</p> <p>This is my favourite book ever! The book introduces a group of animals with different personalities, such as Adder who struggles to stick to the rules that they all have to follow for the journey ahead, and just wants to eat all of the small animals, as opposed to Fox who is kind but also a great leader.</p> <p>When their home gets destroyed, the animals begin their journey to find safety at White Deer Park. As they are on the adventure, you meet new animals and they find some challenges along the way. I enjoyed the book so much that I have read the whole series!</p> <p>Review: Bella W, Y8</p>

Gideons Assembly

On Monday 29 April, we have a visitor from Gideons International coming into school. They will be coming into school to talk to pupils in Year 7 about the work they do. We have welcomed Gideons International into school before. They will offer pupils a small red-coloured Gideons New Testament and Psalms book. This assembly forms part of the school's need to address aspects of spiritual curriculum.

Online Safety Updates

Supporting Children with additional needs

Internet Matters have a great range of guides and advice hubs available for parents of neurodivergent children including connecting and sharing online, online gaming and more. You can access all the guides [HERE](#).

(For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5-ZSC, 7-SFO	6-YTA	5-EKI, 8-IBO, 5-JNI

News from the community

- Family Hubs – Family Help Worker – information leaflet attached to this week’s update.
- HINT – Autism Family Drop In – sessions coming up soon – information leaflet attached to this week’s update.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 22 nd April	Parent/Carer Information Evening - Spain Trip – 6pm	Year 7 and 8
Wednesday 24 th April	Young Green Briton Challenge Dragon’s Den	Year 7
Wednesday 24 th April	Baltic Art Trip	All year groups - selection
Thursday 25 th April	Baltic Art Trip	All year groups - selection
Thursday 25 th April	Junior Maths Challenge	Year 7 and 8
Friday 26 th April	Head of School Award Breakfast	All year groups selection
Friday 26 th April	Exploring Aviation: World Pilot’s Day – Careers Event	Year 8
Monday 29 th April – Friday 3 rd May	High Borrans Residential	Year 8 group

Thursday 2nd May	'Boy at the Back of the Class' - Theatre Royal Visit	Year 5 group
Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May	Year 6 End of KS2 Assessment Week	Year 6

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).