



26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 28**

**Update on life in school**

It's been another busy week in school with lots going on to enrich our brilliant curriculum. Miss Taylor has taken 120 pupils to visit The Baltic Art Gallery and we had teams representing HMS at The Young Green Briton Challenge. Lots of our KS3 pupils took part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge and today lots of our KS3 pupils took part in a World Pilot's Day Careers Event – so much to enjoy!

Mr Jones has now taken over Mrs Tanner's timetable as well as form tutor responsibilities for 7JET. After May half term, our new computing teacher, Mr Stephens, will be joining the school. Mr Stephens will be joining the school earlier than planned and we are looking forward to welcoming him to the team.

I contacted all parents this week with an online safety update with particular reference to the use of mobile devices, apps and group chats. Please try to have a read of this update if you haven't already and check your child's online activity this weekend to keep them safe at all times. If you need any further support or advice, you can contact us at any time.

**Head of School Awards**

This month's 'Head of School Award' winners were nominated for showing great oracy and communication skills in form time and other lessons. The pupils met for a special breakfast treat today, got their certificates and have been awarded a P5! I am very proud of each and every one of them!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Aidan M	Aurelia K	Magnus C	Rose C
Ross N	Mia R	Kuba M	Eve W
Dylan W	Tilly C	Lavinia T	Max H
Ed S	Arthur G	Callum J	Ellie B
Isis T-H	Maddoc H	Sonny S	Robbie L

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

## Year 7 and 8 PSHE - Relationships Update

During PSHE lessons over the summer term, pupils will be undertaking their 'Relationships' units which are a mandatory element of the curriculum. **Year 7** will explore puberty and its typical emotional responses, menstrual wellbeing, healthy and unhealthy relationships, managing conflict and receive an introduction to the concept of 'consent'. **Year 8** will build on their previous learning and they will seek to develop their knowledge and understanding of relationship values, the influences on relationship expectations, sexuality and gender identity, consent and avoiding assumptions of it. Pupils will also receive an introduction to different forms of contraception, including the pill and condoms. Pupils will watch a video on how to use a condom correctly and this may be demonstrated by a member of staff. Resources used for our Relationships units have been developed by Medway Council in 2021 and are approved by the national PSHE Association. PSHE teachers have received training this year on the topic of consent.

### 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
James D	Jayden C	Khloe M	Emily H
Orla P	Sofia S	Tristan J	Hope C
Luke T	Ida H	Jessica P	Libby P
Hattie D	Alex A	Evie A	Luke G
Jessica C	Charlie P	Ossie D	Zaid Z

### Visit to The Baltic Art Gallery

Miss Taylor has loved taking so many of our pupils to The Baltic Art Gallery in Newcastle this week. 120 pupils have visited in two groups and have loved spending time in the gallery immersed in wonderful artwork. The visit aims to inspire our pupils and to help them to develop a greater understanding of contemporary art and artists. Our pupils enjoyed exploring the gallery with a guided tour before engaging in an artist-led workshop to get creative! We are lucky to have such amazing spaces for creativity on our doorstep and to use these to enrich our curriculum. Miss Taylor is hugely thankful to the PTA for their 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
<b>Aln</b>	71,347	1 Adina C	Daisy H R	Khloe M	Thomas T
<b>Coquet</b>	72,294	2 Robin M	Georgia O	Carrie G	Freya B
<b>Tweed</b>	69,907	3 Edward H	Rosie O	Robbie S	Robbie L
<b>Wansbeck</b>	67,994	4 Meghan J	Alfie L	Emmy R	Dylan C

## Young Green Briton Challenge

Three Year 7 teams visited County Hall today for the Regional Young Green Briton Challenge. The pupils have been working on local solutions to combat climate change. Our teams had to pitch their innovative ideas to a panel of experts and representatives from the local authority.

Young Green Briton Challenge is a Skills Builder employer and it was wonderful to see our pupils developing every single one of the skills. The panel commented on how professional all of our pupils were and how impressed they were with how much research and effort was put in to get to this stage in the competition.



Dr Meryl Batchelder from Corbridge Middle School and regional representative for the Ministry of Eco Education was very proud to see middle school pupils in the Hexham Partnership taking on the challenge of being 'agents of change'. We are delighted to share that Sarah and Anna from 'Let the Flowers BEEgin' have been selected to go on to the Grand Final being held at City Hall in London in July. All pupils will now be busy at lunchtimes on Monday with Miss Bell and Monday evenings with Mr Freeman-Myers to realise their enterprise projects. Congratulations everyone!

### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-YTA, 8-IBO, 5-JNI, 7-AMG, 5-ZSC,	6-RAL, 6-JJO, 7-SFO	6-FHI, 5-EKI

### New club – Garage Band

We are excited to be able to offer Garage Band as an extra-curricular club for the first time led by Julie Bartley from Rolling Audio.



- Starting – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- Cost -£20 for the 6-week course (each session is from 3.15-4.30).

We are also part-funding this course to minimise costs to parents. In Garage Band Club, pupils will produce a short school jingle that can be used by school. Each session will introduce new aspects of using Garage Band alongside methods of songwriting.

- We have **5 spaces left** on this course which is due to start on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.
- If you would like to request a place, please email [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) providing your child's name and how they will travel home.
- We will confirm all places on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May by email/text with further details on payment. Please note that pupils will be provided with all necessary equipment. As an external provider, Julie Bartley will work independently with all pupils. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils!

### Interested in playing tennis for school?

We are looking for Year 7 and 8 tennis players. On Monday next week (29<sup>th</sup> April), Mr Cameron will be running a trial for anyone who already plays or wants to play tennis for the school team, as school has fixtures coming up this term. We currently only have fixtures in place for the boys, but girls are also welcome to come along to the trial as there is an opportunity for them to compete later. If you wish for your child to attend the trial, please contact the school to let us know that they will be attending, and how they will be getting home after the trial (after school).

### Rugby Success!

What an absolute pleasure it was to take our pupils to the rugby on Monday. The team were very apprehensive on the bus but they absolutely loved it and were buzzing throughout the event! There were fantastic tries from Gaby (4), Annabelle M (2), Connie (2) and Mia. All of the girls got stuck in with the tackling and represented our school brilliantly! It was a very



good-natured game from both sides with the scores even most of the way. Ponteland scored a final try for them to win 10-9 but it was about way more than that final score and hopefully there'll be a few extras at Tynedale Panthers next season! Well done everyone!

### Online Safety Updates

#### For Parents - Second-Hand Devices

Parents will often hand down out of contract devices to their children. This is great, it can save a lot of money, but there needs to be consideration before handing older devices to children. You can find lots of useful information, things to consider and guides to second-hand devices from Internet Matters [HERE](#).

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

#### News from the community

- Hexham Family Hub have shared lots of information about their services and support available – you can see more information on the Hexham Family Hub Facebook page.

#### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Gideons Visit – New Testament and Psalms	Year 7
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Residential visit – High Borrans	Year 8
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Visit and Workshops Newcastle University	Year 7
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Theatre Royal Visit	Year 5 – selection
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Author Visit: Abi Elphinstone	Year 5 and Year 6
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Early May Bank Holiday	School closed (back on Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May)

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)).