

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 29**

**Update on life in school**

It's been another action-packed week in school with pupils representing HMS at sports fixtures including rugby; Abi Elpinstone visiting KS2; a group of Year 5 visiting a show at Theatre Royal and 50 Year 8 pupils spending the week exploring the Lake District at High Borran's – there's never a quiet week at HMS and that's the way we like it! We still have a few spaces at our new Garage Band after-school club – please contact us to sign up. We will send a more detailed write up from High Borran's in next week's update but I know it's been an amazing week – great memories made all round – I am sure the pupils (and staff) will sleep very well tonight!



We have also confirmed the date of this year's PTA Summer Fair as Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We'd love to see you all there. I sent home an email yesterday seeking support with certain aspects such as baking, prize donations and even lego wheels – all support is massively appreciated! There'll be a non-uniform day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June and we ask for donations of tombola prizes on the day – more info to follow.

**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>	<b>73,578</b>	1	Tom G	1	Duncan G	1	Finn C	1	Bella W
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>74,429</b>	2	Jessica C	2	India R	2	Zach D	2	Michael B-P
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>72,007</b>	3	Philippa U	3	Lily A	3	George W	3	Livia M
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>69,989</b>	4	Elise C	4	Harry B	4	Teddy D	4	Thea H G

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

## Author visit for KS2: Abi Elphinstone

***'Be curious, get outside, and never be afraid to fail.'***

These are Abi Elphinstone's three top tips for being a writer and, possibly, for life in general! Abi gave practical advice about collecting ideas for stories in an egg box (sounds weird, but it works) and described how she 'doodles' her way into stories due to her dyslexia. With her humour, her sense of fun and adventure, Abi connected with everyone. She presented her latest brilliant book, 'Ember Spark And The Thunder Of Dragons', and delved into the inspiration behind her characters, plots and themes.

We are so grateful at HMS for Abi's truly fantastic visit. We are also grateful to the wonderful Forum Books in Corbridge for bringing Abi to us. Copies of 'Ember Spark And The Thunder Of Dragons' are now available to borrow from HMS Library.



## Reading photo competition

And the winner is... Evan in Year 6! Evan has put his reading skills to great use to cook up a storm in the kitchen at home. Well done to all of the entrants! We appreciate your effort, enthusiasm and love of reading. Mrs Roff will share more of the entries soon.

## Young Green Briton Challenge - Calling potential sponsorship

We have been fortunate to get a team selected to go to London for the **Young Green Briton Challenge 2024 Final**. Two pupils will hopefully be heading down to London on 4<sup>th</sup> July to represent the school. We are looking for a possible company or companies that may be interested in sponsoring our pupils to get down to London by train with an overnight stay. If anyone would be willing to support us with sponsorship, please contact Mr Freeman-Myers. If anyone has any potential contacts, please pass this on. Whilst in London, our team has to present a video along with prototypes of their solution to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. If you would like more information about our winning team's enterprise, Mr Freeman-Myers is very happy to discuss this further.

## Regulation Stations – Mental Health and Wellbeing

As part of our work to make mental health and emotional wellbeing support more visible around our school, Mrs Dodds has created new stations where pupils can pick up self-regulation and self-help guidance. The stations have already been very popular. Leaflets can be found near the library and outside The Base. Support is always available at HMS when it is needed.



## PSHE workshop – Year 8

Next week, our Year 8 pupils will be taking part in a workshop led by Dave Burns from Be Safe. This workshop links with their current PSHE unit on Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE). We

have chosen this workshop, exploring significant issues, as we regard this as an appropriate time for Year 8 pupils in their school journey with us. During the workshop pupils will learn more about:

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- The meaning of 'consent'
- What is CSE & Grooming?
- Keeping Safe/ child-on-child abuse
- Impact of Sexting / TikTok and posting pictures
- Alcohol & Various effects it has on Young People
- What is Up skirting and the Law.

Preparing pupils for living in the wider world and all the challenges it brings is a key element of your child's personal development. If you would like to discuss this workshop further please contact our reception.

### Good News for Everyone

Recently, we invited Good News for Everyone to talk to our pupils in Year 7. Many people will know this organisation as Gideons UK. We would like to thank Alf Stepheson and colleagues in their offering of a gift - New Testament and Psalms. Pupils were able to learn more about the perspective of a Christian and how their faith is lived and played out. Pupils were invited to accept the gift with the intention that one day they may want to look at it for reflection. Part of a pupil's wider curriculum offer and personal development, is to explore the views, opinions and beliefs of others. Whether a pupil is religious, holds other specific world views or has no spiritual beliefs, a fundamental British value is mutual respect and tolerance for others (including those with religious views). It was a pleasure to invite Good News for Everyone and our year 7 pupils gave them a warm welcome. We look forward to Good News for Everyone coming into school again in June and speaking to our Year 8 pupils.



### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-YTA, 8-IBO	6-FHI, 6-JJO, 7-SFO	7-JET, 8-ETA, 6-MBE, 7-AMG, 8-IHO

## Online Safety Updates

### Article - Navigating the Nuances of Social Media

If, like me, your teenager years were a very long time ago, it can be difficult to think like a teenager. But we can probably remember the difficulty of relationships, friendships and social approval. For many young people much of this is carried out online, and for parents/professionals this can be difficult to understand, it might feel secretive, which can cause concern. 'Through their eyes' is a mantra I use all the time, particularly when talking to students young and old. In other words, understanding what they are doing online and, most importantly, why.

Linda Kaye, Associate Head of Psychology at Edge Hill University has written a great article in The Conversation which gives a really good insight into how teenagers navigate the nuances of social media, and what adults can learn from them. You can find the article [HERE](#). (For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor.)

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	School closed for Early May Bank Holiday	All year groups
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Dave Burn's PSHE - Child Sexual Exploitation Workshop	Year 8
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Theatre Workshops	Year 7
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	SATs Assessment week	Year 6
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 6 Treat Day	Year 6
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	SEND Coffee Morning	Parents/Carers
<b>Friday 24 May</b>	School Photographs – Year 5 and Year 8	Year 5 and Year 8
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	Spain Residential Visit	Year 7/Year 8 group
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	HMS PTA Summer Fair	All parents/carers, pupils and families invited
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	REA Days – Enrichment for All	All pupils
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	HMS Summer Show	All parents/carers invited – info to follow
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Hexham Partnership Transfer Day	Year 4 and Year 8

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)).