



24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 32**

**End of half term update**

Another half term has come to an end – this year really is flying by! We go into the half term break with so much to be proud of! I am delighted to say that our recent inspection report was published on the [Ofsted website](#) yesterday – thank you for the many lovely emails we have received since this was shared.

The summer term is a very busy one as we enjoy the wide range of personal development events on offer and look ahead to a time of change as we welcome new Year 5 pupils to HMS and prepare our Year 8 pupils for their next step to high school. We have lots of transition events taking place over the next half term and we are excited to meet our new pupils and their families.

Our Summer Fair is fast approaching on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (12-3pm) and the children have been given an envelope of raffle tickets today. Once again, we have been amazed by the generosity of the local community and organisations - your support is hugely appreciated. If you would like to buy tickets, please return the ticket stubs and payment into school. If you don't want to buy tickets this time or have some spare, we ask that you send the tickets back into school. The raffle will be drawn at the Summer Fair on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

We'll publish our 'Summer Term Calendar' after the holiday so that you can see what's coming up as the term progresses. Have a great half term break everyone!

**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
Joey R Lucy G Dillon D Zain B Adina C	Emily G Aria H Owen F Duncan G Lilly R-B	Evie A Ailsa S Robbie S Mila B	Grace P Isla M Oliver E Saffron F

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Staffing update

As we reach the end of the first half of the summer term, we look ahead to staffing changes for the end of the school year. We will say proper farewells in our final update of the year. For now, I want to keep you updated as you may have noticed a range of job adverts.

Mr Robson (Learning Support Assistant) will be leaving HMS today after three years on our team. Mr Robson has been a highly valued part of the learning support team and has made a great contribution to our school. We wish him every success in his new role. I am delighted to welcome Mrs Herrmann to our LSA team, and also Miss Price, who has been working with us in school for a while but will now join the team on a permanent basis.

Mr Stephens will join the team as computing teacher from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. He'll be taking over as form tutor to 7JET and taking what was Mrs Tanner's timetable across the week. Welcome to the team! As you know, Miss Liddle will be moving on to a new school and we will welcome Mr Rutherford-Orrock as our new Head of Key Stage 2. He will be in school over the summer term to meet our new Year 5 pupils and to get to know our current pupils. Mr Holdsworth will be retiring from HMS after an amazing 25 years. I am delighted to say that we have appointed a new Curriculum Leader of Music who will teach in both schools, as well as a new music teacher for HMS. They will both continue and build on Mr Holdsworth's great work! Finally, Mrs Adams will be leaving her role as Assistant SENDCo at the end of the year. I am delighted to say that Mrs Ballantyne, who currently works at QEHS, will be taking her place on the team from September. Again, proper thank yous and goodbyes to follow but, for now, this is hopefully a helpful update.

## 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	79,939	1	Maxi C	1	Doran K	1	Annabelle R	1	Alastair Wa
Coquet	81,193	2	Tom G	2	Betty F	2	Finn C	2	David T
Tweed	78,976	3	George L	3	James T	3	Mollie L	3	Xavier F
Wansbeck	76,372	4	Sofia P	4	Lucas S	4	Ruby P	4	Livia M

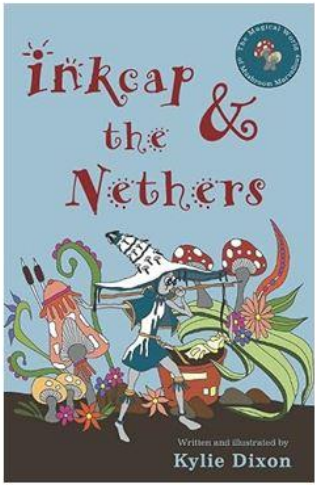
## House Winner

It was another P-Point victory for Coquet House this half term, although it was very close! Pupils in Coquet could wear non-uniform (if they wanted to) on Thursday 23rd May. There's still plenty of time for the other Houses to close the gap with Coquet, and we have our Sports Days coming up in the final half term too! Congratulations, Coquet!



## HMS Library Champions' 'Must Reads'

Lavinia T in Y7 has written the 11th in our series of book reviews by our fantastic 'Library Champions'. A copy of the book is available in HMS Library. Many thanks to Lavinia for her recommendation! Happy reading everyone!

	HMS Library Champion book review
	<p><b>Title:</b> Inkcap &amp; the Nethers <b>Author:</b> Kylie Dixon</p> <p>'Inkcap &amp; the Nethers' is a fun, funny magical book. It is set in an allotment. One day, the Nethers come! They make the crops die and wither away. Unfortunately, the mushroom Scales is captured. He has to use his bravery deep inside him to escape. While Inkcap is fighting, he suddenly finds his new power: Potence.</p> <p>I would recommend this book because it takes me to a magical world.</p> <p><b>Review:</b> Lavinia T, Y7</p>

## Year 8 Sports Leaders

Our Year 8 Sports Leaders were superb when supporting at last week's Year 4 'Quad Kids' athletics transition event. Year 4 pupils from local first schools visited HMS for a great morning of athletics. Our Year 8 pupils were phenomenal role models and were widely praised by visiting teachers. Well done for being such brilliant ambassadors for HMS!



## Cricket success

Our KS3 cricket teams were representing HMS this week and Mr Cameron was very proud of the teams. The girls' team won their group and progressed to the final where they were narrowly beaten. The team won four of their five games. Despite the defeat in the final, the girls' team have qualified



for the next round where they will be competing against schools from Newcastle. We are very proud of them!

The boys' team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in their group and won three games out of their five. The team played in fantastic spirits and should be very proud of their efforts. The team were beaten in the semi-final but can look ahead with confidence to more events soon. Overall, all of our pupils were excellent representatives of HMS – outstanding performance and conduct!

### Attendance – top 3!

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

### Online Safety Updates

#### For Parents - Assessing Smartphone Readiness

"Is my child old enough to have a phone?" It's a common, understandable question for many parents. For younger children it's often peer pressure, with older children social isolation is very common. The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development have put together some tip sheets for parents which I think are really useful. There are 3 parts:

- Assessing readiness.
- Preparing for healthy use.
- What now?

You can view all the tip sheets [HERE](#). (Online Safety Updates for Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor).

### News from the community

- Knife Crime – Northumbria Police information leaflet attached to today's email.

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Great North Museum Trip	Year 5
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Spain Residential Visit	Year 7 and Year 8 (group)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Belong Ball Games at Corbridge Middle School	Year 5 and Year 6 (group)

<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	NU Futures workshop	Year 7 and Year 8
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Hexham Transfer Day	Year 4 and Year 8

Have a fantastic half term break everyone – see you back on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June!

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)).