

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 3**

**Head Pupils**

Following a day of wonderful interviews yesterday, and some very tricky decision-making last night, I am delighted to announce our new Head Pupils for this year. Huge congratulations to Noah, Sarah, Esme and Tristan who we know will be phenomenal ambassadors for HMS. We were so proud of each and every pupil who took the time to apply and attend the interview. It takes real courage to put yourself forward and we wish we could've appointed everyone!

**Queen's Hall Drama Visits**

Year 7 have enjoyed visiting the Queen's Hall in Hexham this week. The visits mark the launch of their drama curriculum in KS3 and focus on careers and opportunities in the creative arts. The backstage tour focused on elements of the arts - both on and off stage - and helped pupils to understand what goes into a production/performance. Pupils got the opportunity to learn more about the creative team behind this year's Christmas show, to hear from the director of Othello and to visit the current 'Heartwood' exhibition. Thank you to the Queen's Hall Team for having us!



**The HMS Way 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. Well done – we are very proud of you!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Finn R	Riley B	Artie O'B	Esme B
Jenna T	Francesca F	Lewis J	Zach D
Jax M	Owen B	Ben S	Sarah N
George H	Alex U	Joanna R	Alfie R-W
Heidi B	Mollie P	Grace M	Noah H

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## HMS Go Green - Used Uniform Sale

The HMS PTA will be running a used uniform sale during 'Meet the Tutor Evening' on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The stall will be open in the HMS Library area and donations will support the PTA.



## PSHE: Sharing Images Workshop

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Northumbria Police will be in school to deliver a workshop with our Year 8 pupils. Themes covered in this workshop will include: sexting, consent, nude images, the consequences of sharing images, peer pressure, the law. This will be revisited in the PSHE curriculum in the summer term. This workshop is age-appropriate for our Year 8 pupils, and we appreciate the support of the Northumbria Police to deliver and explore key messages. Pupils will be in 1-hour workshops with their tutor groups, supported by a class teacher. If you have any questions please contact Mr Freeman-Myers.



### Pupil Success!

Dylan (Yr6) has achieved the outstanding feat of running 100 Park Runs. This weekend he celebrated the milestone of running his 100th run. This means he has run 500km in total, which is about the distance from Hexham to London! What an achievement—showing such determination and resilience. Well done Dylan, we are all very proud of you.

### House Point Totals

Each week, we celebrate our P Point (positive point) total across the school. We include the 'Top 4' pupils in each year group, as well as the house totals for Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed. Well done everyone for such a positive start to term.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	4,628	1	Sophia M	1	Dillon D	1	Joseph D	1	Anna O
Coquet	4,629	2	Maisie-Grace M	2	Finlay F	2	Sam L	2	Esme B
Tweed	4,801	3	Bertie L	3	Lucy E	3	Artie O'B	3	Sophie A
Wansbeck	4,667	4	Scarlet S	4	Jessie T	4	Joey S	4	Sarah N

## HMS PTA Updates

**First meeting of the year: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm at HMS - all welcome.**

Many of our long-serving members moved on from middle school life and left the HMS PTA at the end of last term. As a result, we are really keen to recruit new members and supporters to continue the amazing fundraising for school life.

We are now seeking:

<b>Chairperson</b>	We are looking for someone to become the new Chair. This is a vital role and needs to be filled to make sure the work of the PTA can continue. It's not as daunting as it sounds. You will be supported by a great team of members, supporters and school staff, who make the PTA a fun and rewarding place to be.
<b>New members</b>	If you'd like to join the committee, please get in touch with us. You can commit to as much or as little as you can do. We meet around half-termly to plan events and fundraising opportunities for the children. Your support is much-needed to keep this going.
<b>New supporters</b>	If you can't commit fully but would like to help out at events as and when you can, we would love to add you to our supporters' group so that we can call upon your help at future events.

If you are interested in offering your support or any of the other roles, please contact us via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk). We hugely value your support!

### Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with **97%** of pupils being in school. Our school target is 98%.

It's so important that pupils and parents have a positive attitude towards school attendance – pupils should be in school every day, ready to learn and to make the most of their school opportunities.

Thank you for your support.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> form class</b> 99%	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class</b> 98%	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class</b> 97%
7-IBO, 7-PES,6-MBE, 5-JNI, 5-FHA, 5-MDO	8-SMC, 6-YTA, 5-EKI	7-AMG, 6-FHI, 5-SZC

## MCAS Updates

### MCAS – where to find payments

If you receive an email request for one off payments for items such as Food Technology these will be in the 'Store' section at the bottom of your MCAS App. Payments for any school trips/clubs/swimming lessons will be in the 'Trips' or 'Clubs' tile of the MCAS App.

## Online Safety Updates

### For Parents - The ABC Online safety Checklist.

Internet Matters have done it again, this time with a really simple guide for parents using Activate, Balance and Check. *(image copyright: Internet Matters)*



#### Activate parental controls

Use the controls and tools available from broadband providers, online platforms and apps to install safe search settings, block inappropriate content and prevent contact from strangers.

[FIND A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE](#)



#### Balance screen time

Agree a good balance for your children's screen time, taking education and leisure content into account. Encourage active screen time over passive and consider setting limits for the total hours spent online each day.

[LEARN ABOUT BALANCE](#)



#### Check and chat

Check which apps your children use and the relevant age limits for each platform. And talk regularly about online safety and what they might come across so you can work together to manage any risks and keep online experiences positive.

[GET ADVICE BY AGE](#)

The ABC's are broken down by age to make this as simple as possible for parents: all ages, under 5's, 6-10, 11-13 and 14+. Definitely worth sharing with your parents and I'll definitely be using it in my parent training sessions.

You can download the guide [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie – E-safety advisor)

## HMS Extra-Curricular Updates

### Mandarin School launch

Thank you to Mr. Armstrong for arranging our Mandarin School for this academic year. Pupils are welcome to join this after-school club, starting on **Wednesday 2 October**. This is a free club. Sign-ups are now open on the **MCAS app**. This club will take place from 3.25pm to 4.25pm every Wednesday. Pupils will meet in FB8 with Mr Armstrong from 3.20pm. We look forward to welcoming our Mandarin tutor, Xinyi, to the new club, who represents the Chinese Confucius Institute based in Newcastle University. All levels of Mandarin proficiency are welcome.

### Collection procedures for extracurricular clubs

We ask that parents/carers collecting pupils from clubs do so from the main school gates (not from the car park), especially younger key stage 2 pupils. We do not want pupils crossing the car park unattended. If any parent/carer is late for a collection, pupils will wait in Fellside Building in our school library. If you have any queries about after-school clubs, please email our HMS Admin.,

### Club spaces

Please keep checking MCAS if your child is on a club waiting list as we have added pupils to the club lists this week. We are working with MCAS to set up a notification of changes for you.

## News from the community

### Understanding Autistic Overwhelm, Meltdown and Shutdown Workshop for Parents Hexham Family Hub Monday 14th October 10-12

Delivery of in-person learning workshops on understanding Sensory Differences is taking place with a member of the Autism Central at Daisy Chain team. We will look at how sensory differences impact autistic people. This workshop is aimed at the parents and carers of school-aged children. No diagnosis is necessary.

Places must be booked: <https://daisychainproject.co.uk/product/in-person-learning-workshops-northumberland/>

**Latest news from 'On Yer Bike Tynedale' Festival  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> 12.00-4.00pm Hexham town centre**

Decorate your Bike competition! Prizes given for all those who turn up with a decorated bike and a special prize for the overall winner. Also, two supervised rides to Warden and back for adults at 1.00pm and 2.30pm. Please sign up at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/onyerbike-hexham-22nd-september-8km-5mi-guided-rides-to-warden-tickets-1012001643157?aff=oddtcreator>

Please spread the word to friends and relatives!



**Free online session – The Skills Revolution**

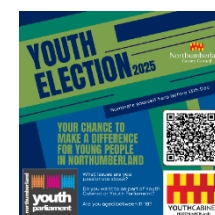
Please see attached flyer regarding a free online session for parents and carers to help young people in developing skills to succeed in skills-based employment. You can find the flyer here:

<https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Parent-Invite-Skills-Revolution.png>

**Youth Election 2025**

The expression of interest form goes live at 7am on the 20th Sept and closes at midday on the 13th Dec. There is a QR code within the graphic that will take young people to the form, additionally, the link below can also be shared.

<https://forms.office.com/e/HMGUblIU6p>.



This opportunity is open to all young people who would be in school years 7 and 8 at Hexham Middle School.

**Upcoming Dates**

Date	Event	Who
Monday 23 September	House Hustings – House Captain Elections	All year groups
Monday 23 September	Girls in STEM Workshop, Newcastle University	Year 7
Tuesday 24 September	Story of Earth, Newcastle University	Year 5
Tuesday 24 September	HMS PTA Meeting, HMS, 6.30pm	All welcome
Wednesday 25 September	Meet the Tutor Evening 3.45-6.45pm	All year groups
Thursday 26 September	European Day of Languages – Bake Off & T-shirt competitions	All year groups

<b>Thursday 26 September</b>	PSHE - Sharing Images Workshop – Northumbria Police	Year 8
<b>Thursday 26 September</b>	Hexham Abbey Performance with Fiona Lander	All year groups (selection)
<b>Friday 27 September</b>	Head of School Award Breakfast	Award Winners
<b>Thursday 3 October</b>	HMS Open Evening, 6pm	All welcome
<b>Monday 7 October</b>	Author Visit: Nadine Aisha Jassat	Year 6 and 7

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 Mr Rutherford-Orrock  
**Heads of Key Stage:** Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrock  
**SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo:** Mr Morgan and Mrs Ballantyne  
**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)).