

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 1**

**Update on life in school**

It has been a joy to welcome our pupils back to school this week – I hope you all had a fantastic summer break. Thank you for supporting the children to make such a positive start to term this week. I am so proud of our Year 5 pupils and the many other children who have joined HMS this week. A new start can cause a mix of emotions – lots of children felt excited, nervous and eager to find out more – and all of the children are settling in brilliantly to our school, and we are excited for the year ahead! It’s such a big change coming to middle school with a new timetable, new friends to make, new teachers and staff and finding your way around a new environment – we suspect there’ll be some very tired children tonight, but they should be so proud of themselves!



As well as welcoming the pupils back to school, we also welcomed several new members of staff to Team HMS. New staff members include: Mr Rutherford-Orrock (Head of KS2), Mrs Rowell (Music Teacher), Mrs Tindall (Music Leader), Ms Buxton-Collins (RE Leader), Mrs McIntrye (Geography Teacher), Mrs Ballantyne (Assistant SENDCo) and four new colleagues into our LSA team: Mrs Smith, Mrs Read, Ms Watkinson and Mrs Taylor. All of our new colleagues have enjoyed meeting the pupils this week and have been a great addition to the team!

Next week, we’ll be launching our new extracurricular clubs list which is always an exciting time at HMS. Look out for more information on how to sign up and when the clubs will begin – the club offer is shaping up to be action-packed and extensive once again!

**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.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Bella B	Leela H	Emily C	Alivia A
Sophia B	Henry C	Edie L	Wilf W
Marcus M	Tom G	Joey S	Toby C
Bertie L	Lucy G	Oswald B	Anna O
Oscar C	Hollie W	Emily G	Ollie P

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Year 5 Team Building

It has been a pleasure to welcome all of our new starters to HMS this week. The children have settled in brilliantly and helped each other with the move to middle school. To end a great first week, Year 5 enjoyed a Team Building Day today with a wide range of activities including sports, drama and a visit to the Fellside Forest! It was lovely to see new friendships being built and everyone getting to know each other. Thank you to Full of Beans for your support on the day. Well done everyone - we are very proud of you!

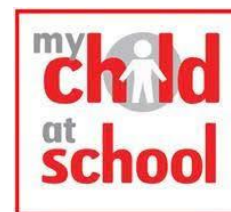


## Welcome to Year 5 Evening

Year 5 parents/carers are invited to attend our 'Welcome to Year 5 Evening' on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm. Please complete this short form to [sign-up](#). The evening will involve a presentation from school staff who will share key information about the year ahead including what your child will be learning in school, the opportunities they'll have and also how you can continue to support their learning at home. We look forward to seeing lots of you there and we'll share the information for those who can't make it.

## My Child at School (MCAS)

- If you haven't managed to access the MCAS app or website yet, please try logging in using your email address and clicking 'reset password', even if you haven't set one yet.
- You can download the MCAS app from your app store. You can also access the MCAS website browser (<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>).
- This should allow you access, but if you still can't log in, please email us via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).



## 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	745	1	Heidi B	1	Ben C	1	Ida H	1	Sarah N
Coquet	765	2	Isabella N	2	George L	2	Luke B	2	Esme B
Tweed	812	3	Charlie A	3	Robin M	3	Elsie L	3	Noah H
Wansbeck	806	4	Ava B	4	Ben R	4	Amelia P	4	Harry J

## School lunches

It has been great to see our pupils enjoying their school lunches this week. You can view our three-week menu [here](#). School lunch money can be paid via the MCAS app. If you have any questions or queries about spending limits, you can contact us via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) and your email will be passed to Mrs Satow, Catering Manager. We'll have lots of exciting themed lunches being announced very soon – look out for more information.

	First Sitting 12.30pm	Second Sitting 12.35pm	Third Sitting 12.45pm	Fourth Sitting 12.50pm
Monday	8	7	5	6
Tuesday	6	5	8	7
Wednesday	7	8	6	5
Thursday	5	6	7	8
Friday	8	7	5	6

## Charity Cake Sale



Mrs Ballantyne is organising a cake sale as part of Macmillan's Coffee Morning. The sale will take place at morning breaktime on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. There'll be a KS2 table on the front yard and a KS3 table on the games yard. If you would like to send in baked or bought donations, we would really appreciate it. Donations can be sent into school on the Friday morning. A reminder that we are a nut-free school. Please also include allergen details with your baked goods. We'll have free-from goods on offer too! Cakes will be 50p each. Pupils can bring in cash for this event. Thank you for support!

## Sharing Success

We are always very keen to celebrate our pupils' success and achievements. We know our pupils have very busy lives with vast and varied interests and talents outside of school. Please share their great news with us so that we can celebrate them in school. You can send us good news via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) with photographs if you are happy to send them in. We look forward to getting lots of news soon!

## Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with **98%** of pupils being in school – this is a great start to a new school term. Let's keep this positive start going. 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.

1 <sup>st</sup> form class	2 <sup>nd</sup> form class	3 <sup>rd</sup> form class
100% - 5FHA, 5MDO, 6MBE, 7PES, 8SMC	99% - 5JNI and 8BLA	98% - 6YTA, 7IBO, 7AMG

### Pupil Competition – get involved!

We are seeking ideas to improve the aesthetic appearance of the old lift space in the centre of the Hydro building across its four levels. There's prize money of £50 available for students' ideas which should be capable of being turned into reality at a cost of no more than some £300.

The winning proposal will best reflect our [ethos](#), which we encapsulate through Respect, Engage and Aspire. As per advice received from Northumberland County Council's Heritage Officer, if the proposal involves painting the lift or attaching anything to it permanently, Listed Building Consent will be required. This is not necessarily problematic, but it potentially could be, depending on what is proposed. Any proposed fixings that would be temporary should respect the structure and not cause any damage to it.

Please submit ideas comprising brief visuals and a short explanation by midday on Friday 27 September 2024. For further details and to submit your ideas, please see Mr Freeman-Myers (HMS) or Mr Hedley (QE). Thank you to David Fruin, one of our exam invigilators, who is kindly funding this initiative.

### HMS Clubs

Our exciting extra-curricular clubs offer will be published next week. From there, parents/carers will be able to review the list with children at home and make bookings via MCAS. The offer is already shaping up to be vibrant once again and we are so thankful to our staff for their creativity and hard work.

Two music clubs will be starting next week with HMS Singers on Tuesday and HMS Karaoke Club on Friday! We can't wait to hear the music in the corridors once again!

### News from the community

#### 'On Yer Bike' Tynedale Bike Festival

We are keen to support the 'On Yer Bike' bike festival which takes place in Hexham on Sunday the 22nd September from 12.00-4.00pm – please see attached flyer. The event will provide an opportunity to cycle round Hexham where roads will be closed, to get your bike fixed, to try out a cargo bike or an adapted bike for mobility issues and to get some support, advice and help generally to ride in the best way possible for you. The event organisers are keen to hear from sixth form students to support the stewarding of the event – first aid qualifications or bike maintenance knowledge will be helpful but is not obligatory. Those interested in stewarding or seeking more details should contact David Dixon via [daviddixon649@gmail.com](mailto:daviddixon649@gmail.com).

## Royal Air Force Air Cadets: Open Evening

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (7.30-9.00pm), **Year 8** pupils are invited to attend the Air Cadets recruitment evening. This is a great opportunity for those interested in a new challenge. You can find out more information on 07930386649 or by emailing [rory.shearer@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:rory.shearer@rafac.mod.gov.uk).



### Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Wednesday 11 September	Individual School Photos	All Year Groups
Friday 13 September	HMS Council Elections	All year groups
Friday 13 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning Cake Sale	All year groups
Monday 16 September	Queen's Hall Drama Launch	Year 7
Monday 16 September	Discovery Museum Visit	Year 6
Tuesday 17 September	Welcome to Year 5 Evening	Year 5
Wednesday 18 September	Queen's Hall Drama Launch	Year 7 (group)
Wednesday 18 September	Manchester Trip Information Evening 6pm	Year 8 (group)
Thursday 19 September	Queen's Hall Drama Launch	Year 7 (group)
Monday 23 September	House Hustings – House Captain Elections	All year groups
Wednesday 25 September	Meet the Tutor Evening 3.45-6.45pm (information to follow next week)	All year groups

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)).