

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 6

Hello Yellow Day



I shared a 'Mental Health Weekly Update' earlier this week – I hope you managed to read this and found the information to be useful. If you don't feel it's relevant now, keep it somewhere in your inbox to refer to if it's ever needed. World Mental Health Day was on Thursday, and we had our Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds today. It was great to see so much bright clothing!

The children enjoyed time with their form class this morning for a mental health session. Activities included a very popular session inspired by The Doodle Boy who promotes the power of doodling and art to support mental health and wellbeing. You can make donations to Young Minds via MCAS (Shop – Charity section) if you feel able to – all of your support is appreciated.

HMS Council

Our newly elected HMS Council members gathered for their first meeting of the year on Monday. Under the skilled leadership of our Head Pupil Team, reps from each form class had a brilliant first meeting. The feedback demonstrated a positive and democratic discussion and a clear action plan for the team to take forward.



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
Daniel W	Laila B	Jack L	Summer T
Libby C	Charlie C	Phoebe B	Annabelle M
Harry M	Damir P	James B	Tristan J
Ella A	Tabby S	Rosie O	Cameron S
Ava G	Heidi B	Duncan G	Lucas S

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Cross Country success

Despite the lovely October weather conditions, we enjoyed a great day at Temple Park for the English Schools Cup Team Cross Country Competition this week. Five out of the six teams across HMS and QEHS qualified for the next round. A great effort all round and a display of superb attitude from the pupils involved. We are looking forward to our pupils representing the schools at the next round in November.

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	13,995	1	Marcus M	1	Jessie T	1	Rosie O	1	Teddy D
Coquet	14,424	2	Nella A	2	Alexander T	2	Duncan G	2	Lewis S
Tweed	14,612	3	Alice E	3	Finlay F	3	Tyler H	3	Sam B
Wansbeck	14,397	4	Ted P	4	Nick T	4	Maja M	4	Sophie A

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with **96.2%** of pupils being in school. Our school target is 97%. 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 st form class 100%	2 nd form class 99%	3 rd form class 98%
5EKI and 7IBO	5MDO	7PHA, 6RAL, 5JNI and 5FHA

RHS Nature Park Engagement

We were delighted to invite colleagues from the Royal Horticultural Society to pilot some resources with a small group of Year 6 pupils this week. They were capturing data of pollinating insects on our

school site. Our pupils used quadrats and learned more about pollinating plants. Many thanks to Fiona and Jane from RHS who delivered a short workshop.

Harvest Festival – Food Bank Appeal

Next week, we would like to gather donations for West Northumberland Food Bank. We know that many people in the UK are struggling financially as a result of the cost of living crisis and rising food prices. Anything you can donate to the collection would be appreciated hugely. Items can be brought into school from Monday 14th October until Friday 18th October. West Northumberland Food Bank are going to collect any donated items from school the following week.



HMS PTA Updates

PTA AGM and next meeting

Our PTA AGM will take place on Thursday 7th November at The County Hotel 7pm – all welcome to join us. Huge thank you to the many new members who came along to our last meeting.

Disco Night

The first disco night of the year has been booked for Wednesday 23rd October. [Sign up using this form](#). £3 per ticket. We can't wait to see everyone having a great night!



MCAS Updates

After some initial delays, we are now launching the **Bromcom Student Portal** which is the pupil version of MCAS. The Bromcom Student Portal will provide the children with easy access to their own information, including timetables, homework and P point totals. We will be guiding all pupils through the login process during their computing lessons in the coming week. Our staff will be on hand to assist and answer any questions the children may have.

To enable parents to support their child, the recovery email address for the Student Portal App will be the first parental contact email address currently held on Bromcom. This measure is in place to provide a reliable means of account recovery if needed. Thank you for your continued support.

News from the community

Tynedale Lions Club Young People's Excellence Awards 2024-25

As in the last few years, Tynedale Lions Club has developed a bursary scheme to help in the further and personal development of young people who deserve to be recognised for their hard work and/or exceptional achievement. For 2024-2025, they have four bursaries of £500 for the period up to the 30th June 2025. Applicants need to be 11-18 years of age and live in Tynedale. Young people with learning differences will be considered up to the age of 25. The closing date for applicants is the 10th January 2025. Please see attached info for further information and how to apply.

Learn to ride and rides

As a follow up to the highly successful On Yer Bike Tynedale event on the 22nd September, please see attached information. There are opportunities for free bike training for adults to help their confidence on the road, free bike maintenance and some free guided rides.

Autism drop-in sessions Autumn 2024

Please see [here](#) for information regarding the Autism Family Drop In sessions being held at Hexham and Haltwhistle Family Hubs. Dates of the sessions are Wednesday 13 November 2024, 1 pm - 3 pm at Hexham Family Hub and Tuesday 26 November 2024, 1 pm - 3 pm at Haltwhistle Family Hub.

Kooth and Qwell mental health support

The monthly newsletter from [Kooth](#) (an online platform to help young people with their mental health) and [Qwell](#) (the adult equivalent) can be found [here](#).

Online Safety Updates

Digital Literacy Guide - InHope

Funded by the European Union, InHope have released a new Digital Literacy Guide which is aimed primarily at teenagers, but I think it may also be useful for schools, parents/carers etc. The guide is a free download (no sign-up required) and goes into lots of areas such as "Know your Device", "Interacting Online", "Seeking Help" and more.

You can find the guide [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 14 October	Food Bank Collection	All pupils
Monday 14 October	KS2 Festival of Football	KS2 (participating pupils)
Tuesday 15 October	Stem to Stars – Planetarium Workshops	Year 5
Wednesday 23 October	PTA Disco Night	All year groups
Thursday 24 October	Skills Builder Day	All year groups
Thursday 24 October	Head of School Awards Breakfast	Prize Winners
Thursday 24 October	School closes for half term at 3.20pm	All year groups
Friday 25 October	Teacher Training Day	All year groups

Monday 28 October until Friday 1 November	Half Term Holiday	All year groups
Wednesday 6 November and Thursday 14 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings (<i>bookings now open via MCAS</i>)	Year 6

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-Orrrock
Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrrock
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).