


Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 7

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
Amelie F	Natalia S	Lara G	Sophia F-N
Felix H	Leo B	Joseph D	Brodie G
Marnie D	Jessie T	Emily D	Sam C
Isla Mc	Adina C	Summer A	Evie A
Ava N	Dylan W	Daniel B-M	Leo F

Hadrian Learning Trust

Kate MacLachlan, parent of pupils in HMS, has been appointed Chair of the Trust Board. Veryan Johnston steps down as Chair to become Vice Chair. We thank Veryan for her time as Chair and indeed all trustees for their excellent support of both schools. For full details of the trust's governance activities, please see [here](#).

Baby News

We are delighted to share the news that Mr Morgan and his partner welcomed baby Eleanor to the world last week. I know you will join us in sharing congratulations! Mr Morgan is enjoying time at home with his family. Mr Watters/Mr Stephenson are working with Mrs Ballantyne to lead SEND provision whilst Mr Morgan is away from work. You can contact us via SEND@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Staffing update

Mrs Downes will be starting her maternity leave on Friday 4th November. Miss Pemberton will be covering in 5MDO whilst Mrs Downes is away and we were pleased to welcome her into school this week to start the handover process. She is very much looking forward to settling into HMS life over the next couple of weeks. Miss Bell will be covering as Deputy Head of Key Stage 2 and will take on her new role from Monday 20th October.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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 AIn, 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	
AIn	16,760	1	Marnie D	1	Finlay F	1	Anna F	1	Sarah N
Coquet	17,097	2	Niamh B	2	Bailey-Rose B	2	Ben S	2	Mary W
Tweed	17,313	3	Amber S	3	Charlotte B	3	Lara G	3	Teddy D
Wansbeck	17,400	4	William R	4	Jessie T	4	Gwen C-W	4	Isobel S

STEM to Stars - Launch!

Year 5 were so excited to engage in the launch of the 'STEM to Stars' project this week. HMS will be working with Kielder Observatory this year and pupils enjoyed a visit to the planetarium for an exciting workshop this week. This was an inspiring session to launch the project for the year ahead! We'll soon be launching our new 'Space Club' with a 12-week course led by Kielder Observatory and we can't wait to get going. Information to follow very soon...What a great opportunity for Year 5!



Football Festival

On Tuesday, 44 Year 5s participated in our inaugural 'Festival of Football'. Mr Nichol was thrilled by the level of footballing skill on display. All pupils performed admirably and represented our ethos of Respect, Engage, Aspire superbly. Well done to all involved! We look forward to further developing our Year 5 teams and seeing them representing HMS as the year goes on. Huge thanks to Mr Nichol for planning this opportunity for Year 5!

Club update

Look at what has been going on with Full of Beans at Hexham Middle School. Our Multi Games Club was shining brightly recently. Thank you to Full of Beans for supporting our extracurricular activities programme. The pupils that attend really enjoyed this activity.



HMS Library Champions 2024-25

We are delighted to announce the new HMS Library Champions for this year. Congratulations to all of you! It is wonderful to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team to promote a love of reading at HMS.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Ava B	Laila B	Neve B
Sophia B	Ben C	Emily C
Oscar C	Catelin D	Anabelle C
Marnie D	Adam H	Libby C
Eve G	Leela H	Anna F
Darcey H	Thea H	Amelie G
Lauren H	Nancy M	Ida H
Laurence H		Daisy HR
Sophie K		Aurelia K
Bertie L		Elsie-May P
Erin M		Evie R-C
Oscar N		Holly W
Ava N		
Amber S		

Everyone will be a Library Champion for the full year, with the opportunity to be involved in World Book Day, book fairs and other literary events. However, because there was such a fabulous response, the Library Champions will be divided into two groups for helping in the library at lunchtimes. There will be a 'Winter' group and a 'Summer' group. Please would Library Champions come to the library at lunchtime on Monday 21st October to receive their timetable from Ms Hayler. Thank you.

BBC 500 words competition

BBC 500 Words Competition "Write a story you would love to read". BBC's 500 Words, the UK's largest children's writing competition for children aged 5-11, is open for entries now! Submit before the competition closes at 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024. This is an excellent competition for our Year 5/6 pupils (age 11 is the maximum) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>.



Dance success

Abigail continues to shine and her commitment to dance is phenomenal. This weekend, she danced in the grand final of the 'Can you dance? Super Convention' in Liverpool. She danced as part of the Evolution Training Group and it was a great experience for her – she danced in a huge arena on a professional stage – what an achievement! Earlier this term, she came 1st in a pairs event; 2nd in Championship Slow; 2nd in Intermediate Solo and 1st in U16 Intermediate Team with her teammates! We are so proud to hear how much she is going from strength to strength – well done!

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with 96.5% 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 99%	2 nd form class 98%	3 rd form class 97%
5-FHA, 5-MDO	7-PES, 6-MBE, 5-JNI, 5-ZSC, 5-EKI	7-IBO, 7-PHA, 7-AMG, 6-JJO

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!



News from the community

Find Festival – Take-over event

The Find Festival take-over event is a free event that is taking place at Queen's Hall on Wednesday 30 October – ran by young people and includes free workshops and music. The flyer has also been posted on our Facebook page.

Face Family Advice

Sessions have been released for October and November – the flyer has been sent home for families to read. Sessions can be booked directly and are delivered online.



Online Safety Updates

Parental Supervision - How Far is Too Far?

Many parents will opt to use apps to track and monitor the location and online activities of their children. These apps can be really beneficial (e.g. physical safety) but as with anything there are drawbacks (e.g. invasion of privacy). Using the voices of young people Voicebox have put together an excellent article which parents can use to give a more informed opinion of these apps and to use as discussion points with their children. You can find the article [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
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	INSET Day	School closed for pupils
Monday 4 November	School re-opens at 8.40am	All year groups
Tuesday 5 November	SEND Coffee Morning 10.00am	All welcome
Tuesday 5 and Thursday 7 November	Zones of Regulation Workshops	Year 5 and Year 7
Wednesday 6 November and Thursday 14 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings (<i>bookings now open via MCAS</i>)	Year 6
Sunday 10 November	Remembrance Sunday	Head Pupils
Monday 11 November	Anti-Bullying Workshops	Year 5
Wednesday 13 November	War Horse, Sunderland Empire	Year 7
Thursday 14 November	Watch House, Queen's Hall	Year 8
Friday 15 November	Children in Need Fundraising Day (info to follow)	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).