

15 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 10**



It was a privilege to take part in last Sunday's Hexham Remembrance Service. As always, it was a poignant service and an opportunity to pay our respects and to reflect alongside the community. Noah, Sarah, Esme and Tristan were fantastic representatives for our school and laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the whole school community. Our schools fell silent at 11am on Monday with a special message from Mr Atkins. Mr Johnson led our Remembrance Assemblies this week and we thank everyone for their generosity towards the poppy appeal in support of the Royal British Legion.

**Children in Need**



Wow – what a great community effort from everyone at HMS today! Each form class worked hard to prepare their own stall for our 'Big Children in Need Fair' and it was a HUGE success! School has been buzzing with excitement as we all worked together to raise funds for such a wide range of important charities. Well done everyone – we have been so impressed with your efforts!

Special thanks to Miss Lamont for her superb organisation and to our amazing form teachers for their support! We'll share the final fundraising total in due course – donations can still be made via MCAS – thank you for your support.



**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
Kyle S	Michael C	Amelie G	Ruby C
Laurie H	Talia C	James C	Lucia L
Mason D	Nancy M	Lily R-B	Lewis S
Archie H	Thea H	George C	Bea S
	Jessica H	George F	Abigail H

**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 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	
<b>Aln</b>	23,756	<b>1</b>	Nella A	<b>1</b>	Jessica Do	<b>1</b>	Charlie P	<b>1</b>	Sarah N
<b>Coquet</b>	24,167	<b>2</b>	Julia F	<b>2</b>	Tom G	<b>2</b>	Joseph D	<b>2</b>	Dylan N
<b>Tweed</b>	24,330	<b>3</b>	Daniella H	<b>3</b>	Martha G	<b>3</b>	James D-S	<b>3</b>	Alfie R-W
<b>Wansbeck</b>	24,295	<b>4</b>	Marcus M	<b>4</b>	Finlay F	<b>4</b>	Rose K	<b>4</b>	George W

## A week of theatre...

As part of their gothic studies, Year 8 visited the Queen's Hall for a performance of The Watch House yesterday. It was a fantastic afternoon, and the pupils were very impressed with the adaptation of the class Robert Westall ghost story. Pupils engaged brilliantly and were a credit to the school once again. Thank you to the Queen's Hall for having us!



Most of Year 7 (joined by some Year 8 pupils) visited Sunderland Empire for an enthralling performance of War Horse. This was a wonderful opportunity, and our pupils loved it! Lots of them were very moved by the emotional production and were captivated by how special it was!



## STEM to STARS

Our budding space engineers and astronomers started their new club this week! Session 1 saw the group focus on the theme of space agencies, what they do and a brief introduction into our solar system and galaxy. Pupils thought about a name for their own space agency as well as a logo and made exoplanets out of polystyrene balls and modelling clay. Our latest space engineer and astronomer recruits have made an excellent start. A quick reminder that our club is on Thursday next week and for the rest of this half term. A huge thank you to Kielder Observatory for this opportunity! Thank you to Rosie from Kielder Observatory for launching the club with our pupils.

## Chess tournament



Well done to Peter M, Harry R, Noah H, Tyler H, Harry G, Sam P and Edward S who attended the English Chess Federation's National Championship regional heat on Wednesday 13 November at Bede Academy in Blyth. The pupils performed extremely well against typically older opponents, winning seven matches and drawing one. They only narrowly missed out on progressing to the regional finals by one-and-a-half points and acquitted themselves very well indeed.

## Club Update

### New indoor sports clubs

As we move into the winter months, we have two new indoor sports clubs starting next week. No need to sign up – pupils can just come along and have fun! KS3 Netball Club is also returning from Monday! For more information click [here](#).

## HMS PTA Updates

### Festive Forest Evening – Monday 9 December

Our PTA Festive Forest Evening is back this year to kickstart the festive season and we can't wait! It's a night of family arts and crafts both indoor and outdoor, the forest fire is lit for s'mores, hot chocolate and forest craft and there's food, drinks and lots of music - a perfect night! Please try to save the date. It's always a joyous event for the whole family - it would be great if you could join us.



### Christmas Card Competition

We are running a school Christmas card competition this year to help raise funds for our PTA. We would like to pick a 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner along with up to four runners up. The card design should be A5 in size. The design must be able to be scanned. The deadline for all submissions to Mr Freeman-Myers is Friday 22 November. We will use these cards to make packs of 5 cards which can be ordered online - link to follow - at the start of December. These will be delivered to pupils to take home.

### Christmas Pop-Up Shops – Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December

Our very popular pop-up shops will return this year. We ask for your support in sending in gift donations (if you can) which the pupils can then purchase as gifts for their loved ones at Christmas time. It's a great chance for them to do some Christmas shopping and they always feel very proud buying a special gift which is wrapped up ready for Christmas Day. There'll be a non-uniform day on Friday 29 November, and we ask for your support in sending in gift donations to build up our stocks. More information to follow!

## Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with 96% 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.

<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%
5-MDO	5-EKI, 5-FHA	7-PHA, 7-AMG, 7-PES, 6-JJO, 6-MBE, 6-FHI, 5-ZSC

### News from the community

#### Hexham Squash Club Open Day

The Hexham Squash Club has an Open Day on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 11.00am until 2pm. Address: Hexham Golf Club, Spital Park, Hexham. Rackets and balls are provided. Just bring a clean pair of non marking trainers. Coaches will be available. For more information contact: [paul.satow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.satow@yahoo.co.uk) 0774 008 0827

#### West Northumberland Family Hubs

The what's on at Hexham Family Hub and online guide is [here](#) on our website.

#### Help Shape the Future of North East Transport: Local Transport Plan Consultation Now Open

Kim McGuinness, North East Mayor has announced that her consultation for our North East Local Transport Plan is now open and she's inviting us all to be part of shaping the future of transport in our region. This consultation is our chance to help create a vision for a transport network that works for everyone in the North East. The consultation will run until Sunday, 26 January 2025. You can share your views through an online survey [here](#) by post or phone, or by attending one of our community events across the region. Please join this important conversation. Visit [northeast-ca.gov.uk/localtransportplan](http://northeast-ca.gov.uk/localtransportplan) for more information or email us at [haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@northeast-ca.gov.uk)

### Online Safety Updates

#### Fortnite Updated Controls

With the Fortnite game as popular as it ever was, it's important that parents of children who play the game are updated on parental controls which will assist. There are quite a few features within Fortnite which may appear overwhelming so Internet Matters have put together a fantastic web page to guide parents through all the controls/settings.

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

## Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 18 November	NHS Height and Weight Checks	Year 6
Tuesday 19 November	Mighty Minds – Mindset Coaching Workshops	Year 5
Tuesday 19 November	Zones of Regulation Workshops	Year 7
Thursday 21 November	Zones of Regulation Workshops	Year 5
Friday 22 November	UK Parliament Week: Joe Morris MP visit	HMS Council
Friday 22 November	COP29 Event, County Hall	Head Pupils
Friday 22 November	Hexham Christmas Light Switch On, 4.15pm, Sele Bandstand	All welcome
Wednesday 27 November	PSHE Workshops	Year 7
Wednesday 27 November	Year 7 Parents' Evening 1 (in school)	Year 7
Friday 29 November	Non-uniform day – please send in Pop-Up Shop donations	All year groups
Friday 29 November	Head of School Award Breakfast	Winners
Monday 2 December	STEM to Stars	Group
Tuesday 3 December	Year 7 Parents' Evening 2	Year 7
Tuesday 3 December	Forum Cinema Visit	Year 5
Friday 6 December	House Event!	Info to follow!
Monday 9 December	Why Queue, PSHE performance	Year 7
Monday 9 December	PTA Festive Forest Evening (5.30pm)	All welcome
Tuesday 10 December	Be You Parent Workshops, Anxiety and Worry	All welcome
Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December	PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops	All year groups
Wednesday 11 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups
Wednesday 11 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups

<b>Thursday 12 December</b>	Year 8 Christmas Trip – Centre for Life/Ice Skating	Year 8
<b>Thursday 12 December</b>	Year 5 Christmas Trip – Pantomime	Year 5
<b>Friday 13 December</b>	Year 7 Christmas Trip – Cinema and Bowling	Year 7
<b>Monday 16 December</b>	House Prize – non-uniform day and extra lunchtime!	Winning House
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome
<b>Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December</b>	Safety Works Visits	Year 8
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	Year 6 Christmas Trip - Pantomime	Year 6
<b>Wednesday 18 December</b>	HMS Carols in the Community	Visits to care homes and hospitals
<b>Thursday 19 December</b>	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	Christingle Services	All year groups
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	Christmas Jumpers/Non-Uniform/Form Class Time	All year groups
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	<b>School closes at 1.30pm</b>	<b>All year groups</b>

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)).