

7 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 23

Welcome back to a new half term – I hope you all had a lovely break! It has been great to see the children back in school this week and we’ve had a very busy time. This week, I have had the privilege of welcoming a range of visitors from other schools to HMS and it has been fantastic to hear their positive words about our school and the engagement of our pupils. The half-term has started brilliantly with so much going on: a visit to the Great North Museum for Year 5; Zones of Regulation Launch workshops for Years 6 and 8; World Book Day; Aspire Week with a wide range of careers events; pupils representing the school at hockey and rugby events (updates to follow) and a range of PSHE themed workshops across the school – what a week!

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
Nella A	Ayla B-D	Katie G	Florence O’B
Jacob C	Iona R	Emily G	Sarah N
Tommy D	Jessica C	Elsie L	Wilf C
Brooklyn D	Evie L	Daniel B	Charlie M
Ollie K	Leanne K	Annabel H	Ruby C

World Book Day



HMS had a great celebrating World Book Day yesterday! We held our first 'Reading Breakfast' and it was lovely to welcome lots of family members into school to kickstart the day. Ms Hayler and the Library Champions were running our 'Book Swap' and distributing tokens in the library. Our 'Great Book Bake Off' was phenomenal once again with so many creative entries. We have exciting author visits coming up over the next few weeks and, of course, pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters - a great effort all round!



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

We were amazed by the very [creative entries](#) to this year's Book Bake Off. The creativity, imagination and baking skills on display were outstanding. We thank each and every pupil who took the time to enter. Great Book Bake Off Winners:

- Year 5: Eve G and George H
- Year 6: Catelin D
- Year 7: Ella R
- Year 8: Noah H

Special thanks to Mrs Roff and Ms Hayler for their superb organisation!

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 week in school.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
AIn	47,048	1	Eve G	1	Meike O	1	Gwen C-W	1	Sarah N
Coquet	47,337	2	Archibald H	2	Lucy G	2	Karam D	2	Sophia N
Tweed	47,664	3	Leo H	3	Alexander U	3	Tyler H	3	Zach D
Wansbeck	48,368	4	Heidi B	4	Penelope W	4	Annabel G	4	Clara H

Spring Games House Competition 2025

Mr Cameron and the PE team are delighted to announce this year's [Spring Games House Competition](#). Pupils should come to school in their PE kit on their event days. Activities will be selected in advance and pupils will be competing for House Points. Who will be this year's champions?

KS3 Music Showcase

Would you like to see some of our Year 7 and 8 instrumentalists and singers perform? If so, come along to the [KS3 Music Showcase](#) on March 12th at 6:30pm. You will be able see and hear the kind of thing that the students work on in their instrumental and vocal lessons in school. We will also hear



from HMS Singers, Advanced Singing Group and BandCamp! Tickets are available on MCAS at £2.50 each and the PTA will be selling refreshments on the evening.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 96% of pupils being in school. However, 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.

1st form class 99%	2nd form class 98%	3rd form class 97%
6-JJO	7-IBO, 6-MBE, 5-MDO	8-SMC, 5-ZSC

Pupil Success

Thank you to Arthur and his friend Euan, who spent a very cold Saturday during the half-term picking up litter in the hedges near their home. The boys were concerned about the litter's effects on wildlife. Together, they filled a black bin liner! We are very proud of their community spirit and willingness to care for the environment and wildlife.



Aspire Week – National Careers Week



This week, we have had a great turn out from Year 8 pupils attending a range of online webinars through Speakers 4 Schools; with talks from Boots, lastminute.com and the actor, Paterson Joseph. During form time, pupils have had the opportunity to learn more about skills and qualities needed in the workplace as well as considering the big question 'What is school for?'. Next week, we have a representative from Northumberland College talking to our Year 7 pupils about Green Careers, from construction, transport and logistics and the energy sectors. Don't forget to access the National Careers Week resources we have shared on our website and social media platforms.

<https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/index.php/pupil/>

Online Safety

Making Online Viewing Safer for Children

There is so much amazing content online for children and young people, but as we all know, some of that content isn't suitable for younger eyes and ears. Much of the most serious and concerning content is being viewed and consumed at home, often in the child's bedroom. It is vital that parents and carers know there is plenty of help and support available to them, including from organisations such as Internet Matters who have a fantastic advice guide to make online viewing safer for children. Within this guide, there is advice on filters and parental controls, advice about watching and browsing together, screen time and more. You can access the guide [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

News from the community

Mental Health update

We would like to share with parents and careers a great opportunity to access a free webinar aimed at parents and carers, learning more about how we can celebrate neurodiversity and SEND. If parents/carers would like to learn more about how resources from Kooth and Qwell meet the needs of SEND and neurodivergent people, complete this [booking form](#).

Also, Qwell have some free resources and tools that can be used to support people while they wait for any internal or external assessments. Go to the Qwell website [here](#) for more information and support.

Irish Dance Lessons

Irish Dance lessons are organised on Sundays 1030 – 11.30am at the Hannah Lucy Stage School in Haltwhistle. For more details you can contact Lydia Howdon: lydiaehowdon@hotmail.co.uk, 07765738128. It was great to welcome Lydia to HMS recently and the children who took part in her REA Day sessions had a fantastic time!

Hexham Family Hub What's On Guide

The [Hexham Family Hub What's On Guide](#) of activities being held at Hexham Family Hub for March/April 2025 is now available on our website.

Additional notices

Lost Property

Please see the [latest collection of lost property](#). Pupils can collect anything belonging to them from the HMS Office. Any items not collected by Wed 12th March will be recycled and removed from lost property.

Prayer room

During Ramadan, we have a dedicated prayer room set up during lunch time. Should a parent or carer like to talk to a member of staff about getting access to the prayer room during Ramadan or beyond, please contact the school.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

You can find the eligibility criteria for free school meals here. If you think your child may be eligible, please make an application to the local authority who review your request. You can find out more [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
All week	KS3 English Projects – Showcase Events	KS3
All week	British Science Week – events for pupils to enjoy!	All year groups
Monday 10 March	Green Careers Assembly – Northumberland College	Year 7

Tuesday 11 March	Boys' indoor cricket competition	Year 7 and Year 8
Tuesday 11 March	Lego League Competition Day	Lego League Group
Wednesday 12 March	Fútbol Lingo Webinar	Year 7
Wednesday 12 March	KS3 Music Showcase, 6.30pm, all welcome, tickets available via MCAS now	Year 7 and Year 8
Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 March	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5
Thursday 13 March	Young Green Briton Challenge – HMS Dragon's Den	Year 7
Friday 14 March	Holi Festival, themed lunch	All year groups
Monday 17 March	Spring Games – Year 8	Year 8
Monday 17 March	High Borrans - Parents' Info Evening	Year 8
Tuesday 18 March	Spring Games – Year 6	Year 6
Thursday 20 March	Mothers and Others Pop-up Shop	All year groups
Thursday 20 March	Spring Games – Year 7	Year 7
Friday 21 March	Spring Games – Year 5	Year 5
Friday 21 March	Red Nose Day - Fundraising Day	All year groups

Have a great weekend!

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).