

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 25

Spring Games

What a week we have had for this year's HMS Spring Games! The sun has been shining for us and it's definitely felt like spring has been in the air! The children have enjoyed getting involved in a wide range of sporting activities representing their House teams and earning P points for the House totals! Special points have been awarded for pupils demonstrating our values: Respect, Engage, Aspire. It has been great to see the positive enthusiasm, spirit and sportsmanship across all four year groups. Mr Cameron and the whole team have been very proud of our pupils this week. [Here](#) are a few photos from our Year 8 event... more to follow!



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
David W	Jack B	Robbie P	Sartaj D
Sebastian D	Arthur C	Thomas M	Peter M
Kaylin F	Frank K	Esther C	Ruby P
Maggie M	Evie T	Joanna R	Kaidyn B
Gracie R	Fern R	Daniel B-M	Annabelle R

Junior Chess Challenge



We are thrilled to announce that our visit to Ashington Academy this week saw our team return with a place in the national final in Nottingham later this year. Three teams of Year 7 and 8 pupils went to our first Junior Chess Challenge. It was a very tight match, and it went to the 4th and final round to determine who qualified. Hexham Team 'A' qualified in first place, winning three rounds and drawing in the final against Ashington Team 'A'. Hexham Team 'B' finished in 3rd but only based on individual match points. Hexham Team 'C' came in 6th place.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

It was a very well organised event, and huge thanks go to Mr Rooney at Ashington Academy for the challenge. This now means that our 'A' Team will go up against some of the best national school teams. We welcome anyone to come along to Chess Club on Tuesday lunchtimes in FB1!

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	51,263	1	Imogen P	1	Nicholas T	1	Joseph D	1	Sarah N
Coquet	51,854	2	Edward P	2	Talia C	2	Albert T	2	Kaidyn B
Tweed	52,687	3	Heidi B	3	Tansy Bell D	3	Theo T	3	Nineve A
Wansbeck	52,718	4	Winnie B	4	Meghan J	4	Duncan G	4	Harry B

Young Green Briton Challenge Sponsor

We are looking for a potential sponsor to help support a team of pupils that will head down to London for the grand final of the Young Green Briton Challenge this summer. We are currently in the regional heat stage, with an event to be held at Hexham Abbey in April. In the spirit of being environmentally friendly, we are keen to use public transport to travel down to London by train. Do you think you may be able to help to financially support our team to cover the costs of transport or make a sponsor donation? If you feel that you are able to help our team and that you align with the mission of [Young Green Briton Challenge](#), it would be fantastic to have a further discussion. Please contact Mr Freeman-Myers at admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk.



Where can languages take you? – Year 8 careers event

As part of the North East Festival of Languages, our year 8 pupils took part in a careers webinar organised by the British Council called '**Where can languages take you?**'. Pupils have been finding out about how learning a language can support them in the future. During the webinar guest speakers spoke about their experiences with languages and how languages have helped them develop essential skills for the world of work. Pupils heard from an employee of GCHQ, an International Food Policy

Advisor and a Language Assistant. All the speakers spoke about the opportunities to travel that learning a language gave them. In their language lessons, pupils will complete a follow up activity to further their understanding and knowledge on languages and careers. If possible, it would be good for you to discuss this with your child so that they can reflect upon what they learnt during the webinar.

Sports update

Sports Leaders

Ten very keen HMS Year 8 Sports Leaders delivered a fantastic Tynedale School Games BEE netball festival to pupils from Sele First and Whitley Chapel First schools. The leaders were all part of the larger group of 30 + leaders who were recently trained within Tynedale School Games Programme to deliver sports and activities to younger pupils from HMS and feeder school pupils from the local first schools.



32 First school pupils were given the opportunity through the Sports Leaders to take part in a rotation of netball skills and games activities designed by England Netball within their new BEE Netball Programme encouraging, inclusion, fun, activity whilst taking part in sport. The leaders were excellent, training and guiding the younger pupils through the activities and creating a really positive experience for the visiting schools. Well done Leaders!



Football – Year 6

On Wednesday evening, a team of Year 6 pupils led by Mr Nichol made their way to Highfield Middle School to participate in a football tournament. In game one, Hexham defeated Highfield with a 2-0 win courtesy of excellent strikes by George R and Ben R. Unfortunately in game two, the Hexham boys were defeated but still maintained their composure, knowing their time was still to come. In game three, Hexham edged past Ovingham due to an intelligently placed shot by Charlie C, with the game ending 1-0 Hexham. Game 4 was a real nail-biter against Highfield’s other squad, with Will M scoring the only goal of the game. However, it looked as though Highfield could’ve equalised in the dying seconds of the match if not for a heroic goal-line clearance by Ben R.

The final game was against the other Ovingham team, who scored early despite some excellent saves by goalkeeper Luke T. Thanks to a handball in the midfield by Ovingham, Hexham was handed the lifeline of a free kick, which Will M scored from, resulting in a tantalising 1-1 draw. Overall, Mr Nichol was thrilled with the efforts of the boys. Well done team!

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 95% 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%
7-PGA	6-RAL, 6-MBE, 5-FHA	7-PES, 6-JJO

Online Safety Update

New TikTok Features

During the 2nd week of March, TikTok released some new features which will help with supervision. These new features include Time Away, a feature to decide when it's time for children to take a break and a reoccurring schedule. There's also a feature which allows parents to see who their children are following on TikTok.



More information about these new features can be found [HERE](#) and the full range of TikTok Family Pairing features can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

News from the community

Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evening

The Hexham Air Cadet Spring Open Evenings are scheduled for:

- **Friday 21st March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.**
- **Wednesday 26th March, from 1930-2100, at Hexham Air Cadets.**

Hexham Air Cadets are open to those who are in year 8 and are older than 12 years old.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets/>.

Hexham Book Festival 2025: Now open for booking

We are very fortunate in Hexham to have our own inspiring and engaging book festival. Events have now opened for booking. We would encourage our students across all year groups to take a look at the programme for this year. From the latest fiction, to maths, science, farming, fashion, history, poetry and politics, there is something for everyone.



<https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/>

HMS PTA

The HMS PTA are a small, very friendly group of volunteers who work together to raise funds to support school life. We are seeking new members and supporters to join us and would really appreciate you getting in touch with us. We know how busy parents/carers and family members are and we'd love to be flexible to get as many people involved as possible. Our Summer Fair is fast approaching, and we really need a team to help us with the planning. If you and/or a few friends could team up to help, we'd really appreciate it.

Options include:

1. Joining the committee and attending meetings
2. Supporting with chosen events (discos, pop-up shops etc)
3. Supporting with specific tasks (such as making posters, social media posts etc)
4. Joining this year's Summer Fair organising team

A blue poster with white text and graphics. The text reads 'PTA SUPPORT NEEDED' in large letters, followed by 'CALLING ALL PARENTS/CARERS/FAMILY MEMBERS... WE NEED YOUR HELP!'. Below this is a list of four ways to support. To the right, there are three hands reaching up towards three hearts. At the bottom right, there is a 'GET IN TOUCH' button and the email address 'hmsptachair@gmail.com'.

The HMS PTA are seeking new supporters to either:

- 1) Join the committee
- 2) Support with event planning and running
- 3) Support with specific tasks
- 4) Join our Summer Fair organising group

If you can support in any way, please get in touch with us. An online form has been sent home today to express interest.

GET IN TOUCH
hmsptachair@gmail.com

You can contact the PTA via hmsptachair@gmail.com or sign-up using the online form sent home. Thank you.

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
Tuesday 25 March	Book Festival Event - Zohra Nabi - Queen's Hall	Year 6
Tuesday 25 March	Mothers and others Pop-up Shop	All year groups
Wednesday 26 March	Book Festival Event - Brothers McLeod - Queen's Hall	Year 5
Wednesday 26 March	KS2 Rewards Sports Afternoon	Year 5 and year 6
Thursday 27 March	Mini Olympics	Year 5 (selection)
Thursday 27 March	Online Game Reward Session	Year 5 and Year 7
Friday 28 March	Head of School Breakfast – Staying Positive!	All year groups (selection)
Friday 28 March	York Art Experience	All year groups (selection)
Monday 31 March	Woodhorn Museum Visit	Year 8
Tuesday 1 April	Woodhorn Museum Visit	Year 8
Wednesday 2 April	Young Green Briton Challenge County Finals	Year 7 (selection)
Monday 31 March – Friday 4 April	Bikeability Week	Year 5 (selection)

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).