

28 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 26

Head of School Awards

This month's Head of School Award theme was 'staying positive' - one of our 8 essential skills from 'Skills Builder'. I was delighted to see the children being recognised for their wonderful approach to school life. It was great to celebrate the positive contribution each pupil makes to our school community - I am very proud of each of them.



Pupils joined me for a special breakfast today (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! Two pupils were absent or away today and will get their certificates next week. A huge well done everyone!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Jake C	Will M	Ianto T	Devin R
Ava N	Alex U	Rose L	Auryn B
Cameron G	Jack B	Mia R	Lucas S
Lochie D	Tabby S	Charlie P	Evie T
Sophie K	Leela H	Luke B	Sam B
Amelia-Rose S	James B		

Important Information: Lockdown Procedure

As part of our approach to ensuring all children, staff and visitors are safe on the school site, we have a lockdown procedure. This is common for all schools and provides information on what we would do in the event of a situation where the school was required to go into lockdown. A lockdown might be required for several reasons: for example, an incident in the wider community where it is decided that we would be safer to keep people secure on site; an environmental incident such as a large fire nearby and concern of the impact of fumes meaning people need to stay indoors; or an animal or intruder on site.



On Monday 7th April, we will be doing a walkthrough of a lockdown procedure with staff and pupils. This will allow everyone to understand the procedure. Staff are already aware of the lockdown procedure, but we will talk it through with pupils next Monday, along with details of how the

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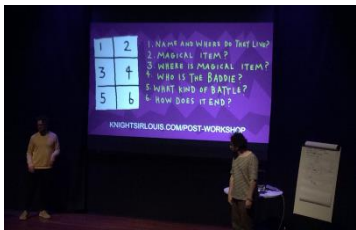
Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

walkthrough will work. The walkthrough will be handled carefully, and pupils will be prepared in advance and helped to understand why we have such safety procedures in place.

Our decision to carry out a walkthrough of our lockdown procedure is to ensure that staff and pupils are clear on the expectations and does not reflect a change to the level of any risk or threat to the school. If you or your child have any specific questions or concerns, please contact the school, or suggest your child speaks to their form teacher. The SEND team will be working with pupils who may need more support in advance or during the walkthrough. The walkthrough will not involve loud alarms or cause panic – it will be handled appropriately.

Hexham Book Festival Visits



Year 5 went to the Queen’s Hall to see The Brothers McLeod present their book ‘Knight Sir Louis and The Cauldron of Chaos’. A brilliant, lively, creative event, the authors (who really are brothers) encouraged the enthusiastic audience to devise their own characters and storylines. They highlighted how they work collaboratively on plots and illustrations. They also emphasised how important it is to revise ideas, to rewrite and to start again if you need to.

Lucky Year 6 got to visit Queen's Hall today to enjoy a fascinating author talk from Zohra Nabi. Zohra is the author of books such as 'The Kingdom Over the Sea' and 'The City Beyond the Stars' and is visiting Hexham as part of Schools Fest 2025 (part of the great Hexham Book Festival). We love to inspire our pupils by allowing them to meet inspirational writers covering a wide range of text types and genres. Special thanks to Hexham Book Festival and to Ms Hayler for organising these fantastic events.



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
Leo McS	Mollie P	Georgia O	Evie J
Vinnie D	Scarlett R	Darcey H	Tyler B
Scarlet S	Ben C	Isla N	Hayden D
Archie H	Sam G	Joey S	Kuba M
Aliza S	Chloe K	Jayden W	

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 week in school.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	53,265	1	Harry M	1	India S	1	Etta L	1	Peter M
Coquet	53,839	2	Sequoia D-G	2	Lucy E	2	Joanna R	2	Alfie R-W
Tweed	54,802	3	Charlie A	3	Sofia L	3	Joseph D	3	Charlie M
Wansbeck	54,751	4	Sophie C	4	Jessica H	4	Anna F	4	George W

Spring Games Results

After a fantastic week of sports last week, the winners have been announced. COQUET house was this year's Spring Games Champions and the House Captains were presented with the cup in this week's assemblies. Congratulations to everyone in Coquet!

Special recognition awards were awarded for respect, engagement and aspiration. Results for individual events and year group competitions have also been shared in assemblies. Well done everyone!



Overall Results		REA Awards	
1	Coquet	Respect	Aln
2	Wansbeck	Engage	Tweed
3	Aln	Aspire	Wansbeck
4	Tweed		

Year 5 Mini Olympics

As part of the North East Festival of Languages 20 pupils attended a 'Mini-Olympics' event at Newcastle University Sports Centre. Pupils took part in a variety of individual athletics activities including long jump, high jump and triple jump with many pupils receiving medals and recognition for their excellent participation and effort during the events.



Pupils also took part in team events which included relay races, egg and spoon races and dodgeball. With Jenna T being a standout performer during dodgeball for Spain and Oscar N showing fantastic positivity and sportsmanship for USA. All 6 schools represented different countries with HMS representing Spain and USA. Our USA team finished runners-up at the end of all the events. A fantastic effort from all! All pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school and showed great team working, communication and staying positive - well done!

Pupil Competitions

Easter Competition

Pupils can enter our Decorated Easter Egg Competition. Pupils can work on their own or in teams and use their creative skills to decorate an egg or create a scene/display! Any theme allowed – this could include their favourite pop stars, characters from books or TV shows, film-themed eggs etc – imagination is encouraged. Eggs will be judged on Friday 11th April with special prizes awarded for each year group.



Attendance – top 3!

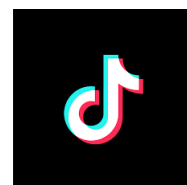
Attendance was very good this week with 95% of pupils being in school. However, our school target is 97%. It's so important that pupils and parents have a positive attitude towards school attendance – pupils should be in school every day, ready to learn and to make the most of their school opportunities.

1 st form class 99%	2 nd form class 98%	3 rd form class 97%
7-PES	6-RAL	8-SMC, 6-FHI, 5-EKI

Online Safety Update

TikTok, Teens, Social Media and You

MediaSmart have released a wonderful new resource for parents whose children are using TikTok. Designed for 13+ (as you have to be 13 to use TikTok), the resources will help parents better understand their young person's online world and support them through conversation and participation. There's a campaign film, downloadable guide with practical tips, a school to parent letter and more. Full details can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)



News from the community

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/>

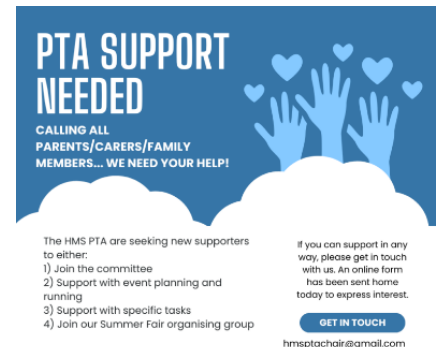
Autism Support Groups

New workshops from Daisy Chain are available and advertised on our website: [here](#).
 Look [here](#) for new Autism Family Drop in dates from the HINT team.

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



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
Monday 31 March	Woodhorn Museum Visit	Year 8
Monday 31 March	Newcastle University: 'Young engineers make the future'	Year 6 (selection)
Tuesday 1 April	Woodhorn Museum Visit	Year 8
Wednesday 2 April	Young Green Briton Challenge: County Finals	Year 7 (selection)
Friday 4 April	Newcastle University: Computing – Micro:bits Workshops	Year 7
Monday 31 March – Friday 4 April	Bikeability Week	Year 5 (group)

Wednesday 9 April	QEHS Spring Concert – 7pm	All welcome
Thursday 10 April	UK Junior Maths Challenge	Year 7 and Year 8
Friday 11 April	Decorated Egg Competition	All year groups
Friday 11 April	Easter Celebration Assemblies	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-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).