

4 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 2
AND [MENU](#) WEEK 1**

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 27

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
Lochie D Alfie H Bobby H Maisie M Amelie F	Penelope W Aoife B Mason M Theo B Dylan W	Zahra W Jimmy B Sinjin R Tilly C Katie G	Zach D Tom W Bobby E Isaac K 8SRI – to follow!

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	55,068	1	Sophie C	1	George L	1	Amelie G	1	Anna O
Coquet	55,686	2	Isaac N-C	2	Owen B	2	Lily H	2	Lola B
Tweed	56,634	3	James C	3	Alexander U	3	Aurelia K	3	Alfie R-W
Wansbeck	56,289	4	Sophie K	4	Leanne K	4	Harry B	4	Benjamin F

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Young Green Briton Challenge Update



The Young Green Briton Challenge continued this week with our qualifying teams visiting Hexham Abbey for the regional finals today.

Once again, teams from HMS, CMS and SJMS presented their wonderful and creative enterprising ideas - we were very proud of our pupils. We are delighted to announce that our team - The Back of the Wardrobe Bin - have secured a place in the London final. They now need to develop their idea further which sees unwanted clothing or fabric being turned into products like scrunchies and head bands, as well as craft kits for people to buy and use. The other groups that did not make it to the final are encouraged to pursue their enterprise idea by attending the lunchtime group on Wednesdays. They have seed funding from Northumberland County Council to get this started and hopefully upscale their projects.

If you have any pre-loved fabric with exciting patterns or bold colours at home, the team would really value it being donated to school. Next stop... London! We wish all of the teams from the three local schools all the luck in the world!

Smartphone survey

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent survey on smartphones. Across the Hexham Partnership schools that participated in this, we received 466 responses. 72% of respondents were fully in favour of the proposal, 16% were in favour but with some reservations, 7% were not in favour due to certain reservations, and 5% were against. There are differing views as to which year groups the proposal should apply to and from when.



Headteachers across the participating schools will reflect on the findings with our governing bodies and at our next partnership meeting at the end of April, before coming back to parents with a fuller analysis and the intended next steps

Woodhorn Museum Visit

Mr Johnson planned two great trips to Woodhorn Museum this week. The whole of Year 8 has had the opportunity to explore the museum as part of their history curriculum. It's always an important and very informative visit which helps to bring the curriculum to life for the pupils in the year group.

During the visit, pupils had a tour of the colliery site, explored the impact of the colliery on Ashington, examined archives and artefacts in the museum and had the unique opportunity to view and produce their own artwork inspired by The Pitman Painters. The year group had a great visit and the sun was even shining for them! Thank you, Mr Johnson.



Energy Drinks Reminder

We would like to remind you that **energy drinks are not allowed in school under any circumstances**. These drinks are high in caffeine and sugar and are not suitable for children and young people during the school day. If pupils are found to have energy drinks on school premises, they will be **confiscated immediately**. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child does not bring these drinks into school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us promote a healthy and focused learning environment for all students.



KS2 Space Careers session – sign up required

The Kielder Astronomical Society are running a series of careers sessions over the coming months following on from our initial 12-week course of Space Engineer's Club. The sessions will give pupils the opportunity to hear directly from those working in the space sector here in the North East. The session will take place on Tuesday 29th April from 3.30 - 4pm in Fellside Hall. It will feature the observatory's **very own Ishbel Carlyle**, an astronomer and PhD researcher at Northumbria University, specialising in the Aurora Borealis and space weather. Ishbel has also delivered some of the weekly Space Club workshops, so many of our pupils may already recognise her.

This will be a **live online session**, including a short talk/discussion followed by a Q&A, and is a brilliant opportunity for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to explore careers in space science. Please look out for the sign up on MCAS.

Rugby updates

Well done to our Year 8 rugby team who competed in the County Sevens competition at Percy Park yesterday. Against some tough opposition, our boys played some outstanding rugby. They scored a total of 16 tries across 4 games, beating Longridge Towers and being narrowly defeated by Dame Allen's, Corbridge and Ponteland. The boys have improved so much this season in their rugby, and the quality of rugby on show was more important than the results on the day. On to the Rugby League season!



Bikeability

Outspoken Training have been in school this week delivering Bikeability Level 1 and 2 training courses for a group of 28 Year 5 pupils. The groups have been working on the school site, as well as going out and about in the community to develop their cycling proficiency. This is always such an important course for our pupils, and we have been very impressed with the positive engagement this week. The courses

have been taken over by a new provider this year and we hope to get spaces for more pupils next year.

Summer Clubs Update

Summer Term Clubs

Our Summer Term extra-curricular programme is now available - the list is attached to today's update email.

- If current clubs are no longer listed, they will not be running after the Easter holiday.
- Some after-school clubs require new sign-up via MCAS - **bookings open at 12.30pm on Monday.**
- Lunchtime clubs don't require bookings - pupils can just go along and take part.

Please try to encourage your child to get involved as much possible. Huge thanks to Team HMS for an amazing offer once again!

Pupil Competition – Easter!

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.

1st form class 99%	2nd form class 98%	3rd form class 97%
5-EKI	6-MBE, 5-JNI	6-RAL, 5-FHA, 5-MDO, 5-ZSC

Online Safety Update

What is Financially Motivated Extortion?

FMSE is where someone threatens to release explicit images of a child victim unless they pay money or other financial demand (such as Bitcoin, pre-paid gift card etc.). It is a form of child abuse which is sadly getting worse. The National Crime Agency has a great article explaining all about FMSE, how to talk to your child and what you can do if your child becomes a victim. The guide can be found [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

News from the community

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.

DISH

Trinity Methodist Church will provide free dinners for families during school holidays with activities and space to play. Doors open 11am – 2pm. Food served 12-1pm.

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Free School Meals

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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
Wednesday 9 April	Cuppa and catch-up parent drop-in 9.30am	All welcome
Wednesday 9 April	<p>QEHS Spring Concert – 7pm</p> <p>Tickets are now available to buy using the link below.</p> <p>https://buytickets.at/hadrianlearningtrust/1645484</p> 	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
Friday 11 April	School closes at 3.20pm for the Easter Holiday	All year groups
Monday 28 April	School re-opens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 28 April – Friday 1 May	High Borrans Residential	Year 8 selection
Monday 28 April	STEM to Stars Careers Webinar 3.30-4pm	Year 5 and Year 6 selection
Monday 19 May	KS2 Music Showcase – 6pm	All welcome

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).