



**Hexham
Middle School**

spes durat avorum

9 May 2025

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

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 30

VE Day Lunch

To mark 80 years since VE Day and to pay our heartfelt respects to the heroic generation who fought for freedom, Mrs Satow and her team prepared a wonderful lunch for everyone to enjoy today. It was a delight to hear the great wartime music playing as pupils enjoyed their lunch. It was a traditional 'street party' picnic lunch today and everyone loved it! Thank you so much to our catering team and all of the staff who helped out on the day.



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, [here](#) is a short performance from our Show Choir, which we hope you will find fitting for the occasion. In the rehearsal, Miss Tindall and Mr Watson heard many and varied stories from the choir members about their family members' wartime experiences.

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
Effie W	Thea H	Aurelia K	James H
Alice R	Alexis L	Holly W	Ossie D
Matilda H	Lucy E	Jimmy B	Harrison E
Grace F	Sofia L	Harry B	Stephen W
Sophia M	Archie J	Duncan G	Lola B

Staffing Update

There will be a number of changes to our senior leadership team from September 2025. Mrs Roff will be leaving HMS after 10 years as part of the team. We have recently appointed Mrs Roff's successor and Mrs Julie Ingledew will be taking over the role of Assistant Headteacher (Pupil Learning and Achievement) in the new academic year. Mrs Ingledew is currently the Vice Principal of a school in Newcastle and will be a fantastic addition to our school. We are so grateful



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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

to Mrs Roff for her huge contribution to our school's continued success over the years, and we'll say a proper thank you and goodbyes in July.

Mr Stephenson will also be leaving the school as he moves on to a well-deserved promoted post as a Deputy Headteacher in Newcastle. Mr Stephenson plays such an important role in many of our pupils' school experience, and I know you'll join me in congratulating him on his success. I am delighted to say that we have appointed Ms Ankita Karn as Mr Stephenson's successor, and she will join the team in September 2025. Ms Karn will become the new Assistant Headteacher (Standards, Support and Inclusion) and will be the school's new Designated Safeguarding Leader. Ms Karn will be working closely alongside me and the leadership team to ensure our school continues to be the very best it can be. Again, we'll say proper farewells and show our gratitude to Mr Stephenson in July.

From September, Mr Morgan (SENDCo) will be moving to HMS on a full-time basis. He currently shares his time between HMS and the QE art department but he will be based in our school full time. This is a fantastic step forward in further strengthening our SEND leadership and allows us to drive forward further exciting developments in our inclusive practice. Mr Morgan and Mrs Ballantyne can be contacted via send@hexhammiddle.org.uk.

Over the next few months, Mrs Ingledew and Ms Karn will be working with Mrs Roff, Mr Stephenson and the wider leadership team to get to know the school and their new roles. The new-look leadership team look forward to meeting you all in the autumn term and we'll share more information in due course.

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 this week.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	58,941	1	Alba B	1	Jessica De	1	Joseph S	1	Sarah N
Coquet	59,671	2	Madelyn M	2	Aoife B	2	Joseph D	2	Sophie A
Tweed	60,531	3	Sophie W	3	Sophia R	3	Rose K	3	Callum J
Wansbeck	60,208	4	Libby C	4	India S	4	Lily H	4	Joe M



Mental Health and Wellbeing Drop-Ins

Our Mental Health First Aiders are launching their new drop-in today. Pupils and staff can visit FB6 every breaktime (11.10-11.30am) to talk to one of the team. Please promote this drop-in at home and let your children know that they can visit the team if they need to.

Cake Sale

Ben S in Year 7 is organising a Cake Sale for Cancer Research UK on Monday 19th May at morning breaktime. He would appreciate donations of cakes and sweet treats to support his fundraising efforts. Donations can be brought to the HMS reception on Monday 19th May. All cakes must be nut-free and have any allergen information provided. Well done, Ben!



Newcastle University Maths Challenge

Back in April, HMS pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in the Newcastle University Maths Challenge. We were delighted when Sarah Nichol and Beatrice Stephenson were recognised for their outstanding entries. This year's Junior Challenge received an impressive 238 submissions, with only 16 prizes, 23 certificates, and 1 special award presented at the awards ceremony held on Wednesday. Both Sarah and Beatrice were among those honoured with certificates—an excellent achievement in such a competitive field.

Sarah's entry also received special praise from the organisers for the exceptional effort she put into the presentation of her work. We are incredibly proud of both pupils for their hard work, dedication, and achievement. Well done, Sarah and Beatrice!



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 100%	2nd form class 99%	3rd form class 98%
6-JJO, 5-MDO	7-IBO, 5-ZSC	6-RAL, 5-FHA

HMS Club News
Clubs during SATS week (Monday 12 – Friday 16 May) During lunchtime, we will need to close down any lunchtime clubs due to our amended SATS timetable and the number of staff involved in administering Year 6 assessments. We are running after-school clubs as normal all week.

Tennis is back!

We were delighted to invite Tom Geary back to school this term. On Wednesdays after school, we are up on the top tennis courts learning new skills alongside Tom. It is great that we are getting use of the courts, lighter evenings and good weather.

Archaeology Club continues...

Thanks to those who signed up for the extra four sessions. This week, we have been learning more about Stonehenge and its symbolism. Mr Boyle has been sharing lots of different facts and there have been some great discussions.



HMS PTA – next meeting Tuesday 3rd June 5.30pm – all welcome!

Summer Fair 2025 – support needed!

We really value the support from our whole school community. Please have a read about how you can help below:

- **Raffle** - we would really appreciate any donations of raffle prizes. If you or someone you know may be able to make a donation, please could you get in touch with us via hmsptachair@gmail.com.
- **Tombola** - we would also really appreciate donations of tombola prizes. Donations can be sent into school at any time and we'll have a non-uniform event in due course to generate donations if you feel able to support.
- **Cakes/bakes** - if you are able to bake some cakes and sweet treats for us to sell on the day, we'd really appreciate that. Cakes can be dropped off on the Saturday morning.
- **Support on the day** - we can't run our events without our amazing volunteers - if you can help out on the day, please sign up using the below form. New volunteers more than welcome 😊



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084FAAAC28A6F85-56756474-summer>

Online Safety Update

For Parents - New Tools to Manage Roblox

At the beginning of April Roblox announced some new tools which will allow parents a greater degree of control over their child's Roblox experience. These tools include:

- Limiting who their child can connect with.
- See which experiences (games) their child plays the most.
- Limit experiences their child can access.

There's a lot more, all summarised in an article from Roblox [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

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](#).

Year 8 Careers - Green Skills

This week, we have had Connor Thompson from Northumberland College back in school. This time, our Year 8 pupils had a workshop learning more about the green sector economy, with a particular focus on 'Green Skills'. Our pupils also got the chance to work in groups with wind turbine kits. We know that this is going to be a key area to watch out for in the future, and hopefully some pupils have been inspired to explore more about green skills, the green economy and their future careers!



Scholastic Book Fair: Tuesday 20th – Thursday 22nd May

We will be welcoming the Pop-Up Scholastic Book Fair to HMS before we break up for half-term. This will be held in HMS Library at lunchtimes on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd May. Our fantastic Library Champions will be helping to run the event. **Cash payments only please. Thank you!** For an idea of the prices and sorts of books that will be available to buy, please follow the links [here](#) and [here](#).

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 12 to Thursday 15 May	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6
Thursday 15 May	KS3 Inspired by 9s Rugby 2 nd Round (Kingston Park)	Year 7 and 8 (selected pupils)
Thursday 15 May	KS3 boys' tennis fixture vs St Cuthbert's	Year 7 and 8 (selected pupils)
Friday 16 May	Year 6 Treat Day	Year 6
Saturday 17 May	Uniform Pop-Up Shop (QEHS Winter Gardens)	All welcome
Monday 19 May	Cuppa and a Catch-Up 9.30am – Mr Watters/Mr Stephenson	All welcome
Monday 19 May	KS2 Music Showcase – 6pm	All welcome
Tuesday 20 May	Year 5 and Year 8 Year Group Photographs	Year 5 and Year 8
Tuesday 20 May	Year 4 SEND Welcome Evening	New Year 4 parents/children

Friday 23 May	Head of School Awards Breakfast	Winning pupils
Friday 23 May	House Prize – non-uniform day	Winning House
Saturday 21 June	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome

Have a great weekend – let's hope the sun continues to shine!

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).