

2 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 29**

Welcome back to a new term – I hope you had a great Easter break. It’s been glorious to return to school in the sunshine this week – let’s hope it continues! The pupils have returned to school very positively – it’s a very short half-term but there’s lots to look forward to between now and May half term. The summer term extra-curricular offer was released before the break – please have a read of the wide range of clubs on offer and encourage your child to get involved as much as possible both before school, at lunchtime and after school (sign-up is needed for after-school clubs via MCAS).

A group of Year 8 pupils have spent an amazing week in the Lake District with Mr Scott, Miss Lamont, Miss Taylor and Mr Watters. The group have enjoyed a wide range of adventurous activities including caving, ghyll scrambling, kayaking, hiking and swimming in the lake – they’ve had the perfect weather for it. It’s always a very special trip and I know the group have been outstanding ambassadors for our school. I can’t wait to hear even more about the trip next week – I know lifelong memories will have been made! What an opportunity!



**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	
<b>Aln</b>	57,993	1	Archie H	1	George L	1	Joseph D	1	Auryn B
<b>Coquet</b>	58,716	2	Ollie K	2	Molly C	2	Lizzie L	2	Lola B
<b>Tweed</b>	59,559	3	Jemima C	3	Sofia L	3	Harry B	3	Harry B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	59,304	4	Eve G	4	Martha G	4	Georgia O	4	Jyacinth B

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## 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
Zach N Pippa M Sophia B Philippa O Amelia F	Poppy P Sophia R Tansy D Katie C Isis T-H	Leon B Rory N Owen F Ella R Arthur G	Updates to follow next due to High Borrans and Mr Scott being away from school!

## Personal Development

This half term, we will be exploring the character value of ‘justice’ and our Skills Builder theme will be ‘creativity’. During form time, pupils will have the opportunity to explore what justice has meant historically and how it relates to modern-day society. Miss Bell will be delivering an assembly on the character value of honesty and how this links with justice. Ms Hayler (our school librarian) has also produced a great display of reference books to help our pupils learn more about our ‘Aspire Icons’ for the final term. Our ‘Aspire Icons’ this term are:

Year 5	Dame Sarah Storey
Year 6	Malala Yousafzai
Year 7	Maja Angelou
Year 8	Mo Farah



## PSHE Workshop

Next week, our Year 7 pupils will have a workshop in groups led by Mr Freeman-Myers linked to puberty and emotional changes. Last term, we shared an update about the focus for PSHE this term and how it relates to relationships, sex and health education. You can find more information on our [website](#).

## Talent Show

We have recently announced this year’s [Talent Show](#). Auditions will take place at lunchtimes over the next few weeks and the final will take place during the evening of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June for those invited to the final event. We would love to see a range of talent from acting, to music, to dance, to comedy! All acts welcome! (Audition sign-up sheets are located in music room FA10).



### RSE Update - Summer Term

During the summer term, pupils will have the opportunity to explore elements of the statutory relationship curriculum across both Key Stage 2 and 3, as well sex education for your year 7 and 8 pupils. Our long-term plan for PSHE (including relationships and sex education (RSE)) can be found on the school [website](#).

- In year 5, we are exploring puberty (physical changes, emotions and feelings, and personal hygiene).
- Year 6, we will be considering the safety issues around sharing images.
- Our Key Stage 3 pupils have a comprehensive sequence of relationship and sex education lessons including staying safe online. As a school, we are a member of PSHE Association and use accredited, age-appropriate resources.

We would like to draw your attention to our Relationship and Sex Education [policy](#). If you have any questions about the RSE curriculum proposed for this year, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was 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.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> form class</b> 99%	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class</b> 98%	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class</b> 97%
7-IBO, 5-MDO	6-JJO, 5-ZSC	5-JNI

### HMS Sports News

#### Rugby Update

What a day at Kingston Park for the InspiredBy9s [Rugby](#) League competition! Despite the heat, there was some seriously impressive rugby on display. The girls' team only ended up playing against Corbridge which they won, before mixing up the teams. Considering the team was mainly made up of Year 7, the girls played magnificently. The Year 7 boys' team were excellent throughout, winning 3 of their 4 games with a real variety of different players scoring the tries. The Year 8 boys' team also performed extremely well, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing only one of their games. Special mention to Leo F who scored 7 tries in his first experience of rugby league!



The pupils were outstanding both on and off the pitch and should be super proud of themselves. We look forward to competing in round 2 in two weeks' time.

#### Tennis Trials

Calling all Y7 and 8 tennis players - we have some tennis fixtures coming up soon, and Mr Cameron is going to be running trials next week during lunch time. If your child is interested in playing for the tennis team, then they should come along to

the PE block at the start of lunch time on Wednesday (7th) and Friday (9th). They can bring their own rackets if they want, or we can provide them. No sign up required, just turn up! Pupils should also bring a packed lunch.

### PE - Uniform Reminder

We are seeing an influx of girls in particular wearing the short, lycra-style shorts which are not appropriate for school and PE. If pupils choose to wear shorts for PE, the pupils should be wearing black football-style shorts for their PE lessons, and not the short, lycra shorts as per the policy. If any pupil arrives into school wearing inappropriate kit, they will be expected to change into something more suitable.

### HMS PTA – meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 5.30pm – all welcome!

#### Save the date: Summer Fair 2025

The HMS PTA are very excited to announce this year's Summer Fair. The PTA are planning a movie-themed extravaganza for the whole family to enjoy.

- Saturday 21st June 12-3pm
- Hexham Middle School
- Giant inflatable, raffle, tombola, themed games and stall, BBQ, refreshments.

Please save the date and share the poster with family/friends - we'd love to see you all there! Any donations of raffle and tombola prizes would be hugely appreciated. More information about supporting at the event will follow after the Easter break.



### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - More Concerns with Roblox

As one of the more popular games with all age groups, particularly younger children, Roblox is getting its fair share of negative press lately. Most recently (13th April) Revealing Reality have released results of their investigation called 'A Digital Playground - The Real Guide to Roblox'. As part of this investigation the researchers created multiple account pretending to be persons aged 5, 9, 10, 13 and 40+ in order to explore the safety settings and the user experience which included:

- Adults and children can easily interact.
- Easy access to highly suggestive environments, including participation in adult-themed conversations.

You can read the full report [HERE](#), which was then followed up by two articles in The Guardian [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), the latter of which is the experience of some parents and their own child's use of Roblox. (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

### 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](#).

## Scholastic Book Fair: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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
Thursday 8 May	VE Day Lunch	All year groups
Thursday 8 May	Green Skills – Careers Workshops	Year 8
Monday 12 to Thursday 15 May	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6
Friday 16 May	Year 6 Treat Day	Year 6
Monday 19 May	Cuppa and a Catch-Up – Mr Watters/Mr Stephenson	All welcome
Tuesday 20 May	Year 5 and Year 8 Year Group Photographs	Year 5 and Year 8
Tuesday 20 May	Year 4 SEND Evening	New Year 4 parents/children
Monday 19 May	<a href="#">KS2 Music Showcase – 6pm</a>	All welcome
Friday 23 May	Head of School Awards Breakfast	Winners
Friday 23 May	House Prize – non-uniform day	Winning House

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).