

6 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 33**

It's been lovely to welcome pupils back to school for the final half term of the year – can you believe we're at this point already? It's always an action-packed half term at HMS as we have so much wonderful curriculum enrichment going on and a wide range of exciting trips, visits and experiences for our pupils. With that excitement comes lots of information for pupils and parents... we'll try to communicate as clearly as we possibly can to keep everyone on top of what's happening in school as we work towards the summer break. If you are unsure about anything or have a question, just get in touch – we're all here to help.

### **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
Harry M	Thomas M	Theo T	Anna O
Alfie S	Su H-J	Ianto T	Alivia A
Tommy D	Maxi C	Anna F	Tom N
William R	Jacob B	Doran K	Oliver L
Finn R	George L	Ed S	Jaiden D
Edwin S		Lewis T	

### **HMS has got TALENT!**



What an amazing show we had this week for our '[HMS Talent Show](#)'. We were all so proud of the acts who performed on the evening having made it through the earlier rounds of auditions. The level of talent was inspiring and it was a real variety show - dance, singing, comedy, karate and even speed computer building to name a few! It takes such confidence and courage to get up on stage and we were, once again, so proud of all of the pupils who took part.



### **Hexham Middle School**

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[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Special thanks to Mrs Rowell, Miss Tindall and the brilliant technical team for planning such a wonderful show. Huge appreciation to our visiting judging panel - thank you for being so generous with your time and positivity. Thank you to Mr Freeman-Myers for being our host for the evening! It was another special night - we really value your support.

### 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	64,670	1	Hugo B	1	Nick T	1	Ben S	1	Evie J
Coquet	65,887	2	Heidi B	2	Thomas G	2	Finley H	2	Ben F
Tweed	65,890	3	Julia F	3	Isla Y	3	Tyler H	3	Sarah N
Wansbeck	66,162	4	William S	4	Lucy E	4	Betty F	4	Sartaj D

### Music News

#### Save the date - HMS Summer Concert

Tickets are now on sale for the [HMS Summer Concert](#) on the 26th June! This show will include the Orchestra, Show Choir, HMS Singers, Advanced Singing Group, String Ensemble, BandCamp and soloists! Don't miss out, get your tickets now! **Buy tickets** now!

### Personal Development Updates

#### PSHE update

We have made some changes to our summer term resources for PSHE following a review. Some lessons will continue to use PSHE Association resources, but we are exploring some new resources from Pol Ed. If you would like to learn more about these resources, please visit the website - use this [link](#) for the dedicated 'parents' section.

#### Year 7: Staying Safe (including online)/Understanding the Law.

- (L1) The age of criminal responsibility (Pol.Ed)
- (L2) Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) - Pol.Ed
- (L3) Online Scams (Cybersecurity)

#### RSE Committed Relationships and Family Life:

- (L4) Understanding changing relationships (PSHE Assoc.)

**Winner of the  
CHILDREN'S  
FICTION  
CATEGORY 2023  
NERO BOOK  
AWARDS**

## Sports News

### Pupil Success



We're proud to celebrate the success of Amelia-Rose, a rising tennis star, who has just been crowned British Grass Court Champion in the Under-11s! Amelia-Rose, currently ranked 8th in the country, competed at the prestigious Grade 1 National Grass Court Championships held at Frinton-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club in Essex, from 23–29 May 2025. As the number 4 seed, she faced the top 32 players in the UK and battled her way to the title with skill, resilience and determination.

This is a phenomenal achievement, and Amelia-Rose has rightly earned the admiration of the British tennis community. She credits her success to her coaching team. We are all so proud of you, Amelia-Rose!

### Athletics Update

It's been a very busy week of sport at HMS with pupils representing the school in cricket and athletics. Mr Gaines and Mr Scott took a fantastic group of Year 6 pupils to the Wentworth today for the 'Quad Kids' events and had a great morning of sport. All of the pupils represented the school superbly - well done everyone. Mr Scott was so impressed with the Year 8 Sports Leaders who led the event brilliantly - what a team!



## HMS PTA

### 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** - Once again, local businesses have been so generous with their fantastic prize donations for this year's raffle – we all really appreciate the support. The current list of prizes is on our website, [here](#). Children have brought home envelopes of tickets this week. If you or your family members feel able to buy some, please complete the tickets with your information and return the stubs and payment to the HMS Office. Tickets will

also be available at this year's Summer Fair. Any donations of raffle prizes are still very welcome. 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](mailto:hmsptachair@gmail.com).

- **Tombola - Non-Uniform Day**

We would really appreciate lots of tombola prize donations. There'll be a non-uniform day on **Tuesday 17th June** in return for any donations you can give. As always, we appreciate your 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>

### 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 <sup>st</sup> form class 98%	2 <sup>nd</sup> form class 97%	3 <sup>rd</sup> form class 96%
5-MDO	7-PES, 6-MBE, 5-ZSC, 5-EKI, 5-FHA	7-IBO, 7-PHA, 6-RAL, 6-JJO, 6-FHI

### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - Fortnite and AI

Fortnite continues to be one of the most popular games played by children and young people. The game is continually being updated with new features and in their latest update Epic Games has introduced an AI feature where players can talk to characters like Darth Vader. As with anything like this, it's questionable whether Epic Games have really thought this through or are they just jumping on the bandwagon of AI where everyone is seemingly introducing it.

Wayne Denner has written a blog post about this, including some advice for parents including the parental settings for the new AI feature. You can find the blog post [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

### News from the community

#### Free SIM cards

Hexham Library are registered with the [National Data Bank](#) and have free SIM cards available for parents who struggle to afford data for their devices. - The scheme is available for over 18-year-olds who have their own device. People can turn up at, email or call Hexham Library asking to schedule a free SIM card appointment to get set up. There is some form filling to do behind the scenes but there are no awkward questions or means testing.

#### Be you – Helping your child settle into a new school or class

[Find Out More >>](#)

### 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 9 June	Be You Transition Assembly	Year 8
Monday 9 – Wednesday 11 June	Safety Works Visits	Year 6
Friday 13 June	Water Safety Workshops – Fire and Rescue team	Year 7
Monday 16 – Friday 20 June	Spain Residential	Year 7 and Year 8 (selection)
Monday 16 June	Zoolab Charles Darwin Workshops	Year 6
Saturday 21 June	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome
Monday 23 June – Tuesday 24 June	REA Days	All year groups
Thursday 26 June	<a href="#">HMS Summer Concert</a>	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-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)).