

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 34

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
Riley S	Emilia F	Anabelle C	Halle F
Erin Mc	James L	Evie R-C	Oliver H
Stuart H	Adina C	Georgia O	Devin R
Agnes F	Francesca F	Francesca S	Ailsa S
Evelyn C	Leo B	Tobias S	Alice B

Junior Maths Challenge

At the start of May, some of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in the [Junior Maths Challenge](#) – a national competition that truly puts students' problem-solving skills to the test. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and gave it their best in what is a very challenging event.

We're delighted to share that 24 pupils across both year groups earned a Bronze certificate, 11 achieved Silver, and an impressive 5 pupils were awarded Gold. Special congratulations go to Artie O'B, who not only achieved a Gold certificate but was also named 'Best in School' – an outstanding accomplishment! Artie, Joseph D and Gruffydd T have all been invited to participate in the next round of the competition. We wish them the very best of luck as they take on this exciting challenge.

Well done to all involved – what a fantastic achievement for HMS!



HMS Fundraising Day 2025

On Friday 27th June, we'll be holding a Fundraising Day in support of our HMS Council's two chosen charities: Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Cancer Research UK.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**


Head of School: **Liam Watters**

What can pupils do to raise funds?

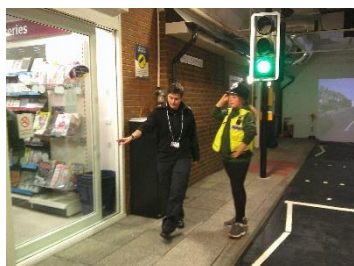
- Cake Sale - buy cakes at our morning break sale
- Craft Fair - buy crafts from our stalls at morning break
- Pupil vs Staff Assault Course - donate to watch our assault course at lunchtime - promises to be great fun!
- Weakest Link - take part in our Weakest Link quiz event - represent your form class!
- Sponsored Fun Run - pick up a sponsor form next week and take part in our fun run
- Sponsored Hush-a-thon - pick up a sponsor form next week and take part in our sponsored silent event



What can parents/carers do to support?

- Donate cakes and bakes for our sale 
- Make a donation via MCAS if you feel able to support the day
- Sponsor your child to take part in their chosen event and return the form by Wednesday 25th June

It sounds like a fantastic day to show our support to two pupil-voted charities. More information will be launched with pupils in Monday's assembly and next week's form times. Thank you in advance for your support.



Year 6 visit Safety Works by Finlay and Martha, 6RAL

Our visit to [Safety Works](#), organised by Northumbria police, Fire and Rescue and the Blue Cross Dog Trust, was amazing. All the year 6 pupils learnt about anti-social behaviour, peer pressure, illegal actions and their consequences, dog safety, water safety and e-safety.

During the water safety workshop, we learnt about the dangers of water, how to help people drowning and in cold shock. We also learnt about what kind of dangers there can be swimming in rivers, lakes, streams or the sea. After that, we went on to learn about actions caused by peer pressure and their consequences. Three volunteers helped to do some role play when it was shown how peer pressure can affect how people act. We then moved on to focus on fire safety and learnt about antisocial fires, in particular, bins. This showed how peer pressure can make people (especially children between 10 and 11) make the wrong choices. In the final workshop - before everyone came back together - we did an activity about dog safety which included the three Cs which were Check, Call, Count. Finally, we all joined together for a shorter e-safety workshop which covered the online safety that we learn about in the school computing curriculum.

A special thanks to the emergency services for dedicating their time to our visit!

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	66,076	1	Jackson L	1	Claudia D	1	Ella R	1	Teddy D
Coquet	67,313	2	George H	2	Sophia R	2	Effie R-B	2	Oscar D
Tweed	67,192	3	Scarlet S	3	Meike O	3	Ben S	3	Caitlin H
Wansbeck	67,576	4	Harry A	4	Edward H	4	Oswald B	4	Evie A

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 95.5% 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-PHA, 6-MBE, 5-FHA, 5-MDO, 5-Zsc	8-BLA	6-RAL

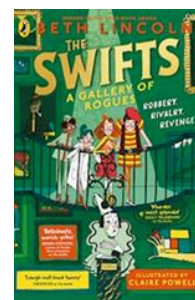
Library news



Author visit book orders: Y5 and Y6

This is just a reminder that we are proud to be welcoming local author Beth Lincoln to HMS on Wednesday 25th June and book orders close on Wednesday 18th June.

The visit is at no cost but if you would like to order a book for your child, please do so through the 'Shop' on MCAS. Books are available for £6 each or £10 for the pair. Orders will close on Wednesday 18th June to give time for delivery to school. Copies will also be made available to borrow from HMS Library as swiftly as possible after Beth's visit. Many thanks to Forum Books in Corbridge for bringing Beth to us!



Personal Development

Space Webinars – Learning from the experts

Check out our website for further information about and to sign up for the next Space Webinar: [here](#).
Maria Hasler – Space Weather & Data Science - Date: Monday 23rd June - Time: 13:00–13:30

Music Events

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](#) (ticket tailor website)



Songs from the Shows

Our fantastic '[Songs from the Shows](#)' event is Monday 7th July and Wednesday 9th July – an evening of songs from musicals all accompanied by a live band! Just some of the musicals that will be featured; Mean Girls, Everyone's Talking About Jamie, Les Misérables, Hamilton, Matilda, Wicked, Cats, Annie. Get your tickets now, this will sell out fast! [Buy tickets](#) (ticket tailor website)



Sports News

Athletics Update



18 athletes from HMS took part in the Tynedale Athletics Championships at Wentworth Leisure Centre this week. This event is a competition between Hexham, Ponteland, Prudhoe, and Haydon Bridge schools. The County Championships will be held at Gateshead Stadium on Saturday 28th June.

It was brilliant to see all of our HMS pupils performing to a very high standard and showing a positive, respectful attitude to sport once again. We look forward to hearing how our athletes do at the County Championships. The overall competition was won by Prudhoe. Hexham Partnership came an excellent second place. Read [here](#) how they did!

Running Club

This week, our Running Club had a fantastic opportunity to learn about guide running and how to support visually impaired runners, thanks to Mr. Williams! It was an inspiring and eye-opening session that reminded us how running is truly for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Williams, for sharing your knowledge and passion!



Cricket Update



Well done to all [three teams](#) who went to Stocksfield last Monday for the pairs cricket competition. The boys entered two teams, with a total of four wins between them. The girls were very unlucky not to qualify for the semi-final stage. The girls lost their group stage games by 1, 2 and 3 runs respectively which could easily have been three wins, showing the fine margins in cricket. All pupils showed a fantastic attitude and character throughout the day, so

well done to everyone. The future is bright for young cricketers at HMS! Thank you also to the Y9 and 10 Sports Leaders who without them the tournament could not have run.

Well done to our Year 7 boys' cricket team who took victory against Corbridge by 18 runs. Hexham batted first and put on 108 runs in 16 overs, with top scores coming from Rory A (31 not out) & Joseph D (27). They then put in a very good bowling and fielding performance to restrict them to 90 runs. Rory N, Archie and Bertie took crucial wickets.



Tennis

Commiserations to our boys' tennis team (Kayden, Joseph, Henry, Oskar, Ivor & Ben) who were knocked out of the competition at the semi-final stage against NSB. They should be incredibly proud of their efforts this year in even reaching the semi-finals, something which has not been done for many years at HMS. Well done boys - we are very proud of you!

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.
- **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.



Online Safety Update

For Parents - Android Smartphone Guide


Due to the cost and variety of devices, Android smartphones can be incredibly popular with children and young people. As with other devices there are a variety of parental controls, including controls that allow parents to set the maturity level of apps and games. Full information including detailed instructions can be found [HERE](#) (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor).

News from the community

On Yer Bike Tynedale

Following the success of last year's event in Hexham, On Yer Bike Tynedale takes place again this year, on Sunday 22 June. Please see the attached leaflet for more information.

Full of Beans holiday club – see attached flyer

	Week 1 Gymnastics Day Wednesday 23 rd July	Week 2 Multi Activities Monday 28 th to Thursday 31 st July	Week 3 Gymnastics Day Wednesday 6 th August	Week 4 Multi Activities Monday 11 th to Thursday 14 th August	Week 5 Gymnastics Day Wednesday 20 th August	Week 6 Multi Activities Tuesday 26 th to Thursday 28 th August.
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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
Monday 16 – Friday 20 June	Spain Visit	Year 7 and Year 8 (selection)
Monday 16 June	Zoolab Workshops – Charles Darwin	Year 6
Tuesday 17 June	NON-UNIFORM DAY <i>Please try and send a small prize donation for the tombola if you can</i>	All year groups
Saturday 21 June	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome
Monday 23 June – Tuesday 24 June	REA Days	All year groups
Wednesday 25 June	Beth Lincoln author visit	Years 5 and 6
Thursday 26 June	Police Education Workshops – social media	Year 6
Thursday 26 June	HMS Summer Concert	All year groups

Friday 27 June	HMS Fundraising Day	All year groups
Wednesday 9 July	Sports Day	Years 5 and 6
Thursday 10 July	Sports Day	Years 7 and 8

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).