

23 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 32

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
Jessica S	Claudia D	Josh D	Robbie S
Riley G	Elise C	Lucas S	Bobby B
Freddie S	Robin M	Finn S	Lewis S
Amber S	Sam S	Ryan S	Jake D
Ronnie F	Aimee C	Owen L	Holli M

KS2 Music Showcase

This week saw over 70 students perform in the sell-out KS2 Music Showcase, either as a soloist or as part of a group. The evening was a celebration of those students who have instrumental or vocal lessons in school as well as some of our extra-curricular groups.



We had an extensive programme that included brass, drum, piano and vocal solos as well as HMS Singers, the Drum Line, Advanced Singing Group and two of our BandCamp groups. The audience members of family, friends and staff were all extremely impressed at the standard and the courage of all of the performers. We look forward to seeing what next year holds and we look forward to even more students starting to learn to play an instrument or sing. Well done to all participants!



Next up is the grand final of the [Talent Show](#) on Monday 2nd June at 6:30 pm in HMS Main Hall. [Get your tickets now!](#)

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Head of School Awards

This month's Head of School Award theme was 'creativity' - one of our 8 essential skills from 'Skills Builder'. I was delighted to see the children being recognised for their wonderful approach to school life. It was great to celebrate the positive contribution each pupil makes to our school community - I am very proud of each of them.

Pupils joined me for a special breakfast today (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! Two pupils were absent or away today and will get their certificates next week. A huge well done everyone!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Sequoia D-G	Joey R	Aria H	Gracie R
Georgia M	Francesca F	Leon B	Ossie D
Harrison SW	Jennifer V	Tilly C	Evie A
Alice E	Isobel B	Ben S	Paloma P
Bella B	Lucy G	Joanna R	Evie J
	Henry C		Freddy W
			Callum J

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	62,229	1	Ollie K	1	Jessica Do	1	Etta L	1	Sarah N
Coquet	63,402	2	Sally B	2	Meike O	2	Benjamin N	2	Esme B
Tweed	63,431	3	Sophia M	3	Lauren Do	3	Theo T	3	Jakub M
Wansbeck	63,615	4	Heidi B	4	Alexander T	4	Oswald B	4	Evie W

Sustainability and Climate Action Planning

Over the course of this year, certain staff across Hadrian Learning Trust have been working with government-funded external advisors and others to develop a climate action plan that will in time enable our schools to become more sustainable, as part of the wider national drive towards net zero.



We have undertaken an audit of our current approaches and provision across seven areas – water usage, transport, grounds, buildings, food, energy use and consumption – to inform this plan. The initial draft primarily focuses on establishing good habits around, for example, resource and energy use in order to minimise waste and to cut costs. We also intend a re-invigoration of our pupil and student green teams and a review of our curriculum to ensure that we are developing the knowledge and skills that will serve our young people well in the future in relation to climate change.

We see this as a long-term commitment – a journey if you like that will involve all staff, pupils, students, trustees and parents over the coming years as we seek to become better informed and more sustainable in our outlook and practice. We will keep you posted along the way.

Attendance – top 3!

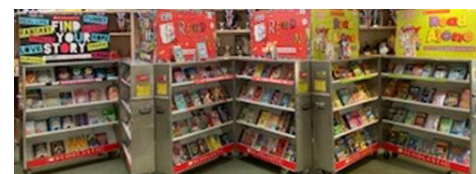
Attendance was very good this week with 95% of pupils being in school. However, our school target is 97%. It's so important that pupils and parents have a positive attitude towards school attendance – pupils should be in school every day, ready to learn and to make the most of their school opportunities.

1st form class 99%	2nd form class 98%	3rd form class 96%
6-MBE	6-RAL, 6-FHI	5-ZSC, 7-PES



Scholastic Book Fair 2025

Thank you to all pupils, parents, carers and staff who have supported the Scholastic Book Fair this week. The Fair created a real buzz about reading with lots of exciting new titles plus books from well-known authors on offer.



Huge thanks also to the wonderful Library Champions who helped to run the Fair and the Library during some very busy lunchtimes. Here is a selection of the new books that your fantastic support has provided for HMS Library. There are even more to come!

Personal Development Updates

Year 6 Safety Works

Our trip to the Safety Works in Benwell is fast approaching at the start of the next summer half term. We would like to remind parents/carers that there is the MCAS payment set up for voluntary contributions towards the transport costs to Newcastle. A suggested donation is £5. Thank you in advance for any support.

Year 8 Peer Mentors

Applications for Year 8 peer mentoring programme for September 2025 are now open. You can collect an application form from the purple tray in the library and return it FA9 (Miss Tauk's classroom) or Mr Scott's office the deadline is Monday 23rd June.

VACANCY

Sports News

KS2 Football News

On Wednesday, Mr Nichol and Ms Watkinson took a group of 32 KS2 pupils to Corbridge Middle School to take part in a football tournament. All of the pupils represented the school superbly, with particular standouts being a brilliantly taken bicycle kick by Dylan F, and an extraordinary long-range goal from Freddie S. Mr Nichol was extremely proud of all the Hexham players - well done team!



HMS PTA News

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>

Club News

Rounders Club is starting soon!

New Rounders Club after half-term on Thursdays after-school - please sign up on MCAS. The sessions will start from Thursday 12 June and run until the penultimate week of term. Pupils should meet outside the Sports Centre on the HMS Games Yard. Pupils should wear the PE kit to play rounders, and standard trainers should be worn.

New Friday Lunchtime Clubs

Tennis and Pickleball Club will be running during Friday lunchtimes. There is no need to sign up - it will be on a first come first served bases. Pupils who want to participate should meet Mr Cameron in the Games Yard at 12.35pm with their packed lunch and trainers. It'd be great to see lots of pupils getting involved.

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Pinterest Privacy and Safety Settings

Pinterest is an enormous and hugely popular platform. Known as a 'visual discovery engine' which basically means it is a user-to-user platform, meaning that individual users upload content for anyone else to see. You can use it for a variety of things to get ideas, create mood boards, scrapbooks and so much more. I use it myself for inspiration for my drawing projects. But because it is user to user there will be content that isn't suitable for everyone. Back in 2022, during the inquest into the death of a 14 year old, even Pinterest admitted the [platform wasn't safe](#) (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor).

News from the Community

Hexham Football Club opportunities

There are now opportunities for more girls to join Hexham Football Club. It'd be great to see lots of HMS pupils getting involved if they are interested. You can find more information in the article below:

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/sport/25184911.hexham-girls-football-club-expands-one-five-teams/>

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 2 June	School re-opens at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 2 June	HMS Talent Show Final – 6.30pm	All welcome - see here for tickets
Monday 2 June	U13 boys and girls cricket competition – Stocksfield	Year 7 and 8 (selection)
Tuesday 3 June	U11 boys and girls cricket competition – Stocksfield	Year 5 and 6 (selection)
Tuesday 3 June	France Trip Parents' Information Evening – 5.30pm	Year 7 and 8 (selection)
Wednesday 4 June	Water Safety Workshops – Fire and Rescue Team	Year 5

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 June	Baltic Art Trip – Arts Award Experience	All year groups (selection)
Friday 6 June	Newcastle University – Street Scientists	Year 5
Monday 9 June	Year 8 Transition Assembly – Be You Team	Year 8
Monday 9 – Wednesday 11 June	Year 6 Safety Works Visits	Year 6
Thursday 12 June	Newby Whiske Information Evening	Year 6
Monday 16 – Friday 20 June	Spain Residential	Year 7 and Year 8 (selection)
Monday 16 June	Zoolab – Charles Darwin Science Workshops	Year 6
Saturday 21 June	HMS PTA Summer Fair, 12-3pm	All welcome
w/c Monday 23 June	Year 8 Careers Guidance Sessions with Career Wave – all week	Year 8
Monday 23 June	REA DAY	Year 8 and Year 5
Tuesday 24 June	REA DAY	Year 7 and Year 6
Wednesday 25 June	Beth Lincoln Author Visit	Year 5 and 6
Thursday 26 June	Police Education – Social Media	Year 6
Thursday 26 June	HMS Summer Concert (info to follow)	All welcome
Friday 27 June	HMS Fundraising Day	All year groups
Friday 27 June	QEHS Visits	Year 7

Have a great half-term holiday everyone!

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).