

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 36

HMS Fundraising Day

What an amazing day we have had in school to raise funds for our two chosen charities this year - Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Cancer Research UK. Thank you so much for all of your generous support! To raise funds, pupils enjoyed:

- A cake sale
- A mini craft fair
- Pupil vs staff assault course
- The Weakest Link Quiz (thank you, Noah H)
- A sponsored fun run
- A sponsored hush-a-thon



We wanted to capture the spirit of fundraising by asking pupils to gather up sponsors in advance of the day - thank you so much to everyone who was able to do this. Our fun runners covered over 75 miles between them this afternoon - great effort! Fundraising total to follow...thank you all.

Head of School Awards



This month's Head of School Award theme was 'problem solving' - 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 them all. Pupils joined me for a special breakfast today (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! A couple of pupils were unable to join us and will get their certificates next week. A huge well done everyone!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Finn R	Leo B	Owen L	Hayden D
Amber S	Charlotte B	Lauchlan H	Jessica P
Margot D	Finlay F	Ivor T	Sophie A
James C	Luke T	William D	Harry R
Jackson K	Jessica C	Doran K	Edward S

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

REA DAYS



It's been a week of enrichment, wellbeing and positive engagement across HMS with our latest 'REA Days'. These days are designed to promote a wide variety of enriching experiences for our pupils to explore new interests, unlock new skills and build on existing talents. It's been great to see everyone having fun and engaging brilliantly across the two days.

A huge thank you to Team HMS, visiting activity leaders and those who have hosted our pupils at their own venues. What a great experience this was

once again! For more pictures visit our [website](#)!

HMS PTA News

What a day we had on Saturday for this year's HMS PTA Summer Fair. The sun was shining (with a little bit of welcome rain!) and all of the hard work and preparation came together for another hugely successful fair. This year's 'Day at the Movies' theme was a great success. The Summer Fair is always such a community event and we are so grateful for the brilliant support shown once again - both in the build-up and on the day. We are delighted that so many of you came along and had a great time at HMS.



The fair was packed all day and it was a joy to see so many pupils and their families. We are all very grateful to the HMS staff who supported the fair this year - both on the day and beforehand - it is hugely appreciated. We were blown away by the very generous support from local businesses, organisations and parents/carers who have been so kind with their donations - it makes a huge difference, and it is greatly appreciated.



None of this would be possible without our phenomenal PTA. This year's fair was led by Karen and Amy in their first year as Co-Chairs and they did a superb job. HUGE thanks to everyone from our PTA who worked so hard to plan and run this year's fair and all of the volunteers on the day - your generosity and dedication is recognised and appreciated by everyone at HMS. Our PTA had a change of leadership this year and we have been so grateful to welcome some new members and volunteers but we're always looking for more - all support is appreciated. Thank you again - another very proud day for HMS! We'll announce the total raised soon. You can see this year's raffle winners list attached and on our website.

Year 6 Make Future Engineers

Our Year 6 engineers spent the day at Newcastle University with Mr Freeman-Myers yesterday as part of the 'Make Future Engineers' project. This was another great opportunity for our future engineers to work as a team and to develop their creativity and problem solving.



The team presented an idea for a floating wind turbine to a panel of expert judges comprising undergraduates, graduates and PHD students. The group also tested their design in the tanks of the Armstrong Building - what an experience! The group have collaborated brilliantly on their project design. On the day, Team HMS finished second overall with special recognition for high-quality answers to the judges' questions. Well done, Team! Special thanks to Mr Freeman-Myers for yet another great experience!

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
Scott B	Tabby S	Emily C	Hope B
Vinnie D	Martha G	Effie R-B	Anna M
Dylan F	Violet M	James B	Kayden W
Ella W	Philippa U	Joseph B	Sam C
Sophie C	Sienna C	Niamh K	Sam B

Chess News

Mr Freeman-Myers, Mrs Box and our Year 8 chess team travelled to Nottingham this week to represent HMS at the National Schools' Chess Championships. What a phenomenal experience this was for the team who competed brilliantly. I know the team found it to be an inspirational event and they are keen to continue their chess success as they move to QEHS. Mr Atkins is already recruiting them for his club! Well done, team!



Maths Challenge Success!



We are delighted to congratulate Artie, Joseph, and Gruffydd, who were invited to take part in the second round of the Junior Maths Challenge — a remarkable achievement in itself, as only a select number of high-scoring students from the first round are invited to progress further. All three boys performed brilliantly under pressure and were awarded certificates in recognition of their efforts. Artie achieved a Bronze Award, while Joseph and Gruffydd both achieved Silver Awards — an outstanding accomplishment from all!

We are incredibly proud of their effort, resilience, and enthusiasm for mathematics. We look forward to seeing even more fantastic achievements from them as they continue their journey into Year 8 next year. Well done, boys!

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	69,252	1	Maggie M	1	Jessica C	1	Joseph D	1	Edward C
Coquet	70,767	2	Bella B	2	India S	2	Wilfrid D	2	Antony M
Tweed	70,536	3	Jackson K	3	Oliver S	3	James H	3	Magnus C
Wansbeck	70,710	4	Alfie S	4	Lauren D	4	Samuel L	4	Evie J

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was good this week with 94% of pupils being in school, however we want to avoid any end of year dip! 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 98%	2 nd form class 97%	3 rd form class 96%
7-PES, 5-EKI	7-SFO, 6-JJO, 5FHA	6-MBE

Volunteering Opportunities

We are looking at onboarding some volunteers for September to help out with numerous activities in Hexham Middle School. We currently have Year 5 and 6 swimming lessons on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon and we are looking for a volunteer to accompany the teacher who takes the children from school to the Wentworth Swimming Pool. The pupils travel by bus and it is just to have an extra adult to help supervise.



We also run a forest school during school hours for our Year 5 and 6 pupils and we would like a volunteer to help supervise these sessions with the qualified forest school teacher. These days are yet to be confirmed for next academic year. If you are interested in being involved in any of these volunteer roles please could you contact recruitment@gehs.net

Personal Development

Year 5 Anti-Social Behaviour Workshops Survey

Before Northumbria Police visit next week to talk to our Year 5 pupils about anti-social behaviour, they would like pupils to conduct a quick survey - this is anonymous. Please can parents of Year 5 pupils try to complete this by Wednesday 2nd July. <https://forms.office.com/e/hDME5Qsw4Y>

Music News

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

Mr Nichol's Football Update

On Wednesday, Mr Nichol took a team of 10 KS2 girls to Ashington Welfare to participate in a huge tournament consisting of over twenty schools! The girls represented themselves and Hexham Middle School extremely well, demonstrating the HMS values of Respect, Engage Aspire in every match. They also produced some outstanding results, including an extraordinary 7-0 win. Overall, Mr Nichol was thrilled with the team, and the girls returned to school, proudly wearing their medals! Well done to all involved.



Eagles Arena Visit



Key Stage 3 'Basketball Club' enjoyed their trip to the Eagles Arena in Newcastle on Wednesday. A Newcastle Eagles coach helped them improve their skills in different drills and mini basketball games. The children were lucky enough to meet Josh Ward-Hibbert, a player from the Newcastle Eagles, who was practising at the same time as us. They asked him questions about how he became a basketball player, although they were all a bit starstruck! We also

went on a tour of the arena before going back to HMS. What an experience! Huge thanks to Mr Drummond for leading the club and planning the visit!

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Fall Guys Parental Controls

Fall Guys is a very popular game with children. It has a PEGI 3 rating and falls under the massive multiplayer battle royale genre of games, meaning there are things like chat, in-game spending, friends lists and more. It's important that games like this are set up correctly in accordance with the age of the child playing. For example over 13s have default access to party chat groups. Internet Matters have a really good guide detailing all the parental features [HERE](#) and Wayne Denner has just published an article about a new voice reporting feature which is available within Fall Guys and also Rocket League, another really popular game with children. You can find Wayne's article [HERE](#) (By Alan MacKenzie, e-Safety Advisor).

News from the Community

Autism support Workshop

[Autism Support Workshop](#) ☆ for parents and carers of children and young people, aged 5-18, who have received a diagnosis. The CYGNET programme is delivered by staff from the Autism Support Team. Attending a Cygnet autism support programme gives parents and carers an opportunity to share their journey, and develop their understanding of autism and consider ways to support their child.

Virtual Sleep workshop

Is your child struggling with sleep? This [virtual workshop](#) will help you with all the sleep secrets you need:

Understand sleep cycles

Causes of sleep issues

The importance of sleep

What you can do to support your child to sleep better

Delivered virtually over one session, join us on Wednesday 9th July, 10am-12pm: book now! Visit nland.cc/fhreq

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
Sunday 29 June – Friday 4 July	France Trip	Year 7 and Year 8 group
Tuesday 1 July	Young Green Briton Challenge Final - London	YGBC team
Wednesday 2 July	Crepe Workshops	Year 5

Wednesday 2 July – Friday 4 July	Newby Wiske Residential	Year 6 group
Thursday 3 July	Police Ed Workshops – Anti-Social Behaviour	Year 5
Thursday 3 July	Broomley Grange Experience	Year 6 group
Monday 7 July	Transfer Morning	Year 5, 6 and 7
Wednesday 9 July	HMS KS2 Sports Day	Years 5 and 6
Monday 7 July and Wednesday 9 July	Songs from the Shows	All welcome
Thursday 10 July	HMS KS3 Sports Day	Years 7 and 8
Friday 11 July	Skills Builder Day	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).