

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 38**

**The Penultimate Week**

What a week...Sports Days were a huge success – well done Mr Gaines, Miss Tauk, Mr Cameron and the team; we had a fantastic day welcoming our new Year 4 pupils to Transfer Day; there was a wonderful trip to Halty Pool for Year 6 – it's always a very chilled day; our Year 5, 6 and 7 pupils had their Transfer Morning to meet their new form teachers; Year 8 spent the day at QEHS and we had lovely comments about their positive attitude and behaviour; we had two outstanding Songs from the Shows performances – genuinely excellent and such talent on display; Mrs Ballantyne and Mr Morgan organised our SEND leavers' breakfast; the end of year reports were sent home; one drama showcase last night and one coming up tonight... and we ended it with our Skills Builder Challenge Day... we do like a very busy week at HMS! Thank you to Team HMS for making all of this possible with smiles and positive energy... one more week to go!

**Year 8 Leavers**



Next week, it's our chance to celebrate our Year 8 pupils who have been a fantastic cohort. We will look back on their years at middle school – there might be a few photos to take them down memory lane! On Wednesday, it's their trip to Tynemouth and on Thursday night, it's our Year 8 Leavers' Festival (6-8pm). We hope that all of our Year 8 pupils can attend – it's always a special night! On Friday, it's our Leavers' Assembly, t-shirt signing and final goodbyes – a great week ahead!

**End of Year Reports**

Mrs Roff was delighted to share our 'End of Year Reports' yesterday. Staff have enjoyed putting together this year's reports which include an overview of your child's learning and end of year outcomes, an overview of their attendance and behaviour, curriculum information from each subject and a report from your child's form teacher. We hope you enjoy reading this year's reports.

**Sports Days**

Our pupils have truly shone this week, delivering some outstanding performances in the wonderful summer sunshine during both the KS2 and KS3 Sports Days. Their enthusiasm, determination, and team spirit were on full display especially during the 'Chance to Shine' afternoon events! Our website is full of fantastic photos - take a look here: [KS2 Sports Day](#) and [KS3 Sports Day](#). The overall results will be announced in next week's Celebration Assemblies.



**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## 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	71,659	1	William F	1	Mollie P	1	Harry B	1	Magnus C
Coquet	73,542	2	Evelyn C	2	Isabella S	2	Benjamin N	2	Nicholas Y
Tweed	73,397	3	Harry D	3	Laila B	3	Emily W	3	Esme B
Wansbeck	73,224	4	Archie H	4	Sophia R	4	Joseph D	4	Tom P

We have now added this year's Sports Days results to the House total and can announce that this year's WINNING HOUSE is **COQUET** with 73,542 points. On Tuesday, pupils in **COQUET** can wear non-uniform for the day – well done everyone! The House Cup will be presented in next week's Celebration Assemblies.

## Smartphone Free Childhoods - Arrangements for September 2025

Please note the following as a reminder of our arrangements for September. Please also take the time to sign-up to the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact for Hexham: <https://northumberlandparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>


Pupils in years 5 and 6:	Pupils in years 7 and 8:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our expectation is that pupils in these year groups will <u>not</u> be given access to a smartphone by their parents.</li> <li>Instead, parents may choose to provide a non-smart 'brick' phone (and/or tracking device) as desired.</li> <li>Non-smart 'brick' phones will be allowed to be brought to school and individual schools will clarify their own policy on these, e.g. if they are to be handed in each day or kept in bags, etc.</li> <li>Smartphones will be <u>banned</u> in school for pupils in years 5 and 6, i.e. they should not be brought to school at all.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We accept that many pupils moving into years 7 and 8 in September 2025 will already have a smartphone.</li> <li>For these year groups, we will continue our policy on mobile phones that has applied up until now, i.e. that they can be brought to school but must be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day.</li> <li>From September 2026, the approach as it applies to years 5 and 6 will extend to year 7, and then to year 8 from September 2027. At that point we will</li> </ul>


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In exceptional circumstances, e.g. for a medical reason such as diabetes monitoring, a parent may write to the headteacher requesting special dispensation. [Please note, smartwatches will be deemed acceptable provided they have no internet connection or access to social media].</li> </ul>	<p>take a view as to whether or not to extend the approach to high school year groups.</p> <p>As a reminder, alternatives to smartphones can be found here:  <a href="https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives">https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives</a>.</p>
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### Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has dropped this week with 93% of pupils being in school - we want to avoid any end of year dip so please try to keep going next week and maintain positive attendance. 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%
5-EKI	5-ZSC	7-PHA, 7-SFO, 5-JNI

Personal Development	
<p><b>Year 6 Northumbria Police workshop on Social Media usage - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>In advance on our session next week on Wednesday, we would like all pupils to complete the following survey. This information will be useful to Northumbria Police to support their own monitoring of the impact of the sessions.</p> <p>PRE VISIT - Internet and Us</p> <p><a href="https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=lcfe-R5kYESDAd3LVfO2-zEQYXPVjFKn922PnzX96RUQk02N0hIN1NROE1QRUVFNVJGQIozWUVQOC4u&amp;route=shorturl">https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=lcfe-R5kYESDAd3LVfO2-zEQYXPVjFKn922PnzX96RUQk02N0hIN1NROE1QRUVFNVJGQIozWUVQOC4u&amp;route=shorturl</a></p>	

Volunteering Opportunities	
<p>We are looking to recruit more volunteers for September to help out with numerous activities in 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.</p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:recruitment@qehs.net">recruitment@qehs.net</a></p>	

Club News
<p><b>Lego League Club</b></p> <p>We are seeking expressions of interest from any pupils to join the Lego League Club next year. This will be led by Mr Paul Nicholson, who is well-experienced in Lego Education and robotics. We will have a KS2 and KS3 team comprising on 10</p>

pupils. Please complete this expression of interest [form](#). Please complete the expression of interest by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 12 noon. Pupils will be informed of their selection in September. If there are any further questions, please contact Mr Freeman-Myers.

### Sports News



#### Pupil Success

A huge well done to Charlie, Ossie and Brodie for their season on the South-West Northumberland District football team. Congratulations all of you – what an achievement! We are looking forward to hearing about your future success as you move to QEHS!

#### New strips for sports teams – support welcome!

We are reaching out to ask for your support in helping our school's extra-curricular sports teams shine both on and off the field. As we continue to foster teamwork and school spirit through sports, we are seeking donations (and potentially sponsorships) to help fund new team strips for our dedicated students. Whether you're able to contribute a small amount, sponsor a team, or purchase a strip outright, your generosity will make a meaningful difference to the PE department and to the students. Every contribution, big or small, will be deeply appreciated. If you are able to support, you can make a contribution via My Child At School > School Shop > Fundraising and Donations or, to find out more, please contact the PE department at [gscott@qehs.net](mailto:gscott@qehs.net).

### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - Holiday Conversations

The holiday period is an ideal time for parents to sit down with their children, play their games and use their apps to get to know the endless fun but also the potential risks. Conversations can be difficult, especially if the parent isn't a user of tech, but conversation is the most powerful risk mitigator of all. So where do parents start?

The NSPCC have put together a fabulous page full of information such as:

- Age-appropriate conversations taking into consideration different ages.
- Resources such as tips and quizzes.
- An understanding of some of the risks.
- And tackling difficult conversations.

A great one to share with parents and you can find the page [HERE](#) (By Alan MacKenzie, e-Safety Advisor).

### News from the Community

#### Kooth Support

Northumberland Education's Kooth's platform will be available to help children and young people manage their mental health and wellbeing through the summer. Follow this [link](#) for further information.

### Sign up for The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge

HMS has a strong tradition of taking part in The Summer Reading Challenge each year. Children can sign up at their local library or online, and it's free to take part.

The Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn. Children set a reading goal and collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy. This year's Challenge, Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors, will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. HMS pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 will receive bookmarks kindly provided by Hexham Library to promote the Challenge. Please follow the link here to find out more.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

The Challenge is mainly aimed at children aged 4-11. However, pupils from all years are welcome to take part and can visit Ms Hayler in HMS Library for a bookmark plus information about the Challenge. Happy reading!

### Hexham Bike Bus

Tynedale's cycling mayor and team are putting a call-out for adult cyclist volunteers to support a "Bike Bus" initiative in Hexham, scheduled to start in mid-September. A bike bus is a means of enabling young cyclists to move safely through streets as a supervised group, thus offering them greater protection from traffic than when riding alone. Ten volunteers in total are needed, with each committing to about one or two Fridays a month in the first instance. Full training and insurance would be provided by British Cycling. To find out more information, please dial into one of the following zoom calls:

**SATURDAY 12 JULY AT 12 NOON**, link

here: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87056799299?pwd=LgVDNmliVFeruZLRCJzZT9PLj0jBk.1>

**TUESDAY 14TH JULY AT 7PM**: link

here: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89557199413?pwd=besspW2pyeETLQRCHxx3eJpksm3l7b.1>

### DiSH

A free series of events for families to attend. DiSH stands for Dinner in School Holidays. A fresh meal is provided in each session, made with fresh ingredients that are often locally sourced. There will also be craft activities and space to play. Details on how to register are included in this [flyer](#) on our website.



### NPCF SEND Friendly Summer 2025

Find information about a great choice of SEND friendly summer holiday activities and autism support tips [here](#) on our website.



## 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 14 July	End of Year Trip – Newburn Leisure Centre	Year 7
Wednesday 16 July	End of Year Trip – Kirkley Hall Zoo	Year 5
Wednesday 16 July	End of Year Trip – Tynemouth Beach	Year 8
Thursday 17 July	Year 8 Leavers’ Party, 6pm	Year 8
Thursday 17 July	End of Year Summer Celebration Assemblies	Years 5, 6 and 7
Friday 18 July	Year 8 Leavers’ Breakfast	Year 8
Friday 18 July	Year 8 Leavers’ Assembly	Year 8
Friday 18 July	All morning – form time Early lunch – 12.00 – 1.00pm Y5 – Y7 – 1.00pm – 1.30pm – form time/goodbyes Y8 – 1.00pm – 1.30pm – t-shirt signing	All years
Friday 18 July	Non-Uniform Day <i>Please try to send in used uniform donations including PE kit and boots you no longer need.</i>	All years
Friday 18 July	School closes at 1.30pm for the Summer Holiday!	All years

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)).