



Hexham Middle School

spes durat avorum

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 39 – THE FINAL ONE!



End of Term Message

We've reached the end of another school year at HMS and what a great year it's been! It's always been my aim to build a school with a positive, inclusive atmosphere, vibrancy and community spirit and I hope you agree that this has shone through this year. It's been a school year to be very proud of with so many happy memories, great experiences for our pupils and incredible achievements.

Thank you to our amazing pupils for being excellent ambassadors for HMS and for engaging in everything on offer for them every single day! Thank you to Team HMS who - as they always do - have worked so hard with endless care and compassion and continue to go above and beyond to make HMS the great place it is every single day. Thank you to our parents/carers and the whole community who support school endlessly - your positive messages, attendance at school events and support from home mean the world to us.

It's time for a rest now and we hope the children have a fantastic summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday 2nd September 8.40am, including our new pupils who we are very excited to see again. Until then... happy holidays everyone!

Year 8 Leavers' Festival

What a way to end a great year at HMS! Our Year 8 pupils had an amazing night for their leavers' festival! Everyone enjoyed the disco, photo booth, party food and ice cream van visit (thank you, Tyne Valley Ices). It was a night of dancing, celebration and joy - what a great atmosphere all round! Huge thanks to Mr Scott, Miss Lamont and the huge number of staff who stayed back late to give Year 8 such a fantastic well-deserved send off! Lifelong memories made... good luck, Year 8 - you'll be amazing! More photos: [here](#)



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 8 Leavers' Trip - Beach Day



Year 8 had a fantastic day in Tynemouth for their final HMS trip and the sun shone for them too! The group enjoyed playing on the beach, having a dip in the sea, and a chippy lunch! Happy, smiley faces all round and a great way to end their time at HMS! All of the staff were so proud of our Year 8 pupils - they were a credit to school, as always. Huge thanks to Mr Scott, Miss Lamont and the team for planning and leading a great final HMS trip for them. Lifelong memories made! More photos: [here](#)

Head of Key Stage Award

Mr Scott and Miss Lamont were delighted to present their Head of Key Stage 3 Awards to two very deserving winners. Sarah and Kuba were celebrated for their character, engagement, positive energy and for being unbelievable ambassadors for HMS throughout their time here. It has been a delight to see them thriving and we can't wait to hear about their future success! Thank you for being outstanding pupils - we are all so proud of them.



Head of School Awards



This month's Head of School Award theme was 'leadership' - 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 (breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! A huge well done everyone! It was our final breakfast of the school year - back again in September!

Fortitude Award

Our 'Fortitude Award' is presented by our PE team to someone who has a strength of mind to overcome adversity with courage. This year's award was presented to Annabelle R who has always represented HMS with pride and has been a superb ambassador of our school. Since she joined Year 5, she has been a positive role model, represented school in multiple events, been an outstanding Sports Leader and supported her peers brilliantly. Annabelle - we are so proud of you, your spirit and your courage - you're a star! Good luck!



Jean Barnett Award

The Jean Barnett Award is presented to our outstanding sportsperson of the year.



This year's recipient has been a truly outstanding representative for HMS throughout his time at middle school. He has grown in confidence, his positive attitude shines through endlessly and his talent, skill and dedication are a joy to see. Charlie has represented HMS in so many sports and events including athletics (with his recent 800m success) and rugby and he has been an absolute star. Charlie's attitude is always praised by staff in PE and staff from other schools - he is a total credit to the school. He should be very proud of himself, and it was great to see his achievements being celebrated earlier today by Mr Cameron! Well done, Charlie - keep shining at QEHS - we can't wait to hear what you achieve next!

Goodbye and good luck

As we reach the end of another academic year, we say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to colleagues moving on from their roles. This year, we'll be saying goodbye and good luck to Mrs Pemberton, Mrs Roff and Mr Stephenson.

Mrs Pemberton joined us this year to cover for Mrs Downes as she went on maternity leave. She has been a great addition to our Year 5 team and has helped lots of pupils to settle into middle school life. We all wish her every success in her new role with her next class and thank her for her contributions over the year.

Mrs Roff will be leaving HMS after 10 years in our team. Mrs Roff joined the school as Curriculum Leader of English before joining the leadership team. Over the years, Mrs Roff has made a huge contribution to the school's development and has been at the forefront of raising standards and improving the curriculum, teaching and learning across the school. Mrs Roff will be such a huge miss, and we thank her for her years of dedication and positive energy. Good luck, Mrs Roff - we'll all miss you!

Mr Stephenson will be moving onto a new role as a Deputy Headteacher in Newcastle and they'll be so lucky to have him! Mr Stephenson has been at the centre of our school community in his roles as Head of KS2 and as Assistant Headteacher. As safeguarding and pastoral lead, he has helped to shape our school's positive and inclusive culture, and has supported so many of our pupils and families with real care and compassion. Mr Stephenson has been an excellent school leader and will be a massive miss - we will all miss him and wish him every success next year and beyond.

I want to say an extra special thank you to Mr Stephenson and Mrs Roff - both are the perfect people to have on your team - hard-working, compassionate, driven and ambitious for our school and the pupils who attend it. Both of them go above and beyond in everything they do - they are patient,



supportive and an asset to our team, and they've both played a key part in our school's success over recent years - thank you for everything!



Year 7 End of Year Trip

Year 7 had a great day at Newburn on Monday where they enjoyed a wide range of activities. I have heard so much positive feedback this morning - it sounded like a very action-packed and exciting day and a lovely way to round off a positive year. Activities included: bubble football, athletics, gymnastics, dodgeball, judo, tennis, orienteering,

biking, climbing and rugby! A great day all round - thank you to Newburn for having us and to Mr Scott for planning the experience! More photos: [here](#)

Celebration Assemblies

This week, we proudly celebrated the outstanding achievements of our pupils at HMS. It was a true pleasure to reflect on their hard work, growth, and successes throughout the year. Congratulations to every pupil for their dedication and accomplishments. More photographs of the celebration assemblies are on our website: [Year 5](#), [Year 6](#), [Year 7](#) and [Year 8](#).

	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
English	Winner: Brooklyn D Runner up: Bella B	Winner: Thea H Runner up: Tessa H	Winner: Betti A Runner up: Leo H	Winner: Oliver L Runner up: Abigail H
Maths	Winner: Ava N Runner up: Ruairi C	Winner: Jennifer V Runner up: William G	Winner: Grace M Runner up: Rose K	Winner: Marc B Runner up: William I
Science	Winner: Scott B Runner up: Thea G	Winner: Micheal C Runner up: Talia C	Winner: Isla N Runner up: Owen L	Winner: Sophie A Runner up: Alex G
Art	Winner: Rowan D Runner up: Jemima C	Winner: Leela H Runner up: Mollie P	Winner: Lizzie L Runner up: Josie A	Winner: Ollie P Runner up: Gracie R
Music	Winner: Margot D Runner up: Archie H	Winner: Meike O Runner up: Isabella s	Winner: Ed S Runner up: William D	Winner: Evie W Runner up: Victor B
PE	Dylan F Jemima C	Aidan M Eleanor W	Amelia G Henry L	Leo Feeley Mia Scott
Computing	Winner: Alex G	Winner: Edward H	Winner: Joanna R	Winner: Tom W

	Runner up: Mason D	Runner up: Riley B	Runner up: Etta L	Runner up: Lola B
Design Technology	Winner: Erin M Runner up: Alba B	Winner: Emilia D Runner up: Dillon D	Winner: Esther C Runner up: Ivor T	Winner: Poppy K Runner up: Auryn B
Food Technology	Winner: Effie W Runner up: Millie W	Winner: Dylan W Runner up: Nick T	Winner: Lauchlan H Runner up: James B	Winner: Bobby B Runner up: Sophie S
History	Winner: Brianna H Runner up: Leo M	Winner: Alexander U Runner up: Liam J	Winner: Ianto T Runner up: Emily G	Winner: Evie T Runner up: Sam B
Geography	Winner: Jax M Runner up: Lochie D	Winner: Luke T Runner up: Hattie D	Winner: Maja M Runner up: Zahra W	Winner: Lucas S Runner up: Harry R
French	Winner: Jesse C Runner up: Effie W	Winner: Claudia D Runner up: Evie T	Winner: Ben T Runner up: Phoebe B	Winner: Noah H Runner up: Evie J
Spanish			Winner: Leo H Runner up: Rosie O	Winner: Caitlin H Runner up: Ben F
RE	Winner: Spike N Runner up: Matilda H	Winner: Edward H Runner up: Thomas G	Winner: Cody R Runner up: Jacob A	Winner: Beatrice S Runner up: Bess D
PSHE	Winner: Will S Runner up: Sophie W	Winner: Philippa U Runner up: George L	Winner: Emily G Runner up: Tilly C	Winner: Zach D Runner up: Poppy K
Drama			Winner: Josie A Runner up: Karam D	Winner: Bobby E Runner up: Sam C
Forest School Explore	Winner: Kaylin F Runner up: Aliza S			
Form Tutor Award	SEKI: Sophia B Leo H 5FHA: Harry A Maggie M 5JNI: Heorhii M Sophia M 5MDO:	6FHI: James D Sofia P 6JJO: Jessica D Thomas M 6MBE: Sadie B Andrei P 6RAL:	7AMG: Joseph D Lizzie L 7IBO: Aurelia K Charlie P 7PES: George F Mia R 7SFO:	8PGA: Lola B Poppy K 8SMC: Antony M Layla S 8ETA: Callum J Esme B 8BLA:

	Sebastian D Lucy G 5ZSC: Jessica S Finn R	Dillon D Francesca F 6YTA: Jessica C Lauren D	Ollie S James T 7PHA: Gwen C Ben N	James H Amelia M 8SRI: Sarah N Kuba M
Head of Key Stage Award	Winner: Lucy G Jackson K	Winner: Tom G Tabitha S	Winner: Joseph D Rosie O	Winner: Kuba M Sarah N

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!

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	72,033	1	Heorhii M	1	Nancy M	1	Rosie O	1	William S
Coquet	73,713	2	Sophie C	2	Meike O	2	Kirstie A	2	Brodie G
Tweed	73,634	3	Jemima C	3	Sadie B	3	Oswald B	3	Evie J
Wansbeck	73,638	4	Millicent C	4	Claudia D	4	Duncan G	4	Kyle R

Attendance – top 3!

Our overall school attendance has risen this year to 95% - we are delighted with this positive improvement. 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 97%	2nd form class 96%	3rd form class 95%
5-MDO	5-EKI	8-SMC, 7-PHA, 7-SFO, 5-JNI

Music
Songs from the Shows Miss Tindall and the whole team were very proud to present two outstanding 'Songs from the Shows' performances last week. Featuring a wide range of pieces from our favourite musicals, the shows were a spectacular display of musical theatre talent. In a first of its kind showcase of students from both HMS and QEHS, the level of talent, confidence and enthusiasm

was superb across the board – we were so proud of everyone! Accompanied by a live band of musicians, students performed, sang, acted and danced through a wonderful setlist – both shows really were very special! Well done to everyone involved and a special thanks to Miss Tindall and her team for their passion and energy – the level of performance and extra-curricular opportunities have been truly outstanding! Hopefully this show will be back next year! Thank you and well done! Some lovely pictures are [here](#) on our website.

Music Merchandise

You may have seen some of our Music students modelling our bespoke HMS/QEHS Music hoodies and t-shirts and Show Choir hoodies and t-shirts at recent concerts and events. The good news is that the items are still available to buy directly from the manufacturer! So if your child would like to buy any items to represent the Music department and to wear at rehearsals and concerts, then the link is here: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/qehs-music.html>. There are different options including names and initials to personalise your garment.

Volunteering Opportunities

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.



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@qehs.net

Club News

Archaeology Club by Mr Boyle

The final day of Archaeology Club involved an introduction to cave paintings from around the world and their purpose. The students took inspiration from famous sites such as Chauvet and Lascaux to create their own cave art on hand made cave palettes. Some even drew in the darkness of the ersatz cave that I set up in FB3.

It has been a pleasure to run Archaeology Club these past few months. Unfortunately, the Club will not be continuing in September. We had only just scratched the surface of what is a very wide-ranging subject. We have covered topics such as stone circles, ancient languages, the use of technology in archaeology, pseudoarchaeology and much more. The interest and input from all who attended (some of their existing knowledge is outstanding!) has been amazing to see and I hope to have inspired more interest in the subject for the students to follow up themselves. I'd like to thank all the staff who have supported the club and, most of all, those children who have shown great dedication to attend each week after school on Thursday afternoon.

Lego League Club Reminder

Please complete the following [form](#) to express interest in our Lego League Club next year. We would like to have two teams of 10 pupils next year. At present we have interest to make one team. We have extended the deadline to complete this form until 30th July. Confirmation of places will be announced in September.

Sports News

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.

News from the Community

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.



Sele Park – Pop-up pump track

The pop-up pump track for Sele Park has been confirmed for **Tuesday 5 August** all day.

Please let your child know if you think they may be interested. Thank you to all who supported the fund raising for this.

Be You

The latest Autism Family Drop In information as well as the Be You Be Diverse newsletter are available [here](#) on our website.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

Northumberland County Council is working to ensure that all eligible pupils receive Free School Meals (FSM) and that schools receive the funding they're entitled to. Around 1,000 pupils from reception to Year 11 may be eligible but are not enrolled. Over the summer holidays, the Council will contact families believed to be eligible, for which they will use existing data. If eligible, families will receive a letter. Parents/carers can object to FSM being applied. If no objection is made, FSM will be automatically awarded as of September 2025.

What do parents/carers need to do?

No action is needed at this stage. Wait for a letter if your child is identified as potentially eligible and only reply if you object to receiving FSM.

Why it matters

This initiative not only ensures eligible children receive support but also helps schools to access additional funding like Pupil Premium and the Holiday Activities Fund. For more information visit the website of Northumberland Education: [here](#)

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Tuesday 2 September	Return to School at 8.40am	All year groups
Friday 5 September	Year 5 Team Building Day	Year 5
Wednesday 10 September	Individual School Photographs	All year groups
Friday 12 September	HMS Council Elections	All year groups
Tuesday 16 September	Discovery Museum – WWII day	Year 6
Tuesday 16 September and Wednesday 17 September	Queen’s Hall Drama visit	Year 7
Wednesday 17 September	Head Pupil Selection Day	Year 8
Thursday 18 September	War Horse – Theatre Royal	Year 7
Friday 19 September	Rail Safety workshops	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).