

12 September 2025

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 2

It's been another great week in school with the children settling into their new timetables and routines brilliantly. There's been such a positive atmosphere around school. I am very proud of our new Year 5 pupils who have settled into school exceptionally well – well done to each and every one of them!

At the start of term, there's always lots of communication from school and I know it can be tricky to keep up with. Here's a summary of a few key events coming up for you:

Date	Event	Info	Action
Monday 15 th Sept	Welcome to Year 5 Evening, 5.30pm	Presentation from school staff	Sign up here
Monday 15 th Sept	Welcome to Year 6 Evening, 6.30pm	Presentation from school staff	Sign up here
Tuesday 16 th Sept	SEND Welcome Evening, 5.00pm	Presentation from the SEND team	Link invite sent
Monday 22 nd Sept	Meet the Tutor Evening*	Meet your child's form teacher	Book via MCAS
Tuesday 23 rd Sept	Meet the Tutor Evening for 8IBO and 5MDO	Meet your child's form teacher	Book via MCAS

*It would be great if parents/carers could complete this short 'Start of Term Survey' in advance of 'Meet the Tutor Evening' appointments: [survey available here](#).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 19th September 9.30 - 10.45am, parents/carers/relatives are invited to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning. There'll be cake, refreshments and stalls to enjoy and it'll be a cash only event. To make this event a huge success, we'd love your support...



How you can support our fundraising:

- Donations of cakes and scones - we would really appreciate lots of cake donations!
- Donations of raffle prizes for a small raffle on the day – please send donations into school
- Coming along on the day if you can – bring your family and friends!
- If you can't make it, you may want to make a donation via MCAS – available now

To join us, please [sign-up using this form](#) so that we know how many people to expect, or just come along on the day.

Hexham Middle School

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www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 8 Parents/Carers – Year 9 Admissions now open!

Alongside today's update, you will find a letter from the School Admissions Team at Northumberland County Council with instructions on how to apply for a Year 9 school place for your child in September 2026 via the Council's Admissions Portal between 12 September and 31 October 2025. Please make sure you apply before the deadline.



Traffic movement at key crossing times

Thank you for your support in adhering to the new signs on Whetstone Bridge Road that guide vehicle movement on arrival and departure at the key times of student movement, i.e. at the start and end of each day. This has made a big difference in ensuring the supervised crossing point remains safe for staff and students. The key points to note are:

- vehicles are expected to turn left when departing the site at the times of main student movement in the mornings and afternoons
- vehicles moving from the top end of Tynedale Terrace onto Whetstone Bridge Road are expected to turn left at these times.

Smartphone free childhood

Many thanks to parents and carers for your support of our new approach, which for pupils in years 5 and 6 is that they do not bring a smartphone to school. As you know, we do go further than this and actively encourage parents and carers to choose not to give their children smartphones at all, until they are older. In support of this, please sign up to the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact for Hexham: <https://northumberlandparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>. For more information on our school's approach, please see page 8 of the [school information guide](#).

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was 97% and it's been a very positive start. 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. We encourage pupils to be resilient to ensure that they don't miss out on great learning each day. Please support us by encouraging your child into school every day.

1st form class 100%	2nd form class 99.7%	3rd form class 99.4%
7-PHA	5-JNI, 6-FHI	8-IBO, 5-EKI

Clubs News

STEM workshop (sign up required)

We are pleased to offer an exciting opportunity to all Key Stage 3 scientists. Mrs Gregory will be working with Meryl Batchelder the education lead for Teraligo, to run a 6-week STEM workshop programme based around ideas of climate change and sustainability. The SustainabiTEA workshop will run on Monday afternoons after school from 15.30 to 17.00 and will start on Monday 13th October.

Pupils will take part in a range of practical based activities that will support their understanding of the scientific basis of climate change and sustainability but also improve their skills as scientists. They will also receive a CREST award on completion of the programme. This opportunity is open to all KS3 pupils, with a maximum of 25 pupils able to attend. If your child would like to take part, please complete the Microsoft form using this [link](#). Any queries should be directed to Mrs Gregory (Curriculum Leader for Science).

Sports News

New Sports Leaders

Well done to our new Year 8 Sports Leaders who completed their initial training on Tuesday with Helen. We are looking forward to seeing them thrive in their new roles as the year goes on, and demonstrating the characteristics required to be a positive role model to other pupils in school at sports events. Well done, team!



News from the Community

Next pick

Saturday 27th
September 2025
11am-12:30pm

Picking the town centre
and into the sele park

Meet 11am at The
Gates opposite the
Queens Hall



Hexham Wombles

Join the Hexham Wombles for our next community litter pick:

- Saturday 27th September
- 11:00am – 12:30pm
- Hexham Town Centre & The Sele Park

Meet at 11:00am at The Gates opposite the Queen's Hall.

Ladies and Girls Rugby Tynedale RFC

This week, Sofia in Year 7 spoke to her year group to promote opportunities for girls to play rugby at Tynedale RFC. The team need new players! They train each Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm and you can contact Will Allen on 07887982427 for more information.



Free School Meals

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please read the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. Find out more on the [Northumberland County Council website](#). To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 15 September	Welcome to Year 5 Evening – 5.30pm - sign up here	Year 5
Monday 15 September	Welcome to Year 6 Evening – 6.30pm – sign up here	Year 6
Tuesday 16 September	SEND Welcome Evening – link sent home	All year groups
Tuesday 16 September	Discovery Museum – WWII day	Year 6
Wednesday 17 September	Head Pupil Selection Day	Year 8
Thursday 18 September	War Horse – Theatre Royal	Year 7
Friday 19 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 9.30 – 10.45am	Parents/carers/family members
Friday 19 September	Macmillan Cake Sale	All year groups
Friday 19 September	Rail Safety Workshops	All year groups
Monday 22 September	House Hustings – whole school vote!	All year groups
Monday 22 September	Meet the Tutor Evening, 3.45-6.45pm	All year groups
Tuesday 23 September	Meet the Tutor Evening, 3.45-6.45pm	8IBO and 5MDO only
Friday 26 September	European Day of Languages (includes a Bake Off Competition)	All year groups
Thursday 2 October	HMS Open Evening, 6-8pm	All welcome

Have a great weekend and thank you for supporting us to make such a great start to the new year!

Mr Watters

Head of School

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Ms Karn

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott, Mr Rutherford-Orrock, Miss Lamont and Miss Bell

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).