



HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 4

European Day of Languages



Today is European Day of Languages and Mr Armstrong planned a range of activities to promote a love of languages learning across the school.

- Class language - each form class was assigned a language and greetings for their registers this week.
- Research - classes had the chance to research their assigned county and spoken language(s).
- Bake Off - our annual Bake Off was an overwhelming success with so many fabulous cake designs brought into school today.
- Quiz - in class assembly time this week, Mr Armstrong challenged the school to a special quiz - there was a great energy in KS3 earlier today!



Cakes were judged this morning and certificates for all entries as well as the overall winners will be announced in next week's assemblies. Huge thanks to each and every pupil who entered this year's Bake Off - the cakes were truly outstanding once again - we were amazed by the effort and skill!

House Captains

It was a busy Monday morning at HMS as we held our annual House Hustings. Candidates from each house showed real courage as they stood up to give their election speeches in front of their peers - this takes real bravery, and we were so proud of every single candidate on the ballot papers. After the speeches, the pupils cast their votes, and we are delighted to announce that this year's House Captains will be:

- Aln: Kirstie A and Lauchlan H
- Coquet: Amelie G and Betti A
- Tweed: Artie O'B and Archie D
- Wansbeck: Oswald B and Jamie H



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!



Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Beth D Alex D Lucy L Maxwell R Vini W	Daniel M Libby C Bertie L Freddie S Daniella H	Isla Y Meghan J Heidi B Aoife B Ben C	Katie R-B Ida H Ed S Emily W Aria H

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 overall 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	8,151	1	Evie N	1	Bella B	1	Meike O	1	Etta L
Coquet	8,422	2	Isla C	2	Charlie A	2	Isabelle C	2	Betty F
Tweed	8,003	3	Jackson T	3	Sophia M	3	Micheal C	3	Lacey H
Wansbeck	7,957	4	Harris A	4	Bertie L	4	Lauren D	4	Matty M

Science – creative homework projects



Year 6 and Year 7 have excelled with their creative homework projects in science this week. Year 7 worked produced fantastic representations of the particle model. Year 6 impressed with their models of the Solar System!



Music News

Rugs Required!

Do you have any large rugs which are no longer required? If so, the Music department will happily take them off your hands for use in the new HMS Music classroom. Please get in touch with school if you would like to donate anything and we will be most grateful.

Music Merchandise

If you're involved in Music activities in school or simply want to show support for the Music department, why not take a look at some of our bespoke HMS/QEHS Music merchandise! There are t-shirts and hoodies which can be worn at rehearsals, some concerts, at home and out and about! Check out the items at: <https://www.border->

embroideries.co.uk/schools/gehs-music.html. There are different options including names and initials to personalise your garment. You can order directly from the manufacturer at the above link.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **95%** which is a significant dip on last week. 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 99.5%	2nd form class 99%	3rd form class 98.5%
6-FHA	8-ETA	5-JNI, 5-EKI, 5-YTA

Maths update

🎸 This Week's TT Rockstars! 🎸

Congratulations to all pupils who completed the first Garage session on Times Tables Rock Stars. This week's focus was 'Beat the Clock,' and we are delighted to celebrate the pupils listed below as the winners in their maths classes.

Ollie O - Mia B - Tiggy H - Harrison A - Abigail B - Eloise H - Bobby H
Finn M - Rory M - Ted P - Callum T - Emily M - Spike N

Best of luck to everyone in this week's 'Gig' where the focus will be on accuracy.

Sports News

Y7 & Y8 games vs Mowden Hall

Year 8 ran out comfortable winners on Wednesday, scoring many tries and conceding few! They played the game in the right spirits to kick off their 2025-26 season! Year 7 managed a draw in what turned out to be a fascinating game. Both teams were fielding slightly inexperienced players, but learned as the game progressed. HMS went into an early lead through tries from Theo & Thomas before MH hit back to lead 4-2 late on. As the HMS lads grew into the game, they made more tackles and more confident ball carries, and were rewarded for their efforts with 2 late tries to secure the draw. Mr Cameron was incredibly proud of the boys, especially those trying rugby for the first time. They didn't shy away from the battle, and all enjoyed the occasion!



Y8 County Cup 1st Round

For the second day in a row, the Y8 boys took to the pitch again. This time they travelled to Bede Academy to compete against multiple school in the first round of the county cup. HMS played 6 games and ended the afternoon undefeated, winning 5 of their games, and drawing the other. Other teams were not able to cope with Hexham's relentless energy in defence and dynamic fluency in attack, scoring some wonderfully crafted tries. Every single player put in 100% throughout and should be very proud of their performance. However, the standout player of the competition goes to Walt McGill who never stopped tackling or running hard with the ball, and really led from the front. Special mention to Theo in Year 7 as well who stepped up an age group but never looked out of place. Well done to all!

Roller Derby Success

Luke S along with his brother Cory and sister Rowan (from QEHS) recently took part in the bronze medal play off at Five Nations Roller Derby in Stoke on Trent with their team Newcastle Junior Roller Derby. This was a full weekend of skating and finals games for the adult and junior teams across the UK and Ireland. Their team didn't win this time but had an excellent game and gave it their absolute all! NJRD always welcomes new members – whether they can skate or not – and have free sessions and kit hire for new starters. Roller derby is a mixed gender, full contact sport for ages 8-18. You can check them out on their Facebook page – Newcastle Junior Roller Derby UK!



Clubs News

STEM workshop (sign up required)

There are a few spaces left for this 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 SustainabiliTEA 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

Gardening Club Update

If you would like to donate any gardening items to our club, we would graciously receive them. This may include:

- Plants (including packs of bulbs)
- Compost for potting and growing seeds
- Seed packets, trays and or propagators
- Canes/stakes
- Gardening equipment (brushes, trowels, spades, forks, rakes)
- Old wellington boots/waterproof clothing

- Large pots (for a new pot garden area)

Our pupils are looking forward to creating a gardening blog to keep people up to date with what we get up to. Irrespective of the weather - rain, hail, snow or shine - we will endeavour to be outdoors.

Personal Development

HSBC First Step Virtual Workshop

There is an opportunity to join the HSBC live online career challenge, gain free virtual work experience and certification. Your fundraising ideas could make a real-life difference to your chosen charity. This FIRST STEP event is held on Wednesday 1st October at 4.30pm (**virtual session hosted on MS Teams**) and suitable for student year groups 7-9.

“Pitch for a Purpose: Plan the Ultimate Charity Event with HSBC”

- A 45-minute briefing with the HSBC team
- Complete the career challenge at their own pace
- Certification awarded on completion
- [Register now!](#) (students)

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Roblox Update

As the most popular game on the planet with children, Roblox gets a lot of coverage and understandably so. It's an amazing platform to explore but it isn't without its faults, some of which are very significant. In April 2025, Revealing Reality carried out an investigation into Roblox due to serious concerns of what children were experiencing within the game (link [HERE](#)). In September they carried out a follow-up investigation to see what, if anything had changed.

In short, quite a lot has changed, such as:

- Adjustments to content maturity ratings.
- ID verification for certain games and experiences.
- Stricter moderation
- Enhanced parental controls.

These are good but, according to Revealing Reality, they don't go far enough. There are still workarounds and very significant concerns. It's worth having a read of the full report which you can find [HERE](#). (from Alan McKenzie, Online Safety specialist)

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 29 September	Meet the Tutor Evening, 7PHA	7PHA (book now via MCAS)
Monday 29 September	U13 (Y7/8) Girls' football game vs SJMS @ HMS - 3.30pm kick off	Y7/8 Team
Tuesday 30 September and Wednesday 1 October	Queen's Hall Drama Launch Visits	Year 7
Wednesday 1 October	Virtual Work Experience with HSBC – 4.30pm	Year 7 and Year 8
Thursday 2 October	HMS Open Evening, 6-8pm	All welcome
Friday 3 October	Y7 girls' rugby - Kingston Park 10.00 - 14.00	Y7 Team
Friday 3 October	PSHE: Healthy Masculinity Workshops	Year 8
Friday 3 and Monday 6 October	HMS Open Days (tours bookable)	Prospective parents/carers
Monday 6 October	U11 (Y6) football CVL (Central Venue League) round 1 @ Highfield MS. 4.00 - 5.30pm	Y6 Team
Monday 6 October	U13 (Y8) boys' CVL round 1 @ HMS. 3.30pm kick off	Y8 Team
Tuesday 7 October	London Trip Info Evening	Year 7/8 (participating students)
Wednesday 8 October	Mary Poppins (Sunderland Empire)	Year 6 (group)
Thursday 9 October	Be You workshop: Friendship and Positive Relationships	Year 5
Friday 10 October	Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds (non-uniform)	All year groups
Friday 10 October	Themed Lunch: National Day of Spain	All year groups
Thursday 23 October	PTA Discos	All year groups

Have a great weekend everyone!

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).