

### HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 1

#### Start of term

It has been a joy to welcome our pupils back to school this week and what a great week we've had! We are all very proud of our new Year 5 pupils who have settled into school life brilliantly. It's a huge step moving to middle school and they have shown such positivity, enthusiasm and confidence in their transition to a new school. It was lovely to see the year group enjoying their Team Building Day as part of their settling in support.

Pupils in all year groups have returned to school with a positive, focused attitude and ready to engage in everything on offer to them. Thank you for your support in ensuring the start of term has been a positive one. As always, we're all here to help with any start of term issues/questions/concerns so please get in touch with us if you need to.

#### 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                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Jack P<br>Noa P<br>Samuel W<br>Olivia W | Oran H<br>Bobby H<br>William R<br>William F<br>Will S | Logan P<br>India S<br>Robin M<br>Robert G<br>Edward H<br>Riley B | Emily D<br>Lily A<br>Callie T<br>Daniel B-M<br>Joanna R |

#### Welcome to HMS

Ms Karn and Mrs Ingledew - our new Assistant Headteachers - have had a fantastic first week at HMS. Both of them have been so impressed with the positive way in which our pupils have returned to school and appreciate the very warm welcome they have received. Ms Karn is our new Designated Safeguarding Leader, and is responsible for leading on safeguarding, inclusion, behaviour and attendance. Mrs Ingledew is responsible for leading learning and achievement. There'll be opportunities to meet both of them at upcoming school events.



#### Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

### **Hello from Mrs Ingledew**

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Assistant Headteacher (Pupil Learning and Achievement) here at Hexham Middle School. For the past nine years, I have been proud to work at Gosforth Junior High Academy, where I most recently served as Assistant Principal and then Vice Principal. During that time, I had the privilege of working closely with pupils, parents, and staff to help create a learning environment in which every child could flourish both academically and personally.

Joining Hexham Middle School is an exciting new chapter for me. I am passionate about ensuring that all pupils are challenged, supported, and inspired to achieve their very best. I have already been struck by the warm welcome from staff and the clear pride pupils take in their school. I can't wait to be part of the Hexham Middle School journey and to celebrate the successes of our young people in the year ahead.

### **Hello from Ms Karn**

I am proud to be joining Hexham Middle School as Assistant Headteacher (Standards, Support and Inclusion). I have spent the past ten years at Whitley Bay High School, where I built up extensive pastoral leadership experience, particularly in safeguarding, behaviour and attendance. Over that time, I worked with several full year groups of more than 370 pupils, supporting them right through their school journeys and working closely with families to overcome challenges along the way. These experiences mean there are very few safeguarding situations I haven't faced, and they have strengthened my absolute commitment to keeping children safe and ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to succeed.

Alongside this, I am highly experienced in SEND and a passionate science teacher. I have also worked closely with middle schools on transition into high school and know how important the years from Year 5 to Year 8 are. This stage is about so much more than the classroom — it is a time to nurture, build resilience and develop the character and confidence young people need to be ready not just for high school, but for life beyond it.

What immediately stood out to me about Hexham Middle School is the dedication of the staff and the sense of pride pupils take in being part of the school. I feel fortunate to be joining such a committed community, and I look forward to working in partnership with families to make sure every child feels safe, supported and inspired during their time here.

### **Attendance – top 3!**

Our overall school attendance has risen last year to 95% - we are delighted with this positive improvement. Attendance this week was **98%** - what an excellent start! Our school target for this year 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><br><b>100%</b>        | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class</b><br><b>99.5%</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class</b><br><b>99%</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8-SFO, 8-BLA, 7-PHA, 7-PGA, 6-FHA, 5-EKI, 5-ZSC</b> | <b>8-IBO</b>                                     | <b>8-AMG, 6-JJO</b>                            |

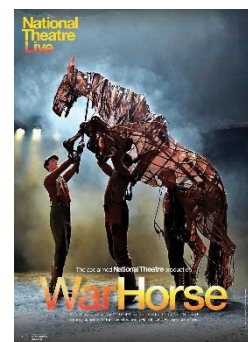
### **War Horse Theatre Visit - Year 7**

Year 7 will be visiting Theatre Royal Newcastle in a couple of weeks to see a performance of War Horse. We still have some tickets remaining. If any Year 7 pupil has not yet signed up, please purchase

a ticket via MCAS by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. After this date, we'll open up remaining tickets to pupils in Years 6 and 8.

### 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          | 764 | 1                             | Leo B    | 1      | Archie H | 1      | Isabelle C | 1      | James H  |
| Coquet       | 758 | 2                             | Uma W    | 2      | Kaylin F | 2      | Meike O    | 2      | Rosie O  |
| Tweed        | 764 | 3                             | Jacob L  | 3      | Ava B    | 3      | Lauren Do  | 3      | Joseph D |
| Wansbeck     | 851 | 4                             | George F | 4      | Sophie K | 4      | Jessica Do | 4      | James T  |



### New Green Roof

Over the summer break, we have installed a new green roof consisting of sedum plants on our bike shelter space. The new green roof supports our commitment to becoming more eco-aware and formed one part of the great evidence in becoming a climate-friendly school recognised at the end of the summer term. The funding for the green roof has come from the Department for Education Nature Park Grant. We look forward to benefitting from this new green roof - not only as an educational resource but also as an amenity and ecological resource on the school site too!

### Personal Development News

#### PSHE/RSHE Updates

We have made some changes to our PSHE curriculum which includes Relationships, Health and Sex Education. This year, new resources will be used from Pol-Ed - a resource created by West Yorkshire Police, which Northumbria Police has aligned with. The three core areas covered are relationships, staying safe and understanding the law. We will also embed new wellbeing units. Other resources aligned with the PSHE Association will cover areas of health, careers and financial education. There is a section for parents/carers on the Pol-Ed website to review.

If parents would like to discuss any element of the PSHE curriculum, please get in touch with Mr Freeman-Myers. Our PSHE and RSHE policies are also located on the school website. During the autumn term, our first unit for all year groups will focus on relationships which is statutory element of the curriculum.

### Clubs News

#### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is now open for bookings via MCAS. You can find the club under the 'Wraparound Care' section. Breakfast Club runs daily from **7.30-8.30am** and is staffed by our Learning Support Team. Pupils should meet at the HMS Dining Hall. Club costs £3 per session and can be paid via MCAS. If anyone would like to discuss payment options or further support, please contact Mr Watters.

#### Exciting news – Extra-curricular Clubs

We will be launching our new clubs lists on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Lunchtime clubs will start from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September. All after-school clubs will require a sign up on the MCAS app (guidance to follow). Some clubs will have limited spaces. If your child is offered a place, this will appear on your MCAS app.

We are keen to maximise engagement and if clubs are oversubscribed, we may offer a rotation system for those clubs that operate throughout the academic year. Some clubs will be seasonal/termly. Please note that some clubs will require payment - this will be advertised on the club list.

### Sports News

#### Swimming Lessons for Year 5

Swimming lessons have been arranged for all Year 5 classes throughout the 2025–26 academic year. Each form class will attend a block of five weekly sessions on Thursday afternoons. Please see the schedule below to find out when your child's class will be attending:

5ZSC 18 September - 16 October 2025  
5YTA 22 October - 27 November 2025  
5JNI 4 December 2025 - 12 February 2026  
5EKI 26 February - 7 May 2026  
5MDO 14 May - 25 June 2026

Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit on the appropriate dates. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office.

#### 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).

### News from the Community

#### Air Cadet Open Evening

The air cadets are having an open evening on Wednesday 17th September. The evening will show some of the exciting opportunities & activities available through the air cadets such as flying, gliding, adventure training and more. Anyone from Y8 and up can join until the age of 18. The open evening will run from 19.00h, for a 19.15h start, until 21.30h at 224 Squadron ATC, TA Centre, Hencotes, Hexham. NE46 2ER.

### 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             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Monday 8 September</b>                              | Bookings open for Meet the Tutor Evening on MCAS                  | All year groups |
| <b>Monday 8 September/Tuesday 9 September</b>          | Zones of Regulation Workshops                                     | Year 5          |
| <b>Wednesday 10 September</b>                          | Individual School Photographs                                     | All year groups |
| <b>Friday 12 September</b>                             | HMS Council Elections                                             | All year groups |
| <b>Friday 12 September</b>                             | Club list launch!                                                 | All year groups |
| <b>Monday 15 September</b>                             | Welcome to Year 5 Evening – 5.30pm - <a href="#">sign up here</a> | Year 5          |
| <b>Monday 15 September</b>                             | Welcome to Year 6 Evening – 6.30pm – <a href="#">sign up here</a> | Year 6          |
| <b>Tuesday 16 September</b>                            | SEND Welcome Evening                                              | All year groups |
| <b>Tuesday 16 September</b>                            | Discovery Museum – WWII day                                       | Year 6          |
| <b>Tuesday 16 September and Wednesday 17 September</b> | Queen's Hall Drama visit                                          | Year 7          |
| <b>Tuesday 16 September</b>                            | SEND Welcome evening – 5pm                                        | All year groups |

|                               |                                                             |                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Wednesday 17 September</b> | Head Pupil Selection Day                                    | Year 8          |
| <b>Thursday 18 September</b>  | War Horse – Theatre Royal                                   | Year 7          |
| <b>Friday 19 September</b>    | Macmillan Coffee Morning – info to follow                   | All year groups |
| <b>Friday 19 September</b>    | Rail Safety Workshops                                       | All year groups |
| <b>Monday 22 September</b>    | House Hustings                                              | All year groups |
| <b>Monday 22 September</b>    | Meet the Tutor Evening, 3.45-6.45pm                         | All year groups |
| <b>Friday 26 September</b>    | European Day of Languages (includes a Bake Off Competition) | All year groups |

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).