

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 7

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
Ryan M	Zach N	Tom G	Rex H
Seth D-S	Dylan F	Charlotte B	Finley H
Libby D	Evelyn C	Ayla B-D	Betti A
James A	Esme H	Thea H	Xav H-L
Henry G	Emilia T	Meike O	Sinjin R

Gaia Visit



A group of Year 7 pupils were lucky enough to visit Gaia by Luke Jerram at Hexham Abbey this afternoon. The group enjoyed engaging with the Durham University Day and 'The Average Scientist' workshop. It was fantastic to see our pupils visiting this very special exhibition and we felt very fortunate to be part of it. It was an inspiring afternoon and gave pupils lots to think about and discuss. A group of KS2 pupils will spend the afternoon at Gaia on Monday afternoon. If you haven't visited yet, we would highly recommend it!



HMS Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark

Hexham Middle School is proud to announce that it is one of 310 schools that has been awarded the **Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)** this month, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a commitment to developing excellence in science leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning.

Led by the University of Hertfordshire, for over a decade the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) has been setting children on a path to a life filled with exciting possibilities and opportunities, by giving them access to a strong foundation in quality primary science education. Over 5,800 Quality Marks have now been awarded, impacting on the learning of over 1,000,000 children. PSQM is a comprehensive, year-long professional development programme that equips primary science subject leaders with the knowledge, capability and support needed to raise the quality and profile of science across the whole school. At the heart of the programme is a structured development cycle that



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**

embeds critical reflection and promotes a culture of continuous improvement. Special thanks to Mrs Gregory for her dedicated leadership.

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	16,053	1	Demi R	1	Tommy D	1	Meike O	1	Arthur O
Coquet	16,383	2	Eloise H	2	Emily M	2	Jessica De	2	Etta L
Tweed	16,041	3	Alethea C	3	Julia F	3	Lauren Do	3	Rosie O
Wansbeck	15,978	4	Erin B	4	Amelia-Rose S	4	Jessica Do	4	Sofia O

Skills Builder Challenge Days

We are excited for our whole school Skills Builder Days next week. Our theme this time is **Future Transport**. As a school, we have chosen this theme as it links with aspects of climate change with transportation being one of the largest contributors to increased carbon footprints. Last year, we were recognised by [Climate Friendly Schools](#) for our efforts with different aspects of school climate action planning. On Wednesday 22nd October, pupils have the opportunity to make a prototype of a future transport system. To do this, it would be useful if pupils were able to bring any of the following to items into school:

- Cereal boxes/thin card-board
- Bottle tops
- Clear plastic packaging

We look forward to sharing examples of different group's designs and prototypes on our website. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **97%** - this is fantastic! We really value that our 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 continue to support us by encouraging your child into school every day. What a great start to the year – THANK YOU all!

1st form class	2nd form class	3rd form class
100%	99.5%	99.0%
6-RAL, 5-ZSC	6-FHA, 5-EKI	8-BLA, 5-MDO

Maths Update

🎸 This Week's TT Rockstars! 🎸

This week's Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) challenge celebrated pupils with the highest completion rates. We're thrilled to announce our winners—congratulations to everyone who participated and gave it their best effort!

Ollie O - Matteo K - Hugo E - Eden O - Frank H - Jac S - Sophia B - Mason D - Millie C - Alice R - Kaylin F - Leo M - Vinnie D

Looking ahead, next week's challenge will focus on accuracy, encouraging pupils to practise their multiplication facts with both speed and precision. We wish all our learners the very best—keep up the fantastic work!

Library News

Reminder - Author visit - book order for Year 7 Hexham Book Festival are kindly bringing author Ashley Thorpe to present his latest book 'Spirit Warriors' to Year 7 on Wednesday 12th November. This is a reminder that Hexham Book Festival are organising the book orders and the closing date is Thursday 23rd October. Books are available at the discounted price of £6.50.

Purchase link: <https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/product/spiritwarriors>

Please include your child's school and their name in the order. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah from Hexham Book Festival: sarah@hexhambookfestival.co.uk.



Sports News

U13 Girls' Football

In a busy week of football, the U13 girls travelled to Whitley Bay on Tuesday to play Valley Gardens in the first round of the county cup. Despite a strong effort from the HMS girls, unfortunately they lost 3-1 with the goal coming from Kirstie A. Elsie L was named player of the match by the opposition team, and Betti A also worked tirelessly throughout in midfield.



On Thursday, the team travelled to Corbridge to play a league fixture. This was a closely contested game ending in a 1-1 draw. The game could have gone either way, but player of the match and goalkeeper Esther C made some outstanding saves and demonstrated excellent bravery to keep out the Corbridge attack. Elsie L scored an excellent breakaway goal in the first half to give HMS a 1-0 lead. The girls played extremely well in this game and were unlucky not to get the win.

Y6 Football

The U11 boys took on their first competitive fixtures at HMS in the County Central Venue League at Highfield. They played 6 games in total, and after a slow start in game 1 against Ovingham (losing 1-0) the boys soon got into their rhythm, playing some excellent football and winning the next 3 against eventual winners Darras Hall (3-1), Highfield (1-0) and Whytrig (4-0). They then suffered a narrow defeat to Corbridge (1-0) before being held to a 1-1 draw by Ponteland.



HMS were able to show a fine balance of attacking threat and solid defensive work, including some outstanding saves from goalkeeper, Tommy. Goals were well shared out as Rowan, Ethan, Louie, Mason and Alfie all getting on the scoresheet. Mr Cameron was impressed with the level of football played, but also the attitude and team spirit on show. The future is bright with this group!

Run 4 Fun

The PE department want to celebrate the fantastic work ethic to all those who took part in PE over the last 2 weeks and completed their Run 4 Fun. Running is a simple, accessible way to keep fit and healthy and we are really pleased with all pupils who managed to push and challenge themselves to run/walk a good distance in the quickest time. There were some incredibly impressive times achieved, and many pupils were able to improve on their times and distances over the 2 weeks. Well done to all!

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Roblox Age Estimation

As the most popular game in the world, Roblox has come under a lot of criticism recently, particularly in regards to predatory activity on the platform. Whilst Roblox has always had fairly good parental controls in place, ages of users has always been a concern, particularly adults pretending to be younger children. Recently, Roblox have announced that they are expanding facial age estimation and ID age verification to all users who access the communication features within Roblox, as well as new systems designed to limit communication between adults and children unless they know each other in the real world. There is lots of information for parents [HERE](#).

News from the Community

Win Free Family Tickets for a Year at Queen's Hall!

Book your tickets to see Red Riding Hood at Queen's Hall before Friday 31 October and you'll automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win a Family Pass for **all family shows at Queen's Hall in 2026**! If you've bought your tickets before the deadline, you're already in the draw. Don't miss this magical festive show and your chance to enjoy a whole year of family theatre fun! 🖱️ Book online here <https://www.queenshall.co.uk/whats-on/red-riding-hood> T&Cs can be found [here](#).

Fundraising

Knitting Challenge

Ruby (Y7) is doing a sponsored knitting challenge in November to raise money for Dementia UK. She has to knit every day throughout November and she can't wait to get started. If you'd like to sponsor Ruby to raise funds for this great charity, you can follow the link below: [Ruby's fundraising page](#). Good luck, Ruby! Happy knitting!



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 13 October	U13 (Y8) boys' County Cup 1st round vs Kings Priory @ HMS	Y8 team
Monday 20 October	Gaia – Hexham Abbey Visit	KS2 (group)
Tuesday 21 October/Wednesday 22 October	Skills Builder Challenge Days	All year groups
Wednesday 22 October	NFL Flag Football Championships	Team
Thursday 23 October	PTA Discos	All year groups
Thursday 23 October	School closes for half-term	All year groups

Thursday 23 October	House Prize – non-uniform day – winner TBA!	Winning House
Thursday 23 October	Head of School Award Breakfast	All year groups
Friday 24 October	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)	All year groups
Monday 3 November	School re-opens at 08.40am	All year groups
Sunday 2 to Thursday 6 November	London Trip	KS3 group
Tuesday 4 November	Flu Immunisations	All year groups
Wednesday 5 November	Themed Lunch Day – menu to follow!	All year groups
Thursday 6 and Monday 10 November	Year 6 Parents' Evenings – 3.45-6.45pm (bookings open next week)	Year 6
Monday 10 November	Great North Museum Visit	Year 5
Please note that school will close at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break. We'll soon be sharing our festive dates – watch this space!		

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).