

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 5

It was a joy to welcome so many prospective pupils and parents to our Open Evening last night. The HMS team planned a packed programme of engaging activities, and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the evening. I was so proud of the HMS pupils who came back on the night to support their teachers across the subject activities. I had so many very positive comments from visitors about how outstanding our pupils were – well done everyone and thank you! There was a real buzz in the school and the ‘HMS Way’ shone through!

Head of School Awards

The first Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for showing ‘courage’. Pupils were invited to join Mr Watters for breakfast – bacon sandwiches, pastries, hot chocolate and juice – and were presented with a certificate and P5 award! Congratulations everyone – well done for showing our skills and values every day!



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Finley J Lilly W Artie J Heidi W Zoe L	Leo M Amelia F Daniella H Harry A Harry M Laurie H	Meghan J Sam S Frejya R Robert G Luke S	Oswald B Wilfy D Ed S Ida H Ianto T

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
Mia B Isla C Leo B Olive E Millie B	Margot D Jackson K Elliott W Brianna H Agnes F	Sam G Francesca F Alfie B Iona R James D	Lacey M-M Will D Gwen C-W Thomas M Lacey H

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Queen's Hall Backstage Tour



We would like to thank Queen's Hall, Hexham for allowing our Year 7 pupils to visit the theatre for a tour and a chance to meet with different people that work there. To support Year 7 pupils with the start of their drama studies, we wanted to generate a real buzz about the creative arts industry.



A special thanks to Amanda Gould at Queen's Hall for coordinating our visit, and the great staff that led the visits. Groups have had the chance to explore the theatre and get a sneak preview of "A Squash and a Squeeze." Some pupils got the chance to go on stage; others visited the lighting and sound technical balcony. Pupils got the chance to talk to production staff setting out the stage, set and props.

Arts Award Success



Congratulations to our Arts Award group who have all successfully achieved Arts Award Bronze. This involved a significant commitment from the pupils who all submitted a portfolio of art work to be assessed. I was very impressed to see the very positive attitude, engagement and dedication from all of the pupils involved. Huge thanks to Miss Taylor for leading this opportunity once again!

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	10,809	1	Georgina G	1	Sophie W	1	Meike O	1	Etta L
Coquet	11,054	2	Colette M	2	Jackson L	2	Lauren D	2	Theo T
Tweed	10,660	3	Zoe L	3	Harry M	3	Adina C	3	Rosie O
Wansbeck	10,669	4	Eve D	4	Marcus M	4	Jessica Do	4	Oswald B

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **96%**. 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%	2nd form class 98.5%	3rd form class 98.0%
5-EKI	7-SMC, 5-JNI	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 'Accuracy,' and we are delighted to celebrate the pupils listed below as the winners in their maths classes. Evie B - Ethan P - Millie B - Leo B - Fern D - Reggie H - Archie H - Sebastian M - Lucy G - Elke H - Leo H - Imogen P - Spike N. Next week's focus will be average speed, encouraging quick and confident recall of multiplication facts. Good luck everyone!

Music News

Northumbrian Pipes

Our Northumbrian Pipes taster sessions are underway with teachers Andrew and Nicola Davison. Pupils from different year groups are having the chance to hear the pipes, try them themselves and find out about our Northumbrian Pipes club. What better way to find out about this fantastic instrument from our region!



Sports News

Football News

On Monday, the Year 8 girls' football team had their first home match of the season against the Year 8 girls from St Joseph's Middle School. The game began well with HMS girls immediately going on the attack, which was rewarded by an early goal in the twelfth minute by Elsie L. After that, St Joe's made a remarkable comeback, scoring in the sixteenth and 22nd minute, putting the HMS girls 2-1 down. But, the HMS girls displayed some incredible resilience and kept their heads up in the game. After an outstanding corner in the 32nd minute, Katie G volleyed the ball into the goal, giving the HMS girls a well-deserved 2-2 draw overall. Mr Nichol was thrilled with the positivity, engagement and resilience shown throughout this tough game. Well done to all involved!



Swimming

A group of HMS pupils attended the English Schools' Swimming North East Secondary Team Championships at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on Thursday. The Year 7 and 8 boys and girls teams took part in the 4x50m freestyle relay and 4x50m medley

relay. Fantastic effort from both teams. The girls had two great swims, working hard right into the wall, finishing in 4th place in the freestyle heat and 3rd place in the medley relay heats against some very strong competition. The boys team finished with a brilliant time and were proud to finish in 3rd place overall in both the freestyle and medley relays. The entire squad were an absolute credit to HMS; their conduct, engagement and attitude were outstanding. They were an absolute pleasure to take to the event to represent Hexham Middle School. Well done to all swimmers involved.

Languages News

KS3 Overseas Residentials – France and Spain 2026

We have had an excellent response for our trips to France and Spain. The deadline for expressions of interest is today. Please click the [link](#) if your child would like to go on either trip. Places will be allocated, and letters will be sent out next week.

Language Leaders 25-26

Our Year 8 Language Leaders have now been appointed. They will be supporting KS2 language lessons and promoting a love of language learning across the school. Pupils have already supported the European Day of Languages Bake Off and Open Evening.



European Day of Languages Bake Off 2025 Results!

The quality of entries made judging the competition very difficult, but here are the winners in each year group.

	Winner	Runner up	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place
Year 5	Harris A	Olivia W Eliza B Monty W	Evie B Hugo E Lydia S	Evie N Eden O & Eloise H Thévenin R	Oliver M Nico E Bella M Noa P
Year 6	Bella B	Oscar C	Martha P & Maggie M	Harry M Leo H	
Year 7	Isis TH	Jessica Do, Lauren Do & Meike O	Sofia P Martha G	Kate H Frejya R	Katie C & Adina C
Year 8	Oswald B	Katie R Ella R	Lauchlan H		



News from the Community

Private Bus

A group of parents from Stocksfield are trying to organise a private bus service for students to travel to Corbridge Middle School, Hexham Middle School and QEHS. If you are interested in supporting this arrangement, please contact Suzi Kemp on 07539204869.

Support for safe cycling

We've received reports of some pupils possibly from HMS, QEHS, and possibly other schools engaging in unsafe cycling behaviour around the McDonald's car park. This includes riding between vehicles and performing stunts. Similar concerns

have also been raised about cycling near the Hexham Bus Station. We kindly ask for your support in reminding children about the importance of safe and respectful behaviour in public spaces, both for their own safety and that of others.

Online Safety Update

For Parents – A Guide to navigating social media Safely

This is a fantastic guide from the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), it goes into lots of detail and I'm sure parents will find it interesting and useful. The guide goes into areas such as:

- How social media platforms and algorithms operate.
- The various types of harms that children may experience.
- Practical advice and guidance.
- Supporting resources.

You can download the guide [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
All week	Young Green Briton Challenge – Explore Phase	Year 7
Monday 6 October	HMS Open Day	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	NFL Flag Football – Round 4	NFL Team
Tuesday 7 October	London Trip Info Evening, 5.30pm, Fellside Hall	Year 7/8 (participating students)
Wednesday 8 October	Mary Poppins at 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 day – donations can be made via MCAS)	All year groups

Thursday 23 October	PTA Discos	All year groups
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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).