



HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 6

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
Zach C Uma W Lucia F Eden O	Jesse C Erin M Amber S Imogen P Ava N	Finlay F Isis T-H Iona R Martha P Penelope W Jess D	Theo T Robin W Isla N Florence B Zahra W

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	13,721	1	Daniel F	1	Erin M	1	Jessica Do	1	Anna F
Coquet	14,071	2	Bertie B	2	Marnie D	2	Lauren Do	2	Ben S
Tweed	13,664	3	Rebecca N	3	Millie W	3	Meike O	3	Betti A
Wansbeck	13,670	4	Demi R	4	Esme H	4	Leela H	4	Katie R-B

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **96%**. 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.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

1st form class 99%	2nd form class 98.5%	3rd form class 98.0%
7-PGA	5-ZSC	8-ETA, 5-MDO, 5-EKI

News from the Community

Sele Park

I have been contacted by two members of the public in recent weeks about behaviour at the Sele Park. The reports concerned some observations of unkind behaviour towards other children and, more recently, pupils lighting small fires and digging the ground. It is always disappointing to receive these reports. As a school, we will continue to issue regular reminders about our positive expectations for behaviour and conduct in the local community. We will also continue to deliver our 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum' to educate our pupils on how to stay safe when out and about. Please support this by speaking to your child at home, and asking them to report concerns immediately, particularly if your child spends time at Sele Park during the evenings and weekends. I will also be alerting the Neighbourhood Policing Team so that they can monitor the area more closely. We are very lucky to have such a great space in the town so it's important we work together to keep it a safe, tidy and welcoming space.



Pupil Fundraiser

Our Year 8 pupil, Jacob A and one of his rugby friends are doing a 24hour bikeathon fundraiser starting on the 30th October starting at Tynedale at 20:30 and completing it at 20:30 on the 31st of October at Kingston Park during the Redbulls and Tigers match. For donations, please scan the below QR-code.



Mary Poppins

A group of very lucky Year 6 pupils spent the afternoon at Sunderland Empire yesterday to see a joyous performance of Mary Poppins. The children loved the show and totally were captivated by the magic! Look out for a full review in an upcoming 'Weekly Update'. Amelia in Y6 wrote a brilliant [5* review!](#)



Club News

SustainabiliTEA STEM club

All pupils who signed up to the SustainabiliTEA STEM club are reminded that the first session in this Monday the 13th of October. The session runs from 15.30 to 17.00. Parents who have elected to collect their child, please do so from the front of school at 17.00.

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 Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) challenge focused on achieving the highest average speed and we are delighted to celebrate the pupils listed below as the winners in their maths classes.

Bertie B - Emrys S - Alfie M - Max N - Lydia S - Eve D - Amelia-Rose S - Harry M - Ruby P - Oscar N - Heidi B - Will S - Ella W

Next week's challenge will centre on percentage completed, encouraging consistent practice of multiplication facts. Best of luck to everyone!

HMS Council Update

Thank you to Councillors Kennedy, Fairless-Aitken and Cessford who very kindly joined our HMS Council last week. The children spoke to the local councillors about their role within the community and asked them some important questions. Mayor Kennedy also presented each new member with their badge for the year ahead. Thank you for giving up your time to visit HMS.



Music Update

Samling Singing Schools Project

Our Samling Singing Schools project is now underway with over 50 students taking part. The students will be receiving tuition from Samling artist and tutor Miranda Wright and in the first session learned some breathing and posture techniques as well as how to add some energy into their singing. [You can watch a video here.](#)

Library News

HMS Library Champions 2025-26: Applications Now Open

Are you interested in books and reading? Are you keen to learn new skills? Would you like to volunteer in HMS Library at lunchtimes? Then becoming a Library Champion might be the role for you. For further information and a brief application form, please see Ms Hayler at the library desk. The deadline for returning applications to Ms Hayler is Monday 20th October. Please note that there are likely to be more applications than spaces available. There may also need to be a 'Winter' wave and a 'Summer' wave of Champions to create as many opportunities as possible. Thank you.



Author visit - book order for Year 7

Hexham Book Festival are kindly bringing author Ashley Thorpe to present to Year 7 on Wednesday 12th November. The visit is at no cost to pupils; however, if you would like to order a book for your child, please see the message below from Sarah at the Book Festival. Please note that the orders are placed directly with the Book Festival rather than HMS.

Order Spirit Warriors!

We are thrilled to be bringing Ashley Thorpe to visit your school in November. After launching his incredible debut novel in 2024, Ashley is diving into a whole new world with



his latest book. Spirit Warriors is packed with ancient magic and all-new heroes in a battle between the living and the dead. It's an epic story of chaos, myth and adventure for fans of Percy Jackson, from the author of The Boy to Beat the Gods.

Books are available to order at the discounted price of £6.50. Orders can be placed via our website using the link below and will be brought to the event and given out to students on the day. Purchase

link: <https://www.hexhambookfestival.co.uk/product/spiritwarriors>. Please include your child's school and their name in the order so we can get them to the right people. Orders are open until Friday 24th October. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah from Hexham Book Festival: sarah@hexhambookfestival.co.uk.

Sports News

Football News

Hexham Middle School's Under 11 girls' team played in the Regional County Qualifying Tournament at Highfield Middle School. The girls were placed in a league of four teams. In their first game against Ponteland, the Hexham girls were held to a 0-0 draw despite some brilliant marking on the pitch from Lucy G. Against Whytrig Middle School, the team played fantastically and were rewarded with a 1-0 win after Dylan F scored with a run through the box. Defensive plays from Alice E and Isabella N were brilliant too. In their final game, the girls played against Ovingham, where Dylan scored with a drive from the halfway line and again with a brilliant pass in the box from Martha P. This meant HMS topped their group with 7/9 available points.



Next, was the semi-final against Corbridge, where despite a tough start, and with some excellent defensive work from Maddie M, tireless midfielding from Thea G and Ava G and brilliant forward positioning from Millie C, Hexham girls won 2-0. All of this wouldn't have been possible without several brilliant saves from goalkeeper Alex G on her debut as HMS under 11's goalkeeper. Finally, after making it to the finals, HMS came up against their opponent from the first game, Ponteland. Both sides were evenly matched, and it even went through to extra time, but the HMS girls fought on to the end, and were rewarded with a last second goal, courtesy of Dylan F. The girls will go on to qualify for the county finals in the next half term and Mr Nichol was thrilled with their efforts, teamwork and performance on the night.



Cross Country Cup

HMS took part in the ESAA Schools Cross Country Cup this week. We fielded strong teams in both the junior boys' and junior girls' competitions. In this competition, it is important to get runners who pack well, as it is the team total that decides the winners.



The junior girls ran first. This team consisted of Y7 girls and all runners ran superbly with the team finishing an excellent second place with a team total of 57: Isabel C 11th, Kirstie A 13th, Jessica C 16th and Martha P 17th. Aurelia K and Hazel L

both ran well to back up our four counters. The boys also raced superbly, matching the girls' second place: Monty C 7th, Arthur C 11th, Bertie T 15th and Ivor T 17th. Dylan W and Dillon D put in strong runs to also help the team.

Both teams have qualified to run in the Regional round at Middlesbrough. They both stand an excellent chance of qualifying for the National finals. Next up for the XC runners will be the Tynedale Championships at Ovingham. We look forward to more impressive performances at this event. A special thank you to all the parental support that made this event happen. The PE team always appreciates your support and enthusiasm!

NFL Flag Update



HMS came into this week with the best defensive record in the league—and proved why once again! Game 1 was a narrow loss in a hard-fought battle. Game 2 Big defensive plays led to multiple interceptions and touchdowns, and some exceptional offence plays, ending in a 34-0 win! Proud of the team's resilience, teamwork, and leadership. Let's keep it going.

Trip Updates

Ski Trip Parents and Pupils Information Evening

Mrs Barnett and Mr Gaines have organised a Parent and Pupil Information Evening for those who are attending the Ski Trip in February 2026. The evening will be held on Thursday 16th October 6pm in Fellside Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss clothing requirements, information regarding the accommodation and to answer any questions that you may have. We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

International Trip Updates

All interested parents/carers should have received a letter to confirm successful places on either the France or Spain Trip. All consent forms (link in the acceptance letter) should be returned by Monday 13 October. If your child would like to be moved from the Spain Trip waiting list to the France Trip, please complete the additional [form](#) (also contained within the 'Spain Trip Waitlist' letter). We do still have spaces left on the France Trip, so this is the final call for anyone to apply.

Online Safety Update

For Parents - App Safety Settings (from Alan McKenzie)

With the Online Safety Act now in force, it's no surprise to see a lot of focus and scrutiny on tech companies, their features and safety settings being so prominent in the media, particularly safety settings failures. However, that shouldn't detract from the fact that safety settings are important; they're not perfect and never will be, but they are there for a reason. So this feels like a good time to either send a reminder out to parents or to take a look at the links on your school website to some of the more popular social apps which I've shared below, all from the Internet Matters website:

Discord app settings - [HERE](#).
TikTok parental controls - [HERE](#).
Snapchat parental controls - [HERE](#).
Instagram parental controls - [HERE](#).
Pinterest privacy and safety settings - [HERE](#).
FaceTime privacy and safety settings - [HERE](#).
WhatsApp privacy guide - [HERE](#)

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
Thursday 16 October	U11 (Y6) girls football county cup 1st round vs Sacred Heart (A) 3.30pm kick off	Y6 team
Thursday 16 October	U11 (Y6) boys CVL round 1 @ Highfield MS. 4.00 - 5.30pm	Y6 team
Thursday 16 October	Parents' Information Evening – Ski Trip 2026	Trip participants
Friday 17 October	Gaia – Hexham Abbey Visit	KS3 (group)
Monday 20 October	Gaia – Hexham Abbey Visit	KS2 (group)
Tuesday 21 October	Skills Builder Day	All year groups
Thursday 23 October	PTA Discos	All year groups
Thursday 23 October	School closes for half-term	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
Please note that school will close at 1.30pm on Friday 19 th December for the Christmas break.		

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).