

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 9**Welcome back**

I hope you all had a fantastic half term break - I know it's always a busy one with lots of local events to enjoy! We've got an action-packed 7 weeks ahead and all the key dates will be in the 'Weekly Update' as always. If you didn't get chance to update your diary last week, I have included the first of our festive dates below. The full festive calendar will be shared soon!

London Adventure

This week was our KS3 London Adventure with 50 pupils exploring the city from Sunday to Thursday. The whole group have been an absolute joy to take away. They have shown so much resilience, independence, kindness and great humour throughout the week. They have listened and behaved brilliantly, and we couldn't praise them enough - they should all be really proud of themselves.



It goes without saying that trips like this one aren't possible without an amazing staff team who are willing to give up their time to attend, and Mr Scott, Mrs Bond, Mrs Toor, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Box have been total stars. Huge thanks to them all for making this trip such a special one.



We enjoyed hosting our 'London Trip Awards' in our carriage during the journey home - winners below:

- Best Girls' Room - Phoebe, Lizzie and Daisy
- Best Boys' Room - James and Dylan W
- Kindness Award - Nancy M (for giving up her seat on the tube a number of times)
- Bravery Award - Owen B (for overcoming his uncertainty about one activity)
- Best Photographer Award - Dillon D (for taking the most and the best photos)
- Friendship Award - Sofia O (for showing such kindness to lots of friends)
- Helpfulness Award - Thomas M (for giving up his butter beer glass to save a friend's falling ice-cream!)
- Most Likely to be an Actor - Liam J G (for his outstanding effort in The Globe workshop)
- Luckiest Person on the Trip Award - Edward H (for nearly losing his phone multiple times!)
- Independence Award - Ruby S (for being organised, a great listener and ready for each activity)

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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
Elsie F Herbie W Max G Parker F Ethan W	Vinnie D Alice R Maisie-Grace M Sebastian M Daniel W	Lauren D Archie S Natalia S Elise C Phoebe D	Lily R-B Georgia O Hunter W Daniel B

Children in Need 2025



On Friday 14th November, we'll be fundraising for BBC Children in Need. To support the great work of Children in Need, we will be:

- Wearing PE kit and spotty accessories
- Hosting our 'Big HMS Children in Need Fair'
- Focusing on the work of the organisation in our form times

Each class will run a stall as part of our fair and pupils can enjoy the activities at lunchtime! It's a cashless event and we'd encourage online donations via MCAS if you feel able to support. Suggested donation £2 per child.

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.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	20,148	1	Hamish B-S	1	Sally B	1	Meike O	1	Joanna R
Coquet	20,733	2	Evie B	2	Cameron G	2	Jessica Do	2	Harry B
Tweed	20,095	3	George F	3	Ava B	3	Dylan W	3	Emily W
Wansbeck	20,241	4	Nola P	4	Sophia M	4	Leela H	4	Gwen C-W

Climate Action Event

This week, a group of pupils represented HMS at Oases' Climate Action event hosted by the Department for Education's Youth Sustainability Champions and Durham University. This was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to help lead the way on developing our trust's climate action planning. Key organisations that led workshops included the National Education Nature Park and Let's Go Zero. Newcastle University's Climate Ambassadors were also present who inspired us with the different ways we can demonstrate 'Green Skills'. Pupils that have taken part in our Young Green Briton Challenge, Gardening Club and STEM clubs represented the school at the event. Well done everyone!



Y5 Great North Museum Trip

Parents are reminded that Year 5 will be visiting the Great North Museum on Monday 10th November. Pupils will leave school at 9am and return in time for the end of the day. Pupils will require a packed lunch for the trip. If your child is entitled to free school meals, a packed lunch can be provided for them. Please contact Mrs Gregory if you have any queries.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **97%** - this is fantastic and a great start to the new half term. 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.

1 st form class – 99%	2 nd form class – 98.5%	3 rd form class – 98%
6-JJO, 5-JNI, 5-EKI	7-PHA, 7-CAR	7-SMC, 6-MBE, 6-FHA

Sports News

Y6 Football: Regional Championships

On Tuesday, Y6 girls participated in the county footballing finals, following them winning the regional championships. They played extremely well and had an excellent team spirit, which saw them through games with four of the best teams in Northumberland and North Tyneside. Mr Nichol is extremely proud of the girls' performances, both as a team and individually. Well done!



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](#). (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

News from the Community

Chess webinars

Starting in November 2025, Chess in Schools & Communities (CSC) will be running a series of free chess webinars. These are aimed at children aged 8-13 who know the basic rules of chess and are ready to take the next steps towards learning tactics and strategies. The webinars will be led by Sean Marsh, Chief Trainer for CSC, whose sessions are described as fun and engaging. There will be three levels of webinars:

Beginners: Tuesdays at 5pm or Wednesdays at 6pm. Suitable for children who know the basic rules of chess (rating under 900).

Intermediate: Tuesdays at 6pm or Thursdays at 5pm. Suitable for children who can spot simple threats, have a basic understanding of chess tactics (forks, pins, skewers) and easy checkmates, e.g. two rooks versus a king (rating between 900 and 1100).

Advanced: Wednesdays at 5pm or Thursdays at 6pm. Suitable for children who have a strong understanding of chess tactics (forks, pins, skewers) and understand standard checkmates, e.g. king and rook vs king (rating between 1100 and 1300).

The webinars start in the week beginning **Monday 17th November 2025** and continue for four weeks. For more information, please see https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/webinars?mc_cid=450d86d9ee&mc_eid=d4cde4a5ff.



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
Sunday 9 November	Hexham Remembrance Service, 10.30 – 11.30am	All welcome
Monday 10 – Friday 14 November	PERS People Assemblies	All year groups
Monday 10 November	Great North Museum Visit	Year 5
Monday 10 November	Healthy Masculinity Workshops	Year 8
Tuesday 11 November	HMS PTA AGM, 6.30pm, County Hotel, Hexham	All welcome
Tuesday 11 November	Remembrance Day – silence	All year groups
Wednesday 12 November	Author Visit - Ashley Thorpe ('Spirit Warriors')	Year 7
Friday 14 November	Children in Need Fundraising Day	All year groups
Wednesday 19 November	NHS Height and Weight Checks	Year 6
Thursday 20 and Wednesday 26 November	Year 7 Parents' Evenings – bookings now open	Year 7
Thursday 20 November	Be You Workshop: Worry or Anxiety – Exam Stress	All welcome
Friday 21 November	Hexham Christmas Lights Switch-On, Sele Bandstand	All welcome
Please note that school will close at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break.		



Dare I say it... but the festive season is fast-approaching, and I know lots of you will be wanting to update your diaries. Here are some initial dates – more to follow in our full festive calendar soon.

Date	Festive Event	Who
Friday 21 November	Hexham Christmas Lights Switch-On, Sele Bandstand	All welcome
Monday 8 December	HMS PTA Festive Forest Evening, 5.30pm	All welcome
Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 December	HMS PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops	All year groups
Wednesday 10 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups

Friday 12 December	Year 7 Christmas Trip	Year 7
Monday 15 December	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7.00pm	All welcome
Tuesday 16 December	Year 5 Pantomime Trip	Year 5
Tuesday 16 December	Year 8 Centre for Life Trip incl. ice-skating	Year 8
Wednesday 17 December	HMS Carols in the Community	Community visits
Wednesday 17 December	Year 6 Pantomime Trip	Year 6
Thursday 18 December	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
Friday 19 December	Christingle Services	All year groups

Have a lovely weekend!

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).