

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 11**Welcome to the team!**

I am very pleased to say that Miss Maskell (who has been with us on a supply basis) will be joining our Learning Support Team full time. Mrs Parradine has also joined the team as our new Attendance Officer and will be supporting children and families across our two schools. In very exciting news... another new member of the team will be joining us in the new year! Ms Karn's new Labrador puppy, Rocky, will start to visit school from January and will be completing his therapy dog training as part of his induction. We can't wait to meet him soon!

**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
Jacob L Thevenin L-R Lucy T Oliver M	James H Bella B Tommy D Sebastian D Scott B	Jessica C Jennifer V Tessa H Aidan M Sofia P	Ben S Aurelia K Lizzie L Duncan G Effie R-B

Sports News

Monday morning saw athletes traveling to Ovingham Middle School to take part in the Tynedale Cross Country Championships. Martha P and Arthur C were our top performers on the day winning the Y7 boys' and girls' race. It was brilliant to see them striding away from their fields. Isabelle C and Jessica C ran well to finish 2nd and 3rd. Dylan W ran a strong race to come 4th in his race. Our Y8 runners had a more difficult job as they were competing against the Y9 High School runners. This was a selection race to pick a Tynedale team. HMS have 8 runners who will compete in the County Championships in January. Mr Gaines and Mrs Southern were very proud to see the effort that all runners displayed. Well done to everyone who competed.

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

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	24,644	1	Zoe L	1	Harry D	1	Annabelle L	1	Joanna R
Coquet	25,046	2	Hugo E	2	Owen F	2	Penelope W	2	Sofia O
Tweed	24,417	3	Elsie F	3	Ava N	3	Tessa H	3	Emily W
Wansbeck	24,608	4	Evie B	4	Millie C	4	Meike O	4	Rosie O

Behaviour Update - Punctuality

Being punctual is very important and the vast majority of our pupils are on time every single day. It's not only important to arrive at school on time, but also getting to lessons promptly. From next week, any student who is more than 10 minutes late **in total** to their lessons during the week will be required to stay back after school on Friday to make up the time. If this applies to your child, you will receive a notification via MCAS on Thursday after school. We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality with your child. Genuine reasons for lateness will, of course, be reviewed fairly.

Personal Development News

Young Green Briton Challenge

We were delighted to welcome Dr Batchelder and visitors back into school today to lead the 'Design Sprint' session of this year's YGBC. All of Year 7 worked together in their teams on the next phase of the challenge - they are working hard to develop their project ideas collaboratively. Last year's winning team are supporting Year 7 with concept development. Skills Builder in action loud and clear today! Well done, Year 7 and thank you, Dr Batchelder for your inspiration!



HMS PTFA Update

PTA AGM Update – 11th November

We held our AGM on 11th November, where members and attendees voted in favour of changing the name of our group to the **HMS Parent, Teachers and Friends Association**. Going forward, we will now be known as the **HMS PTFA**. (*Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed this in last week's newsletter where Mr Watters has already started using our new title*). We also held our elections for the 2025–26 year. We're delighted to confirm that Amy



and Karen will continue as Co-Chairs, Suzanne remains as Treasurer but we are still on the lookout for a Co-Treasurer, and our voting committee members will be Dawn, Gillian and Hilary.

Huge thanks were extended to everyone who has volunteered their time in the past year in whatever capacity, whether from behind the scenes, to running stalls, to collecting donations to making decisions, attending events and everything in between. We are hugely grateful to all the staff who also generously support and champion events. Without this continued help, we wouldn't be able to find interesting ways to fundraise to benefit our wonderful children.

The full minutes will appear soon on the PTFA page on the school's website. The PTFA has already been in action this half term and has already contributed to the following events:

- Part-funding Great North Museum trip for Year 5
- Safety Works trip support for Year 6 and 8
- Forum Cinema trip support for Year 5
- Refreshments for interventions - all years
- Pupil Support Fund contribution – ensuring inclusive access to trips/visits
- Totalling around **£1800**

If you would like to suggest ideas for fundraising or volunteer some time (at our upcoming events Festive Forest and/or Christmas Pop-Up shops) please do message hmsptachair@gmail.com.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was **95% - a significant dip compared to recent weeks**. 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 – especially as we enter the colder months – resilience is essential! Please continue to support us by encouraging your child into school every day.

1st form class – 99.5%	2nd form class – 99%	3rd form class – 98.5%
6-FHA	5-JNI	6-JJO, 7-PHA

Maths Update

🎸 This week's TT Rockstars! 🎸

Well done to the pupils listed below for winning last week's TTRS challenge! The focus was on accuracy, which is just as important as speed, and they all showed fantastic effort. This week, our focus shifts to completing as much of the garage session as possible. Please continue to



encourage your child to take part, every bit of practice makes a real difference. Best of luck to all pupils taking on this week's challenge!

Lucy L – Daisy H – Noa P – Eden O – Henry G – Amelia-Rose S – Sophie C
Rory M – Elke H – Bella B – Carter C – Spike N

Online Safety Update

NCC Online Safety Session

This year, Northumberland County Council are launching an online safety session aimed at parents and carers. The session will run on Wednesday, 26th November at 3.45 pm, Tuesday, 10th Feb at 7.30 pm, and Tuesday, 16th June 7.30 pm. The session includes:

- What children get up to online at different ages.
- The four Cs - helping us to assess and identify key risks.
- Actions parents can take to help keep their children safe online.
- Where parents can go for further information and support.

The session will take place online via a Microsoft Teams link, which will be sent to all parents in advance of each session. During the session, all cameras and mics will be turned off by default to ensure your privacy. There will be an opportunity to ask questions via the chat facility. NCC will provide a handout at the end of the session, which is full of useful links and further information on key topics. Parents will be sent a link via email.

News from the Community

Anthony Gormley

You can go and show your support for Antony Gormley's Foundation being based in Hexham! A community photo shoot will take place on the Sele on Sunday 23 November at 12pm, where participants will form the shape of the Angel of the North to demonstrate support. BBC and ITV will be there to film the event. Children and young people are especially encouraged to take part, so families are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the photo op!

Webinar Opportunity

[Everyone's Invited](#) are offering an online webinar for teachers, parents and anyone in the children's workforce. The theme is on misogyny, incel culture and challenging young people's harmful language. There is no need to register. Use the links below to access the webinar and review Everyone's Invited website. Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/ogp-xyes-zsv?hs=224>

Red Riding Hood

Queen's Hall Arts Centre is delighted to present its festive main stage production, Red Riding Hood, this Christmas. Packed with music, laughter and seasonal magic, it's a perfect family treat for all ages. Local families are warmly encouraged to book tickets and enjoy a fantastic theatre experience right here in Hexham. Your support helps Queen's Hall continue bringing high-quality, affordable arts experiences to the community throughout the year.



Can you help?

Following the success of last year's trial run (excuse the pun!), Miss Richardson is planning to stage **'The Trial of Friar Lawrence'** with each Year 7 class as part of their study of Romeo & Juliet. In order to support our careers education and PHSE curricula, we would like this to be as realistic as possible so that pupils can explore core British Values such as justice as well as gaining an understanding of how a court room works and the careers available within the legal sector. If any parents or wider family members work within the legal sector and would be interested in sharing their knowledge with Year 7, please contact school. We would love to hear from you!



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 24 – Friday 28 November	UK Parliament Week including a visit from Joe Morris MP	All year groups
Wednesday 26 November	Head of School Award Breakfast	Selected pupils
Wednesday 26 November	Year 7 Parents' Evening 2 (appointments can still be made via MCAS)	Year 7
Friday 28 November	Non-Uniform Day - Pop-Up Shop donations appreciated	All year groups
Friday 28 November	Ben Oliver: Healthy Masculinity Workshops	Year 8
Monday 1 December	Forum Cinema Trip – 'Holes'	Year 5

Tuesday 2 December	Height & Weight Checks (rescheduled)	Year 6
Monday 8 December	HMS PTA Festive Forest Evening, 5.30pm	All welcome
Tuesday 9 December	Drama Showcase: Holly's Christmas Wish (4-5pm)	All welcome
Tuesday 9 December and Thursday 11 December	PTA Pop-Up Shops	All welcome
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
Please note that school will close at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break.		



The festive season is fast-approaching, and I know lots of you will be wanting to update your diaries.

Date	Festive Event	Who
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
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day	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: Miss Bell (Y5), Mr Scott (Y6 and Y7), Miss
Lamont (Y8)

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Morgan and Mrs Ballantyne

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

Pupil Support Workers: Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards

Attendance Officer: Mrs Parradine

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).