

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 13

House Prize

Due to our busy festive calendar, the House Prize for this half term is happening on Monday 8 December. Pupils in **Wansbeck House** can wear non-uniform if they want to and will have extra break time in the afternoon. Well done everyone in Wansbeck! Congratulations!



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
Casey S Mia C Beau C Bella M Toby S	Marcus M Riley G Thea G Ava G Philippa O	Talia C Tommy G Alex U Hattie D Jessica D	Ollie E Ianto T Ella R Henry L Oliver D

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	30,126	1	Jac S	1	Leo H	1	James B	1	Lara G
Coquet	30,238	2	Reggie H	2	Owen F	2	Frank K	2	Darcey H
Tweed	29,080	3	Archie M	3	Evelyn C	3	Hazel L	3	Summer A
Wansbeck	29,714	4	William A	4	Noah M	4	Jessamae C	4	Joanna R

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

House Christmas Quiz

It was our House Christmas Quiz for the whole school this morning. Pupils worked in their House teams to earn points for this term's totals, as well as individual team prizes. It was great to see the whole school engaging in this shared activity and working together to get those all-important last-minute points for their House! Well done everyone! Winners to be announced in Monday morning's assembly!



HMS Christmas Carol Concert

You are warmly invited to the [HMS Christmas Carol Concert](#) which takes place at Hexham Abbey on Monday 15th December at 7pm. It features over a hundred students including a large number of HMS as well as a significant number of QEHS students.

HMS Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10th December is **Christmas Lunch** day at HMS! It will be a full roast with all the trimmings as well as vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options available.



- If your child would like to have Christmas lunch, please order and pay **£3.65** via the MCAS app in the 'Store' section. There will be a **"Christmas Lunch"** item to purchase. Please note, this is separate from the usual dinner money option and must be used if you wish your child to have the Christmas lunch.
- If your child is entitled to free school meals, you do not need to make this additional payment and your child will have a festive lunch as part of their entitlement.

If your child has a food allergy or dietary requirements and **does not** normally have a school lunch but would like a Christmas lunch, please contact the school office to provide the relevant information. If your child does not wish to have the Christmas lunch, they will need to bring a packed lunch to school. Please be aware, food will not be available to buy at morning break on Wednesday 10th December as staff will be busy preparing for lunch!

Year 8 Safety Works



Year 8 have visited the Safety Works Centre in Newcastle this week. The visits are part of our 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum' and our pupils always learn so much during the sessions. The centre is multi-agency led and provides an interactive PSHE experience which brings important learning to life. The session covers essential safety and wellbeing themes and is always a popular visit for our pupils.

Well done to Year 8 who have engaged brilliantly in each session – the final group are visiting today! Thank you to Mr Freeman-Myers for the experience. More photos are [here](#) on our website.

Sports News

Y8 Rugby

Well done to our year 8 boys who played in a close game against Kings on Wednesday. It was a real pleasure to see such a large squad representing the school, and even though they were beaten in the end, the boys performed extremely well and should hold their heads high. Coach, Nathan highlighted strong performances from Archie, Walt, Jacob, Arthur and awarded player of the match to Rory A. These lads will return for a rugby festival at Kingston Park on Monday 15th December.



Year 6 Football

On Thursday afternoon, Year 6 faced Tweedmouth Middle School in the next round of the cup. The boys started with some extremely positive play, which culminated in a long-range goal by Freddie S. Alfie H joined in the scoring with a quick two goals within a single minute. Rowan D then scored with Ethan W finishing the scoring for the first half with the Hexham boys up 5-0.



When the second half began, Ethan W picked up where he had left off and scored within the opening six minutes. Tweedmouth Middle got back into the game at this point and scored two successive goals. Rowan D then put a dent in their comeback hopes with another goal. Tweedmouth scored their third goal of the game after this, but Rowan D scored another two goals, putting his tally to four in the game! The game ended with an impressive 9-3 win to HMS, and the boys progress to the next round of the cup. Mr Nichol was impressed with the teamwork and togetherness the boys demonstrated, as well as the excellent communication on the pitch. Well done boys!

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been slightly lower than we aim for this week - we know there have been lots of pupils feeling unwell and we hope everyone manages to rest and recover this weekend. 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. Thank you for your support.

1st form class – 94%	2nd form class – 93.5%	3rd form class – 93%
8-IBO, 6-FHI	6-RAL, 5-EKI	7-PGA, 5-MDO

Maths Update

🔑 This week's TT Rockstars! 🔑

A big congratulations to the pupils listed below for their achievement in last week's TTRS challenge! With the focus once again on percentage completed, it was inspiring to see so many children taking part and giving their best. As this was the final week of the competition before the Christmas holidays, we'd like to take a moment to celebrate the dedication and effort shown by our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils since September. Their commitment has been fantastic!

We look forward to starting fresh in the new year and seeing even more brilliant progress. Well done, everyone!

Thomas S – William A – Zoe L – Uma W – Lillie S – Eve D – Ava G – Isla M – Georgia M

Jax M – Cameron G – Brooklyn D – Harry D



News from the Community

We're collecting pre-loved school coats for Rosie's Corner!

If you have any outgrown or unused school coats at home, we'd be so grateful for your donations. A collection point has been set up in school next to Mr Watters' office, and coats can be dropped off at the main reception. Thank you so much for your support!



Holmes Lectures 2026 (Ages 10-14 years) – Newcastle University

The 2026 Holmes Lectures at Newcastle University are for children aged 10-14 and focus on the immune system. The lectures are on January 21 and January 28, 2026, both taking place from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the Curtis Auditorium at the Herschel Building [Newcastle University](#). Pre-booking is required (follow the booking links below).

Lecture 1 – Date: 21 January 2026

'Our immune system: the army inside our body'

[Booking link](#)

Lecture 2 – Date: 28 January 2026


'Guardians of health: how oral hygiene supports our immune system'

[Booking link](#)

QEHS Rowing Club Christmas Raffle

A Christmas Raffle has been organised to raise funds for a much-needed new boat and blades for QEHS Rowing Club. This will make a huge difference to the club and help our crews continue to train and compete to their best potential. The draw will take place on Saturday 13th December 2025. For details on how to enter, please see [here](#).

NPCF Northumberland Rainbow Guide

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum have put together a guide to SEND support by parent carers for parent carers. There are over 90 pages covering a whole host of areas including how to access a range of different services, transport, out of school clubs and activities, charities, parent workshops, support for siblings etc. Please take a moment to have a look. 

[NPCF Northumberland Rainbow Guide](#)

Autism Support

Please find info/resources [here](#) on our website from the Toby Henderson trust to support parents over the Christmas period. More Resources from [The Toby Henderson Website \(external URL\)](#).



Online Safety Update

For Parents - Sharenting

For a multitude of different reasons, the advice we give to children and young people is to be careful with what they're sharing online, including images. This can be anything from protecting your privacy to very serious harms such as blackmail. For example, an article in the Guardian refers to a report from the NSPCC where nearly 1 in 10 parents say their child has been blackmailed online. That education we give to children and young people extends to parents, caregivers, schools and anyone else that may share data, such as images, of children. We must be mindful of the potential uses of that data. The Irish Data Commission has recently released a short (40 seconds) light-hearted but serious video about the risks of sharenting along with some useful advice. You can see the video and advice [HERE](#) and you can read the Guardian article [HERE](#) (By Alan Mackenzie, 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.

Festive Calendar

Date	Festive Event	Who
Monday 8 December	HMS PTA Festive Forest Evening, 5.30pm	All welcome
Monday 8 December	House Prize – non-uniform day and extra break	Winning House
Monday 8 December	Be You: Kindness Workshops	Year 5

Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 December	HMS PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops	All year groups
Tuesday 9 December	Drama Club Showcase: Holly's Christmas Wish 4pm	Invited parents/carers
Wednesday 10 December	HMS Christmas Lunch	All year groups
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day	All year groups
Wednesday 10 December	Reward Afternoon	All welcome
Thursday 11 December	Santa Dash	All year groups
Thursday 11 December	Sparx Reward Session	Invited pupils
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	Head of School Awards Festive Breakfast	Winning pupils
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
Friday 19 December	Final day of term – time in form classes! Pupils can wear Christmas jumpers and accessories!	All year groups
Friday 19 December	School closes at 1.30pm	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).