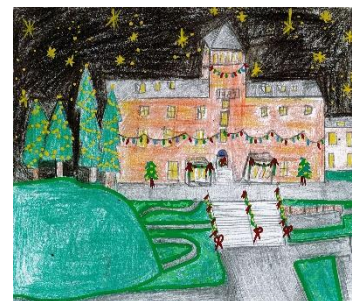


HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 12**HMS Christmas Cards 2025**

Thank you so much to everyone who entered this year's HMS Christmas Card Competition. The creativity was outstanding and we were all so impressed with the imaginative designs. The HMS Council and staff votes have been combined and the winning designs have now been chosen. It was a very difficult decision as there were so many winning entries - we are very proud of everyone who got involved this year! **Our overall winner this year is the wonderful 'Hydro on Christmas Eve' by Elliott W, 6RAL - congratulations, Elliott!**



The winning design plus the following phenomenal runner-up entries can now be ordered via MCAS. A pack of 5 cards costs £3.00 and the deadline for orders is Wednesday 3rd December. All funds will go towards the HMS PTFA. Pictures of the other designs are on our website: [here](#)

- Hydro on Christmas Eve by Elliott W, 6RAL
- Merry Christmas House by Finlay F, 7SMC
- Oh Christmas Tree by Katie G, 8IBO
- Run Run into a fabulous Christmas by Oscar C, 6FHA
- Santa's House with Snowman by Millie C, 6FHA
- The Farmlands by Libby L, 5EKI
- The Quiet between the Stars by Ms Thompson, Pupil Support Worker
- Winter Wonderland by Neve B, 8AMG

Staffing Update

Mrs P Hall (who is currently on maternity leave) will no longer be returning to her post after Christmas. Mrs Hall has been a highly valued member of the team and will be such a miss in school. Mrs Hall has been part of our team for a number of years and has made a significant contribution to the subject. We all wish Mrs Hall the very best for the future.

I am very pleased to say that Mrs George will continue in her post after the Christmas break. To reflect this change, 7PHA will be re-named 7SGE with Mrs George as their main form teacher, as she has been since September.

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk

www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Non-uniform day – thank you!

WOW – thank you so much for your generosity! Look at how many gifts we have for our PTFA Pop-Up Shops – this is amazing! The Pop-Up Shops will be open at lunchtime on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th December – gifts will be £2 each (cash preferred but card payments also possible). Thank you for your support, as always!



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!

Head of School Awards

Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'speaking' skills. 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
Libby D Beth D Emrys S Halle B Evie B	Scott B Elliott W Charlie A Ronnie F Jenna T Oscar C	Ed S Liam J-G Charlie M Hollie W Damir P	Emily W Rory N Isla N Leon B Lizzie L



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
Charlie S William A Hugo E Edith O Lydia S	Emily C Harry A Harry D Effie W	Isabelle C Cody G Annabelle L Philippa U George R	Jayden W Niamh K Lucas S Sofia S Esme C

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	27,197	1	Niamh M	1	Callum T	1	Andrei P	1	Rory N
Coquet	27,782	2	Jacob B	2	Millie C	2	Edward S	2	Lizzie L
Tweed	27,238	3	Alexander D	3	Jemima C	3	Sadie B	3	Ianto T
Wansbeck	27,397	4	Lydia S	4	Alfie S	4	Meghan B	4	Leon B



Hexham Christmas Lights

It was a joyful night on Friday last week as the community gathered to switch on this year's Christmas lights! Thank you very much to Hexham Town Council and Mayor Kennedy for putting on such a lovely event to kickstart the festive season - it was great to be a part of it once again!

The HMS Singers and Show Choir members performed a fabulous set from the Bandstand and filled the park with festive joy - they sounded amazing and we were all very proud of them! It was great to see so many pupils representing our schools so brilliantly. Special thanks must go to our music team including Mr Watson who worked with the singers to prepare for the evening, as well as Mr Smith and Alastair W for their technical support on the night. Well done everyone - you were all stars!



Hexham Schools Smartphone Policy

With Christmas coming, we thought it would be helpful to send this reminder of school policy regarding smartphones. For **pupils in years 5 and 6**, the expectation is that they will not be given access to a smartphone by their parents until they are older. Instead, parents may choose to provide an [alternative](#), e.g. a non-smart 'brick' phone (and/or tracking device) as desired. Non-smart 'brick' phones will be allowed to be brought to school provided they are kept switched off and out of sight during the school day, however smartphones are banned in school other than in exceptional circumstances. [Please note, smartwatches are deemed acceptable provided they have no internet connection or access to social media].

From September 2026, this approach will extend to year 7, and then to year 8 from September 2027. At that point we will take a view as to whether or not to extend the approach to high school year groups. If you haven't done so already, please take the time to sign-up to the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact for Hexham: <https://northumberlandparentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>.

Sports News

Athletics News

HMS team took part in the Tynedale Sports Hall Athletics competition today with pupils from St Joseph's and Corbridge Middle. Sports Hall athletics is always an energetic and positive event. The engagement and excitement have been brilliant to see. Our Y7 and Y8 team ran, threw and jumped brilliantly! We will find out the results of this event after Christmas. Fingers crossed we will have some teams qualify for the County final in February. Well done, Team HMS!



Football News

On Monday 24th November, HMS' U11 boys team travelled to Prudhoe Community High School to participate in their Central Venue League matches. In their first game, the boys played Highfield Middle School, where Mason D scored a fabulous set piece header which Dan Burn would've been proud of! Next, the boys faced Corbridge Middle School, which was a tough test, but ultimately HMS won 1-0 after Ethan W scored from inside the box, courtesy of a precision cross from Freddie S. Next, Hexham played Ovingham Middle School, where Rowan D won the game with an excellent goal from outside the box.

Finally, the boys faced Ponteland Primary School, which was an exceptionally tough game as the rain was pouring! Despite this, Mason D scored his second of the night resulting in a 1-0 victory. Overall, this was a fantastic night of football, which secured HMS all 12 points and managed to keep clean sheets all evening, courtesy of Alfie H stepping into goal last minute! Mr Nichol was thrilled with the attitudes of all pupils involved. Well done!

Personal Development News

Year 7 PSHE

Our Year 7 pupils are due to take part in an Extremism and Radicalisation workshop led by Northumbria Police on Friday 28th November. As part of our 'Stay Safe and Well' curriculum, this is an element of personal development we want our pupils to develop good knowledge and understanding in. It forms part of British values, in terms of the rule of law as well as mutual respect and tolerance for others. We look forward to welcoming Northumbria Police into school.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance this week was 90% - we know there have been lots of pupils feeling unwell this week 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.

1 st form class – 98%	2 nd form class – 96.5%	3 rd form class – 96%
8-IBO	8-ETA	5-YTA

Maths Update

🔑 This week's TT Rockstars! 🔑

A big congratulations to the pupils listed below for their fantastic achievement in last week's TTRS challenge! The focus was on percentage completed, and it was wonderful to see so many children engaging so enthusiastically and even going beyond 100% of the task. Looking ahead, our focus this week continues to be on percentage completed, as regular practice is key to building confidence and fluency. We kindly ask that you continue encouraging your child to take part—every bit of practice really does make a difference.



Thomas S – Ethan P – Oliver C – Monty W – Evie N – Alethea C – Lauren H –

Harry M – Ollie K – Daniella H – Gracie R – Emily M – Harry D

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm. Internet Matters have put together a brand-new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games. You can download the free guide [HERE](#).

(For Parents by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

News from the Community

Autism Support Sessions

Information about and dates of upcoming autism drop in sessions are available [here](#) on our website.

QEHS Rowing 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](#).

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 1 December	Forum Cinema Trip – 'Holes'	Year 5
Monday 1 to Thursday 4 December	Year 8 Safety Works Visits	Year 8
Tuesday 2 December	Height & Weight Checks (rescheduled)	Year 6
Friday 5 December	Northumbria Police: Extremism and Radicalisation	Year 7
Monday 8 December	House Prize – non-uniform day and extra break	Winning House
Tuesday 9 December	Drama Showcase: Holly's Christmas Wish (4-5pm)	All welcome

Please note that school will close at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break.

Festive Calendar

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).