



HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 16

Start of term update

Welcome back to a new school term and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. It has been lovely to welcome pupils back to school this week and everyone has made a very positive start to term. It has been fantastic to see everyone getting back into the routine of school and working positively in classrooms across the school. As always, our calendar is looking action-packed for the term ahead – information about upcoming events will be shared each week.

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.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Mia B Eve D Archie M Tristan S Monty W	Maddie M Tabitha B Alice E Millie C James L	Tabby S Nick T Sadie B Leo B Talia C	Wilfy D Robin W Georgia O Gruffydd T Joanna R

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	34,808	1	Finley J	1	Finn R	1	Martha G	1	Aria H
Coquet	35,058	2	Alexander H	2	Kaylin F	2	Micheal C	2	Ben S
Tweed	33,937	3	Annie B	3	Sophie K	3	Dylan W	3	Joseph D
Wansbeck	33,992	4	Evie N	4	Leo M	4	Jessica T	4	Tilly C

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Congratulations!



On behalf of the whole team at HMS, I want to send huge congratulations to Mrs Mackenzie (formerly Ms Karn) who got married over the Christmas break. Both Mrs Mackenzie and her husband had a wonderful day of celebrations – I believe a few pupils spotted them in Hexham on the day! Please note Mrs Mackenzie's change of name in school moving forward.

Staffing Update

Miss Poxton has started in her new role as Assistant SENDCo and will be working alongside Mr Morgan (SENDCo) to lead the school's SEND provision. Miss Poxton is delighted to join the team and is looking forward to working with our pupils and parents as she settles into her new role.



Pupil Support Update

This week, we have re-launched our new pupil support spaces across the school. These slight changes will allow us to further strengthen our pupil support offer. The new spaces are below – you may wish to discuss these changes with your child if you know they access the support hubs as part of their in-school provision:

New Space	Formerly known as	Support available
Reflection Hub	Restore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting pupils to regulate. Providing a calm, focused space to regulate and discuss barriers to learning.Co-regulation, emotional understanding and wider behaviour support.A member of staff always available to support – either a senior leader or member of the Pupil Support Team.
Nurture Hub	The Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting pupils with anxiety, emotionally-based school non-attendance, mental health concerns, sensory needs and other vulnerabilities.Interventions, structured support and time out of class with a view to making a positive return to class as quickly as possible.
Emotional Literacy Hub	The Den	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The base for structured ELSA intervention sessions.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A calm, consistent space without interruption for targeted work around emotions, regulations, relationships, social skills and resilience.
Sensory Space	No change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory room accessible by all pupils. • Targeted structured interventions focused on sensory needs.

SATS Information Evening - Tuesday 20th January 5.45pm - HMS

We will be holding our **SATs Information Evening** on Tuesday 20th January at 5.45pm. The session will take place in our main hall. The session will give you lots of information on the Year 6 assessments being held nationally in May 2026 including the key dates, information about the style and content of the tests and how we will support your child to achieve their full potential.



It would be great to see as many parents/carers as possible on the evening. Children can attend but they don't need to - they'll get their own information in school. [Please sign up here.](#) Thank you for your support.

Recruitment to the Trust Board

The Board of Hadrian Learning Trust is looking to appoint a new trustee with a legal background. Beyond this specific professional requirement, the overriding requirement is to be committed to supporting the schools to be as good as they possibly can for the young people we serve, and willing to operate in a positive, supportive and constructively-challenging way with other trustees, school leaders and staff.

The Trust Board meets six times a year on Thursday evenings at 6pm with meetings usually lasting two hours. Much of the Board's work is undertaken by committees which meet three to four times a year, typically in the late afternoon. These committees include a monitoring committee for each school, an HR & Performance Management Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee. We also have a safeguarding group comprising a link trustee and senior leaders that meets three times a year. Trustees also visit the schools as part of their monitoring activities. Each trustee sits on at least one committee or group but this is not a condition of joining the Board. If you would like to express interest in this role or would like to find out more, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, via avellinga@qehs.net.

Attendance – top 3!

It's been a really positive start to the new term and attendance has improved this week to 96% - well done everyone! 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 – 99.5%	2nd form class – 99%	3rd form class – 98.5%
7-PGA, 5-JNI	5-ZSC, 5-YTA	6-FHA

Spanish Pen Pals

Just before Christmas, 7SGE had a video call with their Spanish pen pals. Pupils were able to meet their pen pals and introduce themselves in Spanish. Mr Armstrong was very impressed with the confidence of pupils to speak in Spanish. All pupils participated very well and enjoyed meeting their pen pals. We will be exchanging more emails this term.



For information, we have established links with Socrates Educa International School in Tarragona, Spain. We have been trialling exchanging emails using pupils' school email addresses. We hope to be able to open up this exchange to other Year 7 classes in the near future.

Sports News

Girls' Rugby

The U14 team played two triangular rugby tournaments before Christmas. On Wednesday at Blyth, they fielded both their own team and most of a Barbarian team due to Blyth's shortage of players. The Barbarians drew with Ponteland, Hexham beat Ponteland, and the Barbarians narrowly defeated Hexham in a thrilling final match. On Friday at Ponteland, the U14s lost a close rematch to Ponteland but secured a strong win over Morpeth. Both events showcased excellent teamwork. It was an absolute pleasure to take these girls to their tournaments. Their attitude and camaraderie were outstanding, especially in bitterly cold conditions!

Clubs News

NFL FLAG Football – KS2

KS2 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in NFL FLAG Football, a fun and inclusive non-contact sport. The sessions promote our school values by encouraging respect for others, helping children aspire to improve their skills and confidence, and actively engaging them in teamwork and physical activity. No previous experience is needed, and all abilities are welcome. After-school club on Thursdays 3:20pm to 4:30pm. First club starts Thursday 15th Jan.



Forest School Update

The spring term after-school club list for Forest School has been confirmed on MCAS. Please check your account to confirm your child has secured a place. We will operate a waiting list and update you if a space becomes available. Please check MCAS regularly for any updates. Pupils should bring outdoor clothing for Forest School - we advise wellies or outdoor boots.

Music News

QEHS Winter Concert

Many HMS students are performing with the Show Choir in the upcoming QEHS Winter Concert on February 3rd. If you would like a ticket, please follow this link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hadrianlearningtrust/1971142>

Online Safety

For Parents - Family Gaming Database

When it comes to app and games reviews, one of the resources I consistently share during parent talks is [Common Sense Media](#) who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews which can be really helpful for parents over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically, there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called [The Family Gaming Database](#). This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed. (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

News from the Community

Cricket

Tynedale Cricket Club in Hexham has some girls indoor winter training coming up for school years 5-9. All abilities welcome. Thursdays 4-5pm on 15-01, 22-01, 29-01, 05-02, 12-02, 26-02 5-03, 12-03 at the Wentworth Leisure Centre. Contact Ella ella.tynedalecc@gmail.com - 07376490095.



Hexham Family Hub – from Northumberland County Council

Our Family Hubs offer a wide range of services for families and children aged 0-19 or 25 with SEND. Anyone who cares for or is expecting a child can become a member. You can do this below, or visit your nearest Family Hub. We'll ask for your contact details and your child's details. If you are pregnant, let us know so we can let you know about courses or sessions that may be of interest to you. [Hexham Family Hub](#). Register with a family hub - [form](#).

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.

School Calendar

Date	Event	Who
Monday 12 January	Be You: Resilience Workshops	Year 8
Wednesday 14 January	Year 5 Parents' Evening (2)	Year 5
Thursday 15 January	Tyne River Trust: River Model Workshops	Year 7
Monday 19 January	Anti-Bullying Workshop	Year 5
Monday 19 January	World Religions Week: PERS People Workshops	All year groups
Tuesday 20 January	Girls in STEM	Year 7
Tuesday 20 January	Year 6 SATS Information Evening	Year 6 parents/carers
Monday 26 January	First Aid Week – training session for all pupils	All year groups
Monday 26 January	Stargazing Evening	Year 5
Thursday 29 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening (1)	Year 8
Wednesday 4 February	Year 8 Parents' Evening (2)	Year 8
Wednesday 11 February	PTFA Spring Discos	All year groups

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Watters

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Mackenzie

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 Miss Poxton

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).