

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 17**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
Jacob G Evie B Evie N Oliver M Jessica D	Kaylin F Owen F Jake S Heidi B George H	Charlie H Leela H Sienna C Imogen M Ruby S	Anna F Bertie T Emily G Lewis J Emily W

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	38,207	1	Alexander D	1	Bella B	1	Martha G	1	Oswald B
Coquet	38,308	2	Elsie F	2	Imogen P	2	Lauren D	2	Gwen C-W
Tweed	37,144	3	Beau C	3	Gracie R	3	Tabitha S	3	Joseph D
Wansbeck	37,322	4	Noa P	4	Amelie F	4	Finlay F	4	Joanna R

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.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Sir Robert McAlpine Engagement (Year 7)

This week, a group of Year 7 pupils have had the opportunity to showcase their Maggie Centre design proposals to representatives from Sir Robert McAlpine. The group did a brilliant job and showed professionalism and commitment throughout. Results of the competition will be revealed next week. It takes real courage to get involved in projects such as this one - well done everyone!



Tyne Rivers Trust (Year 7)

It was great to welcome Tyne Rivers Trust into school yesterday to deliver workshops for our Year 7 pupils. The pupils engaged brilliantly whilst developing their geographical knowledge and asked a wide range of very interesting questions. Well done, Year 7 and thank you to our visitors for a range of interesting sessions!

Royal Academy of Arts Competition

We are once again excited to encourage our pupils to enter The Young Artists' Summer Show from the Royal Academy of Arts. Over the past few years, we have been so proud to have artwork from HMS pupils exhibited in London and online... yours could be next! You can find the information you need on the posters around school, in on our website, [here](#), and by speaking to Miss Taylor. The deadline for this year's entries is 2nd March. More information will also be shared in assemblies. We are all very excited to see the creative pieces this year - good luck everyone!



Aspire Week 2026

As part of National Careers Week (2nd to 6th March 2026), we would love to welcome parents/carers/family members into school to deliver careers talks for our pupils. We'd like to cover a wide range of jobs which will spark the interest of our pupils. It would be great to have representation from those in the public or private sector, those running their own business and parents/carers who volunteer. If you think you'd be up for coming into school to deliver a short presentation/talk to a group of children, please could you complete this short form. [Aspire Week – Fill out form](#) Thank you for your support.

Year 8 Be You Workshops



Year 8 have been working with the Be You team this week in a workshop focused on emotional resilience. The pupils explored mindset and strategies to manage the many different stresses we all face in life. The pupils considered how they can adapt and stay positive - essential skills for life. These sessions are part of our wider 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum' and part of our Year 8 transition programme. Thank you, Be You Team.

IncludEd 2026

Mr Watters spent the day at this year's IncludEd Conference led by The Difference on Saturday. This annual event brings together education leaders from across the country to focus on inclusive practice in our schools. It was great to hear from a wide range of inspiring speakers and young people including Tom Rees and a closing keynote from actress, Anna Maxwell Martin. Sessions focused on building an inclusive curriculum, rethinking inclusive attendance systems and exploring internal alternative provision. Lots of inspiration to further strengthen our inclusive practice at HMS! Huge thanks to 'The Difference' for such a great day!



Attendance – top 3!

It's been a really positive start to the new term and attendance remained at 96% this week - 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.

1 st form class – 99%	2 nd form class – 98.5%	3 rd form class – 98.0%
5-EKI, 5-JNI	5-ZSC, 8-ETA	7-CAR

Sports News

Dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge!



10 Year 6 pupils attended the first round of the British Dodgeball Primary School Championships yesterday and it was a fiercely competitive event. HMS met their toughest opposition in the first match! The pupils responded brilliantly to a heavy defeat in the first game to win their next two matches with another ending in a draw. The team unfortunately faced defeat in the final game and missed out on the semi-finals by one. The whole team had an excellent attitude throughout. Well done to all involved - a great day!

Maths Update



Our Times Tables Challenge for 2026 is officially underway! Last week's focus was "Beat the Clock", where pupils aimed to answer as many questions as possible within a set time. A big well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners listed below. What a fantastic way to make a real difference in maths! Next week, our focus shifts to accuracy. Good luck to everyone!

**Thomas S – Matteo K – Hugo E – Harrison A – Robyn T – George N – Sebastian D – Ronnie F –
Daniella H – Phaedra-Sun H – Brooklyn D – Spike N**

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>

Samling Singing Schools

QEHS and HMS have been working with Samling Institute as part of their Singing Schools programme. Applications are now open for any QEHS students wishing to audition for the Samling Academy! For more details see here: <https://www.samling.org.uk/samling-academy/samling-academy-auditions/>



QEHS Youth Theatre – West Side Story – tickets available now!



A great night out! On Thursday 29 – Friday 30th and Saturday 31 January at 7.30pm our QEHS Youth Theatre students will perform The West Side Story in the QEHS Main Hall. See [here](#) for more information. Tickets available now! Scan the QR code or select the link. [West Side Story Tickets \(Ticket Tailor Website\)](#)

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Playstation Family App

The Playstation Family App came out in Sept 2025, and it is a great way to help parents set up and manage their children's Gaming experience. Features include:

- Manage playtime and activity reports.
- Visibility into what children are playing and approving playtime requests.



On this web page you will find detailed instructions to guide you through setting up a child account, get notified what game your child is playing in real time, approve or decline a request for extra playtime, apply content filters, privacy settings and more. Webpage: [Playstation Family App](#) (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

News from the Community

Free SIM cards for residents over 18

Hexham Library have free SIM cards from O2 and Vodafone available for residents over 18 with unlocked devices, who may struggle to afford data. There are no awkward questions or means testing during the registration process. Just call or

drop in to arrange an appointment. Northumberland Libraries - www.mylibrary.co.uk - 01670 620 450 - mylibrary@northumberland.gov.uk

PTFA News

HMS PTFA Spring Discos

Our Spring Discos will be held on Wednesday 11th February 2026. Huge thanks to our PTFA for planning another great night for our pupils. To sign-up, please [complete this form](#) and send £3 for your child's ticket into the HMS Office. Information about the event is within the sign-up 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 19 January	Anti-Bullying Workshop (re-arranged)	Year 5
Tuesday 20 January	Girls in STEM – Newcastle University	Year 7
Tuesday 20 January	Year 6 SATS Information Evening	Year 6 parents/carers
Tuesday 20 January	World Religions Week: PERS People Workshops	Year 8
Wednesday 21 January	World Religions Week: PERS People Workshops	Year 5
Thursday 22 January	World Religions Week: PERS People Workshops	Year 6
Thursday 22 January	HMS Council Meeting	School councillors
Monday 26 January	First Aid Week – training session for all pupils	All year groups
Monday 26 January	Stargazing Evening	Year 5
Tuesday 27 January	World Religions Week: PERS People Workshops	Year 7
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).