

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 15

Christmas Message

We've reached the Christmas holiday and what a great term it's been here at HMS. We have so much to be thankful for: enthusiastic, engaged and positive pupils who give their all every day in school; a staff team who go above and beyond to make our school such a special place to learn and very supportive parents/carers and wider school community who we appreciate. We are very grateful for your continued support and kindness this festive season and always.

On behalf of the staff at HMS, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. I hope the children have a magical Christmas! We will see them all back in school on Monday 5th January 8.40am - have a great holiday!



Head of School Awards



Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'generosity' – our key character value this half term. 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
Maddie M Eden O Max R Oliver M Hugo E	Jessie S Archie H Bella B Sequoia D-G Ava N Owen F Lewis B	Maxi C Meike O Riley B Phoebe D Charlotte B Hattie D Tom G	Joanna R Katie R-B Kirstie A Archie G Callie T

Christmas Celebration Assemblies

It was a joy to meet as year groups today for our Christmas Celebration Assemblies. The assemblies are always an opportunity to reflect on the term, to celebrate the success of all pupils and to highlight the special achievements being made in school. Our assemblies include subject awards and nominations, recognition of great attendance and, of course, our P point awards. Our form tutor and Head of Key Stage awards are a moment of special recognition - congratulations everyone!

Well done to each and every pupil in our school - you are absolute stars!

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
English	Winner: William A Runner up: Beth D	Winner: Millie C Runner up: Sebastian D	Winner: Meghan J Runner up: Meike O	Winner: Rosie O Runner up: Tyler H
Maths	Winner: Leo B Runner up: Lucy L	Winner: Winnie B Runner up: Jake S	Winner: Zain B Runner up: Robert G	Winner: Aria H Runner up: Daniel B
Science	Winner: Lillian R-G Runner up: Jack P	Winner: Erin M Runner up: Lochie D	Winner: Talia C Runner up: Charlie P	Winner: Lily H Runner up: Ben S
Art	Winner: Olympia H Runner up: Bertie B	Winner: Margot D Runner up: Nella A	Winner: Frejya R Runner up: Joey R	Winner: Lizzie L Runner up: Ben N
Music	Winner: Parker F Runner up: Eliza C	Winner: Archie H Runner up: Sequoia D	Winner: James D Runner up: Martha G	Winner: Gwen C Runner up: Artie O
PE	Colette M Ethan W	Harry M Kaylin F	Riley B Sophia R	Alexander A Amelie G
Computing	Winner: Daisy H Runner up: Hamish B	Winner: Marnie D Runner up: Spike N	Winner: Jennifer V Runner up: Leo C	Winner: Ida H Runner up: Gruffydd T
Design Technology	Winner: Hugo E Runner up: Mia C	Winner: Ethan W Runner up: Owen F	Winner: Micheal C Runner up: Evie T	Winner: Joanna R Runner up: Wilfy D
Food Technology	Winner: Samuel W Runner up: Millie B	Winner: Ava G Runner up: Elke H	Winner: Francesca F Runner up: Dylan W	Winner: Zahra W Runner up: Katie G
History	Winner: Oliver L Runner up: Mia B	Winner: Esme H Runner up: Georgia M	Winner: Jessica D Runner up: Elsa B	Winner: Isla N Runner up: Georgia O
Geography	Winner: Libby L Runner up: Chris F	Winner: Jackson L Runner up: Amber S	Winner: Romi F Runner up: Sam G	Winner: Achintya G Runner up: Alfie L
French	Winner: Alfie C Runner up: Tiggy H	Winner: Emily C Runner up: Dylan F	Winner: Martha P Runner up: Orla P	Winner: Ben S Runner up: Mia R

Spanish			Winner: Sadie B Runner up: Will M	Winner: Leo H Runner up: Annabel H
RE	Winner: Elsie F Runner up: Olympia H	Winner: Bella S Runner up: Jay Jay W	Winner: James S Runner up: Hollie W	Winner: Lauchlan H Runner up: Tilly C
PSHE	Winner: Beau C Runner up: Max G	Winner: Sophia B Runner up: Ella A	Winner: Tessa H Runner up: Alexander T	Winner: Ianto T Runner up: Theo T
Drama			Winner: Liam J-G Runner up: Mollie P	Winner: Ella R Runner up: Evan W
Forest School	Winner: Max N Runner up: Jacob B	Winner: Charlie A Runner up: Martha P		
Form Tutor Award	5EKI: Eliza B Oliver N 5YTA: Alex D Evie B 5JNI: Arty C Olivia W 5MDO: Lucia F Will F 5ZSC: Casey S Charlie S	6FHI: Daniella H Spike N 6JJO: Lauren H Jesse C 6MBE: Kaylin F Oran H 6RAL: Oliver M Maisie-Grace M 6FHA: Jax M Evelyn C	7CAR: Philippa U James L 7PGA: Meghan J Noah R 7PHA: Thea H Leo B 7SMC: Ben C Hazel L 7SRI: Martha P Kai B	8AMG: Florence B Joseph B 8BLA: George F Isla N 8ETA: Rosie O Emily W 8IBO: Ida H Artie O 8SFO: India R Theo T
Head of Key Stage Award	Winner: Artie J	Winner: Heidi B	Winner: Meike O	Winner: Joseph D

Attendance – top 3!

Thankfully many pupils have recovered after being unwell and attendance has improved this week to 95%. 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%	2nd form class – 98.5%	3rd form class – 98.0%
6-FHA	8-ETA	7-PGA

Christmas Events

HMS Christmas Carol Concert

We were delighted to hold our annual Christmas Carol Concert at Hexham Abbey this week - it was a truly magical event and a very proud evening for our school. The level of skill, confidence and dedication on display from all of the pupils was outstanding - it never ceases to amaze me! The singers were superb, the musicians sounded incredible and the readers did a fantastic job - all in all, it was another joyful HMS Carol Service.



Special thanks to Miss Tindall and Mrs Rowell (and all the many supporting staff including Mr Watson, Mr Smith and Mrs Lee) who have done a wonderful job putting together such a special service. It was great to see the traditional service being taken forward, once again, with new, exciting elements woven throughout - I could see how much the children enjoyed being part of things like Show Choir and HMS Singers - it was uplifting and special. I know it takes hours and hours of hard work and dedication and I am very grateful to the children and staff involved. Thank you for joining us if you were able. Merry Christmas! [Christmas Carol Concert.](#)

Year 8 Trip – Life Centre



Year 8 had a [fantastic day at the Life Science Centre](#) in Newcastle. The pupils spent the day exploring the centre, including a visit to the planetarium. Everyone was also able to enjoy a session on the ice rink for a real festive treat! The pupils were an absolute credit to HMS and the staff were proud of their engagement on the day! Great to see lots of smiling, happy faces throughout the day! A well-deserved Christmas treat for everyone! Thank you to Miss Lamont and Mr Scott for their organisation and the PTFA for their support.

KS2 Panto Trip

The reviews are in: have a read to find out what Zoe and Marko (5YTA) thought of the Christmas show... "We thought this pantomime was epic and amazing! The highlight was when Mr Nichol was dancing with the two Ugly Sisters from the show. The lights were really cool, especially the things that exploded! One of the characters was called Buttons and each time he appeared on stage, he would shout 'Hiya Gang!' and the crowd responded with 'Hi Buttons!'. It was probably a disaster for the teachers as the actors kept saying '6-7'! This was, without a doubt, the best show in Newcastle - a definite 5 stars from us!" ☆☆☆☆☆ from Hexham Middle School to everyone at Cinderella, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle 😊 bravo! And I believe it's been Mr Scott's turn to have a dance on stage today...



Carols in the Community

A group of HMS singers are visiting local care homes and hospital wards today as part of our 'HMS Carols in the Community' sessions. It is always a pleasure to visit local residents and patients to share festive joy through music. It was incredibly emotional yet uplifting to see the patients singing along this morning and the choir sounded wonderful once again. Well done everyone! We look forward to visiting more community venues today and again next year.



HMS Christmas Wreaths 🎄🎄🎄

Well done everyone for this year's entries - we've decked the halls again! There has been a great effort and a sense of community spirit and teamwork. The results are in...

Year 5	'Being Mindful' - overall winner is 5EKI - very thoughtful comments by pupils clinched it set against a traditional hand-wreath concept. A special commendation also goes to 5YTA for their jolly snow people that brightened up the front of school area.
Year 6	'Christmas is a Time to be Pensive' - overall winner is 6FHI - some very powerful, independent comments around gratitude and Christmas wishes. Special commendation to 6JJO for demonstrating teamwork and resilience in producing their design.
Year 7	'Hope at Christmas' - overall winner is 7SMC - echoing the importance of hope at Christmas and how this links to our character values. 7SMC has produced a striking and unusual design concept with a backdrop of a heart structure, reinforcing the need for love and compassion in our community. Special commendations however go to 7PHA and 7PGA for new design approaches.
Year 8	'Deck the Doors' - overall winner is 8SFO - there was some fierce competition in Year 8 this year. 8ETA utilised the Grinch to produce a gorgeous, festive celebration of mixed media and origami. Well done to the pupils that worked together to produce this. Both 8IBO and 8SFO developed door decorations acknowledging gratitude for their form tutors - cotton wool and lights adorned. However, 8SFO were quick off the mark, and the entourage of 'Father Forster' cheeky elves has brightened up Fellside B floor during our advent season - we even got to meet Derek!
Little Angel Award	New for 2025 - Little Angel Award Awarded to a design that showcases the highest quality. This year it goes to 6FHA for their Christmas Village concept echoing a sense of community - something we all need at this festive time.

Sports News 1

Y7 and Y8 Rugby

Well done to all our Y7 and Y8 rugby players who enjoyed a day out at Kingston Park to play a round of fixtures Newcastle Red Bulls' first team pitch. This was a fantastic opportunity for all the boys to play on a top-level pitch. Results were not important at this event, as the aim was to get pupils 'just playing' and enjoying rugby. The Year 8 team won 2 of their games, drawing another and losing one with excellent contributions from the whole team. The Year 7 team played some of their best rugby so far this year, showing excellent progress from where they were earlier in the season. They managed

to win 3 of their 4 games and only narrowly lost to a strong Corbridge team. It was great to see some of these boys score their first tries in competitive rugby.

Well done everyone who continues to represent HMS so brilliantly!



Sports News 2

Y6 Girls' Football

On Friday last week, the Y6 girls travelled to Gosforth to play their second-round match in the county cup. The girls were high on confidence after some excellent recent results. However, it was clear from the early moments of the game that this would be an extra tough challenge. Gosforth Central clearly had some very talented footballers who scored some very well-crafted goals. Despite a long-range screamer from Dylan F, HMS were unable to get on the scoresheet again as they were beaten 3-1. Ava G worked incredibly hard throughout and carried a threat out wide, Martha and Issy impressed in defence and Thea G in goal was outstanding. Thea was recognised as player of the match by the opposition coach who was full of praise for her as she kept HMS in it right to the final whistle.



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	33,563	1	Imogen C	1	Jessica S	1	Mason M	1	Joseph D
Coquet	33,814	2	Eden O	2	William S	2	Riley B	2	Ianto T
Tweed	32,623	3	Demi R	3	Spike N	3	Tom G	3	Florence B
Wansbeck	32,697	4	Max G	4	Sophia B	4	Hattie D	4	Effie R

Drama Club Festive Performance

Well done to the HMS Drama students who performed in the story of “[Holly’s Christmas Wish](#)”, on Tuesday 9th December. It was a devised performance presented by the HMS Year 7 & 8 Drama Club. The story followed Holly, a girl determined to make everyone happy for Christmas. Her journey took her to Christmas Town, where she faced a series of challenges caused by mischievous evil elves. Fortunately, Santa’s daughter, Nika, teamed up with Holly to put things right. In the end, Santa granted Holly’s wish and reminded the audience of the true joy of Christmas. The pupils showed great commitment in developing their characters, performed with confidence, and worked brilliantly as a team. Well done to everyone involved. You should all be very proud of yourselves!!! Miss Macken and Mrs Pollock.



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 5 January	School re-opens for all pupils at 8.40am	All year groups
Thursday 8 January	Year 5 Parents’ Evening (1)	Year 5
Monday 12 January	Be You: Resilience Workshops	Year 8
Wednesday 14 January	Year 5 Parents’ Evening (2)	Year 5
Monday 19 January	Anti-Bullying Workshops	Year 5
Monday 26 January	First Aid Week – training session for all pupils	All year groups
Thursday 29 January	Year 8 Parents’ Evening (1)	Year 8
Wednesday 4 February	Year 8 Parents’ Evening (2)	Year 8

Have a lovely Christmas break – thank you for your continued support this term.

Mr Watters

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).