

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 20**

**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.

**This half term's winning house is WANSBECK – non-uniform on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February!**

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	<b>46,043</b>	1	Louie G	1	Heidi B	1	Martha G	1	Arthur O
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>46,366</b>	2	Nola P	2	Thea G	2	Mason M	2	Emily W
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>45,186</b>	3	Eliza C	3	Callum T	3	George L	3	Katie R
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>45,652</b>	4	Daniel F	4	Sally B	4	Lucy E	4	Wilfy D

**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
Ciaran H Harris A Borys P Louie G Hugo B	Matilda H Jake C Sophie K Ella A Sophie W	Eva G Kai B Jessie T Lottie H Laila B Chloe K	Zach A Elise W Sam L Achintya G Zahra W



**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

### Ski Trip 2026 (Years 7 and 8)

A group of KS3 students have enjoyed a week of perfect skiing conditions with sunshine, fresh snow, and unforgettable views of Mont Blanc. Each day brought new adventures: high-altitude runs, visits to terrain parks, exciting jumps, technical practice, and long descents through the valley. The instructors praised the pupils for their enthusiasm and progress, with many mastering parallel turns and confidently tackling steeper pistes. Highlights included birthday celebrations on the slopes, spectacular morning light on the mountains, and memorable journeys across Val Thorens and Pointe de la Masse.



Evenings were just as lively, featuring games nights, a Taskmaster challenge, and the magical Les Menuires torchlight descent followed by fireworks. The group celebrated with quizzes, laughter on chairlifts, and plenty of team spirit. With dedicated instructors, iconic views, and perfect snow, the trip created special memories, many pupils discovering a new passion for skiing and a deep appreciation for the Alpine environment. Huge thanks to Mr Gaines, Mrs Barnett, Mr Johnson and Mr Whitfield for leading the visit – it takes a huge amount of work to plan and lead a trip of this nature and we are very proud to offer yet another great experience!

### Great Experiences – Residential

A number of parents have asked for a reminder overview of our typical residential opportunities. I shared this table earlier in the school year. Please note, trips are subject to change and costs are rising annually. Our plans do change as we consider ways to ensure our offer remains rich, varied and inclusive.

Trip	Year Group(s)	Dates	Estimated cost ( <i>subject to change</i> )
Ford Castle	Year 5	February (3 days)	£300
Newby Wiske	Year 6	July (3 days)	£350
London	Year 7	November (5 days)	£800
High Borrans	Year 8	May (5 days)	£550
France	Years 7 and 8	June (6 days)	£850
Spain	Years 7 and 8	June (5 days)	£950
Skiing	Years 7 and 8	February (7 days)	£1,300

## News from the HMS Library

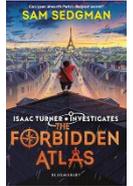
### National Storytelling Week: Storytelling Event (all year groups)

There was a fantastic audience for our storytelling event in HMS Library on Wednesday lunchtime. Pupils from all years sat back in a relaxing atmosphere to enjoy first chapters, fairytales, verse and poems. Many thanks to all our brilliant readers and staff who provided support. The HMS reading throne and a conch shell, the symbol of storytelling and communication across cultures.



### Reading for Pleasure: Year 6 Author Visit - Sam Sedgman (Year 6)

We are thrilled that Sam Sedgman will be visiting us on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March to launch his latest book, The Galileo Heist, to Year 6. Following The Clockwork Conspiracy and The Forbidden Atlas, this is the third book in Sam's action-packed series featuring aspiring inventor Isaac Turner.



Isaac's love of science and fascination with how things work make him well-suited to solving perplexing mysteries, along with his rebellious friend Hattie, who never saw a rooftop she didn't want to climb or a rule she didn't want to break. Each book follows Hattie and Isaac on a standalone adventure at real-life locations, inspired by everything that makes the world tick: mechanics, navigation, physics, and the boundless possibility of scientific discovery. Huge thanks to Forum Books in Corbridge for kindly bringing Sam to us. If you would like to buy a book for your child, they are available on MCAS at £6 each or £15 for a bundle of all three books. Orders will close on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March to allow Forum time to order the books for delivery on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Copies of the brilliant books will also be added to HMS Library.

## Personal Development Updates

### Aspire Week (all year groups)

Our Aspire Week is fast-approaching in March. There is a draft timetable for parents/carers that have kindly offered their time and we will be contacting volunteers individually to confirm availability. This Careers and Aspire programme will involve parents giving a 20-minute talk followed by a Q&A and pupil reflection. We look forward to welcoming the parent community into the school to create some meaningful encounters for our pupils.



## Clubs Update

### Sustainability Club

In the autumn term, a group of key stage three pupils worked with Dr Batchelder on a research project looking at nature-based solutions to climate change. The pupils worked hard over a six-week period to produce some excellent scientific reports. Their hard work was recognised today when they were presented with a Crest Award Certificate. Well done to all! Emily W, Meike O, Martha P, Maxi C, James D, Leela H, Sadie B, Frejya R, Lauren D, Jessica D, Leo C and Henry W.



### Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance has slightly dropped to 95% and we'd like a final push for the last week of the half-term to end on a high! 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.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> form class – 100%</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class – 98.5%</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class – 97.5%</b>
<b>7-PGA</b>	<b>5-JNI</b>	<b>5-ZSC</b>

### Sports News

#### Table Tennis Update

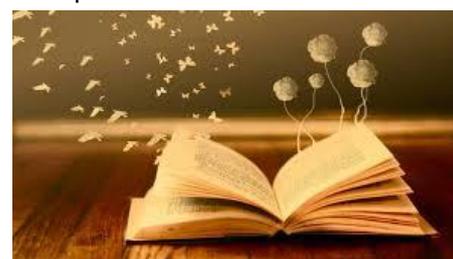
16 girls travelled to Corbridge Middle school for the Northumberland Schools Table Tennis Competition yesterday. This was a very well organised event providing an opportunity for the girls to play competitive matches in a progressive format. Not only did they play well, but they also umpired and scored their own games showing excellent independence. They came up against some excellent opponents and demonstrated resilience and determination. Not only did they play, they met and made friends with pupils from Corbridge too. Well done to all involved. Special mention to Erin M who finished 6th in the U11 competition and Lily H for finishing 9th in the U13 competition.



### Supporting Learning at Home

On our website you will find some useful information about the various platforms and support strategies pupils can access to help with their home learning. We always appreciate your support in establishing home learning routines and we hope [this area](#) of the website is of use. If you need any further information about any of the platforms or would benefit from further guidance please get in touch via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk) or a note in your child's planner. If your child does not have access to an online device, please also let us know.

- Reading remains hugely important to development at middle school and we ask that you **encourage your child to read every day at home for at least 20 minutes.**
- It would be even better if you could ask your child to **read aloud to you or someone else** a few times a week – they do not always need to read silently.
- **Discussing reading and escaping in a good book** is hugely enjoyable for all pupils – even when they may think it's unnecessary!



- Please let us know if your child is a reluctant reader at home so that we can support them in choosing a text they will enjoy (and can access, on their level) from our library. Thank you for your support, as always. We are always here to help.

### Online Safety Update

#### For Parents - New Parental Control Videos (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

A couple of days ago Internet Matters uploaded 3 new short videos onto YouTube, each focusing on parental controls for YouTube, Roblox and TikTok, the links are:

- [YouTube parental controls top features.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on Roblox.](#)
- [The top 3 parental controls to use on TikTok.](#)

### Maths News



#### TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

We've enjoyed another excellent week of times tables practice. This week's focus was percentage completed, and we'd like to congratulate the winning pupils listed below. Regular practice makes a huge difference to progress, and it has been wonderful to see the children showing such enthusiasm and commitment.

**Hugo B, Ethan P, Millie B, Maxwell R, Hugo C, Jac S, Jemima C, Ronnie F, Daniella H, Cameron G, Leo M, Ella W**

Next week, the focus will continue to be percentage completed. Please encourage your child to complete their Garage session on TTRS. Best of luck to all pupils taking part.

### News from the Community

#### Parent/Carer Workshops

There will be opportunities for parents/carers to attend the following sessions in school over the spring term.

1. Be You - Supporting Your Child to Build Resilience - 2-3pm - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb
2. Groundswell - Understanding Digital Resilience/Safeguarding Online/Extremism - 3.30 - 4.30pm - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb
3. Be You - Supporting Your Child with Exam Stress (aimed at Y6 and Y11 but open to all) - 4-5pm - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Mar
4. SEND Cuppa and Catch Up - 4-5pm - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar



### **Togetherness**

This Spring Term, we're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children. [Togetherness](#) is the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has **free access** to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children. [Link here.](#)

### **Music Workshop**

Following the success of our Music Workshop Day last year, we are delighted to announce that the event is returning for 2026! Taking place on Saturday the 28th of March 10.30h – 16.00h and this time to be held at **Ponteland High School**, our workshop is ideal for pupils (ages 7-18) who enjoy playing or singing, giving them a chance to build ensemble skills, musicianship and performance confidence. Cost: £15.00 per child, £12.50 for Northumberland Music ensemble members (Subsidised places are available for those who need them). Book a place: <https://forms.office.com/e/Jb2je68Lui>. Any questions: [ensembles@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ensembles@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Who</b>
<b>Monday 9 (all week)</b>	Children's Mental Health Week	All year groups
<b>Monday 9 February</b>	'Why Queue' Road Safety Workshop	Year 7
<b>Tuesday 10 February</b>	Languages Spelling Bee	KS3
<b>Wednesday 11 February</b>	PTFA Spring Discos – <a href="#">sign up here</a>	All year groups
<b>Wednesday 11 February</b>	HOUSE PRIZE – WANSBECK – NON-UNIFORM DAY	Wansbeck Pupils
<b>Thursday 12 February</b>	Non-uniform day to support PTFA Mothers and Others Pop-Up Shops (donations appreciated)	All year groups
<b>Thursday 12 February</b>	Matilda! The Musical Visit	Year 5
<b>Friday 13 February</b>	INSET Day (school closed for pupils)	All year groups

<b>Monday 16 – Friday 20 February</b>	February Half-Term	All year groups
<b>Monday 23 February</b>	School reopens at 8.40am	All year groups
<b>Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 March</b>	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Watters

**Pupil Support and Safeguarding**

**Designated Safeguarding Leader:** Mrs Mackenzie

**Deputy Safeguarding Leaders:** Mr Scott, Mr Rutherford-Orrcock, 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, Mr Rutherford-Orrcock and Miss Poxton

**Academic Support Coordinator:** Mrs Toor

**Pupil Support Workers:** Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards

**Attendance Officer:** Miss 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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).