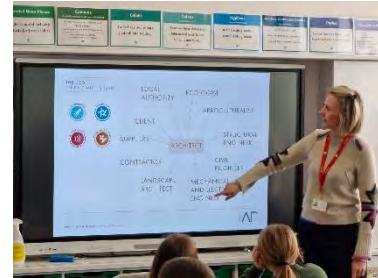


HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 23**Aspire Week**

As part of National Careers Week, we have been very fortunate to host a wide range of presentations and workshops delivered by parents/carers. Aspire Week aims to engage our pupils in learning about a wide range of careers and pathways. Pupils have been inspired by all of our visitors this week and we are so grateful for their time, enthusiasm and positive messaging.

As a school, we are always keen to enrich our curriculum with meaningful experiences like this, and we would welcome future visitors to strengthen pupils' learning and engagement. Special thanks to Mr Freeman-Myers and to every one of our visitors for agreeing to come into school.

**World Book Day 2026**

What a fantastic day we had celebrating World Book Day this year! Well done to our pupils for their positive engagement on the day - so many pupils baked cakes, completed book reviews or artwork, dressed up as a character, joined in with the whole school quiz and visited the library 'Book Shop' at lunchtime - it was such a great atmosphere around school!



We were all - once again - blown away by the level of imagination, creativity and skill on display in our 'Great Book Bake Off'. You can see the wonderful entries here and overall winners will be announced in Monday's assembly. All entrants were presented with a certificate and a Head of School Award will be added. Other prizes will be presented on Monday including the 'Best Costume' awards.

Special thanks to our wonderful Ms Hayler (HMS Librarian) who goes above and beyond to enthuse a love of reading in our school every single day - she planned the whole day and worked hard to make sure there were activities to appeal to as many pupils as possible. Thank you to the staff who also got involved brilliantly - the costumes were joyful! Well done everyone!

Holi

It was a joy to mark the Hindu festival of Holi in school this week with a very vibrant lunch. Special thanks to Mrs Satow and her team who prepared a delicious range of food for us to enjoy. Holi is a festival of colour, and it was certainly a very colourful lunch with a wide range of main meal options and tasty desserts to choose from. We hope everyone enjoyed the lunch.

**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**

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 AIn, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
AIn	51,539	1	Matteo K	1	Callum T	1	Dylan W	1	Betti A
Coquet	51,873	2	Olive E	2	Conall R	2	Sadie B	2	Joseph D
Tweed	51,095	3	Matilda H	3	Kaylin F	3	Hayden M	3	Emily W
Wansbeck	51,164	4	Elizabeth D	4	Leo H	4	James D	4	Ella R

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
Eliza C	Martha P	Ross N	Annabelle C
Maddie A-R	Rowan D	Thomas M	Artie O'B
Gracie T	Jay Jay W	Aimee C	Elsie May P
Harrison A	Lewis B	Eleanor W	Lara G
Henry G	Winnie B		Etta L

Languages News

KS3 French Spelling Bee

Before half term, 8 KS3 pupils took part in the Hexham Partnership Spelling Bee at Corbridge Middle School. Pupils had to learn the French words then spell them out using the French alphabet. All pupils showed great determination and resilience. I am delighted to say that both our Year 8 team was victorious. A tremendous achievement and testament to all of the pupils' hard work. All pupils were fantastic representatives of Hexham Middle School. Well done to all who took part!

Year 7 Explore Languages and Football Careers



As part of Aspire Week at Hexham Middle School, Year 7 pupils took part in an exciting **Futbol Lingo webinar** linking languages with careers in football. During the session, pupils learned how language skills can open doors to a wide range of roles in the football industry, including coaching, journalism and working with international teams. The webinar helped pupils see how studying languages can support future opportunities and careers. The event formed part of our Aspire Week activities, encouraging pupils to think about their ambitions and the real-world value of the subjects they study in school.



Behaviour Update from Mrs Mackenzie

Since the start of this school year, we have been reviewing our behaviour curriculum to ensure it supports pupils as effectively as possible in developing positive habits for learning and for life. As part of this work, our Behaviour Working Party has considered how we can help Key Stage 3 pupils to better understand expectations and make constructive choices about their behaviour. Following discussion with colleagues at the high school, we will be **trailing a small adjustment** to how behaviour stages are used in Key Stage 3 so that our approach more closely reflects the systems pupils will encounter as they move on.

Previously, a sequence of S1, S2 and then a lunchtime reflection might have been used where behaviour needed to improve. Under the trial, what would previously have been recorded as an S1 or S2 will instead be addressed through two clearly communicated verbal warnings.

When a warning is given:

- Staff will explain what behaviour needs to change and what the pupil can do.
- This gives pupils a clear opportunity to correct their behaviour and make a positive choice before any further consequence is considered.
- If behaviour is not adjusted, despite these two warnings, lunchtime reflection (S3) will be used in line with our existing procedures.

The purpose of this change is to place greater emphasis on pupils **understanding their choices and taking responsibility** for improving their behaviour. By making expectations clear, we are helping them develop the reflective skills and self-discipline that will support them both in school and beyond. This approach also mirrors the expectations pupils will encounter later in their education and in adult life, where individuals are expected to respond to guidance and adjust their actions accordingly.

I would like to reassure you that this trial does not represent a lowering of expectations. High standards of behaviour remain essential to maintaining a calm, respectful and purposeful learning environment. Rather, this adjustment is intended to make expectations clearer and to intervene earlier, helping pupils correct their behaviour before it escalates to more formal consequences. Teachers will continue to use a range of strategies to support positive behaviour in the classroom. Where staff have observations or concerns, they may contact parents or carers at any point, as strong communication between home and school is vital in supporting pupils to succeed.

We will review the impact of this trial over the coming months and will keep families informed of any developments. Our aim is to ensure that our behaviour curriculum remains consistent, supportive and focused on helping pupils grow into responsible, thoughtful young people who are well prepared for the next stage of their education. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance remained at **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 – 97.5%	2nd form class – 97%	3rd form class – 96.5%
5-JNI, 5-YTA	5-ZSC	8-ETA, 6-FHA

Online Safety Update

For Parents - App Controls to Support Children

Jenny is a mother with two teenage girls who feels the pressure of keeping up to date with online safety, new app settings and more the same as other parents. In this article and YouTube video, Jenny shares how she uses app-level parental controls to manage social media use across her daughters' phones and tablets. Link: [Using App Controls to Support Children](#). (By Alan McKenzie – Online Safety Specialist)

HMS PTFA News

NEW EVENT – Games Night – Wednesday 1st April

- A brand new PTFA event – Games Night. Pupils are invited to bring their board games, card games, D&D, Warhammer etc. Tickets include a hot dog. Refreshments and sweets will be available to buy.
- [Please sign your child up here.](#)

Save the date – HMS Summer Fair – Saturday 27th June

- Our annual Summer Fair is back this year and we'd love you to 'save the date' – Saturday 27th June.
- Theme and more information to follow.
- **We are looking for a planning committee to help us as it takes a huge amount of time and energy to put on such a successful event. Please contact hmsptachair@gmail.com.**



Maths News



TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

A huge well done to all of our Times Tables winners listed below for last week's focus on average speed! Your hard work and determination truly stood out with impressive times, an excellent effort from everyone involved. This week, our competition continues with a fresh focus on percentage completed. Keep practising, stay motivated, and let's see just how much progress you can make!

Ethan P, Izobel O, Nico E, Finley P, Ethan W, Ronnie F, Daniella H

Sports News

U13 girls indoor cricket competition

Well done to our Y8 girls who competed in the regional round of the indoor cricket competition on Friday. The girls played really well across their 3 games despite some of them only playing cricket for the first time. They finished 3rd on the day, and this competition serves as a good platform for future competitions later in the year. Mr Cameron was also impressed with their positive attitude and sportsmanship shown throughout the day.



Athletics

A group of HMS year 7 boys competed in the county finals of Sports Hall Athletics hosted in Blyth this week. The boys qualified from an earlier Tynedale round and hopes were high for a good result on the day. The events included a mixture of individual and relay races as well as field events. It was a great competition format that was extremely popular. The boys ran, jumped and threw brilliantly all day. Their performance scores when added together and put them in second place out of the six areas competing - an amazing achievement for the team! It was a pleasure to take them to this competition. Mr Gaines particularly enjoyed seeing the smiling faces as the boys collected their medals with pride. Well done, Team HMS!

Year 6 Football



Our Year 6 boys' team visited Prudhoe Community High School for an action-packed football event last night. Mr Rutherford-Orrock was very proud of the whole team who represented HMS brilliantly as always. It was a great team effort and the spirit of the group shone through. The night saw some great HMS results with several victories and standout moments for the team. Here's a team photo minus Alfie and Callum who were picked up from the event. Well done everyone!

Y8 Boys' Rugby

Huge congratulations to our fantastic Y8 rugby team, who competed in the NSB Rugby Sevens on Thursday afternoon, finishing 2nd overall. They played 6 games in total, winning 5 of them and only being beaten in the cup final. They played some fantastic sevens rugby throughout the afternoon, winning all of their games to top their group and qualified for the 'cup' final against the winner of the other group, Emmanuel College. The final ebbed and flowed both ways, but HMS came agonisingly short, losing by only one try. Across the competition, Charlie P was immense, alongside Dan B-M they proved to be the finishers in the team. Walt & Rory were outstanding in defence, whilst Gwilym & Jake provided the creative spark. All 12 players were excellent, playing with plenty of skill, flair and a huge amount of courage. They should be immensely proud of their achievements; Mr Cameron certainly is!



Community News

Hexham Bike Bus – volunteers needed!

Following November's successful piloting of a 'Bike Bus' initiative in Hexham, Tynedale's Bicycle Mayor, David Dixon, has secured more funding for bike bus training for volunteer guides. A bike bus is a supervised grouping of cyclists who move together as a unit and therefore have greater protection from traffic than when cycling alone.

Our support of this reinforces the message that cycling can have many benefits for individuals – fitness, fun and convenience – and the community, as ever-increasing traffic congestion contributes to higher accident rates, pollution and Climate Change. However, without more adult guides, the scheme won't be sustainable. If you or someone you know can spare a small amount of time on a morning or afternoon each week to support this initiative, it would be greatly appreciated. Training is available and can take place during the week or on a Saturday or Sunday. For more details, please contact David via daviddixon649@gmail.com.



BigWalkandWheel is back! From 16 – 27 March 2026, we're encouraging families to get active by walking, wheeling, scooting, or cycling to school. It's a fun way to boost health and wellbeing for everyone! For free school resources and information visit: www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk. Let's make every journey count!

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 9 March	STEM Week	All year groups
Monday 9 March	Exam Stress Parent/Carer Workshop, 4pm	All parents/carers
Tuesday 10 March	Year 8 Transition Assembly	Year 8
Wednesday 11 March	Advance Northumberland Presentations	All year groups
Wednesday 11 March	First Lego League Challenge	Lego League Teams
Monday 16 March	Bikeability Week	Year 5
Monday 16 March	Year 6 Assessment Week	Year 6
Friday 20 March	Red Nose Day	All year groups

Have a great weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Mackenzie

Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott, Mr Rutherford-Orrrock, 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-Orrrock 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).