

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 25

Red Nose Day

To end a busy week, we have been raising funds for Comic Relief today and what a great laugh we have had! At lunchtime, pupils enjoyed a range of fun activities including 'Soak the Teacher' (always a classic!), the famous Teacher Challenges, Beat the Goalie shootouts and lots more. The theme of Red Nose Day is bringing joy and laughter to raise funds for so many important charities and organisations and we are proud to support this great work once again. Thank you for your generous donations - donations can still be made via MCAS if you are able to support.



Year 6 Mock SATs

This week, our Year 6 pupils have had their 'mock SATs' – they have all worked so hard! This is a chance for them to run through the SATs week so that they are prepared for the assessments in May. We have been so proud of them all – their positive attitude has shone through loud and clear. They have all given it 100%! After assembly, pupils enjoyed a special treat of breakfast waffles and some free time outside in the sunshine after a very busy week! Thank you very much to the Year 6 staff and all those involved in supporting the week so brilliantly.



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	55,382	1	Fern D	1	Leo H	1	Meike O	1	Joseph D
Coquet	55,813	2	Erin B	2	Sequoia D-G	2	Dylan War	2	Samuel L
Tweed	55,043	3	Georgina G	3	Kaylin F	3	Jessica Do	3	Joseph B
Wansbeck	55,031	4	Elsie F	4	Margot D	4	Dylan Wat	4	Florence B

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**

Year 6 Rising Stars



All of our Year 6 pupils have been 'Rising Stars' this week - we are very proud of them! As part of our special themed assemblies for Year 6 pupils, teachers nominate their 'Rising Stars' and share why each pupil has been celebrated. The awards recognise pupils who have shown a great attitude to learning, aim high, contribute positively to lessons and take real pride in their learning and achievement, especially in this week's assessments. Here are our winners from earlier today - what a fantastic group of very hard-working and positive Year 6 children!

Pupil Competitions

Easter Decorated Eggs

It's time to get creative for our [Easter competition](#). Your task is to decorate an egg or to create a scene/display of eggs. You can choose any theme - the more imaginative, the better! You can work on your own or as a team. Themes could include your favourite TV show, film, book characters, sports team and so much more - egg-inspired names encouraged! Entries need to be in school on Wednesday 1st April. Prizes up for grabs for each year group. Good luck!



Art Competition - BBFC

We're excited to invite all pupils to take part in this year's BBFC "Create the Card" Competition which is an inspiring opportunity where our pupils have previously ranked in the UK's top 10! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDd7GAGbTOQ>. Miss Taylor introduced the competition to our pupils this week and is happy to answer any questions they may have.

Polite Reminder

Disabled Parking Bays

A gentle reminder that our disabled parking bays are reserved for families who have a pass for this. Please help us keep these spaces available for those who need them. If your child requires access to a disabled bay and you do not yet have a school pass; you can request one at the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance dipped slightly to 94%. 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 – 98.5%	2nd form class – 98%	3rd form class – 97.5%
6-FHA	5-JNI	6-JJO, 5-EKI

Languages News

Year 5 Mini Olympics Trip to Newcastle University

Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a brilliant day at the Mini Olympics held at Newcastle University’s Sports Centre. The event brought together schools from across the region for a celebration of global sport, languages and culture, with pupils taking part in a mix of individual athletic challenges and fun team games.



Representing Australia and Canada, our pupils threw themselves into every activity with fantastic enthusiasm.

We were especially proud of the medal-winning performances from Finley P, Oliver M and Alfie J, who shone across the athletics events. A special congratulations goes to Team Australia, who won the dodgeball tournament after an impressive display of teamwork and determination. It was a wonderful morning that encouraged teamwork, friendly competition and cultural learning—well done to all involved!

Maths News



TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

A huge well done to our winners from last week’s TTRS competition! They achieved an impressive percentage of questions completed, we are incredibly proud of their hard work and determination.

This week’s competition is already underway and will run until Sunday. The focus this week is on the number of correct answers, so every accurate answer counts! Thank you for continuing to support the children with their times tables practice, we can’t wait to see who comes out on top this week!

Lucy L, Jackson L, Izobel O, Olivia W, Fern D, George N, Rowan D, Finn M, Ronnie F, Ted P, Finn R, Oran H

Clubs News

Gardening Club



Our Gardening Club activity club is ramping up like we imagine it is for other local gardeners. Pupils have been busy filling new planters, planting seeds plants, and doing other spring-time tidying up. Mr Freeman-Myers would like to thank Keda and Imy from Hexham Youth Initiative for guiding our pupils in different activities and helping to create a sense of belonging.

Each week there is also an opportunity for some fruit or biscuits on our break after some busy gardening. This week, we had mango, pineapple and Jaffa Cakes (by request), alongside a game of Uno at the table - there was plenty of laughter all round!

Personal Development News

Sir Robert McAlpine Work Experience Project Celebration

This week, our Year 7 pupils involved in presenting their designs of a Maggie Centre to employer judges were brought together to present book prizes related to architecture and construction. These books have been donated to our school library for others to enjoy. As a special treat, there was also a pizza party to celebrate the engagement! Well done to our Year 7 pupils that showed great commitment to this project. Special thanks must go to our catering staff who organised the pizzas for us!



Bikeability

Our first Bikeability group have enjoyed their week of cycling proficiency training both on the school site and in the local area. Safe cycling is such an important skill and we are very pleased to be offering the Bikeability course for Year 5 once again. The instructors have been very proud of our pupils and their positive engagement. The next group will be out and about next week!

Sports News

U14 girls shine at Dame Allan's 7s tournament

The U14 Girls travelled to Cochrane Park in Newcastle to compete in the prestigious Dame Allan's 7s Tournament, an event that attracts strong sides from private and boarding schools across the North East, Scotland, and Yorkshire. The girls won the Plate which, in such a competitive field, is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their teamwork, resilience, and skill. In addition to the team's success, both Annabelle and Gaby were nominated for Player of the Tournament by staff from other schools — a fantastic individual recognition reflecting their impact and consistency across all matches. Winning the Plate in such a competitive field is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their teamwork, resilience, and skill. See [here](#) for a match report. A huge well done to all the girls: Annabelle, Gaby, Clara, Mia S, Beth, Poppy, Martha, Maddy, Ella, Rose, Mia R.



Y8 RGS Rugby Sevens Competition

A huge well done to our Y8 rugby team who travelled to RGS on Thursday to compete in another rugby sevens competition. Off the back of a largely successful outcome at the NSB 7's a couple of weeks ago, confidence was high. This competition is always a very prestigious event, where private schools are invited to compete from all over the North and was always going to be a step up in the level of competition.

Not phased by being the only state school competing at the event, HMS kicked off with an excellent 5-2 win against Durham. They were comfortably beaten in the second game by overall cup finalists, RGS and only narrowly lost 5-4 in the last action of the game against Loretto. The results meant we qualified for the 'vase' competition, and HMS excelled once again by beating Barnard Castle in the semi-final to set up a final game against Yarm. Fatigue was playing a factor by this point, and despite a very strong finish to the game they lost out 4-2. Try scorers across the tournament were Jacob (8), Charlie (5), Daniel (3), Archie (2), Zach and Harry S. Every player contributed across the tournament and Mr Cameron was incredibly proud of their efforts once again. The boys were a real credit to the school and should hold their heads high for a great performance here and throughout the season.

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.](#)

**HMS PTFA
GAMES
NIGHT**

**Wednesday 1st April
6.00 - 7.30PM
£3 PER TICKET
INCLUDING A HOT DOG**

Community News

Autism family drop-in sessions: See [here](#) for updated dates.

Meningitis B advice

Please take a moment to familiarise yourselves with the signs and symptoms of meningitis, and contact your GP for any concerns or for guidance regarding Meningitis B vaccinations. <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/31/what-is-meningitis-symptoms-risks-and-how-to-protect-yourself/>

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 23 – Friday 27 March	Bikeability Week 2	Year 5 - group

Monday 23 March	U11 girls' tag rugby festival at Dame Allan's	Year 7 – group
Wednesday 25 March	Northumbria Police Education: Grooming	Year 8
Thursday 26 March	Where languages can take you (webinar)	Year 8
Thursday 26 March	Head of School Award Breakfast	HOS Award Winners
Friday 27 March	Author Visit: Philip Kavadias	Year 5
Friday 27 March	U12 boys' and girls' rugby county 7s tournament	Year 7 - group
Monday 30 March	Talent Show Auditions (lunch time)	All year groups
Wednesday 1 April	PTFA Games Night (6-7.30pm)	All welcome
Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 April	Easter Hamper Raffle – tickets available - £1 per strip	All year groups
Wednesday 1 April	Decorated Egg competition – entries needed	All year groups
Thursday 2 April	Easter Celebration Assemblies	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-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, Mr Rutherford-Orrock 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).