

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 26**Head of School Awards**

Head of School Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'compassion' – 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
Oliver N Max G Ethan W George N Daniel B Daisy H	Finn R Amber S Jake C Esme H Freddie S	Leo C Charlie H Annabelle L Ben C Isis T-H	Rory A Ella R George F Aurelia K Georgia O

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
Bobby N Nico E Lillian R-G Artie J Heidi W	Ted P Conall R Amelia F Skye K Bella S Phaedra H-F	Molly C Hollie W Jesse C Evie L	Elsie L Niamh K Thomas M Ed S Joanna R

Year 6 Rising Stars

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 this week - what a fantastic group of very hard-working and positive Year 6 children!

Hexham Middle School

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.ukwww.hexhammiddleschool.co.ukExecutive 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 Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	57,548	1	Beau C	1	Kaylin F	1	Arthur C	1	Joanna R
Coquet	57,848	2	Fern D	2	Alfie S	2	Charlie M	2	Emily W
Tweed	57,087	3	Casey S	3	Heidi B	3	Leo B	3	Harry B
Wansbeck	57,156	4	Alfie T	4	Cameron G	4	Leo C	4	Rosie O

Easter Activities

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!



Easter Hamper

Pupils have the chance to win our Easter hamper (kindly donated by HMS staff). Raffle tickets can be bought next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday breaktime in the HMS reception area. Tickets are £1 per strip and the draw will be made on Thursday 2nd April. Good luck! All funds will support the HMS PTFA.

Red Nose Day

To end last week, we were raising funds for Comic Relief today and what a great laugh we 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 - we raised a brilliant £470!



Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance was 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 – 98.5%	2nd form class – 98%	3rd form class – 97.5%
6-FHA	5-YTA	7-PGA

HMS Talent Show 2026

HMS Talent Show returns for a second year and we are looking forward to another exciting evening! Auditions will take place the week beginning 30th March and 20th April during lunchtime. Successful candidates will be selected and will go through to the final evening performance 19th May.



If you would like to show off your talents, you will need to book a slot on the audition sign-up sheet in the library. Remember we want to see a range of talents, that could be dancing, singing, comedy.... or create your own! Be original!

Maths News

Newcastle University Challenge

The Maths Department is delighted to celebrate the outstanding success of our students in a prestigious challenge hosted by Newcastle University. A huge congratulations to Joseph D and Gruffydd T, who secured the top prize, and to Joanna R, Tyler H, Effie R-B, and Ben S, who each received certificates recognising their excellent performance. Throughout the competition, students took on a series of demanding mathematical and problem-solving tasks — from plotting the flight path needed to draw a star in the sky, to using triangulation to locate a sinking ship, and even scheduling drone flights with precision. Well done to all who took part. It is wonderful to see HMS students embracing university-level thinking and showcasing such impressive talent.



TTRS Update (Years 5 and 6)

A huge well done to last week's Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) winners! The focus of the competition was the number of correct answers, which really puts pupils' accuracy, speed, and determination to the test. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils challenging themselves and showing real enthusiasm for improving their times table fluency. This marks the final TTRS competition for this half term. Competitions will resume after the Easter holidays, and we're excited to see even more pupils getting involved and enjoying the challenge. A big thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your children with TTRS at home. Your encouragement makes a huge difference, and it's fantastic to see how much progress pupils are making as a result.

Bertie B, Mia B, Alex D, Nico E, Hugo C, Erin B, Rowan D, Finn M, Ronnie F, Finn R, Ava N, Spike N

Clubs News

HMS Golf Club @ Hexham Golf Club

We had our first HMS Golf Club session yesterday, and pupils had a fantastic time on the practice area with Joe, the professional golfer. There was lots of concentration and focus as pupils tried to improve their swings whilst aiming for a selection of targets. They were still smiling when it was time to collect all the golf balls at the end! **Date for the diary:** The next session will take place on **Thursday 7th May.**



Sports News



Y7 and Y8 Netball

Well done to all of our netball players who competed in a mini festival on Thursday with Corbridge MS. It was brilliant to get 4 teams out all playing at once and demonstrating some excellent netball. Each team played 3 games in total, and especially well done to Hexham 1 (blue team) and Hexham 4 (red & white) who won all of their games.

Y7 and Y8 Basketball

Well done to all of our basketball players who competed in a mini festival on Thursday with Corbridge MS. Each school had 3 teams and it was great to see the Hexham boys having the opportunity to compete and put all of their practice with Mr Drummond into games! Results will follow.



Year 6, 7 and 8 Hockey

Well done to all of our hockey players who played against Valley Gardens Middle School on Thursday afternoon. All players played really well, and the Y8 team secured a 2-2 draw whilst the mixed team also drew 0-0. Maggie was very impressed with everyone's attitudes and efforts!



Y6 girls' tag rugby festival

Well done to our Y6 girls who took part in the Dame Allan's tag rugby festival on Monday evening at Blaydon Rugby Club. It was great to see the girls grow in confidence and ability throughout the event. Most players had never played any rugby before, but by the end of the event they managed to draw 3 of their 5 games and showed some really positive rugby. The whole event was centered around the core values of rugby, and after each game, teams nominated opposition players for demonstrating these values. Our girls were really mature and respectful when awarding opposition players their awards. All girls were awesome throughout the event, but special mention to Pippa M who received multiple nominations from other teams for her excellent ability and strong team ethic. And also to Lauren H who was awarded HMS player of the tournament for her rapid improvement from not knowing the rules at the start, to scoring 2 tries in her final game!



Personal Development News

Where can languages take you? – Year 8 Careers Event



Where can languages take you?

Yesterday, Year 8 pupils took part in the “Where can languages take you?” webinar, organised by the British Council as part of the **Express Yourself: North East Festival of Languages**. The session introduced students to a range of speakers who shared their own language-learning journeys, explained how languages have enriched their lives, and highlighted the many opportunities that language skills can open up in further study and future careers. The aim of the webinar was to inspire pupils to continue with languages and consider choosing them at GCSE by showing how useful and exciting they can be in real-world contexts. It would be good for you to discuss this with your child so that they can reflect upon what they learnt during the webinar.

HMS PTFA News

PTFA 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.](#)



School Car Park Safety Reminder

We kindly ask everyone to help keep our school community safe by following the 10-mph speed limit while driving on school grounds. There has been an increasing number of concerns reported in recent weeks. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our pupils safe.

Online Safety News

For Parents - New YouTube Feature

One of the most common concerns from parents when it comes to YouTube is the lack of parental management features, in other words the videos their children can and should not see. Many parents I speak to don't know that there are features within both the main YouTube app and the YouTube Kids app.



But Google have now released another feature, specifically this allows a parent to set up a Supervised Experience account on the parents' device. This is important because many younger children will watch YouTube videos on their parents' device, where it is likely there are no restrictions in place. So, this new feature is a welcome addition.

To tie all these features together, I have produced an article explaining Supervised Experience (on the main YouTube app) and Parent Allowlisting (on the YouTube Kids app) Link: [YouTube Settings for Parents](#) (By Alan McKenzie, Online Safety Advisor).

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 taking place on **Wednesday 13 May**. For more details, please contact David via daviddixon649@gmail.com.

Family Hub Northumberland: See [here](#) for what’s on in the Easter holidays.

Autism Family Drop In Sessions: see [here](#) for the latest dates for Autism Family Drop In Sessions with HINT.

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
All week	KS3 English Creative Project Showcase	Years 7 and 8
Monday 30 March	Talent Show Auditions (lunch time)	All year groups
Tuesday 31 March	Talent Show Auditions (lunch time)	All year groups
Tuesday 31 March	Futbol Lingo Workshop	Year 7 and Year 8

Wednesday 1 April	PTFA Games Night (6-7.30pm)	All welcome
Tuesday 31, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 April	Easter Hamper Raffle – tickets available at break time - £1 per strip	All year groups
Wednesday 1 April	Decorated Egg competition – entries wanted	All year groups
Thursday 2 April	Easter Celebration Assemblies	All year groups
Thursday 2 April	House Prize (non-uniform and early lunch!)	Winning House – TBA
Thursday 2 April	School closes at 3.20pm for the Easter holiday	All year groups
Monday 20 April	School reopens for all students at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 20 April	Spring Games	Year 7
Wednesday 22 April	Spring Games	Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 23 April	Spring Games	Year 8

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).