

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 29**

**High Borrans – Year 8**



A group of our Year 8 pupils have been enjoying an action-packed, sunny adventure at High Borrans in the Lake District. Activities have included canoeing, caving, ghyll scrambling and hill walking, with pupils showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and resilience. Evenings have been spent relaxing with games, campfire and time in the sunshine! It was a very memorable experience with happy faces all round and lifelong memories made. Thank you to Miss Lamont, Mr Freeman-Myers, Miss Taylor and Miss Whitmore (plus a guest appearance from Mr Scott).



For lots of lovely pictures of the trip, see our website: [day 1 and 2](#), [day 3](#) and [day 4](#).



**Head of School Awards**

This month's Head of School Award theme was **'honesty'** – one of our core character values. I was delighted to see the children being recognised for their wonderful approach to school life. It was great to celebrate the positive contribution each pupil makes to our school community – I am very proud of them all. Pupils in school today joined me for a special breakfast earlier

(breakfast sandwiches, pastries and hot chocolate) and received a certificate and P5 award! A huge well done to everyone celebrated today!

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Eliza B	Jesse C	George T	Betti A
Samuel W	Jax M	Dylan W	Oliver D
Nate R	Martha P	Katlyn H	Darcey H
Demi R	Emilia T	Penelope W	Joey S
Izzy O	Winnie B	Philippa U	Daisy H-R

**Year 6 Rising Stars**

Here are this week's 'Rising Stars' from Year 6. 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. Well done everyone – what a fantastic group of very hard-working and positive Year 6 children!



**Hexham Middle School**

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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 Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	<b>62,623</b>	1	Alexander D	1	Heidi B	1	Leela H	1	Betti A
<b>Coquet</b>	<b>63,113</b>	2	Nola P	2	Leo H	2	Adam H	2	Ben S
<b>Tweed</b>	<b>62,479</b>	3	Toby S	3	Sophia M	3	Martha G	3	Anna F
<b>Wansbeck</b>	<b>62,603</b>	4	Evie N	4	Ella W	4	Jessica T	4	Rory A

## STEM Success



HUGE congratulations to Lauren, Jessica, Meike and Martha who have qualified for the national final of the 'Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Competition'. The team will travel to the final in Birmingham where they will showcase their brilliant project. As a team, their project has been selected from over 800 national entries - this is a phenomenal achievement. The project titled 'The Plant Perfectionists - how do different masses of biochar affect plant growth?' will be taken to the final event where teams will receive feedback from industry experts.

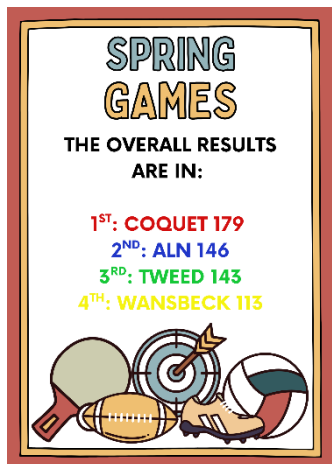
All of us at HMS are exceptionally proud of our Year 7 team - they have shown outstanding commitment and independence in their development of the project. Thank you to Mrs Gregory for encouraging pupils to get involved in this opportunity. Good luck in the final, Team HMS!

<https://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/news/26049875.hexham-students-reach-finals-national-stem-competition/?ref=wa>

## Stay Safe and Well: Water Safety – Year 5 and Year 7



As part of our 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum', we were very grateful to Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service for once again delivering water safety workshops to our Year 5 and 7 pupils this week. Vital safety messages were delivered, and pupils were able to ask lots of interesting questions too. As we approach the summer season, it's more important than ever to discuss the importance of staying safe close to water. Our pupils enjoyed two educational



workshops – one classroom based and one practical session with demonstrations and the use of life-saving equipment. It was great to host these essential workshops in school and we extend our thanks to the team for their positive support.

### Spring Games Results

The final results are in ... (and still!) the Spring Games House Champions are **COQUET**. Congratulations to them for retaining the title. The trophy is on the shelf in the main foyer in HMS, and the house colours of Coquet can remain! There were some excellent performances across all year groups in the various disciplines: football, benchball, tag rugby, netball, rounders and cricket. Coquet dominated in Year 6 and Year 8, while Aln claimed victories in Year 5 and Year 7, showing just how competitive the Games were throughout the school. Well done everyone!



### 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
Adam A	Charlie A	Jacob B	Lewis T
Olivia R	Oscar N	Charlie M	Aria H
Imogen C	Georgia M	Charlie P	Libby C
Will F	Jenna T	Sienna C	<i>8ETA and 8BLA back next week!</i>
Robyn T	Niamh B	<i>7SRI back next week!</i>	

### HMS PTFA News

#### HMS PTFA Summer UV Discos – sign up now

We are very excited to announce that our Summer Discos – this time with added UV – will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The [sign-up form](#) is available here. Please send £3 into the school office for your child's ticket. Please be advised that any UV 'paint' should be applied before arriving at school. Bright or white clothing encouraged!



### 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

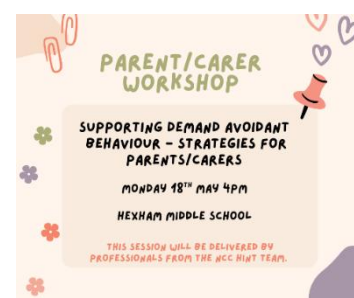
most of their school opportunities. We encourage pupils to be resilient to ensure that they don't miss out on great learning each day – especially as we enter the colder months. Thank you for your support.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> form class – 99.5%</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class – 99%</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class – 98.5%</b>
<b>6-FHI</b>	<b>5-YTA</b>	<b>6-RAL</b>

### Parent Workshop

#### Demand Avoidance

We have organised a parent/carer workshop to be delivered by professionals from the HINT team focused on sharing strategies for supporting children who show demand avoidant behaviours. The workshop will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 4pm at Hexham Middle School. The session will focus on understanding demand avoidance and strategies to support parents/carers and children at home.



If your child is struggling with everyday demands, shows a need for control and may struggle with direct requests, transitions, unexpected change, sensory overload and anxiety, this session will be very useful for you. See [here](#) for more information.

[Please sign up here](#) (Microsoft Forms).

### Sports News



#### Year 8 Cricket

The Year 8 girls took part in the local indoor cricket festival on Thursday, which was celebrating 50 days until the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup. The girls played really well and showed significant improvement from the recent indoor event, managing to win 3 out of their 5 games. They can now look forward to competing in the outdoor competitions in the summer!

#### Cricket – taster sessions

A huge thank you to Nathan of Northumberland Cricket who has been in to deliver some cricket sessions to our year 7 and 8's. It has been a great opportunity for pupils of all abilities to come and enjoy playing cricket (in the sunshine!) and hopefully develop an interest in playing more. Pupils appeared really engaged and have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions with Nathan. If anyone wants to know how to get involved in playing more cricket, they should speak to the PE department.



## Staying Safe Online

### For Parents - Your Child's Digital Footprint

What is a digital footprint? Basically, it's the trail we all create online whenever we visit a web page, buy something, scroll social media and everything else we do online. It's an important aspect to understand for lots of reasons such as privacy, reputation, advertising, risks of harm and much more. Internet Matters have a really good explainer article covering what a digital footprint is, what we mean by an active footprint, why it matters and much more. Link: Internet Matters - [What you need to know about your child's digital footprint](#). (Alan McKenzie – Online Safety specialist)



## Club News

### Year 7 and 8 Tennis Club – Starting This Week

The club is open to all students in **Year 7 and Year 8**, regardless of experience, and we encourage everyone to come along and give it a try. These sessions will also be used as trials for upcoming tennis fixtures. We have entered both boys' and girls' competitions, and the first fixtures will take place the following week on 12th and 14th May. With this in mind, we would love to see as many students attend as possible. We look forward to seeing lots of enthusiastic players and hope many students will take this opportunity to get involved in tennis this term!



## 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](mailto:daviddixon649@gmail.com).

## 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
<b>Monday 4 May</b>	Early May Bank Holiday – school closed for all pupils	All year groups
<b>Tuesday 5 May</b>	U13 boys' indoor cricket competition	Year 8 (group)
<b>Tuesday 5 May</b>	PERS People Assembly – Rites of Passage with Rvd Glover	Year 5
<b>Wednesday 6 May</b>	PERS People Assembly – Brother Khadim from NCL Central Mosque	Year 8
<b>Thursday 7 May</b>	PERS People Assembly - Jaswinder from NE Sikh Service	Year 7
<b>Friday 8 May</b>	Visiting Artist Workshop Experience	Year 7
<b>Monday 11 to Thursday 14 May</b>	Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Assessment Week (SATS)	Year 6
<b>Friday 15 May</b>	Year 6 Treat Day	Year 6
<b>Friday 15 May</b>	Michael Sehgal New Uniform Pop-up Shop, 3.30-5.30pm	Book your time slot <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Tuesday 19 May</b>	Year Group Photo	Year 5
<b>Thursday 21 May</b>	PTFA UV Disco	All year groups

Have a lovely long weekend everyone - thank you for your continued support.

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).