

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 34

Big Bang UK - National Competition Winners!

WOW - great news alert - we could not be any prouder... Meike, Martha, Jessica and Lauren worked with Meryl Batchelder from Teraligo to research the effects of biochar on plant growth. After initially gaining a Bronze Crest Award, they submitted their research to the Big Bang Science Competition. They were selected to take part in the video judging round where they presented their research to a panel of expert judges. After being invited to the national final event in Birmingham, the team - The Plant Perfectionists - showcased their research at the Big Bang Science Fair with over 3,000 peers. There was steep competition with the HMS girls being among the youngest competitors at the event and with schools from around the country sharing their projects.



The girls were phenomenal ambassadors for HMS and everyone said how highly impressed they were with their enthusiasm, passion and knowledge of their subject area - their presentation skills were truly outstanding - such confidence and very impressive delivery. During the award ceremony yesterday, we are beyond proud to share that the girls were presented as the winners of The Young Scientist of the Year Award - this is such an outstanding achievement - we are all incredibly proud of them. What an inspiration to all of us! Well done and thank you for representing our school so brilliantly in all you do! Thank you to Mrs Gregory and Dr Batchelder for their support and enthusiasm and to Mr Drummond for supporting the team on the day.

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
Chris F	Erin M	Eva G	Karam D
Finley J	Ronnie F	Ben R	Lewis T
Niamh M	Ava G	Aoife B	Walt M
Jac S	Harrison S-W	Zain B	Eben S
Kai B	Amelia Rose S		Maja M
			Lizzie L

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

HMS Ski Trip 2028 – Les Menuires, France – SIGN UP NEWS

Mr Gaines and Mr Johnson are delighted to announce plans for the HMS Ski Trip to Les Menuires, France, taking place in **January/February 2028**. The total cost of the trip is **£1,713**, which includes flights, accommodation, six days of skiing, and a range of recreational activities. Pupils will fly from Newcastle to Geneva before travelling by coach to the resort. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils of all abilities, whether they are experienced skiers or complete beginners. We would encourage all pupils who are interested to consider taking part in what promises to be an unforgettable experience.

There will be **40 places available, which will initially be offered to current Year 6 pupils**, who will be in Year 8 when the trip takes place. Should any places remain available, they will then be offered to pupils currently in Year 5.

We hope to secure all places **before the summer holidays**. In the meantime, please discuss this exciting opportunity with your child and consider whether they would like to take part. Further information regarding the booking process and how to secure a place will be shared by Mr Gaines and Mr Johnson in the **coming weeks**.

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	71,013	1	Nola P	1	Kaylin F	1	Finlay F	1	Oliver S
Coquet	71,782	2	Casey S	2	Erin M	2	Ross N	2	Katie R-B
Tweed	71,221	3	Lucia-Rose F	3	Sally B	3	Nancy M	3	Georgia O
Wansbeck	71,413	4	Hugo E	4	Sebastian D	4	Adam H	4	Sam L

Super Salad Week

Last week was 'Super Salad Week' as we celebrated Healthy Eating Week across school. We had a range of delicious salads each day including Cowboy Caviar and the Apple Cucumber salad with creamy dressing. We are proud that we offer a daily free salad bar in school and we LOVED these new additions – the ingredients are below and shared on our website if you fancy re-creating them at home over the summer months!



Attendance – Top 3!

This week's attendance dropped slightly to 95% and it'd be great to see a positive increase next week. 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.

1 st form class – 98%	2 nd form class – 97.5%	3 rd form class – 97%
6-FHA	7-CAR	5-ZSC

Personal Development Updates

Year 8 CSE workshops

This week, pupils will receive a workshop led by Be Safe. This will focus on Child Sexual Exploitation or CSE. This is part of your child's Staying Safe and Well Curriculum. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the school.

Year 6 Safety Works

As part of our Stay Safe and Well Curriculum, Year 6 pupils recently enjoyed a highly informative and engaging visit to Safety Works in Benwell. During the day, pupils took part in a carousel of interactive workshops covering a range of important safety topics, including:

- Road safety
- Water safety
- Making safe choices and understanding the consequences of shoplifting
- Fire safety



Running through all of the sessions was the key theme of peer pressure and how young people can recognise it, respond confidently, and make positive decisions. Pupils explored practical strategies for coping with difficult situations, helping them to stay safe, make responsible choices, and understand the importance of abiding by the law. The workshops were designed to be hands-on and interactive, with opportunities for role play and real-life scenarios that encouraged pupils to think carefully about their actions and responses. Our Year 6 pupils asked lots of thoughtful questions throughout the day and approached every activity with enthusiasm and maturity.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in learning skills that will help keep them safe now and in the future. A huge thank you to our PTFA for kindly part-funding the transport costs for this trip. Your continued support helps us to provide enriching experiences like this for our pupils.

Mental Health



It has been excellent to welcome Michael from Kooth into school this week to deliver assemblies for our pupils. Michael is

giving important messages about Kooth - a free, safe, year-round online mental health support and advice platform which our pupils in Years 7 and 8 can access. Thank you very much, Michael. For parents/carers who would like to find out more information about Kooth please access this [link](#).

HMS PTFA News

HMS PTFA LOGO COMPETITION

The HMS PTFA want a new logo that represents our school community, creativity, and fundraising spirit, that can be used for all of our promotional material including the website and posters that go out to the school and wider community.



- What makes HMS PTFA events special? (Discos, Summer Fair etc)
- How does our school community support each other? Parents and Teachers working together.
- Symbols or colours that represent teamwork, learning, and pride.

How to Enter

1. Design a logo that reflects the values, energy, and identity of HMS, and our PTFA, on the entry form
2. Your design can be hand-drawn or digital.
3. Colours: You may use any colours, but ensure your design is easy to reproduce.
4. Content: The logo must include the text "HMS PTFA".
5. Submit your finished design in the entry box
6. Deadline: Monday 22nd June 2026

Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, and how well they represent HMS PTFA. Prize: £10 voucher. Good luck — we can't wait to see your designs!

HMS PTFA SUMMER FAIR

Our HMS PTFA Summer Fair is now fast approaching, and you're all invited to join us on the day. The PTFA are very busy planning a World Cup themed extravaganza for the whole family to enjoy - please try to save the date and invite family and friends along too.

- Saturday 27th June 12-3pm
- Hexham Middle School
- Giant inflatable, raffle, tombola, themed games and stalls, BBQ, refreshments

How can you help?

- Books of raffle tickets are now being sent home with pupils – **they may be in your child's bag**. If you would like to buy tickets, please return the completed stubs and payment to the HMS Office. If



you don't want to buy tickets, please could you return the tickets. ***We have some fantastic prizes - a full list will follow soon!***

- If you could donate any raffle or tombola prizes, please send them into school or contact the PTFA.
- You may be able to bake cakes for us to sell on the day. If so, they can be brought to school on the Friday or Saturday.
- If you're able to help plan the summer fair, the PTFA could really use your support! Lots of stalls need themes, decorations, prizes and a bit of preparation support. All support is HUGELY appreciated - these events take a huge amount of coordination so please consider supporting if you can.
- **If you can volunteer on the day, please try to sign-up here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084FAAAC28A6F85-64095724-summer#/>

Thank you for your support - we hope to see you all on the day!

Community News

Water Safety Day

The RNLI has launched a campaign aimed at raising awareness and supporting young people to stay safe around water. You can find more information [here](#). On **Saturday 4 July, 11:00-14:00hrs** at **Riverside Park, Prudhoe, NE42 6NP**, the Prudhoe Youth Project, in conjunction with Tyne Valley Canoe Club will host a Water Safety Day, which will give attendees the opportunity to get out on the water with instructors on a kayak, canoe or SUP board. There will also be the opportunity to test safety equipment and demonstrations by Northumberland Fire and Rescue, Mountain Rescue and the Northumbria Police Marine Unit. Everyone is welcome. See [here](#) for more information.

Celebrate Your Education Heroes

Thank a Teacher Day

Wednesday 17 June is 'Thank a Teacher Day'. If you would like to send a free e-card to show appreciation for the dedication, creativity, and care that teachers and teaching staff bring to their classrooms each day, please visit this [link](#).



Online Safety Update

For Parents - WhatsApp for Under 13's

With the exception of YouTube, WhatsApp has always been one of the most popular messaging apps, including for children under 13. This has always been a concern for a lot of different reasons, but out of the blue it seems that Meta have now created a parent-managed service which I think is really good. Similar to other parent-managed accounts, a parent will pair their device/account to the child's device/account which then gives a lot of flexibility such as:

- No 'view once' messages.
- No location sharing.
- Messages and group invites from unknown contacts sent to the parent for approval.

- Parent notifications, such as new contact added.

Link: [WhatsApp parent-managed accounts - explained.](#)

Link: [How to set up a parent-managed account.](#)

(By Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist)

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 15 June	Science: Zoolab Evolution Workshops (<i>kindly funded by our PTFA</i>)	Year 6
Monday 15 June	U11 boys and girls outdoor cricket competition at Stocksfield	Year 6
Tuesday 16 June	Orchestra visit to Acomb Court Care Home	Orchestra Group
Wednesday 17 June	TechNext 26	Year 5 – Year 7 group
Thursday 18 June	Dave Burn's - Child Sexual Exploitation PSHE lesson	Year 8
Friday 19 June	HPV vaccination catch-up session	Year 8
Friday 19 June	Litter Pick Campaign with the Wombles	All year groups
Friday 26 June	HMS Fundraising Day	All year groups
Saturday 27 June	HMS PTFA SUMMER FAIR, 12-3pm	All welcome
Monday 29 June	HMS Summer Concert, 7pm	All welcome
Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 July	Newby Wiske Residential	Year 6
Wednesday 8 July	Sports Day	Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 8 July	Skills Builder Day	Years 7 and 8
Thursday 9 July	Sports Day	Year 7 and Year 8

Thursday 9 July	Skills Builder Day	Years 5 and 6
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Have a great weekend - 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 Year: Miss Bell (Y5), Mr Scott (Y6 and Y7), Miss Lamont (Y8)

SENDCo: Mr Morgan (*Mr Walton from September 2026*)

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

Pupil Support Workers: Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards

Attendance Officer: Miss Parradine

Inclusion Administrator: Mrs Armstrong

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).