



**Hexham
Middle School**
spes durat avorum

**THE FIRST WEEK BACK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1
AND [MENU](#) WEEK 1**

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 39 – the final one of the year!

HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE!

Thank you
Happy Summer



As the term comes to an end, it just leaves me to send a HUGE heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you. The HMS Community is a special place and it's been another fantastic year at our school.

To our fantastic pupils - thank you for your positive engagement, your approach to learning, your smiles and laughter and for being amazing! You make HMS a great place to be - all of the staff continue to be very proud of you! Special good luck to our Year 8 pupils in your next chapter - we wish you all the success in the future! To our amazing staff team - thank you so much for all you do! The staff on Team HMS are a joy - they work with such drive, positivity and dedication and always strive to go above and beyond to provide our pupils with the very best experience in school.

To you - the HMS community - thank you for your endless support of everything we do. You get involved with all aspects of school life and we are very grateful for all you do. It's been another great year for our HMS PTFA who have yet again given countless hours of their own time and energy to raise funds for school and to provide wonderful opportunities for enrichment. What a team! Have a great summer holiday and we'll see you back for the new school year on Wednesday 2nd September

Year 8 Leavers' Celebration

What a way to end a great year at HMS! Our Year 8 pupils had an amazing night for their Leavers' Festival! Everyone enjoyed the disco, dancing, photo booth, party food and ice cream van visit (thank you, Tyne Valley Ices). It was a night of dancing, celebration and absolute joy – what a great atmosphere all round! Huge thanks to Miss Lamont and the huge number of staff who stayed back late to give Year 8 such a fantastic and well-deserved send off! Lifelong memories made... Good luck, Year 8 – you'll be amazing – we are so proud of you all. [More photos](#)



Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

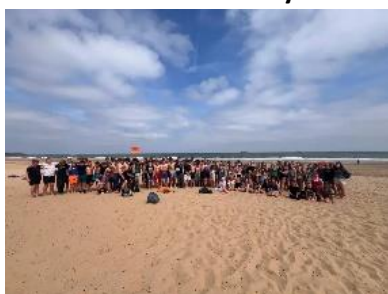
Head of School: **Liam Watters**

Year 8 Leavers' Assembly

It was a joy to celebrate our amazing Year 8 pupils this morning for their final assembly at HMS. As well as our usual subject awards, Miss Lamont presented our special 'most likely to be...' awards and took the pupils down memory lane with photographs from their time in middle school - what an adventure they have had! Congratulations to all of the award winners today! What an absolutely fantastic year group they have been - we couldn't be prouder of them and we can't wait to see them shining at high school! Good luck, everyone - thank you for being legends!



Year 8 – Tynemouth Beach trip



Year 8 had a fantastic day in Tynemouth for their final HMS trip and the sun shone for them too! The group enjoyed playing on the beach, having a dip in the sea, and a chippy lunch! Happy, smiley faces all round and a great way to end their time at HMS! All of the staff were so proud of our Year 8 pupils – they were a credit to school, as always. Huge thanks to Miss Lamont and the team for planning and leading a great final HMS trip for them. Lifelong memories made!

[More photos](#)

Year 7 – Newburn Activity Centre

On Monday, Year 7 pupils enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year reward trip to Newburn Activity Centre where they took part in a range of exciting activities including climbing, cycling, archery, gymnastics, judo, bubble football, team games, athletics, orienteering, volleyball and rugby.



Pupils engaged brilliantly throughout the day, and it was wonderful to see so many of them trying new activities. They demonstrated the school ethos of Respect, Engage and Aspire throughout, as well as using a range of Skills Builder skills such as teamwork, listening, creativity and adapting. Staff at the centre were very complimentary of our pupils, praising their attitude, enthusiasm and behaviour throughout the day. A huge well done to all Year 7 pupils for representing the school so well. [More photos](#)



Year 6 – Haltwhistle Leisure Centre

Year 6 spent a tremendous day at Haltwhistle Leisure Centre on Wednesday. The day started off cool and cloudy, but the sun finally came out for the afternoon, and it was perfect weather for swimming and chilling. Pupils made use of the open-air pools as well as the sports facilities on site. A fabulous day was had by all – smiles

all round! [More photos](#)

Year 5 – Beamish trip

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their reward trip to Beamish! They loved exploring the different areas of the museum and enthusiastically took part in a workshop, discovering how ice cream was first introduced to the North East. Everyone got stuck into making their own ice cream before enjoying a well-earned taste of their creations. What a wonderful way to end Year 5 and celebrate all of their success this year! [More photos](#)



Mr Holdsworth Music Achievement Award

To celebrate the phenomenal musical talents of our pupils and to recognise the superb musical legacy of Mr Holdsworth, we were delighted to introduce the 'Mr Holdsworth Musical Achievement Award' to our Year 8 Leavers' Assembly today. Mr Holdsworth was a special guest to present the awards and took the time to celebrate the musical effort, commitment and achievements of our Year 8 pupils who have been a joy to see performing over the years.

Huge congratulations to Etta and Joseph who have shown so much commitment to their musical development over the years. Both of them have achieved so much and represented the school brilliantly at many performances and events. You are true musical ambassadors and we are so proud of you - keep shining!

Fortitude Award

Our 'Fortitude Award' is presented by our PE team to someone who has the strength of mind to overcome adversity with courage and resilience. This year's award was presented to Emily W who has always represented HMS with pride and has been a superb ambassador of our school. Since she joined Year 5, she has been a positive role model, represented school in multiple events and supported her peers brilliantly. Emily - we are so proud of you, your spirit and your courage - you're a star! Good luck!



Jean Barnett Award

The Jean Barnett Award is presented to our outstanding sportsman of the year. This year's recipient has been a truly outstanding representative for HMS throughout his time at middle school. He has grown in confidence, his positive attitude shines through endlessly and his talent, skill and dedication are a joy to see. Rory has represented HMS in so many sports and events including athletics, rugby, cricket, table tennis (the list is endless) and he has been an absolute star. Rory's attitude is always praised by staff in PE and staff from other schools - he is truly outstanding. He should be very



proud of himself, and it was great to see his achievements being celebrated earlier today by Mr Cameron who recognised his humility as well as his unbelievable talent! Well done, Rory - keep shining at QEHS - we can't wait to hear what you achieve next!

Art News

Van Gogh Immersive Experience – Art Trip Highlights!

What an incredible day! We took around 100 KS2 and KS3 pupils to the Van Gogh Immersive Experience, and it was truly magical from the moment they stepped inside. Pupils were absolutely amazed as they walked into a huge, beautifully lit room filled with moving projections of Vincent Van Gogh's artwork, all brought to life with music and animation. They loved learning about Van Gogh's life story — how he became an artist, what inspired him, and how his work continues to influence the world today. Many pupils commented on how inspiring it was to see art presented in such a creative way, rather than simply hanging on a wall. After exploring the immersive gallery, pupils had great fun taking photos with the giant sunflower props, adding a playful touch to the experience.



One of the most special moments was seeing a selection of our pupils' own Van Gogh-inspired artwork displayed in the gallery for the duration of the show. To have their work included in a public exhibition is an achievement they should feel incredibly proud of. A huge well done to all pupils who attended — your enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity made the day unforgettable! [More photos](#)

End of Year Summer Celebration Assemblies

	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8
English	Winner: Evie B Runner up: Emrys S	Winner: Finn M Runner up: Imogen P	Winner: Finlay F Runner up: Dylan W	Winner: Betti A Runner up: Tyler H
Maths	Winner: Evie N Runner up: Max G	Winner: Archie H Runner up: Ella W	Winner: Isabella S Runner up: Andrei P	Winner: Maja M Runner up: Karam D
Science	Winner: Erin B Runner up: Thévenin L	Winner: Sebastian D Runner up: Alba B..	Winner: Jessica C Runner up: Riley B	Winner: Lily H Runner up: William D
Art	Winner: Tiggy H Runner up: Herbie W	Winner: Lochie D Runner up: Eve G	Winner: Isla Y Runner up: Joey R	Winner: Ed S Runner up: Georgia O
Music	Winner: Maxwell R	Winner: Laurence H	Winner: Isis T	Winner: Jamie H

	Runner up: Alfie M	Runner up: Nella A	Runner up: Jesse C	Runner up: Phoebe B
PE	Mia B Oliver M	Harry A Millie C	Alfie B Ben R	Rosie O Ted W
Computing	Winner: Libby L Runner up: Lucy T	Winner: Erin M Runner up: Ollie K	Winner: Laila B Runner up: James L	Winner: Effie R Runner up: Lily A
Design Technology	Winner: Hugo E Runner up: Olivia W	Winner: Emelia T Runner up: Daniella H	Winner: Sadie B Runner up: Leo C	Winner: Joanna R Runner up: Evie R
Food Technology	Winner: Elsie F Runner up: Lucia F	Winner: Ruby P Runner up: Sequoia D	Winner: Ava R Runner up: Dylan W	Winner: Oscar S Runner up: India R
History	Winner: Eliza C Runner up: Toby S	Winner: William R Runner up: Bella S	Winner: Dillon D Runner up: Charlotte B	Winner: Niamh K Runner up: Walter M
Geography	Winner: Isaac L Runner up: Evie B	Winner: Ava B Runner up: Stuart H	Winner: Charlie P Runner up: Kate H	Winner: Ivor T Runner up: Elsie L
French	Winner: Nola P Runner up: Hugo E	Winner: Dylan F Runner up: Alice E	Winner: Jennifer V Runner up: Isabelle C	Winner: Florence B Runner up: Artie O
Spanish			Winner: Claudia D Runner up: Jessica D	Winner: Harry G Runner up: Mia R
RE	Winner: Adam A Runner up: Fern D	Winner: Owen F Runner up: James H	Winner: Micheal C Runner up: Romi F	Winner: Rory N Runner up: Katie G
PSHE	Winner: Izobel O Runner up: Isaac J	Winner: Emily C Runner up: Ronnie F	Winner: Emilia F Runner up: Charlie M	Winner: Francesca S Runner up: Jacob A
Drama			Winner: Liam J Runner up: Tabitha S	Winner: Joey S Runner up: Lizzie L
Forest/Explore School	Winner: George F Runner up: Lillie S	Winner: Oran H Runner up: Brooklyn D		
Form Tutor Award	5EKI: Borys P	6FHA: Ella A	7CAR: Charlotte B	8AMG: Aria H

	Uma W 5JNI: Daniel B Heidi B 5MDO: Hamish B Evie N 5YTA: Zach C Daisy H 5ZSC: Beth D Ethan P	James C 6FHI: Imogen P Ted P 6JJO: Ronnie F Elke H 6MBE: Sophia B Leo H 6RAL: Isla M Elliott W	Douglas B 7PGA: Meghan J James S 7SGE: Zain B Charlie M 7SMC: Leela H Frank K 7SRI: Micheal C Jessica D	Cody R 8BLA: Emily G Tyler H 8ETA: Tobias S Zahra W 8IBO: Leo H Sofia O 8SFO: Ella R Ben S
Head of Year Award	Winner: Toby S	Winner: Oran H	Winner: Jessie T	Winner: Joanna R

Sports News

Hockey



Well done to Anna, Beth, James and Finn from QEHS and Ivor, Ben and Aurelia from HMS Who recently competed in the inaugural State County Hockey competition in Cambridge in June. They're pictured with their certificates at the Tynedale summer tournament last week.

HMS Sports Days

Last week saw HMS hold the annual Sports Days for KS2 and KS3. The annual competition between the house groups reflected the weather on the day and both days were very enjoyable. Sports day morning allows every pupil in school take part in the Chance to Participate events. Each class rotates around the following events: 75m sprint, netball shoot, speed bounce, target throw, obstacle course, space hopper races, welly throw, reaction catch, standing long jump and skipping challenge. The space hooper races are always a highlight! I have forgotten how small the hoppers are compared to some of our pupils in Y8. It made everyone laugh watching the carnage in these races.

The afternoon allows pupils chosen by their House to race over a variety of distances. All the races were keenly fought and everyone was desperate to go home with a medal. There were some great performances over the two days: Arthur C outpaced his field in the Y7 800m; Millie C won the Y6 girls' race convincingly; Amelia S Y6 won a number of the sprint races; Doug B and Tom G shone in the Y7 sprints; Hazel L in Y7 recorded two sprint wins; Bertie T won a keenly contested 800m only securing the win with a sprint to the line and Fern D in Y5 got the biggest cheer of the two days for a great run in the 400m.

Mr Gaines would like to give a special thank you to Miss Tauk who has helped with a lot of the planning to make Sports Day happen. Her help was invaluable and helped make the event run smoothly. Our KS3 sports leaders who helped run events on both days were magnificent. It is brilliant to see them leading events and supporting teachers in the running of an event. Big

whole school events like this do require a team effort to get them to be a success and our leaders deserve a lot of credit! The overall result for Sports Day is always close and this year was no different.

	Aln	Coquet	Tweed	Wansbeck
KS2 C2P	2017	1925	1937	1926
KS2 C2S	222	203	229	213
KS3 C2P	1704	1802	1720	1639
KS3 C2S	254	233	160	198

Total	4197	4163	4046	3976
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It gives me great pleasure to announce our 2026 Champions to be...Aln! Congratulations Aln!

Design Technology

Year 8 DT Project

Our Year 8 students have been developing their design and manufacturing skills by creating their own mobile phone holders. Students designed a unique upright shape before using a range of workshop tools and equipment to accurately mark out, cut, shape and finish the timber components. They then assembled the individual parts to produce a functional and personalised mobile phone holder. This project has provided students with the opportunity to develop skills in designing, making and evaluating, while building confidence in the safe use of tools, equipment and workshop processes. It has also encouraged creativity, problem-solving and precision throughout the manufacturing process.



Community News

Summer Holiday Activities

There's lots going on in our community this summer, have a look at this [overview](#) on our website. There's something for everyone!

Autism Family drop in sessions

Dates for September and October are up. Please see [here](#) on our website.

Be You News

The latest Be You newsletter is [here](#) on our website.

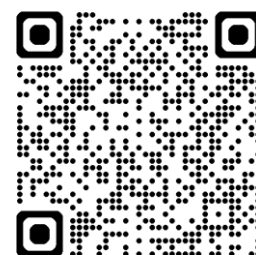
Book Your Summer HAF Activities

We would like to remind families who have received a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) voucher to book their children's places as soon as possible. The HAF programme provides eligible children with access to a range of free holiday activities, healthy meals, and enriching experiences throughout the summer holidays. Places at some activities are limited and may fill up quickly. If you have received a HAF voucher, please log in to your booking account and use your voucher to secure places on your chosen activities. If you require any support accessing your voucher or making a booking, please contact the HAF team at haf@northumberland.gov.uk. We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity and enjoy a fun-filled summer. Please also find the Parent/Carer guide to support you with making bookings - [HAF Guide for Parents and Carers - Summer Guide 2026](#)

PTFA News

Join the HMS PTFA! Could you spare a little time to help make a big difference at HMS?

We're looking for friendly volunteers to support our PTFA. Whether you can help organise events, share ideas, assist with fundraising activities, or lend a hand at events, we'd love to hear from you. No experience is needed, and every contribution big or small, helps create fantastic opportunities for our pupils. Get involved, meet other parents, and help support our school community! To sign up/register your interest in being part of the PTFA <https://hmsptfa.org/get-involved>



PTFA Lottery becomes the '200 Club'

Thank you past, current and future members of the Hexham Middle School PTA lottery. Your support is very much appreciated.

As the PTA becomes known as the PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association), we are also giving the lottery a makeover. We will be launching it in September after the final draw of the current lottery in August, and it will take back its original name of the 200 club. Players will log onto the website monthly to pick a number, and the system automatically selects winners. <https://hmsptfa.org/club>

Please can I ask current members to cancel your direct debit or standing order after the final draw on 10th August ahead of the new 200 club launch. More details on how to play it will come out nearer the time. I'm more than happy to answer any questions. You can get in touch by email (hmsprizedraw@gmail.com).

Free School Meals

Free School Meals

From September 2026, the Government is making changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. Notably, it is expanding eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit. For further information on the changes, how to check eligibility and to apply for Free School Meals go to: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/school-meals>. We encourage parents to check their eligibility online via Northumberland County Council's

Citizen's Portal. 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. To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

Have a great summer break - thank you for your continued support.

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 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).