Hexham Middle School
spes durat avorum

NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1
AND MENU WEEK 2

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 4

Thank you for another great week. It was fantastic to see so many entries to our European Day of Languages Bake Off today – Mr Armstrong will share the results and photographs next week (due to our unplanned closure today). Mr Kiln has been delighted to see our clubs proving to be popular and we'd encourage all pupils to get involved where they can. Our HMS Council will be meeting for the first time next week with local councilors joining us to present the team with their badges. The HMS Open Evening will take place on Thursday 1st October at 6pm for all prospective parents/carers and children – please share the information with any friends/family who may be interested.

Headteacher Awards

Headteacher Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for 'courage' – 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
Luca D S	Marko M	Layla-Mai H	James S
Alex G	Olivia W	Amelia P	Leo P
Aida F	Imogen C	Charles G	Ava R
Hamish A	Edith O	Rhys D	Frejya R
Meredith B	Jackson L	Sally B	Katie C

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
Livvie G	Finley J	Riley G	Charlie P
Felix L	Hugo E	Mason D	Martha P
Annie F	Chris F	Ted P	Catelin D
Damian D	Rebecca N	Finn R	Isis T-H
Jenny W-B			

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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. **The 'HMS Way Awards' will return in next week's assemblies** and our monthly 'Headteacher Awards' will be back later this month. Year 5 pupils have now been allocated to their house groups ahead of our hustings on Monday morning.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	9003	1	Annie F	1	Kai B	1	Tabitha B	1	Jessica Do
Coquet	8733	2	Harry B	2	Tabitha G	2	Archibald H	2	Dylan W
Tweed	9199	3	Ashton B	3	Ollie W	3	Heorhii M	3	Jonathan F
Wansbeck	8432	4	Amy C	4	Fern D	4	Sebastian D	4	Jennifer V

HMS House Captains

This year's House Captains have now been elected following our annual hustings this week and the whole school vote. Miss Lamont counted the votes and announced the results in assembly where House Captain badges were presented by Mr Watters. Congratulations to the pupils voted to lead their House this year. It takes great courage to step up and deliver a speech in front of peers and they should be very proud of themselves. Well done and thank you to each and every pupil who had the bravery to put themselves forward – I am very proud of you all.

ALN	COQUET	TWEED	WANSBECK
Jon F Martha G	Philippa U Finlay F	Sadie B James D	Jack B Sofia P

Mrs Doubtfire

A group of Year 8 pupils visited Theatre Royal in Newcastle yesterday for a performance of Mrs Doubtfire the Musical. The pupils had a fabulous afternoon full of laughs and thoroughly enjoyed the show. Huge thanks to Mrs Bond, Miss Scott, Mrs Toor and Mrs Brotherton for leading the visit. There's more theatre booked for all year groups throughout this year with more information to follow soon.



Mobile Phones Update
Thank you for your continued support with our new mobile phone policy which has been very positive so far. From Monday, our new classroom lockboxes will be in use (they were delayed due to high demand!). Pupils will continue to hand their phones and watches in during form time each morning where they will be locked away securely. Pupils will continue to collect their phone/watch from their form teacher between 3.15 and 3.25pm. If you know your child will be leaving school early i.e.

for a medical appointment, we ask that phones/watches are brought to the main HMS office for safe storage – this will make collection easier. Thank you for your continued support.

Snack Reminder

As you know, pupils are welcome to bring in a snack from home for morning break. We ask for your support in encouraging healthy snack choices. This includes portion management. A small snack such as fruit or a yoghurt could be encouraged. Pupils should not bring large bags of sweets and crisps. Fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. Energy drinks are not allowed on the school site and should not be sold to pupils of middle school age – if we have any concerns, we will make contact with you to discuss this further.

Northumberland Young Carers Drop-In

We are pleased to be welcoming the Northumberland Young Carers Team to Hexham Middle School for a relaxed parent and carer drop-in on Thursday 12th November from 8:20–9:10am. There are lots of services, support and opportunities available to young carers across Northumberland, and this is a chance to come along for a coffee, meet the team and find out more about what is available and how it could benefit your child and family. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions, discuss any concerns and find out more about how young carers can be identified and supported. If you would like to attend, please book your place using the Microsoft Form.



Poetry Competition



Miss Scott is organising a Young Writers' Poetry Competition. Pupils are invited to create a poem that celebrates a world of wonder. Get creative and take part! See here for more information. Entry sheets are available from Miss Scott in FA3. Enter by 12 October.

School Admissions

September 2027 – School Places

Parents/carers of pupils Year 4 and Year 8 can now apply for school places in Years 5 and 9 for September 2027 via the Northumberland County Council Admissions page. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2026. Details of the NCC application process can be found here. The HMS Open Evening will be held on Thursday 1st October. The QEHS Open Evening will take place Thursday 24th September 6-8pm and Open Day Tours are available Tuesday 29th September, Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October.



Sports News – Year 8 Football



Our year 8 team hosted the first league fixtures of the campaign against local schools St Joseph's and Haydon Bridge. First up was St Joseph's. After a cagey opening 10 minutes, HMS broke the deadlock when Tom G broke through the frontline after a long ball from Will G to finish smartly past the keeper. In the second half, an outstanding save from debutant keeper Luke T kept the score to 1-0, and not long after that, James L put the home side 2-0 after great work from captain Ben R. Charlie H put a bit of gloss on the scoreline late on with a cool finish after Tom worked his way down the right-hand side. Final score - 3-0 to HMS.

The second game was against Haydon Bridge who also beat St Joseph's, so a close game was anticipated. HMS were full of confidence from the previous game, with great shifts put in by Charlie C in midfield with Charlie P and debutant Theo B defending well. James L grabbed his second of the day, assisted by Tom G before Tom got his second of the day with a lovely finish into the corner after a brilliant run on the left from Will M. James had the final say to outscore his teammate though, grabbing his second of the game and third on the night. Final score - 3-0 to HMS. Thank you to HBHS and SJMS for travelling through for the games on a lovely evening in Hexham.

Online Safety

For Parents and Carers – Staying Safe While Gaming

Online games can be a great way for children to play and socialise, but as we know many games now include messaging, voice chat, purchases and interaction with people they do not know offline. Ofcom's Parents Power Up guidance gives families a simple framework built around Check, Chat and Change — checking account details and settings, talking about who children play with and changing safety or parental controls where needed. **Ofcom – Parents Power Up: Helping Your Child Stay Safe While Gaming Online**

Attendance

Attendance this week has been 95%. Our aim is that pupils maintain very high attendance of at least 97%+. 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 ensure that they don't miss out on great learning each day – especially as look towards the colder winter months. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends well.

1st form class 100%	2nd form class 99.5%	3rd form class 99%
5-MDO	6-JJO	5-FHA

Community Reminder

School has been made aware of a number of matters relating to Sele Park in Hexham. As you know, the park has recently been redeveloped and it's an asset to the local community. It's very important that it is respected and used well by the children in the local area.

- We have had reports of a group of HMS pupils and older students misusing the play equipment between 4.30 and 5.30. This has involved older students using the equipment intended for much younger children. This has meant

that younger children have avoided using the park. Reminders will be given to HMS pupils in school. If you know your child uses the park at this time, please have a chat with them about safe, respectful behaviour in the community and reporting any concerning behaviour to school staff.

- We are also aware of a group of HMS pupils using the park on the way to school in the morning. It is advisable for pupils to walk straight to school to avoid any issues on the way (such as accidents in the park as reported last week) and to ensure they arrive at school on time. Your support with is appreciated.

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
Thursday 1 October	HMS Council – first meeting of the year	Council Reps
Thursday 1 October	HMS Open Evening, 6-8pm	Prospective parents/carers and pupils
Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 October	HMS Open Day Tours	Prospective parents/carers and pupils
Tuesday 6 October	London Trip – Parent/Carer Information Evening	Trip group
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds and Feel Good Friday!	All year groups
Thursday 22 October	HMS PTFA Disco Night (tickets on sale soon!)	All year groups

Have a great weekend!

Mr Watters

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Mackenzie
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders: Mr Scott, Mr Walton, Miss Lamont and Miss Bell
Heads of Year: Miss Bell (Y5), Mr Scott (Y6 and Y7), Miss Lamont (Y8)
SENDCo: Mr Walton
Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor
SEMH Practitioners: Ms Thompson and Mrs Richards
Attendance Officer: Miss Parradine-Robson
Inclusion Administrator: Mrs Blakeburn

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).