

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 2

It's been a great second week of term and the very positive start has continued with pupils being ready to learn, enthusiastic and keen to settle into their new timetables and routines. It was lovely to see our pupils meeting for their first year group assemblies as well as the return of our weekly 'HMS Way Awards'.

Miss Lamont has launched our Pupil Leadership recruitment with applications now open for Year 8 to become our next Head Pupils and House Captains. Head Pupils will be interviewed and appointed by senior staff, whilst hopeful House Captains will speak to their House group in a couple of weeks at our annual House Hustings. The whole school will then cast their votes to decide who takes on the role for the year ahead. Year 8 parents/carers – please discuss these opportunities at home and encourage your child to get involved if they're considering putting themselves forward.

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
Andre V	Oliver N	Jackson L	Nick T
Sienna G	Beau C	Amelia P	Charlie C
Aida F	Borys P	Alex G	Meike O
Eva G	Eliza C	Lewis B	Dylan W
Olivia H	Nola P	Rowan D	Charlie M

Clarity on smartwatches

I am sorry for any confusion regarding smartwatches. Smartwatches can be worn for school but they will be handed in for secure storage alongside mobile phones each morning. I know many pupils have tracking devices on their watches and it's important these can be worn to and from school. Once again, I thank you and the children for your positive support of the new phone system.



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.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
AIn	2,844	1	Savva T	1	Abigail B	1	Jemima C	1	Dylan W
Coquet	2,524	2	Leo H	2	Oliver N	2	Eve G	2	Jessica Do
Tweed	2,791	3	Findley B	3	Fern D	3	Alba B	3	Martha G
Wansbeck	2,578	4	Felix L	4	George W	4	Sophie C	4	Meike O



Extra-Curricular Clubs – Autumn Term

This term's extra-curricular clubs programme launches today. Special thanks to Team HMS for once again putting so much effort into an exciting and varied offer for our pupils to enjoy.

- For in-school clubs, pupils can simply go along on the day and join in - no booking necessary.
- For after-school clubs, booking is essential. Clubs will open for bookings to be made by parents/carers via My Child at School (MCAS) **at 5.00pm Tuesday 15th September**. Please note this date/time carefully so that bookings can be made.
- We understand that some parents may not be able to access the app at this time so we are giving advance notice to hopefully ensure you can make plans - there's no ideal system that suits everyone. Please read the after-school clubs guidance sent home so that you understand the protocol before reserving your child's places.
- All lunchtime clubs will start from **Monday 14th September** (unless otherwise stated on the club list and MCAS app).
- All after-school clubs will start on Monday 21st September (unless otherwise stated on the club list and MCAS app). For clubs with associated fees, please sign-up via MCAS and we will contact you for payment at a later date.

As a school, we are always looking for new and exciting clubs and enrichment opportunities. If you or someone you know would be interested in working with school to deliver a club, please contact Mr Kiln (pkiln@hexhammiddle.org.uk).

European Day of Languages Celebration

HMS will once again be celebrating the European Day of Languages on Friday 25th September. Our annual 'Bake Off' challenge is returning as well as learning activities in form time and themed breaktime snacks available. You can find out more information on the flyer sent home today. The 'Bake Off' is always very popular and we are looking forward to seeing this year's entries. Good luck!



Welcome to Year 5 Evening

Parents/carers and pupils are invited to join us at our 'Welcome Evening' on Monday 14th September 5.30pm in our main school hall. The evening will allow you to hear from a range of school staff about what Year 5 will look like for your child. This will include information about their learning as well as pastoral information from Miss Bell.

If you'd like to join us, please sign up here if you haven't already: [Welcome to Year 5 Evening – Fill out form](#)



Meet the Tutor Evening

You can now book appointments to meet your child's form teacher at our 'Meet the Tutor Evening' on Wednesday 23rd September 3.45pm - 6.30pm. All appointments can be booked via MCAS. Meetings will take place in your child's form classroom. The evening is always a good opportunity to meet your child's form teacher and to discuss how the term has started for your child. To help our form teachers to prepare for the evening, we would value your feedback by completing this very short ['Start of Term Survey'](#).

Attendance - top 3!

Attendance this week has been 96%. 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.

1 st form class	2 nd form class	3 rd form class – 98%
7ETA	7SGE and 5RAL	7SFO

Zones of Regulation – Year 5

As part of our whole school focus on regulation strategies, our new Year 5 pupils have worked with Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Bell and Mr Scott to learn more about the Zones of Regulation and we encourage pupils to recognise, talk about and respond to their emotions at HMS. It was great to see our pupils so engaged in the sessions and we look forward to seeing Zones of Regulation in action across the year group. Well done, Year 5!



Year 5 Update

We have had a few questions about Year 5 sets for maths and English. Pupils will move into their new maths and English groups from Monday 21st September. Pupils are spending time building positive relationships with their form class and getting their English and maths learning underway. The team are finalising baseline assessments and reviewing information

from first schools to prepare our new teaching groups. If your child would benefit from additional support with their learning, you may hear from Mrs Toor or Mrs Richards about intervention.

HMS Sport News

HMS Football Trials

If your child would like to play for the school football teams, then please ask them to come along to the after-school trials which will be taking place over the next 2 weeks. Each year group has their own trial date, and the trial will be for both boys and girls. The trials will take place on the 3G, so pupils will need to bring suitable sports kit, boots and shin pads. All trials will run **until 4.30pm**. Messages will be sent home to parents/carers who will be asked to complete an online form to confirm your attendance. If you have any further questions, please feel free to speak to Mr Cameron, Mr Scott or Mr Nichol.



- Monday 14th September - **Year 8**
- Wednesday 16th September - **Year 7**
- Monday 21st September - **Year 6**

Year 5 trials will run a little later in the year.

Online Safety Update

For Parents – ChatGPT Parental Controls

ChatGPT has parental controls which allow a parent or guardian to link their account with a teenager's account and manage a range of settings. Parents can control things such as: additional safeguards around sensitive content; Voice Mode; image generation; memory; quiet hours and some other ChatGPT features.



Importantly, linking the accounts does not allow a parent to read their teenager's conversations or monitor their chat history. This could be a useful link to share with parents, particularly those whose children are already using ChatGPT. Link: [**Managing parental controls in ChatGPT**](#) (by Alan Mackenzie, Online Safety Specialist).

Personal Development News

Macmillan Coffee Morning

To support the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, there'll be a cake sale on Friday 18th September.

- If you are able to send in any baked or bought treats to sell, we would really appreciate it. Any cakes can be brought to school on the morning of Friday 18th September and dropped off in our main lobby area.
- Cakes will be available to purchase at morning break:
 - Front yard for KS2; Games yard for KS3
- Any baked goods should include an allergen note. A reminder that HMS is a nut-free school.
- Donations of vegan and gluten free products would be appreciated too.
- Pupils will need some cash if they would like to buy a treat! Thank you so much for your support.



Community News

Students paying their own travel costs

For current pupils of HMS, Arriva provide a cost effective and flexible direct debit solution to assist with the cost of travel. For more information follow the below link or scan the QR-code.

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets



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 14 September	Clubs – lunchtime clubs start today	All year groups
Monday 14 September	Welcome to Year 5 Evening – Fill out form	Year 5
Tuesday 15 September	Clubs – after-school booking go live at 5pm	All year groups
Wednesday 16 September	Head Pupil Selection Day	Year 8
Friday 18 September	Macmillan Cake Sale	All year groups
Monday 21 September	House Hustings	All year groups
Monday 21 September	Clubs – after-school clubs start today	All year groups
Thursday 24 September	Theatre Royal – Mrs Doubtfire Musical	Year 8 – group
Friday 25 September	Individual School Photographs	All year groups
Friday 25 September	European Day of Languages – see info!	All year groups
Thursday 1 October	HMS Open Evening, 6-8pm	Prospective parents/carers and pupils
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds	All year groups

Thursday 22 October	HMS PTFA Disco Night (tickets on sale soon!)	All year groups
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Have a great weekend!

Mr Watters

Headteacher

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).