Hexham Middle School
spes durat avorum

NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 2
AND MENU WEEK 3

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 5



Thank you very much to lots of our pupils who helped out at last night's Open Evening – the pupils were superb ambassadors for the school and we got lots of very positive comments from visiting families. It was great to welcome so many prospective parents/carers and children to the school. The HMS Team put on a fabulous event to showcase the school once again.

Earlier this week, Mr Kiln met with our newly-elected HMS Council for the first time alongside our Head Pupils. Special thanks to Mayor Derek Kennedy and local councilor Suzanne Fairless-Aitken for joining the meeting to present new badges and to discuss their roles within the local community.

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
Harry M	Arty C	Nella A	Hazel L
Georgie W	George F	Zach N	Zain B
Tilly B	Iona E	Gracie R	Charlie H
Felicity D	Rowan M	Alba B	Noah R
Gabriella T	Hamish B-S	Rory L	Sofia P

Hello Yellow Day

Hello Yellow Day

To support Young Minds and raise awareness of World Mental Health Day, HMS will have a 'Hello Yellow Day' on Friday 9th October. Thank you for your support.



- Pupils are encouraged to wear yellow or bright colours if they can (it's non-uniform day for those who want to take part).
- Donations can now be made via MCAS to support the work of Young Minds.
- Form time and assemblies will focus on mental health and wellbeing.
- Our special newsletter focusing on support for pupils and parents will be sent home.
- There'll be a range of activities to end the week in our 'Feel Good Friday' approach.

Hexham Middle School
Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB
T: 01434 610300 E: admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk
www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Liam Watters

Part of Hadrian Learning Trust | Registered Office: Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, NE46 3JB | Company Number: 10299446

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 group							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	10,918	1	Addy C	1	Halle B	1	Henry D	1	Hollie W
Coquet	10,784	2	Hamish A	2	George W	2	Archie H	2	Su H-J
Tweed	11,171	3	Emily M	3	Henry G	3	Sebastian D	3	James L
Wansbeck	10,401	4	Andrej V	4	Bobby N	4	Amber S	4	Charlotte B

West Northumberland Food Bank Collection

During this harvest season, we are asking for the support of the HMS community in our West Northumberland Food Bank collection. This local service is very important to so many families in our town and beyond. If you are able to support us by sending in donations for the collection, we would really appreciate it. Donations can be brought into school and handed in at the office. The final day for donations will be Monday 19th October.

Items in high demand include: coffee, tea bags, UHT milk, tinned fruit and veg, cereal, tinned meat and fish, tinned desserts, pasta, rice pouches, cook-in sauces, jams and spreads, toothpaste, shower gel, toilet rolls, shampoo, washing up liquid, bleach, cleaning sprays, baby wipes and pull-up (size 5, 6 and 7). Alternatively, if you'd like to make a direct donation, you can do this here.

European Day of Languages

On Friday last week, we celebrated European Day of Languages. Mr Armstrong planned a range of activities to promote a love of language learning across the school.



- Class language – each form class was assigned a language and greetings for their registers this week.
- Break time snacks – pupils were able to buy waffles and pastries.
- Form time quiz – Mr Armstrong challenged the school to a European-themed quiz.
- Bake Off and bake sale – our annual Bake Off was an overwhelming success with so many fabulous cake designs brought into school.





Huge thanks to each and every pupil who entered this year's Bake Off; the cakes were truly outstanding once again. We were amazed by the effort and skill! See here for pictures of all the cakes. The results have been shared in this week's assemblies – congratulations to the winners.

HMS PTFA UV Discos



We are delighted to announce our first discos of the year with our PTFA UV Disco Night on Thursday 22nd October. **Year 5 and 6:** 5.30pm to 6.45pm and **Year 7 and 8:** 7.15pm to 8.30pm

- As it's a UV disco, the theme is neon or white clothing (or something to shine under the UV lights!) - bright accessories are also encouraged! UV face paint can be worn but shouldn't be brought to the event on the night, please.
- If your child would like to attend, please buy a ticket using our new online platform: https://hmsptfa.org/events/autumndisco26
- If you have any issues with the online booking site, please contact the HMS PTFA (treasurer@hmsptfa.org)
- There will be a tuck shop selling sweets, treats and canned drinks, so you may wish to send your child with a small amount of spending money. Tap water and squash will be supplied free of charge.
- Please note that all children must be collected at the end of the disco from the HMS main door.
- All children will be signed out of the event by a member of HMS staff. On arrival, children will be signed in to the disco by staff and are able to come to the entrance without an adult if needed (e.g. dropped off at the car park).

We don't issue paper tickets for this event so once you have paid online, your child has a place! We're sure we have capacity for everyone who would like to attend however if we do reach the limit on numbers, we will contact you and tickets will be given on a first come first served basis. As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to another enjoyable evening.

Recruitment to the Trust Board

The Board of Hadrian Learning Trust is looking to appoint new trustees. In particular, the Board is keen to hear from people with a financial or human resources background. Beyond these specific professional requirements, the overriding requirement is to be committed to supporting the schools to be as good as they possibly can for the young people we serve, and willing to operate in a positive, supportive and constructively-challenging way with other trustees, school leaders and staff.

The Trust Board meets six times a year on Thursday evenings at 6pm with meetings usually lasting two hours. Much of the Board's work is undertaken by committees which meet three to four times a year, typically in the late afternoon. These committees include a monitoring committee for each school, an HR & Performance Management Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee. We also have a safeguarding group comprising a link trustee and senior leaders that meets three times a year. Trustees also visit the schools as part of their monitoring activities. Each trustee sits on at least one committee or group but this is not a condition of joining the Board. If you would like to express interest in this role or would like to find out more, please contact Anna Vellinga, Clerk to the Trust Board, via avellinga@qehs.net.

Online Safety Update

Supporting Children with Additional Needs When Something Goes Wrong Online

Children with additional needs may not always recognise when an online situation has become unsafe, or they may find it difficult to explain what has happened. They may also communicate distress differently, become overwhelmed by questions or worry about losing access to a device or online activity that is particularly important to them. This short video gives parents practical advice on supporting a child calmly when something has gone wrong online and helping them feel able to share what has happened. **Link: YouTube – Supporting children with additional needs when something goes wrong online**

(by Alan Mackenzie, online Safety Specialist)

HMS Sports News

Year 8 Rugby



On Thursday afternoon, our Year 8 rugby team hosted Dame Allan's in their first game of the season. It was expected to be a tough occasion as often is with Dame Allan's teams, but HMS stood up to the challenge and played with courage, energy and intelligence. The scoreline ended up 11 tries to 5 in favour of the away team, but this is arguably the best performance I have seen from this team and the performance outweighs the scoreline.

Our first try was scored by Theo B who was outstanding throughout the game, leading by example by scoring a fine interception try in the first half; Thomas Mitchell went half the length of the pitch after a fine team move which saw the ball move through several pairs of hands. Tom G bagged 2 tries on the day to cap an impressive performance. In Tom and Thomas, we have two incredible finishers who will always give you a chance to score from anywhere. Charlie C, Edward and Hayden made excellent yards with their impressive ball carrying and Archie and Charlie P were relentless in their defence, consistently making strong tackles. Aidan put in a Player of the Match performance by putting in superb tackles, turning over ball at the breakdown and making good yards with the ball. Overall this was a very pleasing performance by HMS and a lot to be excited for in the season ahead.

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.



Keeping School Healthy

As we enter the autumn and winter months, we ask families to help reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses by encouraging good hand hygiene, ensuring children receive any eligible vaccinations, and following NHS guidance on whether a child is well enough to attend school. These simple measures help keep children healthy, minimise disruption to learning, and support strong attendance throughout the school year.

Club News

Badminton Club - Wednesday lunchtime

If your child would like to come along to badminton club on Wednesday lunchtimes, they **must bring in some sports trainers** to wear. We will not allow pupils to play badminton in their school shoes, which includes their black Nike Air Forces as these shoes have been marking the sports hall floor.

Thank you for your understanding.

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 98.5%	3rd form class 98%
6-JJO and 5-MDO	7-ETA	5-FHA

Thank you

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and families for supporting our Macmillan Coffee Morning! Thanks to your incredibly generous donations of cakes and treats, and everyone who purchased them, we raised an amazing **£199.71 for Macmillan**. Thank you so much for your fantastic support!

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 5 October	Y6 girls football county qualifier @ HMS 4.00 - 5.30pm	Y6 girls' football group
Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 October	HMS Open Day Tours	Prospective parents/carers and pupils
Tuesday 6 October	London Trip – Parent/Carer Information Evening, 5.30pm	Trip group
Tuesday 6 October	Y6 boys' football CVL @ PCHS 4.00 - 5.00pm	Y6 boys' football group

Thursday 8 October	Y8 girls' football @ Ponteland 3.30 - 5.00pm	Y8 girls' football group
Friday 9 October	Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds and Feel Good Friday!	All year groups
Monday 12, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15	Safety Works Visit (information to follow)	Year 6
Monday 19 October	West Northumberland Food Bank Collection – deadline	All year groups
Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October	Skills Builder Day (afternoons only)	All year groups
Thursday 22 October	HMS PTFA Disco Night (tickets available here!)	All year groups

Have a great weekend! Thanks for your continued support.

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).