Hexham Middle School
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NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1
AND MENU WEEK 1

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 6

Hello Yellow Day



It's been great to see our pupils supporting 'Hello Yellow Day' for World Mental Health Day and raising funds for Young Minds. The school has been bright and vibrant, and the hall was packed at lunchtime for our weekly 'Feel Good Friday'. To end the week, staff planned a range of activities for pupils to enjoy based upon the NHS '5 steps to wellbeing'. What a great way to end a busy week! Thank you so much for your generous support – donations can still be made via MCAS if you are able to support.

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
Olivia S	Alethea C	Archie H	JT V
Savva T	Elsie F	Oran H	Thomas M
Frankie-Joe T	Noah S	Scott B	Michael C
Findlay B	Jack P	Spike N	Poppy P
Billy M	Will F	Jake S	Su H-J

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	13,167	1	Oleksandr M	1	Fern D	1	James C	1	Sadie B
Coquet	13,198	2	Savva T	2	Ollie W	2	Ava B	2	Finlay F
Tweed	13,479	3	Zack B	3	Halle B	3	Gracie R	3	Maxi C
Wansbeck	12,559	4	Addy C	4	Matteo K	4	Sophie K	4	Martha G

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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.

Bromcom Student Portal

I am pleased to let you know that we are now re-launching the **Bromcom Student Portal** for our **Year 7 and 8 pupils.**

- The Student Portal gives pupils direct access to a range of information about their school life and will help them to take greater responsibility of their attendance, behaviour and organisation.
- Through the portal, pupils will be able to view their attendance record, behaviour points and clubs.
- Pupils will also be able to see information such as their timetable, homework, any sanctions, reports and other school information that is relevant to them. Having this information readily available encourages pupils to stay organised, monitor their progress and engage positively with school.

To make accessing the student portal as simple as possible, we have set the recovery email address to the email of the first parental contact that we hold on the school system. If you would like to check or update this email address, please use MCAS. The Bromcom Student Portal is also available as an app.

Setting the password for the first time:

- Navigate to Bromcom VLE from a web browser.
- Select **"Forgotten login details"** followed by **"I need to reset my password"**.
- Enter our School ID: **14931**, and the email address of the first parent contact recorded on our school system.

You will see a success message confirming a password reset email has been sent. You will then receive an email with instructions on how to set a password and a link to reset the password. Please note the link will only last 15 minutes before it expires. If it expires before you can reset the password, repeat the steps above.

Logging in:

- Once the password is reset, your child can then go back to the login page where pupils can now enter their login details:

School ID: 14931
Username: FirstnameSurname
Password: The unique password they have just created

PTFA News

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.

HMS PTFA New Website

Did you know that all PTFA information, events, fundraising initiatives and ways to support the school can be found on our website? Visit the **https://hmsptfa.org/club** to find out more and get involved.

Join Our New 200 Club!

Why not sign up to our **new 200 Club?** It's quick and easy to join via our website - https://hmsptfa.org/club.
Choose a number between 1 and 200. Draws take place on the **last Friday of every month and one lucky number wins a cash prize**. All remaining proceeds go directly towards supporting our children and enhancing opportunities at school
Thank you for your continued support of the PTFA and our school community.

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

For Parents - Helping Parents Navigate Online Gaming

LGfL has published a useful new guide for schools on helping parents understand online gaming. The advice is practical rather than technical. It encourages parents to:

- ask what their child is playing;
- check whether games are age-appropriate;
- talk about who their child plays with;
- discuss what information should not be shared;
- agree rules around spending;
- talk about bullying and what to do if something goes wrong;
- review safety settings together;
- agree reasonable limits around play.

The guidance also makes an important point about age ratings: a higher PEGI rating does not mean a game is more difficult — it means the content may be less suitable for younger children. This is a useful resource to share through newsletters, parent pages or online-safety sessions. **Link: LGfL – Helping Parents Navigate Online Gaming** (by Alan Mackenzie, online Safety Specialist)

HMS Sports News

HMS Schools Cup Cross Country Round 1

12 HMS athletes competed in the first round of the ESAA Schools Cup Cross Country. This event is held at Temple Park in South Shields. The first race of the day saw the Y7 and Y8 girls racing. Despite a fast start, our girls ran superbly. Martha P finished 3rd; Millie C came 6th; Isabelle C 11th; Jessica 12th; Claudia 17th and Amber 30th. This superb run put them in first position with the team totals. The girls' total was an impressive 10 ahead of the RGS. This means they have qualified for the regional finals in November!

The junior boys ran next. The super-fast start made it difficult to make your way through a sizeable field. Arthur C ran a well-paced race moving through the field to come an excellent 3rd overall. He was backed up by Dylan W in a solid 18th place. Unfortunately, the boys could not pack like the girls' team and finished on 7th place overall. Well done to Aidan, Ben, Charlie and Will who all gave their best on the day.

It was a great day for the HMS runners. We have plenty of other events coming up over the next two months. We are excited to see more impressive performances.

Safety Reminder



Safety reminder – if your child uses a bike or scooter to travel to school, please can you ensure that they wear a helmet. If pupils bring bikes and scooters to school without a helmet, staff will remind them once and then ask them to stop bringing the bike/scooter until a helmet is worn. It is very important that pupils are reminded about safety in the community and travelling to/from school safely. This includes using lights as the days get darker in the winter months and considering their visibility. Thank you for your support.

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.

Attendance

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.

1st form class 100%	2nd form class 99%	3rd form class 98.5%
5-MDO	5-RAL	7-IBO

Community News

The Queen's Hall Writing Competition

The Queen's Art Hall organises a writing competition, themed: 'A Christmas Carol'.

The title for children in Years 4 – 6 is: What does your dream Christmas look like?

the title for children in Years 7 – 9 is: What will happen on Christmas Day in the year 3000? See here for more information.

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 12, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15	Safety Works Visits	Year 6
Thursday 15 October	National Day of Spain – themed lunch	All year groups
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	House Prize (non-uniform day for the winning House)	Winning House
Thursday 22 October	HMS PTFA Disco Night (tickets available here!)	All year groups
Monday 2 to Friday 6 November	Year 7 London Adventure	Year 7 (group)

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).