Hexham Middle School
spes durat avorum

NEXT WEEK IS TIMETABLE WEEK 2
AND MENU WEEK 2

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 7

It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of our first half term… time is flying by and it's been another great week in school. Staff have been reflecting on the term and continue to be so proud of our Year 5 pupils for how well they have settled into life at HMS – thank you for your support. Next week, we'll be welcoming Northumberland Young Carers into our assemblies to talk to pupils. Mr Scott, Miss Bell and Miss Lamont have been busy making plans for our Children in Need fundraising day after half-term and more information will follow soon. As always, it's a busy week ahead (albeit shorter with school closing for pupils on Thursday) and there's lots to look forward to – the calendar is updated with key dates and events. Before long, I'll be sharing the school's 'Festive Calendar' so that you can update diaries at home – there's always lots going on in the second half-term of the year – joyful festive times ahead!



This week, pupils enjoyed our first themed lunch of the year as we celebrated the National Day of Spain. Special thanks to Mrs Satow and the team for preparing such a delicious lunch which we all enjoyed. There'll be more themed lunches ahead… look out for more information soon.

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
Charlie S	Hugo E	Sebastian D	Mason M
Phoebe B	Lillian R-G	Amber S	Liam J-G
Lewis M	Beth D	Vinnie D	Maxi C
Rowan H	Tristan S	Sophie C	Ava R
Grace W	Adam A	Riley S	Annabelle L

Singers Needed



If your child would like to take part in this year's **Hexham Christmas Light Switch-On** and/or our annual **Hexham Abbey Carol Service**, please ask them to attend 'HMS Singers Club' on **Tuesday lunchtime at 12.45pm in the HMS Hall**. There has been some confusion in recent weeks about the timings and venue – I am sorry to hear this. From Tuesday 20th October, this club will go ahead as stated above, and we need large numbers of singers so that the Christmas performance rehearsals can begin. If your child would like to commit to being part of these events, please encourage them to go along.

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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 WINNING HOUSE for this half term is TWEED and pupils in Tweed can wear non-uniform on Thursday 22nd October if they'd like to. Congratulations, Tweed.**

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year group							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	15,934	1	Stella T	1	Robyn T	1	Sophie K	1	Adam H
Coquet	15,996	2	Alexander G	2	Jensen C	2	Sophie C	2	Nick T
Tweed	16,283	3	Sidney D	3	Stephanie H-E	3	Heorhii M	3	Mason M
Wansbeck	15,236	4	Zach B	4	Henry G	4	Eve G	4	Nancy M

West Northumberland Food Bank Collection – final push!



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.

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.

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.

Online Safety Update

For Parents - Protecting Children's Images from AI Abuse

AI tools can now be used to manipulate ordinary photographs of children into sexual or otherwise harmful imagery. The Internet Watch Foundation and the National Crime Agency have produced practical guidance for parents and carers about reducing the risk of image misuse. The advice includes thinking carefully about privacy settings, who can see photographs, how much identifying information is shared and involving children in decisions about posting their images as they get older. The guidance also explains what parents can do if an image has been manipulated or misused.

Link: IWF – Parent Guide: Stopping AI Child Image Abuse (by Alan Mackenzie, online Safety Specialist)

HMS Sports News

KS3 Girls' football

HMS KS3 girls played their first football matches of the season this week. The games were held on the Ponteland High School astroturf. Game 1 saw HMS take on Walbottle. Walbottle proved to be a very skillful team. The first half was pretty even. Dylan F in goal made a number of good saves. Jess D battled in midfield and Meike O used her superior strength in defence. HMS conceded to a well taken free kick just after half time. This gave Walbottle the confidence to win 4-0.

Game 2 was against Ponteland B. This game was much closer in skill and tactics. HMS girls played well but conceded a runaway goal in the second half, and the up 1-0 to Ponteland. The final game was against Ponteland A. Ponteland had four physically tall players who ran the show. Midfield battled well but only good interventions from Su JH, Sienna C, Evie T, Meike O kept HMS in the game. Ponteland ended winning the game 2-0 but this was HMS best performance. Well done girls - you showed a good battling spirit in all three games. Winning our first game is not far away!

Y7 & 8 Girls' Rugby Festival

Our year 7 and year 8 girls went to Tynedale on Tuesday to enjoy a skills festival followed by some competitive games with Corbridge. The festival was run by Newcastle Rugby Foundation who were looking to develop confidence and skills in rugby. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and demonstrated some great rugby and positive progress throughout. We are hoping that some of our newer players want to experience more rugby by joining their local rugby club! Well done girls!



HMS Library News

HMS Library Champions 2026-27: Applications now open



Are you interested in books and reading? Are you keen to learn new skills? Would you like to volunteer in HMS Library at lunchtimes? Then becoming a Library Champion might be the role for you. For further information and a brief application form, please see Ms Hayler at the library desk. The deadline for returning applications to Ms Hayler is Monday 2nd November. Please note that there are likely to be more applications than spaces available. There may also need to be a 'Winter' wave and a 'Summer' wave of Champions to create as many opportunities as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Year 7 Parents' Evenings

Year 7 parents/carers are now invited to make appointments to meet your child's teachers at our upcoming parents' evenings. You can choose either date - please select from the dropdown menu on MCAS. *Note: some teachers will only be available for one evening - you can check this on the app.* Mr Cameron (PE), Mrs Elliott, Mr Wilde and Mr Brown (DT) will only be available on Thursday 19th. Ms Kwella (Food) will only be available on Wednesday 11th November.

Wednesday 11th November 3.45 - 6.45pm and Thursday 19th November 3.45 - 6.45pm

All bookings can be made via MCAS, and meetings will take place in school. 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.

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 99%	2nd form class 98.5%	3rd form class 98%
6-ZSC, 5-MDO	6-EKI	8-CAR

Community News

Tynedale Rugby Club: open training for Year 7 and Year 8 girls on Sunday 18 October from 10.30 – 12.00. See attached for more information.



Autism family drop-in sessions: new dates are available: here.

Hexham Wombles Spook Night Clean Up: Sunday 1st November, 11am – 12.30pm, pickers, High-Vis, gloves & bags all provided.

Young People Workshops

Please see here for information on workshops Family Hubs are offering to young people aged 11+. These started in September as a rolling programme. They run after school and are available in each locality. Times and days will vary but YP families will be contacted to advise. See the information on the flyer to sign up. Some sessions will be co-delivered by SORTED and Youth Justice staff.

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.

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 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 Tweed House)	Winning House

Thursday 22 October	Headteacher Award Breakfast	Winners
Thursday 22 October	HMS PTFA Disco Night (tickets available here!)	All year groups
Thursday 22 October	School Closes at 3.15pm	All year groups
Friday 23 October	School closed for all pupils	All year groups
Monday 2 November	School re-opens at 8.40am for all pupils	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).