THE FIRST WEEK AFTER HALF TERM IS TIMETABLE WEEK 1 AND MENU WEEK 3

Hexham Middle School
spes durat avorum

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 8



It's the end of the first half term of the year and we have so much to be thankful for at HMS. Our pupils have made such a positive start to the year, and we are all very proud of them! This half term ended with our first Skills Builder sessions of the year, and it was lovely to see the pupils working collaboratively in their form class groups. I'll be sharing our 'Festive Calendar' when school re-opens and I have added a couple of important dates to the calendar below. I hope you all have a lovely half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2nd November at 8.40am. Thank you for your continued support – it is appreciated.

Headteacher Awards

Headteacher Awards were awarded this morning with pupils being recognised for listening skills – our 'Skills Builder' theme for 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
Penny Rose B	Evie B	Ethan W	Sadie B
Amber L	Hugo B	James C/Millie W	Alex T
Samuel B	Fern D	Jake S	Dylan W
Amy C	Lucy L	Georgia M	Thea H
Joshua T	Nola P	Sebastian D	Dylan W

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
No year group assembly this week – back after half-term!	Alfie J	Jay Jay W	Tansy D
	Uma W	Oscar N	Violet M
	Imogen C	Pippa M	Jessica D
	Olive E	Leo H	Luke T
	Matteo K	Daniella H	James D

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Hello Yellow – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all of our families for supporting our **Hello Yellow Charity Day**. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing **£402.50** for **YoungMinds**. Your donations helped make the day a great success while also raising awareness of the importance of supporting young people's mental health. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of our school community and charitable events. **Thank you!**

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.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year group							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	18,605	**1**	Amber L	**1**	Fern D	**1**	Henry D	**1**	Leanne K
Coquet	18,547	**2**	Andrej V	**2**	Hugo B	**2**	Sebastian D	**2**	Maxi C
Tweed	18,770	**3**	Olivia G	**3**	Henry G	**3**	James C	**3**	Dylan W
Wansbeck	17,672	**4**	Jake T	**4**	Nola P	**4**	Edwin S	**4**	Jessica Do

Well done, Tennis Leaders!



On Sunday, Jackson, George, Amelia and Mia completed the LTA Tennis Leaders course. A first step to developing their knowledge off the court. Throughout the course, they have stepped outside their comfort zones, challenged themselves, developed new skills and shown real courage as they planned and delivered their own tennis sessions. From putting their ideas into action to reflecting on what went well and what they could improve, they've discovered that being a great tennis leader is about so much more than tennis. It's about communication, teamwork, confidence, creativity and helping others enjoy the game! They are all now officially registered as LTA Tennis Leaders!



Remembrance Day

From this week, pupils can donate to buy a poppy and other accessories in support of the Royal British Legion. We'll be marking Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11th November and our Head Pupils will once again be joining the Hexham Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November. Our dining hall windows are decorated with our Remembrance Day display - thank you to Ms Thompson and lots of pupils who helped her.

HMS PTFA News

PTFA Autumn News Update

The latest **PTFA Autumn News Update** is now available. Find out more about the fantastic activities, events and fundraising efforts the PTFA have been involved in by following this link. Thank you to everyone who continues to support their work.

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.

Punctuality Reminder



A reminder that school starts at 8.40am and we ask all pupils to be here in good time to make a positive start to the day. We have recently noticed a growing number of pupils arriving very close to or just after the first whistle on the yard. For those on buses, we are liaising with the local authority to ensure that bus punctuality improves. For those living locally, please encourage your child to arrive at school in advance of 8.40am to avoid any late sanctions. For those with valid reasons for arriving late, there will be no sanctions issued.

Online Safety Update

Helping Children Stay Safe While Gaming

Online gaming is an important part of many children's lives. It offers opportunities for fun, creativity and friendships, but many games also allow children to communicate and play with people they do not know offline.
Ofcom has produced practical advice for parents through its **Parents Power Up** campaign.

The guidance uses three simple steps:

- **Check** – Review your child's account details, age settings and who they can communicate with.
- **Chat** – Talk regularly about the games they enjoy, who they play with and anything that makes them uncomfortable.
- **Change** – Review parental controls, privacy settings and communication options as your child grows.

This is a particularly useful resource for families approaching half-term, when children may have more time to spend gaming. **Link:** **Ofcom – Parents Power Up: Helping Your Child Stay Safe While Gaming Online** (by Alan Mackenzie, online Safety Specialist)

Clubs News

Y6 Girls' Football Club



We are delighted to announce a new **Year 6 Girls' Football Club**, kindly run by Mrs Barnett. The club will start on Thursday 5 November and will run each week from 3.20pm to 4.10pm on the sand-based hockey pitch. Please note that this is a new club and is separate from the KS2 football club that runs on Mondays, as it is specifically for girls only. Sign up is on MCAS.
Pupils should bring trainers (not football boots), as sessions will take place on the hockey pitch. We look forward to seeing lots of girls get involved!

HMS Sports News

Year 6 girls' football

The year 6 girls' football team travelled to Prudhoe High School last Wednesday 14th October. The girls met strong opposition in their first match against Ovingham1 and lost 3 -0. In the second match, the girls started to work more as a team but unfortunately, they lost 1-0 to Ovingham2. The third match was far more positive with much more attacking play and they won this match 1-0 against Highfield 1. Goal scored by Lillie W with support from Zoe L (team captain) and Olivia W who gave a strong performance in midfield.

Year 7 & 8 girls' football



Well done to our Year 7 and 8 girls football teams who travelled to Corbridge on Monday for their league fixtures with Ovingham and Corbridge. All three schools fielded two teams on the night, giving lots of girls the opportunity to play football.

The year 8 girls battled hard against Ovingham in the first game, but ultimately came up short against some very strong opposing players. Hexham played a much better game against Corbridge with the girls all working really hard for each other. It was a very tight game which the scoreline did not reflect, and despite the results the girls' heads never went down and they fought until the end. Our year 7 girls had a bit more joy in their friendly games against the same schools by winning both games comfortably. Well done to both teams - it was great to see so many girls in KS3 having the opportunity to play!

Year 7 & 8 boys' football

A second successive trip to Corbridge for Hexham on Tuesday, this time with our boys teams travelling to play in their league fixtures against Corbridge alone. Firstly, our year 7 boys showed why they were the league champions last year by putting on a fine attacking display. Goals came from Rowan D, Ethan W (x2), Freddie S (x2), James H and an own goal to secure an excellent victory.

The year 8 boys played out a really tight game with little to separate the 2 teams. It always felt like it was going to take something special to break the deadlock, and in the second half, up popped Ben R with a peach of a strike from long range to beat the keeper and put Hexham 1-0 up. James L added a bit of gloss with a long range effort of his own late on in the game to secure a hard-fought 2-0 victory for the away side. Huge credit must go to the defence of Charlie P, Will G, Archie J and then Charlie C and Will M, all of whom were excellent value for their clean sheet. 3 wins from 3 in the league for these lads, well done!

Year 3 and 4 hockey festival



On Tuesday morning, HMS & QEHS hosted a year 3 & 4 hockey festival here at the school. On quite a grey and damp day a total of over 70 year three and four pupils from five different schools joined us to try hockey, most of them for the first time.

They were welcomed by a group of twenty-four pupils of sports leaders and hockey players from QEHS and HMS. This group was fantastic, their focus was on making sure that all the first school pupils had lots of fun. They encouraged them to join in the different activities and gave them lots of coaching tips. The children were divided into eight groups and moved between different activities before finishing with a small-sided game, managed, coached and refereed by the older pupils. It was a really great success, the young leaders were enthusiastic and thoughtful and the youngsters all said that they'd had a great time, showing that even when the weather outside isn't fabulous everyone can have fun!

Year 7 & 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.

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 99.5%	2nd form class 99%	3rd form class 98%
5-MDO	5-RAL	7-ETA

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.

Community News

Staying safe – e-scooters



I have had contact from our local policing team to share that members of the public in Humshaugh have raised concerns about pupils using e-scooters around the village. To support parents/carers and pupils, I have attached a helpful guide to today's newsletter with information about the laws around e-scooter use. Thank you for your support in keeping our community safe.



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

SEND Conference

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum is hosting a fully funded multi-agency SEND conference for parent/carers which is bringing together professionals from health and social care, education, SEND providers and free legal advice from Irwin Mitchell. The day includes talks, workshops, a market hall, a wellbeing area, refreshments and lunch. No booking is required. Tuesday 10 November 2026, 9.30am–2.30pm. See here for more information.

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 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)
Sunday 8 November	Hexham Remembrance Service	Head Pupils
Tuesday 10 November	PSHE – Online Bullying Workshop	Year 5
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day – 11am	All year groups
Wednesday 11 November	Year 7 Parents' Evening (1)	Year 7
Thursday 12 November	Young Carers Parent/Carer Drop-In, 8.20 – 9.15am	All parents/carers welcome
Thursday 12 November	Young Green Briton Challenge	Year 7
Friday 13 November	Children in Need Fundraising Day	All year groups
W/c Monday 16 November	Bikeability (Safe Cycling Training)	Year 5 (group)
Monday 16 November	Flu immunisations	All year groups
Thursday 19 November	Year 7 Parents' Evening (2)	Year 7
Friday 20 November	Hexham Christmas Lights Switch On, Sele Bandstand	All welcome
Monday 7 December	HMS PTFA Festive Forest Evening	All welcome
Monday 14 December	Hexham Middle School Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome

Have a great half-term holiday!

Thanks for your continued support – it has been a fantastic first half term at HMS.

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).