

14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 34**

**Update on life in school**

A busy week in school this week with lots going on including the Tynedale Area Athletics Competition where lots of pupils represented HMS brilliantly. On Thursday, our Arts Award group taught an after-school art lesson to lots of our staff as part of their qualification which everyone enjoyed (I am told the staff were great pupils!). It's been 'Feel Good Friday' in school today with a focus on mental health and wellbeing and a more 'relaxed' afternoon. It's also been non-uniform day in support of our Summer Fair. We're racing towards our HMA PTA Summer Fair on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (12pm-3pm) but we are still short of helpers on the day – [please sign up here if you can help at all](#). We were once again amazed by the generosity shown today with lots of tombola prizes coming into school – thank you all so much!

**Respect. Engage. Aspire 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
Doug B Alfred A Katlyn H Thomas M Eleanor W	Joseph D Callie T Lucas S Robbie P Amelia P	Euan A Sam P Owen B Mary W Charlie R	David T Harvey C-F Leila S Philippa M

**'Write Your Own Superhero': character creation workshop with Helen Comerford**

Real-life superhero author Helen Comerford visited HMS this week to deliver a writing workshop to a lucky group of Y8s. She also read from her first novel 'The Love Interest'. Helen focused on creating compelling characters: how to build a superhero, give them a backstory, vulnerabilities, feelings, secrets, motives and, of course, special powers. She also considered their counterpoint, the villain. She said,



**Hexham Middle School**

Whetstone Bridge Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3JB

T: 01434 610300 E: [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)

[www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk)

Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

‘The best villains have an understandable motive. Really good villains mirror the protagonist.’

Helen answered some technical questions from the Y8 group, such as ‘How do you deal with the gaps between plot points?’ We were really proud of the pupils’ enthusiasm and engagement with Helen’s brilliant workshop. Huge thanks to Helen Comerford and the wonderful team at Forum Books in Corbridge for making her visit possible.

### House Point Totals

Below are this week’s House Point totals as well as the ‘**Top 4**’ pupils in each year group this week. P points are awarded for character value such as **resilience, respect, engagement and responsibility**. Well done to each and every one of them.

House Totals		Top 4 ‘P Points’ in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	84,582	1	Nick T	1	Aurelia K	1	George W		Dylan C
<b>Coquet</b>	85,895	2	Meghan J	2	Aria H	2	Henry W		Robbie L
<b>Tweed</b>	83,603	3	Martha G	3	Jude D	3	Esme B		Abigail B
<b>Wansbeck</b>	80,958	4	Adina C	4	Joseph D	4	Anna O	4	Xavier F

### HMS Ally Zone

The HMS Ally Zone have been working in collaboration with QEHS LGBTQ+ group and Hexham Youth Initiative to develop a new flag. This will be added to over the years to represent all three organisations. In this project, we have used recycled materials and hand-dyed the backing of the flag. The pupils have made patches of things that represents Pride to them. This will be built up over the years. Hexham Pride events are taking place in town this weekend and throughout June including a 'Bandstand Session Takeover' on Sunday. Everyone at HMS hopes the events go brilliantly!



### UK Junior Maths Challenge



Congratulations to all the pupils who participated in the UK Junior Maths Challenge! We are incredibly proud of their effort and resilience. Our success is remarkable: 6 pupils earned gold certificates, 16 received silver, and a staggering 27 obtained Bronze. Special shout out to Lizzie, Evie, Zach, and Caitlin for securing

a place in the Junior Kangaroo 2024 follow-on round! Fantastic news! Good luck to those pupils.

### HMS Summer Show

A reminder that our Summer Show is fast-approaching! Our celebration of live music and performance will take place on Thursday 27th June at 7.00pm in the QEHS hall. It is an opportunity for our pupils to showcase their wonderful talents and to enjoy a wide range of performances including music from the HMS Orchestra, solo performances, a set from our rock band and many songs from our choirs... it's always a night to remember!

To reserve seats, please complete the sign-up form emailed home. There will be no physical tickets issued. All payments are on a voluntary basis - a suggested donation of £3 per ticket can be made via School Gateway if you feel able. Alternatively, there will be a box for cash donations on the door. Thank you for your support!



### Pupil success

We were delighted to hear that Una (Year 8) was awarded Hexham Football Club's 'Female Player of the Year Award' across all age groups. This is a huge achievement for Una who shows so much hard work and commitment to all of the teams she plays for. Una also plays for the Northumberland District Team and has shown great enthusiasm and dedication this season. Everyone at HMS feels very proud of Una - congratulations!

### Attendance – top 3!

Our target is that all pupils will have above 96% attendance

1	2	3
5-JNI, 5-EKI	8-BLA	5-ZSC, 6-YTA

### HMS PTA Lottery

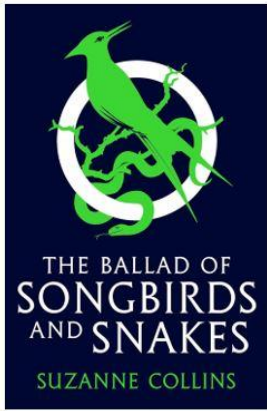
HMS PTA runs a longstanding monthly Lottery draw as part of its fundraising. It's low cost and simple to join with monthly cash prizes. Just follow the [link](#) for more details and an online application form. You can also email Kate Robson at [hmsprizedraw@gmail.com](mailto:hmsprizedraw@gmail.com) with any queries. In the meantime, congratulations to this month's Lottery winners Karen Wright and Gen Crosby who win £25 and £15 respectively.

## Online Safety Updates

### TikTok and Disinformation

Here in England election time is upon us and, surprise surprise, the amount of mis and disinformation on social platforms is ramping up, particularly on TikTok, with dubious claims, misleading information, divisive content and outright lies. Whilst school-aged children are not (yet) old enough to vote, it's an ideal time to talk with them about misinformation and disinformation as there are going to be plenty of real examples around. For parents - [HERE](#). (For parents by Alan McKenzie, Online Safety advisor)

### HMS Library Champions 'Must Reads'

HMS Library Champion book review	
	<p><b>Title:</b> The Ballad of Songbirds And Snakes <b>Author:</b> Suzanne Collins</p> <p>I would recommend this book because it shows a different, more violent side to humanity. I would especially say that people who have already read the Hunger Games trilogy should read it because it gives you more information about President Snow's history. There are lots of plot twists and danger, but also love and friendship.</p> <p><b>Review:</b> Bess D, Y7</p>

### News from the community

#### QEHS Rowing Club – Sponsored Row

On Saturday 22 June, students in the QEHS Rowing Club will be taking to the water in our fleet of fours and quads to row 50km per crew - that's 71 lengths of our beautiful stretch of the Tyne – in a bid to raise much-needed funds. The sport requires an array of equipment, from winter training on the club ergs, to the boats (seating 1, 2, 4 or 8 rowers), the carbon fibre oars, the performance tracking GPS equipment and all the paraphernalia to enable us to attend races such as the trailers and minibuses. Investing in new equipment, whilst maintaining our current fleet is of vital importance. With all of these needs and the ongoing support from our dedicated coaching team comes cost, and this is where our eighty-five talented young rowers are keen to play their part.

If you are able to support the students, that would be very much appreciated. Please visit our fundraising page via [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/QEHS-Rowing-Club-50km-row?utm\\_term=ekvPEgMnw](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/QEHS-Rowing-Club-50km-row?utm_term=ekvPEgMnw). Also, if free on Saturday 22 June, you would be very welcome to pop down from 9am until mid-to-late afternoon to Tyne Green Country Park to lend your encouragement - thank you!

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Zoolab – Charles Darwin Workshops	Year 6
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	NU Futures Workshops	Year 7 and Year 8 Group
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Safety Works Visit	Year 6
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>	Head of School Awards Breakfast	Award Winners
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	PTA Summer Fair 12-3pm	All Welcome
<b>Tuesday 25 June</b>	REA Day – enrichment activities	Year 6 and Year 7
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	HMS Music Evening, 7.00pm	All welcome
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	REA Day – enrichment activities	Year 5 and Year 8
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	London Tour - Residential Trip	Year 7 (Group)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Young Green Briton Challenge Final, London	YGBC Team
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Hexham Transfer Day	Year 4 and Year 8
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Year Trip - Dukeshouse Wood	Year 7
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Year Trip - Kirkley Hall Zoo	Year 5
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Year Trip - Tynemouth Beach Day	Year 8
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Newby Whiske Residential	Year 6
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	End of Year Trip - Halty Pool Day	Year 6 (not on residential)
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 8 Leavers' Party	Year 8

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

**Head of School**

**Pupil Support and Safeguarding**

**Designated Safeguarding Leader:** Mr Stephenson/ **Deputy Safeguarding Leaders:** Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

**Heads of Key Stage:** Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

**SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo:** Mr Morgan and Mrs Adams

**Academic Support Coordinator:** Mrs Toor

**Pupil Support Workers:** Mrs Dodds and Mrs Richards

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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).