



28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 36**

#### **HMS Summer Show**

What an amazing night we had for our Summer Show. It was a night of joy and celebration as pupils from across the school put on an outstanding performance. The show included performances from our very talented musicians including our choirs, soloists, the HMS

Orchestra, the string group, pianists, flutists, dancers and our HMS Rock Band. The courage, dedication and confidence were clear to see across the night and we were all so proud of the children who performed to a sell-out audience.

Special thanks must of course go to Mr Holdsworth who leads the music provision and the show so brilliantly. After nearly 25 years at HMS, this was his final Summer Show and what a way to bring his time at our school to a close. Mr Holdsworth goes above and beyond to provide music enrichment opportunities across the school, and he was beaming with pride once again last night. It was also great to welcome back some ex-HMS pupils as a special surprise for Mr Holdsworth - thank you to Mr Seago for organising this! In a further surprise, lots of ex-colleagues joined us for the evening which made it extra special for Mr Holdsworth's final show.

Thank you to the HMS staff for their support on the night and to our PTA who provided interval refreshments. A huge thank you to each and every one of you who attended the show - it really was a night to remember for HMS and we are beyond proud of everyone who took part!



#### **Cricket Finals**

It's been a busy week of sport at HMS. A huge well done to our Y7 and Y8 girls cricket team who competed in the county finals competition and finished 3rd in the county. The girls were superb throughout the competition, improving as a team all the time. The girls won their group, going unbeaten and only lost their semi-final by a single run to eventual winners, Kings. Whilst this was tough to take,

the girls should be incredibly proud of their performances. They then went on to win their 3rd place game. An outstanding achievement for the team! We are proud of them all.



#### **Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

## 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>	88,706	1	Edward H		Betti A		Alex G		Bella W
<b>Coquet</b>	90,258	2	James D		Theo T		Emmie R		Alastair W
<b>Tweed</b>	88,070	3	Tom G		Dexter B		Tristan J		Sarah M
<b>Wansbeck</b>	85,103	4	Jessie T		Sinjin R		Alice B		Evie W

## 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
FHA - Dylan W JNI - Mollie P ZSC - Charlie P EKI - Arthur C MDO - Lauren D	JJO - Sam L FHI - Rory A MBE - Darcey H YTA - George F RAL - Maja M	EST - Jyacinth B PGA - Hayden D AMG - Tyler B JET - Holli M SFO - Alice B	BLA - Harry H ETA - Luke G IBO - Gabriel B IHO - Freddie H SRI - Amber L

## Introducing Pip – the newest addition to our Trust

After the successful introduction of Arlo to the Trust, we look forward to welcoming Arlo's little sister Pip to the staff! So many pupils have benefitted from time with Arlo and it has been lovely to see pupils interacting so positively with him. Pip is still very young so won't be properly joining the school until September but she will be doing a few days here and there this side of the summer. She is looking forward to meeting everyone soon!



## Rugby success



A fantastic afternoon of tag rugby was had in the sunshine at Kingston Park – the home of Newcastle Falcons. HMS took four mixed teams of Year 5 and 6 and played against other schools. The focus of the afternoon was largely recreational rather than competitive, looking to inspire the next generation of players. However, our teams certainly performed extremely well, generally winning most, if not all, of their games. Every pupil was outstanding in their efforts and their conduct at the event. Thank you to our QE leaders and coach Nathan for helping our young players. Well done to all!

## Summer Reading Challenge



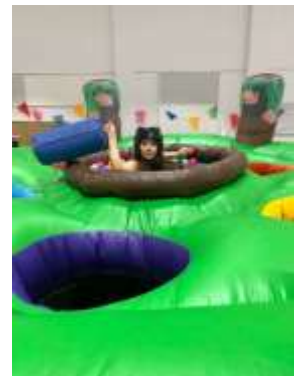
This year's Summer Reading Challenge is launching on Saturday 6th July. Hexham Library is hosting a brilliant 'Sign Up and Craft Swap Event' with Green Bee Crafts. The theme is 'Marvellous Makers'. Please go to your local library to sign up or register online and set your own reading goal. Remember you can read anything you like. It could be a book, comic or magazine, eBook or audiobook – they all count! Many HMS pupils take part each year and we would love it if even more of you could sign up this year. Please follow the link [here](#). Certificates are presented in September to all those who complete the Reading Challenge.

Ms Hayler will have free bookmarks available over the next couple of weeks at the HMS Library desk to help promote the Challenge. Come by and collect yours!

## HMS PTA Summer Fair




What a day we had on Saturday for this year's HMS PTA Summer Fair. The sun was shining and all of the hard work and preparation came together for another hugely successful fair. This year's video game theme was a great success and the creativity of all of the stalls/activities was genius (well done, Lorna!). The Summer Fair is always such a community event and we are so grateful for the support shown once again - both in the build-up and on the day. We are delighted that so many of you came along and had a great time at HMS. The fair was packed all day and it was a joy to see so many pupils and



their families - thank you so much for coming! We are all very grateful to the HMS staff who supported the fair this year - both on the day and beforehand - it is hugely appreciated. We were blown away by the very generous support from local businesses and organisations who have been so kind with their donations - it makes a huge difference, and it is greatly appreciated.

None of this would be possible without our phenomenal PTA. This year's fair was led by Lorna who has spent hours and hours preparing the event and leading the team of volunteers. All of her hours of work paid off on the day and the whole event was a roaring success. HUGE thanks to everyone from our PTA who worked so hard to run this year's fair and all of the volunteers on the day - your generosity and dedication is recognised and appreciated by everyone at HMS. For lots of our members, it's their final year with us at HMS and I can't tell you how much they'll be missed. They make a unique contribution to school life at HMS and their support is so valued.



Non-Uniform Day – please donate...	Support shout out...
<p>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July will be a non-uniform day for those who'd like to take part. We would like to encourage parents/carers to donate any used uniform which you no longer need to replenish our 'Go Green Recycling' stocks.</p> <p>Parents/carers of Year 8 - any uniform donations incl. PE kit and boots which pupils have outgrown would be hugely appreciated.</p>	<p>STEM Club are busy rocket-building and would like 2 litre bottles for their activities.</p> <p>If you have any, please could you send them for the club to use.</p> 

### Northumbria Police Prevention Through Education visit

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team will be visiting our school on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> to deliver sessions to Year 8 students on the risks and consequences associated with the sharing of inappropriate images via text message and social media. The purpose of the session is to equip children with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, and to make them aware of how these images can be used to exploit young people. The session covers: what is an inappropriate image; why young people send inappropriate images; consequences; the law and where to find help and support when images have been shared. We hope you will support this important messaging at home. To help you to do that, please visit the following weblinks:

- [Megan's Story](#) - a teenager's experience of sharing an inappropriate image of herself
- [Nude selfies: a parents' guide \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

It's important that young people know that there is a way to get their image removed as this may encourage them to seek help if it has happened or does happen to them: Visit [Report Remove | Childline](#) for more information.

### Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
5-MDO	5-JNI, 5-EKI	6-FHI, 6-YTA, 7-JET

### Online Safety Updates

#### For Parents - Family Pairing

From all the parents' online safety talks I give I'm still surprised that only a minority of parents are aware that some apps allow family pairing which, depending on the app, can do a variety of things such as:

- Manage screen time.
- Apply restricted mode (content restrictions).
- Manage who children are talking to and what's being shared (including images).

Of the more popular apps, here are ones that allow family pairing along with a link which describes what family pairing is, the features available and how to set it up:

TikTok - [HERE](#).

Snapchat - [HERE](#)

YouTube - [HERE](#)

Instagram - [HERE](#)

(Online Safety Updates for Parents by Alan Mackenzie, online safety advisor)

### Free School Meals – Reminder

If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please have a read of the criteria and make an application as soon as you can. You can find out more [here](#).

To apply, please [complete this form](#) via Northumberland County Council.

### Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	London Residential Trip	Year 7 - group
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Army Cadets Assembly	Year 8
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Chris Smith – author visit Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information	Year 5
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Northumbria Police – support sharing images workshop	Year 8
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Young Green Briton Challenge Final, London	YGBC Team

<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Visit to Hexham Book Festival	Year 7 - group
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Reward: movie afternoon	Year 5 and Year 6 - group
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Les Olympiques des Animaux, Theatre Performance	<b>Year 5</b>
<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 – group
<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
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	School closes for summer at 1.30pm	All pupils

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)).