

22 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 11

UK Parliament Week

This week, we have focused on 'UK Parliament Week' and we ended the week with pupils representing school at COP29, an exciting visit from our local MP, Joe Morris, and a whole school event to focus on learning more about our UK Parliament. Joe Morris MP visited the HMS Council for a great Q&A session and presented them with their new badges. He also met Edward, our candidate for Northumberland Youth Cabinet this year - best of luck, Edward. Joe toured the school and visited classrooms to meet lots of pupils. Thank you, Mr Freeman-Myers, for an informative week and to Joe Morris and his team for visiting HMS today.



COP29 Event at County Hall

Our Head Pupils are representing HMS at the COP29 event at County Hall today. The event will focus on global climate action as well as local action across Northumberland. The mini-UN-style COP summit will be a great opportunity for local young people to discuss what schools are already doing and what more could be done across our region. The Head Pupils will report back to their HMS Council members in due course as part of our in-school action. Well done, team!

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. Well done – we are very proud of you!

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Ted P | Edward H | Niamh K | Shona R |
| Harry A | Charlie M | Emily C | Joe F |
| Martha P | James B | Betti A | Victor B |
| James C | Elsa B-P | India R | Marc B |
| Oliver M | Sofia P | Tyler H | Cory S |

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



STEM to Stars Club

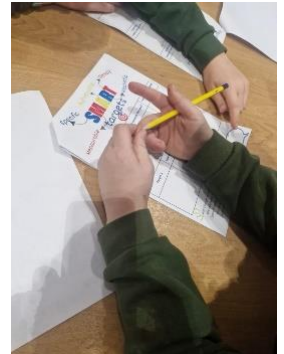
Our budding space engineers were in action again last night at STEM to Stars Club. Look at their latest work – [rocket launches](#)! It was great to see such positive engagement and fun!

Baby News!

Mrs Downes is delighted to announce the arrival of her baby daughter, Martha Rose. Mrs Downes, her husband and Martha are all at home and loving family life together. I know you will join me in sending Mrs Downes huge congratulations - we can't wait to meet baby Martha soon.

Mighty Minds workshops

Year 5 enjoyed interactive workshops with Mighty Minds earlier this week. The life coaching sessions were a hugely valuable experience for our pupils as part of our 'Stay Safe and Well Curriculum'. The sessions focused on setting goals and building resilience. We place a significant emphasis on mental health and wellbeing at HMS. Our pupils delved deeper into strategies to understand our emotional responses and what we can do to instigate change in our lives when needed.



House Point Totals

Each week, we celebrate our P Point (positive point) totals across the school. We include the 'Top 4' pupils in each year group, as well as the house totals for Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed. Well done everyone!

| House Totals | | Top 4 'P Points' in each year | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|
| | | Year 5 | | Year 6 | | Year 7 | | Year 8 | |
| Aln | 26,041 | 1 | Ella W | 1 | James D | 1 | James D-S | 1 | Teddy D |
| Coquet | 26,487 | 2 | Bobby H | 2 | Edward H | 2 | Gwen C-W | 2 | Sarah N |
| Tweed | 26,691 | 3 | Laurence H | 3 | Jennifer V | 3 | Matty M | 3 | Kaidyn B |
| Wansbeck | 26,704 | 4 | Sebastian D | 4 | Talia C | 4 | Ianto T | 4 | Sophie A |

Pupil Competitions

Lift Design Competition

Congratulations to Sadie M and Lauren T whose joint entry has won the Hydro lift competition. Their beautifully presented submission incorporated our schools' ethos alongside imaginative ideas for the aesthetic improvement of the lift, revolving around the four seasons. The girls, who share the £50 prize money, faced stiff competition from several other impressive entries, notably joint runners up Elise MM, Tess BS and Noah W. Special mention too to Grace F, Sophie M, Laura W, Sophia

S and Kirstie A for their thoughtful submissions. The lift will be fully cleaned over the Christmas holidays ready for the improvements to be implemented in the new year. Well done and thanks to everyone who took part, each of whom will gain house points.

Presentation Competition

Do you have lovely handwriting? Has your handwriting or presentation of work significantly improved since September? Do you have a piece of work that you're particularly proud of? If so, please enter our Presentation Competition. For more information, have a look on our website: [here](#). The deadline for entries is Friday 13th December.

Sonic the Hedgehog Competition

Miss Taylor is very impressed by the talent from pupils in HMS and hopes we have some worthy winners in our entries to this year's competition. Well done for your positive engagement!



HMS PTA Updates

Festive Forest Evening – Monday 9 December

Our PTA Festive Forest Evening is back this year to kickstart the festive season and we can't wait! It's a night of family arts and crafts both indoor and outdoor, the forest fire is lit for s'mores, hot chocolate and forest craft and there's food, drinks and lots of music - a perfect night! Please try to save the date. It's always a joyous event for the whole family - it would be great if you could join us.



Christmas Pop-Up Shops – Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December

Our very popular pop-up shops will return this year. We ask for your support in sending in gift donations (if you can) which the pupils can then purchase as gifts for their loved ones at Christmas time. It's a great chance for them to do some

Christmas shopping and they always feel very proud buying a special gift which is wrapped up ready for Christmas Day. There'll be a **non-uniform day on Friday 29 November**, and we ask for your support in sending in gift donations to build up our stocks.

HMS PTA Lottery

The easiest way to contribute to the PTA – please join the lottery! See attached poster or click [here](#) for further information. There's a monthly draw with a cash prize! Thank you for your support.

Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with 96% of pupils being in school. Our school target is 97%. It's so important that 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.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 st form class 99% | 2 nd form class 98% | 3 rd form class 97% |
| 5-MDO | 5-ZSC, 5-JNI | 7-PHA, 7-AMG, 6-JJO, 6-MBE, 6-FHI, 5-EKI |

News from the community

Bridge2Care

Bridge2Care are hosting a kids Christmas party at the Haydonian Club, Haydon Bridge on Sunday 15th December from 1-4pm. It is neurodiverse and disability friendly, with a silent disco, sensory tent, quiet activities and limited numbers so that it isn't too crowded. It's a free event so please book up now if you are interested. Email: bridget2care@hotmail.com.

Hexham Family Hub Sleep Workshop

The Sleep Workshop runs over 2 weeks. Upcoming dates at Hexham Family Hub:

- Wednesday 11 December 12-2pm
- Wednesday 18 December 12-2pm

To book your place ring: 01434 601698



Online Safety Updates

For Parents - Cyber Security

From financial scams, identity theft, using public WiFi and much more, cyber security is fundamental to all of our lives. Internet Matters have put together a number of articles and resources for parents and their children which go into these topics including:

- Creating secure accounts

- Phishing and ransomware
- Digital piracy

And much more. You can find all the resources [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

Upcoming Dates

| Date | Event | Who |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Wednesday 27 November | PSHE Workshops | Year 7 |
| Wednesday 27 November | Year 7 Parents' Evening 1 (in school) | Year 7 |
| Friday 29 November | Non-uniform day – please send in Pop-Up Shop donations | All year groups |
| Friday 29 November | Head of School Award Breakfast | Winners |
| Monday 2 December | STEM to Stars | Group |
| Monday 2 December | Dog Trust talks | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 3 December | Year 7 Parents' Evening 2 (in school) | Year 7 |
| Tuesday 3 December | Forum Cinema Visit | Year 5 |
| Friday 6 December | House Event! | Info to follow! |
| Monday 9 December | Why Queue, PSHE performance | Year 7 |
| Monday 9 December | PTA Festive Forest Evening (5.30pm) | All welcome |
| Tuesday 10 December | Be You Parent Workshops, Anxiety and Worry | All welcome |
| Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 December | PTA Christmas Pop-Up Shops | All year groups |
| Wednesday 11 December | HMS Christmas Lunch | All year groups |
| Wednesday 11 December | Christmas Jumper Day | All year groups |
| Thursday 12 December | Year 8 Christmas Trip – Centre for Life/Ice Skating | Year 8 |
| Thursday 12 December | Year 5 Christmas Trip – Pantomime | Year 5 |
| Friday 13 December | Year 7 Christmas Trip – Cinema and Bowling | Year 7 |
| Monday 16 December | House Prize – non-uniform day and extra lunchtime! | Winning House |

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 17 December | HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm | All welcome |
| Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December | Safety Works Visits | Year 8 |
| Tuesday 17 December | Year 6 Christmas Trip - Pantomime | Year 6 |
| Wednesday 18 December | HMS Carols in the Community | Visits to care homes and hospitals |
| Thursday 19 December | Christmas Celebration Assemblies | All year groups |
| Friday 20 December | Christingle Services | All year groups |
| Friday 20 December | Christmas Jumpers/Non-Uniform/Form Class Time | All year groups |
| Friday 20 December | School closes at 1.30pm | All year groups |

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 Mr Rutherford-Orrock
Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrock
SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Morgan and Mrs Ballantyne
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).