

13 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### **HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 14**

Thank you for your continued support this term. Our Festive Forest Evening and the Pop-Up Shops have both been very well supported this week. We understand what a busy time of year this is for parents – one more week to go until the festive celebrations begin! The school has been filled with joy this week – it was great to hear the Christmas songs at our festive lunch this week! Pupils are very busy preparing for next week's Carol Service at Hexham Abbey, and we can't wait for you to join us. You can like and follow our Facebook page and check the website for regular updates about school life including our Christmas activities.

### **PTA Festive Forest Evening**



Thank you so much for joining us for our PTA Festive Forest Evening on Monday. What a great start to the festive season it was! We loved seeing lots of families enjoying a wide range of festive crafts. Our forest school was so busy with the fire lit for s'mores and outdoor woodland crafts. The festive atmosphere was a joy!

A huge thank you to our PTA and the many supporters on the night – it takes hours of planning to put on these great events and it is massively appreciated. Thank you to our staff who supported the evening – without their support, events like this one are not possible. Thank you all for coming along and for supporting our school so brilliantly! The Christmas countdown is on... Have a look on our website for [more photos](#) of the event.

### **Christmas Lunch**

We have all enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch on Wednesday – everyone LOVED it! Special thanks to Mrs Satow and her amazing team who have worked very hard to prepare and serve lunch across our two schools – well done to everyone involved! The lunch was greatly appreciated by pupils and staff across the school. The festive atmosphere is definitely building now!



### **Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



### PTA Pop-Up Shops

Our PTA held the two Pop-Up Shops this week and – wow –these were busy! The pupils loved visiting the shop and purchasing gifts for their loved ones. The music was playing and the festive atmosphere was buzzing! Huge thanks for your generous donations – your support is, as ever, much appreciated.

### 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
Georgia M	Meike O	Rose K	Amelia M
Scarlet S	Liam J-G	Ben T	Layla S
Daniel M	James D	Sam L	Ruby P
Jesse C	Jennifer V	Esther C	Mary W
Harrison S-W	Edward H	Jacob A	Annabelle M

### 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!

Coquet House is the winner of the totals this half term and pupils who are in Coquet are rewarded with a non-uniform day on Monday 16 December.



House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	32,114	1	Sally B	1	Sadie B	1	Ben S	1	Sarah N
Coquet	32,227	2	Leo H	2	Jennifer V	2	James H	2	Clara H
Tweed	32,261	3	Charlie A	3	Alexis L	3	Harry G	3	Theodore D
Wansbeck	32,664	4	Ruben B	4	Ruby S	4	Ella R	4	Annabelle M

## Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to the pupils for supporting Christmas Jumper Day so brilliantly. [Here's](#) a snapshot of a few festive jumpers! Jumpers can be worn again on the last day of term if pupils want to!



## Year 5 Careers Project



Year 5 were visited by our new Enterprise Advisor, Gavin Forster, who runs a regional photography company. Gavin talked about his career pathway and the essential skills he applies in his day-to-day work. Gavin launched a new Year 5 photography competition with the theme of 'Home'. There will be workshops for pupils after Christmas with entries open for the competition building up to an exhibition of their work. Info to follow after Christmas

### Clubs News

#### Latin Club

We will be relaunching Latin Club for Year 8 after Christmas. This will be after school on Mondays for 1 hour and led by Miss Richardson. New sign up is needed via MCAS from Monday 16 December. For any questions, pupils can contact Miss Richardson.

#### Spring Term Clubs

Club lists for the next term were sent home this week and bookings can be made via MCAS.

#### No after-school clubs until Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We have next week off from after-school clubs due to the busy festive period. Clubs re-start from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

## 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 <sup>st</sup> form class	2 <sup>nd</sup> form class	3 <sup>rd</sup> form class
98%	97%	96%
5-MDO, 5-FHA	7-PHA, 7-AMG, 7-PES, 6-MBE, 6-FHI, 5-ZSC, 5-EKI	7-IBO, 6-JJO

### News from the community

**AEET Grant Aid for Schools**

If you are looking for support towards school trips, the Allendale Exhibition Endowment Trust may be able to offer grants towards the cost of the trip for any eligible students - those who live, or whose parents or guardians live, in the civil parishes of Allendale or West Allen.

### Online Safety Updates

#### The ABC Checklist

With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices they have (plus any new Christmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child.

One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have really good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

- A - Activate parental controls.
- B - Balance screen time.
- C - Check and chat.

You can find a full explanation, set up guides and advice [HERE](#). (by Alan McKenzie, online safety advisor)

### Free School Meals

#### Free School Meals

You can find the eligibility criteria for free school meals here. If you think your child may be eligible, please make an application to the local authority who review your request.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx?nccredirect=1>

### Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
<b>Monday 16 December</b>	House Prize – non-uniform day and extra lunchtime!	Winning House: Coquet
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	HMS Carol Service, Hexham Abbey, 7pm	All welcome
<b>Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December</b>	Safety Works Visits	Year 8
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	Year 6 Christmas Trip - Pantomime	Year 6
<b>Wednesday 18 December</b>	HMS Carols in the Community	Choir
<b>Thursday 19 December</b>	Christmas Celebration Assemblies	All year groups

<b>Friday 20 December</b>	Christingle Services	All year groups
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	Non-Uniform/Christmas Jumpers Form Class Time	All year groups
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	<b>School closes at 1.30pm (school transport is arranged for those who need it)</b>	<b>All year groups</b>

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-Orrrock  
**Heads of Key Stage:** Mr Scott and Mr Rutherford-Orrrock  
**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](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk)).