

10 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 16**

**Happy New Year!**

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to a new school term. It has been great to welcome the children back to school this week despite the snow, ice and very cold temperatures! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break. As we look ahead in the calendar, it's another very busy term with lots of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, as well as lots of exciting learning.

It's 'World Religions Week' in school next week and we are delighted to be welcoming representatives from a wide range of religions and faiths to lead workshops for our pupils. Miss Buxton-Collins has planned an engaging and informative programme and we hope the pupils enjoy their lessons next week. Later in the half term, we'll be holding our annual 'First Aid Week'. Once again, every single pupil in school will have a first aid training workshop as part of our 'Staying Safe and Well Curriculum'.

**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
James L	James S	Charlie P	Joe M
Skye K	Emilia F	Daisy H-R	Bess D
Ruby P	Ruby S	Rory N	Isaac K
William R	Violet M	Esme C	Tom N
Brianna H	Alex T	William D	Esme B
	Sam S		Annabelle M

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## Zones of Regulation



As part of our whole school focus on emotional regulation, Year 5 and Year 7 have enjoyed interactive workshops this week focused on the Zones of Regulation. The sessions will help our pupils to understand the wide range of emotions they may feel on a daily basis and to understand when/why they may feel a certain way, the physical and emotional responses we experience and how we can manage and regulate our emotions. Year 6 and Year 8 will have their workshops soon.



## 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 house totals for Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Tweed. Well done everyone for such a positive start to term.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>Aln</b>	34,340	1	Isla M	1	Liam J-G	1	Rosie O	1	Brodie G
<b>Coquet</b>	34,226	2	Sophie K	2	Aimee C	2	Aurelia K	2	Sarah N
<b>Tweed</b>	34,669	3	David W	3	Jessica D	3	Anna F	3	Florence O
<b>Wansbeck</b>	35,045	4	Scarlet S	4	Kai B	4	Betti A	4	Evie T

## Extra-curricular Music

Check out our fantastic extra-curricular [Music offering](#) for this term, including some brand-new opportunities for our pupils to enjoy! All activities start back next week unless stated otherwise. There are spaces in all groups so new members are more than welcome – please encourage your child to get involved. They may be keen to try something new for their new year's resolution!

## Year 6 Residential

A message was sent home today with more information on how to sign up for the Year 6 Newby Whiske residential visit. Please read the email and contact school if you need any further support or have any questions about the visit. Thank you.

## Pupil Information Page

We have re-launched our 'Pupil Information' page on the school website. Pupils can access it here: <https://www.hexhammiddleschool.co.uk/index.php/pupils/>. It has useful links and helpful support resources including mental health and wellbeing guidance.

### Clubs News

#### KS2 Basketball Club Update

We are unable to offer a KS2 Basketball Club for the spring term, and apologise for any disappointment caused. Our PE Department are looking at bringing this club (with Full of Beans Fitness) back for the summer term. All parents/carers of pupils that attended the KS2 Basketball Club during the autumn term should have already been informed by email that the rotation has come to an end. We will be updating our summer term extra-curricular offer at the end of the spring term.

### Attendance – top 3!

Attendance has been excellent this week with 95% of pupils being in school (some impact of snow and ice this week!). 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.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> form class</b> 100%	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> form class</b> 99%	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> form class</b> 98%
6-RAL, 5-EKI	7-IBO, 7-PES,5-ZSC, 5-MDO	7-PHA, 6-FHI

### News from the community

#### In our place online learning environment

As ever, we are always looking for ways in which we can support young people and their emotional health and wellbeing. Within Northumberland, we are delighted to link with 'Inourplace'. 'Inourplace' is an online learning environment developed by psychologists and health practitioners providing accessible learning about emotional health and wellbeing, proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour and relationships. All of the courses and content is free to local parents and we would love for many of our parents and carers to take the opportunity to engage with this service.

[January Course Breakdown](#)

[January Course Flyer](#)

[February Course Breakdown](#)

[February Course Flyer](#)

[January February Content Primary](#)

[January February Content Secondary](#)

### Hexham Family Hub - free online workshop - Understanding children's behaviour

Hexham Family Hub are hosting a virtual workshop on Tuesday 11 February from 5-6pm. See [here](#) for more information.

### Autism Family Drop Ins

Please see [here](#) for information regarding the Autism Family Drop-In sessions being held at Hexham and Haltwhistle Family Hubs.

### Tynedale Hospice

Tynedale Hospice organise a volunteer recruitment fair on Saturday 18 January from 1-3pm at the Trinity Methodist Church in Hexham. See here for more information: [Volunteer Recruitment Fair | Tynedale Hospice at Home](#)

### Free School Meals

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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
Monday 13 January	World Religions Week workshop - Islam	Year 5
Monday 13 January	World Religions Week workshop – Sikhism	Year 7
Tuesday 14 January	STEM to Stars Kielder Observatory Visit 5.30pm	Year 5 (group)
Tuesday 14 January	World Religions Week workshop – Hexham Community Church	Year 6
Tuesday 14 January	Tynedale Primary Cross Country	KS2 (group)
Tuesday 14 January	PSHE Workshop 'Knife Crime'	Year 7
Wednesday 15 January	Year 5 Parents' Evening 1 – in person	Year 5
Thursday 16 January	Young Green Briton Challenge	Year 7

<b>Thursday 23 January</b>	Year 5 Parents' Evening 2 – in person	Year 5
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Have a great weekend!

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)).