

7 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 20**

Another busy week in school – I can't believe we're already racing towards the half term break. It has been great to receive daily updates from Mr Gaines and the team in France this week – you can see these on our social media. The pupils on this year's 'Ski Trip' are having a wonderful time and making memories to last a lifetime. Mr Gaines is very proud of each and every one of them for their skiing progress, their positive behaviour and engagement and for being a joy to take away. There'll be a full update in an upcoming newsletter.



We are all very proud to announce that Edward in Year 7 will be standing in this year's **Northumberland Youth Cabinet Election**. Pupils can cast their votes on 19 February and information will also be shared in school. Good luck, Edward - you are a fantastic ambassador for HMS! It's the first time a HMS pupil has stood in this local election.

**NORTHUMBERLAND  
YOUTH  
CABINET 2025**

**VOTE  
FOR  
EDWARD  
SHEPPARD**



Hexham Middle School

CAMPAIGNING FOR:  
TRANSPORT HEALTH EDUCATION



Inc: 1000 pupils in a school from  
serve the rural areas. With more than 600 teachers for  
challenges in the 21st century. Promote the learning about  
1834-18.

Next week, it's our mock SATs week for Year 6. This allows the children to experience the assessments before the test week in May. A reminder that Year 6 Early Birds Club has now started, and children can come into school from 8.15am. If you have any questions about Year 6 assessment, please contact Mrs Roff.

**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
Winnie B	Catelin D	Maja M	Zach D
Lauren H	Aidan M	Betty F	Ben F
Bella S	Adam H	Leo H	Alex G
Libby R	Eleanor W	Karam D	Henry W
Emelia T	Joey R	Oliver B	Estella F

**Hexham Middle School**

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**

## County Athletics

Congratulations to our Year 8 boys' indoor athletics team who competed for the Tynedale Area and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Northumberland. They were a credit to the school and performed brilliantly across a range of track and field events - all contributing towards the team's total. We are very proud of them!



## Young Green Briton Challenge - Dragon's Den



We are looking for a parent/carer or local employer judge for our Young Green Briton Challenge Dragon's Den event which will take place on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 9.10 - 10.15am**. If you have a design/engineering or creative industry background, you would be the perfect person for this event. We will have 10 teams of Year 7 pupils pitching an idea for an environmental solution to a local issue. If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Mr Freeman-Myers via [admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk](mailto:admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).

## 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	
Aln	42,131	1	Arthur B	1	Evie T	1	Harry B	1	Esme B
Coquet	42,121	2	Elliott W	2	Su H-J	2	Rosie O	2	Sarah N
Tweed	41,888	3	Ronnie F	3	Lauren D	3	Gwen C-W	3	Ruby C
Wansbeck	43,063	4	Eve G	4	Michael C	4	Duncan G	4	Callum J

## Attendance – top 3!

Attendance was very good this week with 96% of pupils being in school. However, 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 99%	2 <sup>nd</sup> form class 98%	3 <sup>rd</sup> form class 97%
7-PES, 7-IBO, 5-EKI	8-SMC, 5-ZSC	7-SFO, 7-PHA, 6-FHI, 6-MBE, 5-FHA

### New Sensory Space

We are developing a brand-new sensory space for our pupils. This space will support pupils to regulate and be used for SEND support. Our PTA are kindly supporting us to purchase new items for the space but we thought we'd ask our lovely parents/carers for [donations of items](#) too - just in case anyone has anything at home they're trying to get rid of.



### Online Safety Update

#### What is Kick Streaming?

Many parents will be aware of Twitch, especially if their children are gamers. Owned by Amazon, it has become incredibly popular over the years for children to either watch live streams or to live stream themselves. But in the past, there's been plenty of controversy about the platform, particularly in relation to restrictions that imposed upon streamers. So it's no surprise to see other platforms becoming more popular and one of those platforms is Kick (not to be confused with Kik Messenger). It was launched in 2022, users should be 13+ and it follows the same process as Twitch where live streamers can make money. However, much of the content on Kick is adult in nature. Internet Matters has a good article about Kick and it may be useful to share this with your parents. You can find the article [HERE](#).

### News from the community

#### Hexham Windowful Project

Windowful is an exciting new community project led by Queen's Hall Arts, taking place at the end of half term. They are inviting people who live or work in Hexham to decorate their windows to create a magical walking trail across town on **Friday 28 February & Saturday 1 March, 6 – 9pm**.

[More information and some handing hints on getting started can be found online here.](#)

### 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. You can find out more [here](#).

### Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Who
<b>Monday 10 February – Friday 14 February</b>	Mock SATs week	Year 6
<b>Wednesday 12 February</b>	Year 8 Parents' Evening 2 – in person (book via MCAS)	Year 8
<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	Year 7-8 Girls' Rugby festival (Ponteland)	Year 7-8 (group)
<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	Year 7 Boys' Rugby League festival (Kingston Park)	Year 7 (group)

<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	Ford Castle Information Evening, 5.30pm, HMS Hall	Year 5 parents
<b>Monday 17 February</b>	REA Day – enrichment	Years 5 and 7
<b>Wednesday 19 February</b>	REA Day – enrichment	Years 6 and 8
<b>Thursday 20 February</b>	HMS PTA Spring Discos ( <a href="#">sign-up here</a> )	All year groups
<b>Friday 21 February</b>	INSET Day	All year groups
<b>Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February</b>	Half-term week	All year groups
<b>Monday 3 March</b>	Year 5 visit to Great North Museum	Year 5

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