Head’s Message to Parents
Summer Term 2015

On behalf of everyone at Helsby High School, I would like to wish you a lovely summer break and I hope that we all enjoy some nice weather over the next six weeks.

In recent weeks we have celebrated the end of exams with lovely Proms for both Year 11 and Year 13. The exam season went extremely smoothly and we hope that the students will receive the exam results their hard work deserves in August. (Thursday 13 August for A2 and AS and Thursday 20 August for GCSEs). More details about this and the many other events at school are available via the school’s website. Over recent weeks we have clarified the school’s expectations on uniform and jewellery. We wanted to give parent and carers time to support the school in ensuring that our students look smart when they return for the new school year in September.

Over the last two weeks our Sixth Form students have been running a consultation across the school community about the Peel Energy Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. Over 900 responses have been made with over 90% of these favouring funding being used to improve the school facilities for the benefit of the wider community, as well as the school. I would like to say a big thank you for the great job they are doing to present the views of young people so well.

Best wishes for the summer and we look forward to the start of the new school year on Thursday 3 September 2015.

Best Wishes

J Dowler
Headteacher
Farewell to staff ........

This year has been a busy and successful one and some of the many recent events are featured in this newsletter. It is great to see so many students involved in such a wide range of activities and I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff for their commitment, time and hard work over the last school year.

I would like to wish those staff who are leaving us at the end of term our very best wishes for the future.

Mrs B Brockbank is retiring after 15 years at Helsby teaching English and until recently, Assistant Head of Sixth Form.

Mrs J Brookes is retiring after 14 years as Lead Teaching Assistant.

Mrs J Mackay is moving after 9 years to teach History at a school nearer her home.

Ms S McGrail is leaving us after 4 years to teach Drama closer to home.

Ms C Smith is leaving us after 3 years to take up a promotion as Head of Languages at a school in Berkshire.

Mr S Fox is leaving us after 2 years to take up a role teaching Maths in Liverpool.

Mr L Rowland is leaving us after 2 years covering colleagues who have been off on maternity leave.

Mrs A Thompson is leaving us for a 2nd time after coming out of retirement this year to teach English.

We would also like to thank those staff who have worked with us over the last school year; Miss J Moffatt (Library), Mr K Whitley (Music) and Miss A Cooper (Science).
Helsby High School Prom 2015
Doubletree Hotel, Chester 25 June 2015

On Thursday June 25th, the staff said a fond farewell to all the Year 11 pupils at our Leavers’ Assembly. There were lots of end of year awards given out by tutors, and there was also time to reflect on some of the happy memories from the past five years. At the end of the assembly, students received their ‘goody bags’ with their Year Books and hoodies, before setting off to get ready for Prom. The evening at the Double Tree in Chester was a resounding success and it was another opportunity for tutors and teachers to wish the year group well as they move on to the next stage in their lives. It was lovely to see all the students in their finery – the girls looked wonderful and none of the boys needed any reminders to tuck their shirts in.... Whilst we will be welcoming many of the year group back into Helsby Sixth Form, we offer our best wishes to those moving on to new challenges. Good luck Class of 2015
Mrs Marvin
Fab Lab and 3D Printing

It was an exciting and somewhat nerve wracking moment for our Year 9 3D Printing groups when they finally got to test out the 3D printers they have spent the last few months building... yes building. They started with a huge box of bits and have spent the last eight weeks building some 3D printers in Fab Lab, Ellesmere Port. Two teams of students have been making fortnightly visits to Fab Lab to construct their printers.

Students were able to experience the trials and tribulations of working as part of a team. They learned some valuable lessons about group work and developed their communication skills.

Once the printers were constructed then Fab Lab delivered them to us and we were able to get printing. Under the watchful eyes of our Governors, the students were able to test out their printers for the very first time in school. Following some minor teething problems they both got going and produced Helsby’s first ever 3D printouts. It was mesmerizing to watch the little yellow robots taking shape as the print heads moved with speed. Ms Edwards was on hand with her budding reporters to capture this occasion for their second BBC News Report about this 3D Printing Project.

The students were all immensely proud of what they had achieved. Fab Lab has donated the printers to the school so that we are able to continue to develop this aspect of manufacturing Technology. Through greater collaborations between the RM and Computing departments we will certainly be able to make good use of them. Students were all very enthusiastic about this project:

"I really enjoyed doing this because I could see exactly how they were made"

"Now I have done this I think I want to go into manufacturing or engineering or something like that I really enjoyed working with my hands but using my brain at the same time"

"At first I couldn't imagine what this 3D printing stuff was all about but now I think it is great"

"3D printing is the future I am well pleased I have had the chance to do this because I have learned so much by building this, an opportunity not many people will ever have"

"It has given me a chance to see how things like co-ordinates in Maths really are used in the real world and has helped me understand them a bit more"
Last weekend Year 13 Business and Economics students went to Condover Hall in Shropshire for an Intensive Revision Weekend. Having previously run this activity in another school, Mrs Lindop thought it might be useful to trial it with Helsby students to help us with our studies. It was such a great success that the school hopes to now run it every year.

We arrived on Friday evening at what can best be described as Hogwarts – check out the pictures. Once settled into our “house” we then took part in a team building activity to blow away the cobwebs after our day at school. This involved pairs of students racing up a 70ft climbing wall supported by their peers at the bottom. Some overcame their fears and others found that their forte was supporting from below ... aghem...not mentioning any names...you know who you are...Mrs D et al!

Following this we embarked on what was the start of some really intensive revision to focus our minds on the impending exams and notably the pre-release material for both subjects.

Throughout the weekend, Economics sessions were run by Mrs Lindop and Mrs Dougherty, and Business Studies by Mrs Dougherty and Mrs Turner. We were also lucky to have a guest speaker, Steve Dougherty Marketing Director from Victrex, who joined us on Saturday afternoon to deliver a session on Marketing Strategies. All this was washed down with copious cups of tea kindly provided by Mrs Overall aka Mrs Dougherty!

“All work and no play makes Jordan a dull boy” so we then had to follow this with some evening entertainments. Mrs Dougherty may have missed her vocation in life, as her quiz rounds are second to none! She even managed to sneak in lots of Business and Economics questions along the way!

The revision weekend finished on Sunday lunchtime and we returned home thanks to Mr Reid in the minibus.

We all found this weekend incredibly useful and have a clearer sense of where our revision needed to go to be able to tackle our exams with confidence. Some students even wanted more revision sessions!

“The teachers were really engaged and had more time to help us” Mya commented, and Tyler said “the change of environment, away from school, helped us to really focus on our revision”.

Thank you to our teachers for organising this valuable trip, and to Mr Reid for giving up his weekend to drive us in the minibus.

Lauren H 13VCR
My Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

My DofE experience was a very fun but a challenging experience. As I had never done anything like this before I was keen to see what new challenges I would be faced with. I had to learn to improve my confidence in various ways, but most importantly, the confidence in myself. I learnt so many new skills and made some new friends in the process. Doing the DofE gave me the boost of confidence I needed to be able to do things for myself and become more independent. There were many obstacles that I had to overcome during my DofE but having the support of my friends and the leaders meant that I was able to enjoy the experience. The best part of the DofE for me was the friendships that I made. The friends I made helped me not only make this experience enjoyable but helped me to believe that I was capable of doing this. I really enjoyed the experience and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a challenge.

Rowing Report

On Friday 22 of May (From left) James H, Alfie P Tom G, Tim P and Alex B competed in the National Schools Rowing competition. The event took place in Nottingham and they finished 16th overall in the Country. The group did extremely well considering it was their first race together. The team continued their achievements taking Gold at the Northwich Regatta on the 25 May.
Year 8 PGL trip to Northern France – May 2015

On the morning of the 29th May about 40 Year 8 pupils got up early to get on the coach heading for Dover, impatient to get the holiday started. After a long journey, including the ferry crossing, we arrived at the PGL centre in Le Pré Catalan to unpack and settle into our rooms before heading to dinner.

After we had all eaten, we headed down to the nearby beach for a crêpe (a French pancake) at a small café nearby. After we were all finished we walked down the beach were we all had races and played beach games, as the sun stared to go down. That night, exhausted, we all fell asleep quickly.

The next morning we had breakfast at about 7:00 am. Afterwards we had a brief French lesson before we got on the coach to go to a traditional Boulangerie (bakery). At the Boulangerie, the baker showed us the different ovens used to cook bread and pastries and he taught us about the key baking terms in French. He showed us how to make baguettes, pain au chocolates and croissants. He even gave us a go! Afterwards, the baker gave us a small bag with a delicious croissants and pain au chocolate inside. After that, we got back on the coach and headed to the market where there was food, clothes, sweets and plenty of other weird and wonderful things to look at and buy. When everybody returned to the meeting point, we started a scavenger hunt around Le Touquet, answering the questions on the sheet as we went along. Later, we sat down on a nice grassy area and had our lunch.

We then headed into the town and all got an ice cream which we all quickly ate before we played Mini-golf. After we’d finished our games we spotted a merry go round with candyfloss the size of our heads! We couldn’t just leave, so we spent a little time there before getting back on the coach to head back to the centre, where we had dinner and headed back up to our rooms to settle down.

The next morning we had another French lesson at breakfast, before heading out into the woods to do some survival activities such as den building. We all got a bit wet from the rain but had fun competing for the most water-proof and animal-proof den. We went back to the centre where we changed and got back on the coach to head to the snail farm - Les Escargot du Bocage! Everybody was apprehensive about trying the snails. When we got to the farm, we watched a quick presentation on how the farm works and then we went out to see the snails for ourselves. There were mixed opinions as the snails were handed out for us to hold. Once we got inside, people were beginning to come up with excuses to not try the snails……. but when it came to it most people tried them and really enjoyed them and some were even getting more! We then quickly popped in to the gift shop before getting back on the coach to head to the Etaples Military Cemetery. At this WW1 & WW2 commonwealth cemetery, we were given names of fallen soldiers whose grave we had to find. It was incredible to think that over 11,000 war dead were buried there and to think how many more there must have been.

Later on Sunday evening, we had dinner and then it was time for the disco. We had had a great time learning about the differences between France and England. We had shopped for their food and experienced the way the French live and after a busy day we headed to bed preparing for the long coach journey in the morning.

The next morning we woke, had breakfast and packed the rest of our things. We made one last stop, before getting on the ferry, at the hyper-market, where we spent our Euros on a souvenir to remind us of the trip. As we got onto the ferry we said Au revoir to France and headed home to our families.

We had a great weekend and, on behalf of everyone, I would like to say a Huge Merci Beaucoup! to Mme. Crammond and all the staff for organising and taking us to Le Pré Catalan.

By Harriet H Year 8
How to stay safe online

The Digital Guardians are a group of students in Helsby High School who promote how to stay safe online, throughout school and the wider community. Similar to Student Voice, they keep us updated with any issues that arise in school and form a committee to help us shape how we promote and keep our students safe online. We were invited to participate in the first Young Persons Conference which was held at the Police HQ in Winsford, and was hosted by the Safeguarding Children in Education (SCiE) team and the Safer Schools Partnership.

We had been allocated the topic of ‘Sexting’ – which has become surprisingly common amongst young people. The Digital Guardians wanted to show that sexting happened between friends, as well as young people being approached by strangers online. They worked really hard and came up with a drama scene which showed how sexting can affect them, and how they would want to be supported if it ever happened to them.

There were lots of other schools and professionals attending the conference. The Digital Guardians performed in front of everybody, received fantastic feedback from professionals who attended, and even featured on Cheshire Police’s Twitter feed! The Digital Guardians were then brave enough to deliver the presentation the following week to each year’s assembly, and showcase the fantastic work they have been doing.

Jess M, Tara J, Olivia B and Seb L, with Miss Louden and Mr Whitfield at the Young Persons Conference
YEAR 9 BERLIN TRIP 2015

On the April 23rd I went on the Year 9 trip to Berlin. I can definitely say all of us had an amazing time as we visited the iconic Reichstag, the TV Tower and other amazing places too, like the Olympic Stadium, Berlin Zoo and the Museum of Former East Germany.

On the first day, after having spent the night in our rooms at the youth hostel, we were all super excited to go to the TV Tower. On the bottom floor there was a gift shop, selling all sorts of ‘Ampelmann’ (the much loved East Germany equivalent of our ‘green man’ on the traffic lights) merchandise. Up the stairs, there was a lift that took you to the very top of the tower, which went so fast our ears popped, but the view was incredible once we were up there. As you walked round, you could see out in every direction; everything looked so tiny, you were that far up! Later on, we visited the cathedral, and in the evening we went bowling.

On the Saturday, we had an English tour of the Olympic Stadium, learning all about the history, its renovation and the famous events that took place there throughout its time. It was interesting to find out about the parts of German culture that history lessons only just touch on, like sports in Nazi Germany and looking into famous events that happened there at that time.

Eager to put our German speaking skills to the test, we later took to the streets of Potsdam. Past the mini version of the Brandenburg Gate, we ventured through shops trying our very best to be understood by shop owners. They did understand us - but they also seemed to understand we were English. And so (conveniently and also disappointingly), they just spoke English back, and we didn’t need to sound like native speakers; they were just happy we were having a go. There was the odd older shopkeeper who didn’t speak a word of English, and you could hear us all putting our best accents on - but nonetheless it did give us a sense of achievement to understand a couple of words they said back!

Overall, I came back knowing a lot more about the history of the city, especially the divide between East and West Berlin, and I’ve also learned a lot about the language - they spoke faster than any of us could’ve anticipated! It was such an amazing experience for all of us and I’d definitely recommend going to anybody; you definitely wouldn’t forget it.

L Richards
Year 7 Charity Cake sale raises over £170!

The Year 7 Cake Sale and Guess the Buttons in the Jar Competition held on the 19th June raised over £170 for Interburns (the School Charity) and Cancer Research UK. Mia and Kacie spearheaded the charity event, making posters, running an advertising campaign and providing a significant number of cakes for sale as well! Eva supplied scrumptious cup-cakes and Brownies and even took her mobile shop to students playing out on the field. Clearly all girls are entrepreneurs of the future! 7LCR contributed a variety of delicious cakes and irresistible goodies and 7NLL operated the Guess the Buttons in the Jar with seamless organisation and wonderful enthusiasm.

Thank you to all Year 7s for their wonderful contributions to such worthy causes.

Guess the Buttons in the Jar Competition

The Guessing the buttons in the jar competition raised over £25 for Interburns and Cancer Research. Mrs Llewellyn’s form class (7NLL) brought in gifts and prizes and collected money from other Year 7 students.

Thank you to Claire, Emma, Milena and Sarah for all their hard work in raising money for such worthy causes.

Congratulations to Tom and Bobby who made the closest guesses!
MUSIC FOR LIFE WORKSHOPS AND CONCERT

On Wednesday 24th June Helsby High Musicians were involved in a Workshop held by the ‘Music for Life’ project.

Over sixty primary school students from our local area participated alongside thirty nine Helsby High students from year’s seven to nine.

In the afternoon the musicians from ‘Music for Life’ led three separate workshops around the school. One for singers, one for guitarists, and a big band workshop for all other instruments. It was incredible how quickly the students were able to pick up new tunes and songs, and also how well all the students got on together from year five up to year nine.

After only two hours of rehearsing the pupils performed in an evening concert in the Sports Hall. The concert was a huge success and all students involved in the workshops performed, many of them stood up to play solos. We also heard performances from Helsby High string group, the Junior and Senior Choirs and the Senior and Jazz Bands.

The concert was attended by over one hundred and fifty proud parents and friends and everyone agreed the day had been a really worthwhile and enjoyable experience. Primary school parents also commented on how useful the experience was in preparing the younger pupils for their transition to High school, they enjoyed working in the school with older students and were able to observe the high standard of musicianship found here at Helsby High.
A level Chemistry Events this Term.

A level Chemistry students have been involved in a number of events this term, such as the Chemistry Olympiad Competition in association with the RSC and Ineos; Merseyside Young Analysts Competition at Liverpool University; and a Pharmacology Day at Bangor University. Mrs E Dawson Head of Chemistry.

Year 10 Historians visit Quarry Bank Mill

The History Department’s annual visit to Quarry Bank Mill took place in May. Students visited the site as an introduction and essential part of their GCSE controlled assessment ‘local study’. Students took a lot from the day, having been encouraged to make as many notes as they could and take lots of photographs! They visited the mill itself to see how a cotton mill of the industrial revolution grew and developed. Having experienced the extreme noise of the machine rooms, they then experienced tranquillity and beautiful surroundings on their walk to the village and apprentice house. Pupils were particularly pleased to experience the straw beds, bed chamber and leeches of the apprentice house where young people would spend up to ten years ‘indentured’ to the mill owner before being allowed to work for pay!

As ever, pupils represented the school immaculately, and were a pleasure to accompany.

The History Department
In March, Year 9 Comenius students visited College Noel Berrier, Corbigny, France. They were hosted by students in our partner school and took part in a variety of activities linked to the ‘Happy Europe – Healthy Europe’ project. Students had the opportunity to sail and canoe at Lake Baye and investigate local ecosystems at the Saint Brisson Nature Reserve. They also worked together to create a working model of a sustainable house, powered by solar and wind energy.

Students had also travelled from IGS Wallstraße, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, so it was another chance to communicate and work in all three languages and find out about our different lives, at home and in school.

June saw the final visit of the Comenius Project, with students from Helsby High School and College Noel Berrier visiting Germany. During the visit, our students continued with activities linked to the project theme. We visited the Harz National Park, investigating their water management schemes and tradition of mining, as well as present day tourism. The students also worked in multi-national teams to investigate sustainable energy and to create working models to demonstrate a variety of energy sources. All students took part in a multi-lingual presentation to parents and teachers.

Our students received a very warm welcome from their host families, who were pleased to take their visitors around the local area at the weekend. Many students visited the historic and picturesque city of Braunschweig, several toured the Autostadt at Wolfsburg and visits were even made to Berlin!

This was another very successful week and has provided us with a chance, not only to work together and improve our language skills, but also to strengthen many friendships which have developed through participation in the project.

The Comenius project is a British Council funded initiative which aims to develop knowledge and understanding among young people about the diversity of European cultures and the value of this diversity.
Schools Biology Competition 25th June 2015

Last week I had the pleasure of taking 6 Year 12 students to Edge Hill University to take part in a Biology competition. Edge Hill University was celebrating teaching undergraduate Biology for 25 years. The Helsby High School team were drawn from an overflowing hat of keen students and their day was filled with a varied set of activities as they competed with 27 other teams from the Merseyside and Cheshire area. DNA extraction, detailed invertebrate classification and microscope slide preparation were just some of the rounds they competed in using the university’s modern laboratories and equipment. Despite the team finishing just 5% away from 3rd place, the pupils enjoyed their day and the event has possibly given them something to think about with regards to a degree in a Biology related subject and universities generally.

Dr Parkes (Biology)

A thermal image of the Helsby High School Biology Competition team.

Top row (LtoR): Tom G, Harvey N, Scott J & Dr Parkes

Bottom row (LtoR): Bryony R, Laura G & Lucy M

Bryony R and Lucy M identifying invertebrates.
Year 12 Business

This week 20 Y12 Business, Economics and Politics students visited very sunny London with Dr Parks, Mr Davies and Mrs Dougherty. After a swift train journey they arrived in time to fit in a visit to the BBC on Tuesday afternoon. During the tour they saw the news and weather being broadcasted live, and had a go at recording their own television and radio programs. Video clips can be seen on the school website. After a quick burger at Planet Holywood, it was off to the West End to see the Lion King.

The following day began early, with a very busy journey on the tube in order to get to the Houses of Parliament. The students were shown around the House of Commons and the House of Lords before having question time with their local MP Graham Evans. Making the most of the beautiful weather, they had lunch by The Thames and walked along The Embankment to visit the Bank of England.

In temperatures of 38 degress, these students were a credit to Helsby High School. Always enthusiastic, fascinated by the city and keen to learn from the establishments that they visited. Full photos and videos can be found on the shared area.
Year 7 Mandala

As part of the Year 7 Activity Days, some Year 7 pupils took part in creating a Buddhist Mandala using coloured sand. The word Mandala means 'circle' and the Buddhist Mandalas represent the cycle of life. When produced by monks the Mandalas are a form of worship, allowing the monks to concentrate on aspects of Buddhism and the Buddha’s teachings. One key idea is the teaching of impermanence - the idea that nothing lasts. The students remained focussed on their task for nearly two hours in order to complete the wheel, and then to appreciate the idea of impermanence, they each in turn had to sweep away all their hard work!

Mrs J Penney

Surveys this year:

Surveys have taken place across the first 2 terms, with now nearly 100% of the student population in Years 7 to 11 having been included in the sample. A further survey (25% sample) in May re-visited some of the original questions (and students) from the first surveys, and included some new areas.

<table>
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<th>Statement</th>
<th>October-March overall (95%+)</th>
<th>New sample (25%) May</th>
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<tr>
<td>I feel safe in school</td>
<td>92 % agree</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel happy in school</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I have a problem I know what to do, where to go</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS has a serious litter problem</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know about the role of the Student Support Coordinators</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>72</td>
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New feedback from May survey:

Students agreed on at least 3 main reasons why homework/independent learning was important. 49% of students felt they got about the right amount of homework; 49% felt they got too much; 2% felt they got too little.

86% were aware of our school charity; with over 40% knowing over £1000 had been raised.

Extra-curricular participation rates this year were: 42% lunchtimes and 60% after school

47% favoured modifying the criteria for the rewards trip participation; 40% favoured the current system

80% of students felt these new student surveys were a worthwhile development

The most favoured ways of receiving updates on SV were via assembly (48%) and via form (43%)

"You said, we did“ ->

One area of concern from surveys last term was the condition of the toilets for boys in school. In the C block toilets improvements have been made, included re-painting, and installation of stainless steel urinals at a cost of £17,000. Quotes have also been obtained recently for the cost of a complete refurbishment, and for new wash basins. New hand dryers are due to be installed over the summer break (which do warm up!). Future meetings this term are due to consider improvements to the fan and ventilation system.
Puppet Workshops in Drama

Students in year 7 have been making puppets in drama inspired by Japanese Bunraku Puppets. Some puppet makers used sad white faces for the heads of their puppets and some used their own heads in a 'Dick and Dom' style puppet.

The students told their own stories and performed with the puppets before they watched their performances on film and evaluated their success.

Everyone without exception worked incredibly hard.

Helsby’s got talent

18 students have got through to the final of Helsby’s Got Talent. The students are from yrs 7-9 and have shared talents such as dancing, singing and we even had a magician.

The final is happening on Tuesday and 8th of July and is promising to be a lunchtime full of excellent surprises.
ARTS festival in Drama.

Students in Drama are preparing to tell a tragic true story in the ARTS festival celebrations on Thursday 9th July.

Students from Yrs 7-9 are telling the story of the tragic story of those crushed to death in the 'Bethnal Green Tube Station Disaster'.

The students are using characterisation and physical theatre to bring this story to life. The students felt that this story was an important tale to share with their audiences.
Another really busy term for our Cluster of Primary Schools. ‘ACTIVE, ACHIEVE and ENJOY’ has been more than just a ‘Strap Line’ - we had more competitions than ever, more participants than ever, lots of successes and most importantly lots of fun.

Well done to everyone who participated and congratulations to all the winners.

The following schools represented our Cheshire Oaks SGP (School Games Partnership) at the Chance to Shine County Finals in Warrington -

Y5/6 Girls Kwik Cricket - Kingsley CP & Weaver Vale
Y5/6 Boys/Mixed Kwik Cricket – Kingsley CP & Hillside

Kingsley CP won the final and are now Cheshire Champions. Also well done to Kingsley CP who won a competition to spend a day at Lords.

The following schools will represent our SGP at the Cheshire Summer School Games in Macclesfield.

Y3/4 Mini Red Tennis – Hillside
Y3/4 Tri Golf – Frodsham CE
Y5/6 Orienteering – Hillside
Y3/4 Keysteps (Gymnastics) – Manor House
Y5/6 Keysteps (Gymnastics) – Manor House

Well done also to St Luke’s Y1, Frodsham CE Y2. Frodsham CE Y3 and Manor House Y4 who represented the SGP at the Everton Mini Kickers Festivals at Finch Farm in Liverpool. Frodsham CE Y3 won their Festival and played in the Grand Final at Everton FC which they won. They are the Everton School Partnership winners 2015.

Two highlights of the term must be the Y3/4/5/6 District Sports held at Kingsley CP School and the Reception/Y1/Y2 Athletics held at Helsby High School. Approximately 700 children took part in the District Sports and 750 took part in the Reception/Y1/Y2 Athletics.

What talented children we have in our Cluster.

Artie Senior (School Sport Coordinator)
Kwik Cricket aims to provide children of all levels of ability and experience with an opportunity to regularly participate in a fun introduction to cricket and to encourage fair play by all. Our Cluster Competition was played at Frodsham CC and the SGP Girls and Boy/Mixed finals were played at Kingsley CC.

Mini Red Tennis is for players aged 8 and under. It is played on small courts with short rackets and soft balls. It’s just like the real game and gives players opportunities to have long rallies and play different types of shots. Our Y3/4 Mini Red Tennis Competition was held at Helsby Tennis Club.
Our Y5/6 and Y3/4 Tri Golf Competitions were held at Helsby Golf Club. Helsby High’s Y10 Sky Living For Sport Girls scored the events.

There are 3 gymnastic areas, known as ‘disciplines’ in Key Step. The children competed in two of these- floor and vault. Our Keysteps Gymnastics competition was held at Ellesmere Port Gymnastics Club.
Everton Reception Mini Kickers Festival was held at Frodsham Leisure Centre. Budding footballers of the future!

Our District Sports were held at Kingsley CP - 12 schools took part. Points were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and the overall winner was Hillside who were presented with the FAVSP 2015 trophy.
Our first ever Reception/Y1/Y2 Athletics Festival was held at Helsby High School. 12 schools and 750 children took part in teams of 10. 72 Y7's and 10 Y8's from Helsby were either 'team coach' or organised the carousel of activities.
British Council Connecting

Through the British Council Connecting Classroom Programme, Helsby High, together with Helsby Hillside Primary School, have formed strong links with schools in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Here at the High School, we have been working for several years with Hector Peterson High School in Wallacene Township and The Settlers High School in Belleville, Cape Town. Our partnership has now grown, to include John Tallach High School in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

These pictures show one of our collaborative projects – our Partnership Quilt. Students in all schools have worked together to create an amazing wall-hanging, in order to celebrate the partnership and friendships we have formed.

Students in partner countries have used elements of their physical surroundings and cultures to create and share art work, helping us to appreciate our differences and similarities.

This project started three years ago and has gradually grown into the fantastic item you can see here. The quilt is moved between partner schools, where it is displayed to illustrate the richness of our partnership and create a talking point! The quilt will be going back to Cape Town in July, then on to Bulawayo in September!
17 Personal Bests as Helsby High’s Junior Boys Finish 7th at ESAA Track and Field National Cup Final

On Saturday 4th July Helsby High School junior boys’ athletics team travelled to compete at the Bedford International Athletics Arena in the ESAA Track and Field National Cup Final. The team had qualified for this event by first being crowned Cheshire champions followed by winning the North-West regional competition.

On a hot breezy day the team stepped up to the plate against the high class opposition and performed extremely well to finish in 7th position and if it hadn’t been for the disqualification of the relay team this would’ve been even higher.

At the half way stage, following the track events and eight personal bests out of a possible twelve, the Helsby boys were in 4th position, hot on the heels of the 2nd and 3rd placed teams. Despite a remarkable nine out of 12 personal bests in the field events the team found themselves in 6th at the start of the relay. They were unable to hold onto this however as unfortunately the relay team were not able to get the baton round cleanly and were disqualified leaving them as the 7th best team in the country.

“The whole team should be extremely proud of themselves not only on reaching the national final but also on their performances in the final. To achieve 17 out of a possible 24 personal bests is a remarkable achievement and is testimony to the team’s hard work and dedication in training throughout the season. The team should be very happy with their 7th place finish. They were also the highest placed team across all four competitions from the North of England.”

P. Park (Head of Physical Education)
Sporting Highlights 2014-2015

Athletics
The junior boys (yrs. 7&8) became the first boys team to qualify for the national final in over ten years after winning both the Cheshire and North-West rounds of the ESAA track and field cup. The boys performed superbly in the final to finish 7th, achieving a remarkable 17 out of a possible 24 personal bests and but for a mix-up in the relay would have finished even higher.

The indoor athletics teams had another successful season with the yr. 7 boys and the yr. 7 & 8 boys and girls winning their district tournaments. The three teams went on to compete at the county finals where the yr. 8s were crowned county champions.

J Birtles (yr. 9) won the 800m in the county track and field championships in a school record time of 2:01 to qualify to represent Cheshire in the national championships.

Other athletes who qualified to represent Cheshire throughout the season in inter-counties matches included J Ellison (yr. 8) in the discus and J Brady-Williams (yr. 7) in the high jump.

Basketball
The U13 and U14 boys’ teams were both Cheshire champions. The U13s went on to lose to the eventual winners St Matthews in the last 16 whilst the U14s lost in the last 64 to eventual semi-finalists Liverpool Blue Coat.

The U15 boys won their pool before going on to reach the national semi-final where they also lost to the eventual winners Barking Abbey.

The U16 team finished 2nd in their pool to eventual winners Bridgewater.

The U13 girls made history as our first ever girls team, performing admirably to finish runners-up in their pool.

Cross-Country
The junior boys (yrs. 7&8) comfortably won both the Cheshire and West Central competitions of the ESAA cross-country cup to qualify for the national final. Unfortunately however they were unable to take their place to compete despite having a genuine chance of winning and becoming national champions.

Football
An extensive fixture schedule saw over 100 games played. The best performances came from the U13 boys’ team who had good runs in both the Cheshire Cup and in the Halton league together with the girls’ teams who all had successful seasons. The pick of the girls’ teams was the U16s. As well as winning the district and county tournaments they reached the last 16 of the national cup together with the semi-final of the Cheshire cup.

Also congratulations to L Graham (yr. 7) on her selection for the Everton FC academy U12 squad and E Jones (yr. 8) on his scholarship at Everton which will see him move to Wade Deacon from September.

Netball
The ‘Back to Netball’ sessions on a Tuesday evening have proven a huge success with excellent participation rates both for the 12-16 year olds sessions and for the 16 and overs.

Cricket
Despite the often wet weather we managed to play fixtures at all ages from U12-U15 with some spirited performances from all teams.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross Country</th>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Cheshire Rd 1</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Central Rd 2</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>National Final Rd 3</td>
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<td>Inter Boys</td>
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<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter Girls</td>
<td>Cheshire Rd 1</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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| Football      | Boys U12         | All games | 11w/4l |
|               | Boys U13         | All games | 10w/3d/3l |
|               | Boys U14         | All games | 0w/0d/3l |
|               | Boys U15         | All games | 2w/5l |
|               | Boys U16         | All games | 2w/3d/2l |
|               | Boys U18         | All games | 9w/1d/7l |
|               | Merseyside League | Last 7th |
| Girls U12     | District Tournament | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | County Tournament | Last 6th |
|               | English Schools | Last 3rd |
| Girls U14     | District Tournament | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | County Tournament | Last 5th |
|               | English Schools | Last 3rd |
| Girls U16     | District Tournament | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | County Tournament | Last 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | Cheshire Cup | Last Semi-final |
|               | English Schools | Last 16 |

| Basketball    | U13 – Boys | Cheshire Pool | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | Basketball England Regional | Last 16 |
|               | U13 - Girls | North Pool 3 | Runners-Up |
|               | Cheshire Pool | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | Basketball England Zone | Last 64 |
|               | U15 | Premier North Pool 2 | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|               | Basketball England Final Fours | Semi Final |
|               | U16 | Premier North Pool 1 | Runners-Up |

| Indoor Athletics | U12 Boys | District Indoors | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                 | Cheshire Indoors | Last 4th |
|                 | U13 Boys | District Indoors | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                 | Cheshire Indoors | Last 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                 | U12 Girls | District Indoors | 2<sup>nd</sup> |
|                 | U13 Girls | District Indoors | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                 | Cheshire Indoors | Last 4th |

| Track and Field | Junior Boys | Cheshire 1. Rd 1 | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                | North-West A Rd 2 | 1<sup>st</sup> |
|                | National Final Rd 3 | Last 7th |
| Inter Boys     | Cheshire 1. Rd 1 | 3<sup>rd</sup> |
|                | North-West B Rd 2 | Last 7th |
| Junior Girls   | Cheshire 1. Rd 1 | 3<sup>rd</sup> |
|                | North-West B Rd 2 | Last 10th |
| Inter Girls    | Cheshire 1. Rd 1 | 4<sup>th</sup> |
|                | North-West B Rd 2 | Last 6th |
Uniform Shop

During the summer holiday the uniform shop will be open:

- Wednesday 26 August  9:30am—12:30pm
- Thursday 27 August   9:30am—12:30pm
- Tuesday 1 September  10:00am—12noon
- Wednesday 2 September 10:00am—12noon.

Orders for uniform placed online after school closes on 17 July can be collected either by you or your child on Thursday 3 September and not during the school holiday.

During term time the shop will be open:

- Monday 1:15pm—2:00pm

Orders for uniform placed online during term time will be dealt with the following working day and given to your child.
Key Stage 1 Athletics Event Hosted by Helsby High School
1st July 2015

Helsby High School hosted the Key Stage 1 Athletics Event in the glorious sunshine 1st July. There were 72 Year 7 students and 10 Year 8 girls that helped to organise and manage 750 very excited children from 12 different primary schools in the local area.

The ‘Helsby Helpers’ met the schools at the Bus Park, helped organise the teams, made sure the children had plenty of drinks, explained and demonstrated the different sporting activities and then cheered on their team as they competed against each other.

Mrs Senior (Sports Coordinator) received nothing but praise about the students both on the day and via email since. They were absolutely wonderful with staff and children.

Some of the comments I have received:

Aston - A very special thank you to the year 7 team who supported Alvanley and Aston as they went around the circuit, they were fabulous...not sure if they have ever been involved in anything like this before, but you would certainly have thought so!

Head Horn's Mill - Absolutely agree about the Year 7’s, they were a credit to the school. Really superb with adults and the children.

All of the primary schools want to be part of the event again next year and the ‘Helsby Helpers’ will be back in force to make sure all the children have another memorable, action packed experience.

Well done to everybody that took part.
Mrs Turner
Year 7 Year Leader