Head’s Message to Parents Summer Term 2016

Dear Parents/carers

The academic year 2015-16 has drawn to a close with a series of celebrations and other events. The Year 13 and Year 11 Proms were wonderful, memorable evenings for our young people. We were delighted to welcome back two former students, Kyle Squire and Nathan Maguire, who gave inspiring talks as we celebrated some of the many sporting successes of our students. We have received many positive comments about our Year 10 students who have recently completed very successful two-week work experiences. We would like to thank all those businesses who have supported these placements.

Our KS3 students have been involved in two wonderful “Activity Days” and we would like to say a particular thank you to the numerous staff from Urenco who spent a day working with Year 8 on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities.

We have had a number of very positive transition events for our new Year 7 intake. We are looking forward to welcoming them in September 2016 and we are delighted that this new year will be full. Particular thanks go to Ms Simmonds, Mr Eaton, Mrs Tobin and Mrs Ford for their hard work which has included the introduction of a new transition (Jigsaw) project for some students.

Once again our team of Year 7 e-buddies have given wonderful support to the Year 6s during the transition events.
We are fortunate to be able to recruit many hardworking, dedicated and talented members of staff. However, like any other successful organisation, staff do move on and I would like to say thank you and good luck to colleagues who are leaving us at the end of term.

This summer we wish a number of long serving colleagues happy retirement and best wishes for the future.

**Farewells**

**Elwen Hughes – Resources Manager** retires after 27 years at Helsby High School. Elwen will be spending more time with her children and grandchildren – and of course her husband. Her management and organisation of all financial matters in school has been highly valued and we will miss her vast experience and friendly Welsh accent.

**Dave Reid – Department Leader for DT** who is retiring after 19 years at Helsby High School. Dave has led the DT department at Helsby with great success. His knowledge and experience will be greatly missed and has been central to the successes of many young people, particularly in Engineering. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

**Alison Moore – Teacher of Mathematics** who is retiring after 17 years at Helsby High School. Her many contributions to the school and maths department will be missed. I am sure she will enjoy spending more time with her family.

**Simon Hale – Teacher of Mathematics** who is retiring after 15½ years at Helsby High School. He has held a number of roles whilst at Helsby, including Assistant Headteacher and Head of Year. His knowledge and experience has benefitted many young people (particularly those taking Further Maths). I am sure he and his wife will enjoy more time travelling.

**Angela Lloyd – Teaching Assistant** retires after 11½ years of providing learning support at Helsby High School. Angela’s calmness and hard work as a TA has benefitted many students, particularly in Science over recent years.

We also say a fond farewell to a number of colleagues who are moving on to new challenges. We thank them for all they have contributed at Helsby and wish them well for the future.

**Gill Eden – Teacher of MFL** who is leaving us after 19 years. Gill will continue teaching in Liverpool, closer to home. Gill has been a super MFL teacher and she has led and organised many foreign visits and exchanges.

**Rachel Evans – Teacher of Social Sciences** leaves us after 6 years at Helsby. Rachel is going on to teach closer to home in Liverpool. I am sure she will be as well respected at Rainhill as she has been at Helsby.

**Tom Sadczuk – peri Music Tutor** is leaving us after 6 years of teaching Clarinet, Sax and Flute. Tom will continue as a music tutor at a school closer to home.

**Holly Chalmers – Teacher of English** leaves us after 3 years. Holly will continue teaching at Tarporley High which is closer to her new home.

**Susan Ball – Teacher of English** leaves us after 3 years. Susan is going to continue teaching overseas and we wish her well in her new adventure.

**Katharine Fish** – Katharine will be embarking on History teacher training so we may see her again in the future. She has provided valuable TA support in Humanities subjects over the last 3 years.

**Riz Ali – Teacher of Social Sciences** who leaves us after 2 years. Riz is going on to teach Psychology at Sir John Deane’s and we wish her well in her new post.

**Lisa Kirby – Teaching Assistant** linked to English who leaves us after 2 years. Lisa will be embarking on English teacher training so we may see her again in the future.

**Lindsay Laird – Teacher of Music** who leaves us after 1 year covering for Mrs Hunter. We will miss her valued contributions to music. Lindsay will be teaching Music at Brine Lees in Nantwich. We wish her well for her new post.

**Maria Devon – Teacher of Art** who leaves us after 9 months of covering for Miss Tier. Maria is going on to teach Art in Sandbach.

I hope that you all enjoy a nice summer holiday and that you are successful in finding some lovely weather. We look forward to the start of the new school year on Wednesday 7 September 2016.

Mr J Dowler
Headteacher
Heard about the upcoming EU referendum? Little bit confused by terms such as 'Brexit’? Unsure on the benefits and disadvantages or being in the European Union? Exactly. It has long been a topic that is so vast and difficult to condense to manageable chunks in order to make informed decisions as the young people who will be living with the consequences - political, social and environmental consequences. This is why 16 sixth form students had the opportunity to visit Paris to find out more...

We travelled to Paris via the Eurostar and enjoyed a 4 day trip, staying in a central hotel with a metro station nearby (the same as the tube but a little better run!). The main focus of the trip was the 'Your Future in Europe' conference in which there were several key speakers and also a 'Question Time' debate on EU membership across the political spectrum. The conference offered a good insight into the EU and touched bases with the economics, politics and business studies curriculums hence why the trip was targeted to students of those subjects.

We all came away having enjoyed the day and felt the content offered something for everybody whether that be the economics of the EU condensed into 30 minutes by Evan Davis (Newsnight presenter but better known as ‘that guy off Dragons Den’); hearing about opportunities to study abroad through the British Council or perhaps how one lady was responsible for energising 1000's of ‘gamesmaker’ volunteers at the 2012 Olympics - sharing the experience and tips on how to engage a community or team.

Across the other 3 days, we took in the sights via an open top bus tour; cruised down the Seine; went up the Eiffel Tower and visited the Louvre to see the Mona Lisa (albeit a little smaller and less impressive than you’d expect compared to other paintings in the room). During the evenings we enjoyed a varied cuisine and there was even chance in between daily activities to go in local shops and speak the language ourselves should we wish - even if that only stretched to 'Bonjour' and 'Merci'!

Overall it was a well packed trip that was a fantastic experience and opened our eyes to a culture, sights and education that is very different to what we know in the UK. As sixth form students going onto the next step very soon, it has opened everyone's eyes to the world of travel and gave us the freedom to get a taste of exploring other cultures for ourselves - whether that be how to use local public transport or that cycle lanes are also frequented by mopeds and a green light doesn't always mean it is safe to cross when outside the UK!

J Watson - 13RMC  Politics & Business Studies Student
On Saturday 27th February the HHS Chamber and Senior Choirs took part in the Frodsham Singathon. This was an event which showcased choirs and bands from the Cheshire area. The event ran from 10am till 10pm, fortunately HHS just had to perform for 25 minutes! Frodsham Community Centre was packed and it was fabulous to see so many people enjoying and performing music.

The Choirs sang beautifully and performed a range of songs from current pop songs to a classical sacred piece written in 1827. The performance also featured a duet by Ellen S and Emily S and a solo by Jenny F. The audience were very impressed by the standard of our singers and the day was an outstanding success.

Well done to all our talented singers!
Music for Life and Helsby High School Primary Schools' Workshop
Wednesday 13th July 2016

On Wednesday 13th July it was our absolute pleasure to invite pupils from our feeder primary schools to Helsby High for a day of making music with us. Students from Helsby Hillside, Hornsmill, St Luke’s, Norley C of E, Manley, Frodsham C of E, Frodsham Manor House, Alvanley, Weaver Vale, and Ashton Hayes Primary schools arrived full of excitement and enthusiasm into the main hall in the morning. After a short welcome talk everyone headed off to one of three workshops, where they worked hard all day learning a fabulous range of pieces. All of the music was new to the pupils and they worked wonders putting it all together in such a short space of time.

Ashley took the helm in the main hall leading a band workshop, with brass, woodwind and keyboard instruments. Everyone was really brave and gave improvising a go, tackling some great pieces such as the jazzy ‘Wider, and Wider Still’.

In the Drama room Stuart led a talented group of guitar and violin players rehearsing a range of contrasting pieces. Jacob from Alvanley Primary School said that he had a great time playing the Justin Bieber song ‘Love Yourself’ on his guitar.

Each of the workshops had their very own live backing band of professional musicians, who were all fantastic. The violinists had the privilege of working alongside an ex-student of our own, Jay Bradberry, who is enjoying international success in her folk band ‘The Jaywalkers’. The singers spent the day with Rosie, who led a group of 50 vocalists in putting together three fantastic songs, with harmonies, backing vocals and soaring melodies. Even though the vocal workshop ensemble sang that they’d ‘Had a Bad Day’ (by Daniel Powter), we didn’t believe them. Mallory and Amber from Frodsham C of E told me that they’d “really enjoyed learning the different songs and experiencing the live music”.

6.30pm came and the sports hall was buzzing with excitement for the evening’s big showcase concert, as an audience of around 250 people gathered. The band workshop opened the proceedings. They got going with an exciting and rhythmic piece called 'Bossa' then chilled out with the laid back tune 'Rainy Sundays'. It was great to hear so many pupils play solos. If anyone was nervous they hid it well, and the pieces came across with a professional sound that made it hard to believe how young the performers were, let alone that they had put this all together in just one day!

The whole concert was a fantastic success. All of the groups delivered their pieces with super musicality. The vocalists reduced us to tears with the beautiful ‘A Thousand Years’ (by Christina Perry) but then lifted our spirits again with their super rendition of the upbeat ‘Can't Stop This Feeling’ (by Justin Timberlake).

The strings workshop group gave an amazing performance, impressing the audience with how versatile they are at learning different styles. They showed off their best plucking techniques in ‘Apaché’ (by the Shadows), and even got the audience involved in singing along to the folk song ‘Old Dan Tucker’.

I enjoyed speaking to many of the Primary School students throughout the event, and they told me what a great time they had had. Darcie from Helsby Hillside enjoyed learning new songs with the band workshop. Jasmine from Frodsham Manor House said, ‘I enjoyed playing music with different people and making new friends’. Mackenzie from Weaver Vale and Lucy from Frodsham Manor House were among a great number of pupils who told me how much they had enjoyed practising and singing all the new songs they had learned. We are extremely grateful to Music for Life for organising the event and allowing us to collaborate with them and host it here. Their staff were all fantastic and we look forward to working with them again next year.

Mrs B Hunter, Head of Music
## Summer Holidays Schedule

### Floodlit Pannacage Football

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th July</td>
<td>Phoenix Court – Hoole</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 26th July</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th July</td>
<td>Sycamore Field – Lache</td>
<td>7pm-8.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 29th July</td>
<td>Weakstone Lane – Upton</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29th July</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th August</td>
<td>Salt Works – Frodsham</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th August</td>
<td>Weakstone Lane – Upton</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th August</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th August</td>
<td>Pipers Court – Hoole</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th August</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10th August</td>
<td>Sycamore Field – Lache</td>
<td>7pm-8.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th August</td>
<td>Weakstone Lane – Upton</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th August</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd September</td>
<td>Salt Works – Frodsham</td>
<td>1pm-3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd September</td>
<td>Durham Road Field – Blacon</td>
<td>7pm-9pm</td>
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Follow us to find out future dates

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*Social media icons and logos from various organizations are displayed at the bottom of the page.*
FREE Sports Sessions
Boys and Girls welcome!
Age 7-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore Field, Lache</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26th July, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd August</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limewood Field, Kingsway</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27th July, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th August</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appleyards Field, Handbridge</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28th July, 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th August</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wealstone Lane, Upton</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August</td>
<td>1-3pm</td>
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For more information please contact Sanctuary Housing Youth Worker Libbie Stock on 07557285441, or we will see you there.

Chester FC and Street Worx will be attending a number of the above sessions.
Year 7 Cup Double

The year 7 football team completed a league and cup double on Tuesday 12th July at the Halton Stadium in Widnes. Helsby got off to a slow start and a determined St Chads team attacked down the wings putting us under pressure. The defence was well marshalled by Callum Bushell who organised the team really well.

Unfortunately, our passing was not up to our normal high standards and we gave silly free kicks away. The occasion was affecting our decision making and concentration. However, goals change games and a decisive counter attack caught St Chads out of shape and Will Harvey finished well. Just be before half time Will Harvey pulled the ball back with great awareness for an easy finish for Connor Ross.

The second half was a formality and we played some delightful football and dominated possession and we used the full squad of 15 players which is very pleasing. Connor Ross and Will Harvey scored again. Evan Kucharski had been finding space intelligently throughout the game also got a goal.

It was left to Connor Ross the captain to lift the cup after a season of perspiration and hard work. Next year this talented squad will be moving to 11 aside. If they maintain their enthusiasm and application I am sure they will continue to develop as a team and individually. We will be aiming to test ourselves against the best in Cheshire and have a good run in the National Cup.
Year 9 Football—Halton Cup Winners

The Year 9 football team finished a very successful season winning the Halton Cup 6-0 against Ormiston Chadwick from Widnes. Helsby had already won the Halton league and got to the last 32 in the National Cup. The Year 9 team knew Ormiston Chadwick would be competitive; having lost in the league fixture with a depleted team.

Preparation for the game was excellent. We arrived early to get used to 4G surface and to work on shape in and out of possession. Helsby started brilliantly, winning the ball high up the field and penetrating with incisive passing through the thirds. Unfortunately, there was no end product and we could not finish our good work. The boys knew they had to be patient and remain brave in possession.

Fortunately, Owen K opened the scoring and Sonny D got the second just before half time. During the interval the boys knew they couldn’t let their standards slip against a hard-working and feisty Chadwick team.

In the second half we continued to dominate, putting some exquisite moves together. The team did not get frustrated and substitute, Cole M, scored two successive goals and the game was over! In the final stages of the game Sonny D scored his second and Kieran M scored before the final whistle.

It was a fitting way to finish a fine season and the boys should be proud of their achievements. Next year the hard work will start again!

M Bennett
Lost at the final hurdle

After successfully winning the Halton league the key stage 4 team went into the Halton Cup Final in confident mood. Mr Whitfield had a couple of players missing but felt confident Helsby would overcome St Chads on a good surface.

Unfortunately, football has a way of bring you back down to earth. Helsby went a goal down after 3 minutes. Helsby equalised through the pacy Jack Wilde. St Chads then got a decisive goal before half time.

Helsby seemed to lack energy in the second half and intensity in the challenge. Throughout the season we have had the bravery to receive the ball under pressure and look after it. It was disappointing that this vital element was missing from our play.

We lost the game 5-0 and St Chads deserved the victory. The boys were very disappointed but sporting in defeat. I am sure these talented players will continue playing the beautiful game and learn from this defeat.
This has been another really busy term for our Cluster of Primary Schools. Festivals, competitions, leadership opportunities and Teacher CPD.

‘ACTIVE, ACHIEVE and ENJOY’ Our Children have embraced our ‘Strap Line’ more than ever this term - 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 SSP (School Sports Partnership) at the Chance to Shine County Finals in Warrington -
Y5/6 Girls Kwik Cricket - Kingsley CP & Frodsham CE
Y5/6 Boys/Mixed Kwik Cricket – Kingsley CP

The following schools represented our SSP at the Cheshire Summer School Games in Warrington.
Y3/4 Mini Red Tennis – Hillside
Y3/4 Tri Golf – Ashton Hayes (4th)
Y5/6 Tri Golf – Hillside
Y5/6 Orienteering – Frodsham CE
Y3/4 Team Keysteps (Gymnastics) – Manor House (1st Gold Medal Winners)
Y5/6 Team Keysteps (Gymnastics) – Manor House (2nd Silver Medal Winners)
Y5/6 Individual Keysteps (Gymnastics) – Horn’s Mill & Manor House (3rd Bronze Medal Winners)

Well done also to Horn’s Mill Y1, Elton Y2, Frodsham CE Y3, Manor House Y4, Kingsley CP Y5 and Weaver Vale Y6 who represented our FAVSP cluster at the Everton Mini Kickers Festivals at Finch Farm in Liverpool.

Unfortunately, bad weather & a waterlogged field meant that the annual Y3/4/5/6 District Sports held at Kingsley CP School had to be cancelled but our 2nd annual Reception/Y1/Y2 Mini Athletics held at Helsby High School was able to go ahead with approximately 650 children taking part.

What talented children we have in our Cluster.

Artie Senior (School Sport Coordinator)
Our Second Annual Reception Year 1 and Year 2 Athletics Festival held at Helsby High School.

12 schooled and 630 children took part in teams of 10

Year 8 and Year 9 students from Helsby were either ‘team coach’ or organised the carousel of activities. It was great FUN!

Everton Reception Mini Kickers Festival was held at Frodsham Leisure Centre
Budding footballers of the future!
Our Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 Tri Golf competitions were held at Helsby Golf Club. Helsby High’s Sports Leaders scored the events.
Mini Red Tennis is for players aged 8 and under. It is played on small court 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 and Helsby Sports Leaders umpired the matches.
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.
Orienteering is an exciting and challenging outdoor sport that exercises both mind and body. The aim is to navigate between control points marked on an orienteering map; as a competitive sport the challenge is to complete the course in the quickest time choosing your own best route. The Orienteering Competition was held on a course around Helsby High’s school grounds organised by Deeside Orienteering Club and assisted by Helsby High Sports Leaders.
There are 3 gymnastic areas, known as 'disciplines' in Key Steps. The children competed in two of these- floor and vault. Our Keysteps Gymnastics competition was held at Ellesmere Port Gymnastics Club.
Year 11 Prom
8th July 2016
Year 11 Prom
8th July 2016
Year 12 Prom
29th June 2016