

## A message from Mr Dowler, Headteacher Summer 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of everyone at Helsby High School, I would like to thank you and other school partners for your help and support over the 2016-17 academic year.

It has been a very busy year for the school. Many of the successful events and achievements of our young people have featured on our school media channels. We have received many positive comments about our Twitter and Facebook updates and we are continuing to further improve our school website.

The high frequency of social media hits is just one measure of the range of educational opportunities our young people are involved with. This has also been recognised at the Cheshire School's Award celebration during which we won the **Active Community Award**. This is just one recognition of the superb work of our students and staff.



The range of fantastic events has continued until the last week of term with a successful sports day, a rewards trip to Alton Towers and two fantastic activity days. All of these were successful due to the hours of preparation, skills and hard work of staff. I would like to thank them on behalf of the students as well as thanking external partners, such as Urengo, and the students themselves for their excellent participation.

## **Financial challenges**

There has been considerable press coverage over the funding of all public services and in particular the funding of schools in Cheshire. I wrote to parents/carers in the spring about the National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation.

Despite the government announcements made in mid-July, the situation remains far from clear. As you are aware, funding income for pre 16 education has remained static since 2010, while post 16 funding has fallen by 12%. However, costs have risen for schools (e.g. inflation, 1% pay rises for staff).

Whilst we have a sound financial position, the Governors continue to make difficult decisions. We hope that these decisions have been made without compromising the quality of education we provide. From September 2017 we will have fewer teachers and support staff in school. We have also had to cut Modern Foreign Language Assistants, Sports Coaches and the Year 10 work experience programme. We recognise that these decisions may not be popular or desirable. However, they are part of a range of difficult cost cutting decisions that the school has had to make.

## **Welcomes**

As many of you may be aware, our new Maths Department Leader, Mr C Zolman, joined the school at the start of June 2017. He has already made a very positive impact and we wish him every success in his new role.

Over the last few weeks our transition team, led by Ms Simmonds, has been welcoming our new intake into school. Once again we have had invaluable help and support from the fantastic 2017 team of Year 7 E-Buddies. Their enthusiasm and hard work are infectious. I am not sure how the transition process would work without them.



## **Thank you & farewell**

I would first of all wish to thank Denis Evans for all of his inspirational sports coaching work during a 40-year association with the school. We had a lovely presentation by over twenty members of his former teams at our recent Sports Awards evening. Unfortunately, as explained earlier, we are not able to fund his coaching in the future.

At the end of term, we will say good luck and best wishes for the future to a number of staff who will not be returning in September 2017. I would like to thank them for their contributions during their time at Helsby.

| <b>Farewell to staff</b> |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mrs C Crooks             | Mrs Crooks, currently a Cover Supervisor, joined in September 1995 for one year, then re-joined in January 1997 until August 1999, then re-joined again in September 2002, all in various teaching roles. |
| Mrs L Crimp              | Teacher of Science, joined in September 2010  |
| Ms C Atherton            | Teacher of History, joined in September 2014  |
| Mrs V Ford               | Learning Resource Centre Manager, joined in November 2015   |

| <b>Farewell to staff who joined in September 2016</b> |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Ms L Akrigg   | Teacher of Mathematics       |
| Mr G Bonney   | Teacher of Design Technology |
| Mrs K Harding   | Teacher of Computing         |
| Ms S Martin   | Teacher of English           |
| Mr T Riley  | Teaching Assistant           |

| <b>Farewell to staff who joined earlier in 2017</b> |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Ms Z Bateman  | Teaching Assistant                  |
| Mr J Campbell                                       | Teacher of Mathematics              |
| Ms M Learoyd  | Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages |
| Ms R Metherall                                      | Teaching Assistant                  |
| Mr H Parkes   | Teacher of Social Sciences          |

I hope that you enjoy a nice summer. We look forward to the start of the new school year on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Best wishes



Mr John Dowler  
Headteacher