

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Welcome to the start of a new school year 2018 -19**

I would like to welcome all new students and parents/carers to Helsby High School, as well as welcoming back existing students and families.

### **Year 7**

We are delighted to be able to welcome a full year group of Year 7 students who have had a very positive first week in their new school. They look very smart in their new style school uniform and it is pleasing to see them quickly making new friends and finding their way around the school. I am sure that they will enjoy their time at Helsby High School.

### **2018 Exam successes**

The exam results days in August were both very positive and there were many delighted students, parents and staff. Our GCSE results were excellent with students of all abilities achieving excellent results and making excellent progress. In 2018 the new GCSE grades have been introduced for most subjects. (Information about the new grading can be found [click here](#)). Grade 4 replaced grade C and we were delighted that the percentage of grade 4 or higher was exceptional with 83% in Maths and 83% in English.

The performance of students across all subjects was excellent with 73% of students achieving at least five of the new 9 to 4 grades including English and Maths and 82% achieving 5 or more 9 to 4 grades. There were some fantastic performances, including:

- almost a quarter of our students making exceptional progress compared to national expectations and achieving an average of at least one grade higher in **all** of their subjects
- 79 students achieved at least one of the highest grades (9, 8 or A\*), with 30 students achieving at least one grade 9
- 99.5% of students achieved GCSE grades in at least 5 subjects.

The hard work of the students and staff together with the support of families have resulted in an exceptional set of grades. I would like to pay particular tribute to all the hard work of staff who have worked so conscientiously to successfully plan and deliver the new GCSE specifications.

At A level new exam board specifications were also introduced for most subjects and, yet again our Sixth Form students have produced a set of superb results.

We are delighted that most of our Year 13 students are progressing to University or their chosen career or training. A large number are going to prestigious "Russell Group" Universities including one student who is going to Mansfield College, Oxford to read Physics. We wish all our former students our very best wishes for the future and hope they will keep us informed of their future successes.

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**Staffing news** – we are delighted to welcome a number of new colleagues to the school;

Louisa Essams	Teaching Assistant
Fiona Gibbs	Science Technician
Rodger Harkins	Teaching Assistant
Melissa Hill	English Teacher
Lynn Hughes	Senior Science Technician
Danielle Jones	Teaching Assistant
Aaron Needham	Maths Teacher
Nicola Newsham	Maths Teacher
Laura O'Reilly	Art Teacher
Yvette Owen	Art/Photography Technician
Gill Spencer	Cover Supervisor
Hollie Jo Squires	Social Sciences Teacher
Adam Strowbridge	Biology Teacher/Department Leader
Michelle Tatham	Economic & Business Teacher

I am sure they will really enjoy working at our wonderful school.

**Year leaders for 2018-19** are detailed below.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please feel free to contact school by emailing your child's year group admin support team.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Year Leader</b>	<b>Admin Support Team Email</b>	<b>Key Stage Leader</b>
Year 7	Ms N Wilkes	<a href="mailto:year7admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">year7admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mrs C Simmonds
Year 8	Mr C Eaton	<a href="mailto:year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr P Howe
Year 9	Mr P Hogg	<a href="mailto:year9admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">year9admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr P Howe
Year 10	Mrs M Knox	<a href="mailto:year10admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">year10admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr J Cooney
Year 11	Mrs N Turner	<a href="mailto:year11admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">year11admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr J Cooney
Year 12	Mrs J Robinson	<a href="mailto:6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr I Duffell
Year 13	Mrs G Speakman	<a href="mailto:6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk">6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk</a>	Mr I Duffell

### **SENDCo**

With effect from October 2018, Mrs Katie Jones will be acting SENDCo while Mrs Emily Tobin is on maternity leave. If you have any questions relating to the school's SEND provision, please email the SEND team via [sendco@helsbyhigh.org.uk](mailto:sendco@helsbyhigh.org.uk).

### **High expectations**

We are proud of the excellent standards of work and behaviour demonstrated by our young people. The support of parents/carers is absolutely critical to this and we look forward to working in collaboration with you over the school year to come.

We continue to clarify our expectations to students and parents/carers on shoes, skirts and mobile phones. Further details are available on the school's website. We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter meets these expectations.

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### **Premises news**

As usual, our site team have worked very hard over the summer holidays to improve various aspects of the school including replacement of the school boilers, repairs to the solar panels, redecorating in and out of school and replacing fire doors.

We are also planning for the work to refurbish the netball courts with work due to start by October and completed by the end of 2018. We are very grateful for the £35,000 the school received from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund towards the development of the community netball and tennis courts.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Within the next few weeks all students will be given 2 forms to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible;

- 1) A data collection sheet
- 2) A consent form for photographs

The school is working hard to comply with the requirements of the Regulation, therefore if there are any changes during the school year, please notify the school in order to keep records up to date.

### **School Website**

Please visit the school website regularly for the latest school news, other useful information and key dates. You will also find regular tweets on the school's Twitter and posts on the school's Facebook page so please follow us there too.

As a reminder, Year 7 and Year 11 photographs will be taken on Thursday 13 September 2018 and school will be closed to students on Thursday 27 September 2018 for a staff training day.

We look forward to working in close partnership with you over the school year to come and would like to thank you, in anticipation, for your help and support.

Best wishes,



John Dowler  
Headteacher