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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Welcome back and Happy New Year - January 2019**

On behalf of everyone at Helsby High School I would like to wish you all a happy and successful 2019. I hope that you have all enjoyed a peaceful and restful break with families and friends over the Christmas and New Year period.

I would like to introduce myself as the school's new Headteacher. Although I am new to the school, I know the local area well having grown up just outside Chester and also having taught in Cheshire for my entire career to date. As a result, I am very aware of the existing strengths of the school and its well-deserved reputation and I feel privileged to have the exciting opportunity of leading the school forward in the coming months and years.

Since my appointment back in July I have been made to feel very welcome by the entire school community and have worked closely with Mr Dowler to ensure that a smooth transition has taken place. At this point it would be wrong not to pay tribute to the work of Mr Dowler over the last 8 years and the work he did to establish the current strong position of the school, culminating in 2018 with an exceptionally positive Ofsted report, very successful GCSE and A-Level results and highest-ever levels of interest in joining Year 7 in September 2019.

Turning to 2019, in my first few days at the school I have already seen first-hand the potential for the above successes to be repeated and built upon further in the future. Students are once again working hard both in lessons and their independent studies and also maintaining the high standards of attendance, uniform and behaviour that we expect. Thank you for your on-going support in ensuring students continue to approach school in this manner. More than ever in a complex world and education system in particular, strong home-school partnerships are the foundations upon which students build their successes and I look forward to meeting you all at the many different forthcoming events during the Spring and Summer Terms.

With very best wishes for 2019.

Yours faithfully,

**Martin Hill**  
**Headteacher**