

September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Welcome back to the start of a new school year, 2019-20**

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

**Year 7**

We are delighted to be able to welcome our biggest-ever cohort of Year 7 students, who have had a very positive week in their new school. They look very smart in their 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.

**Summer 2019 Exam Success**

Both of our exam days in August were very positive occasions and there were many delighted students, parents/carers and staff on both days:

**15<sup>th</sup> August (Year 13)**

Once again Helsby High School's Sixth Form students celebrated excellent results, both at A-Level and in equivalent Level 3 qualifications. 53% of all A-Level grades achieved were A\*, A or B grades, with 27% of all grades at A\* or A. Over 40% of students achieved at least one A\*/A/Distinction grade, with 1 in 7 of all students achieving 3 or more A\*/A/Distinction grades, including Emily Durling, who achieved A\* grades in Biology, Chemistry and Maths and is going to study Medicine at Cambridge University.

We would like to congratulate all of our students on their fabulous achievements. Their well-deserved success was down to their own hard work and commitment, but we would also like to thank their families for all the support they gave to the students during their time in the Sixth Form.



Nearly all are now deservedly and excitedly moving on to their planned next destinations - a wide range of universities and other educational providers and also on to apprenticeships, including some students who are embarking on prestigious degree-level apprenticeships.

We wish them all the very best for the next stage of their lives beyond the school and hope they will keep us informed of their future successes.

*Year 13 Exam Results Day*

## 22<sup>nd</sup> August (Year 11)

Our Year 11 students also celebrated excellent GCSE results, with over a quarter of all grades at Grade 7 or above (equivalent to Grade A or above in the former GCSE qualification), and over two-thirds of all grades at a 'strong pass' or above (i.e. Grade 5 or above).

Core subject attainment was a particular strength, with well over 80% of students achieving a 'standard pass' (i.e. Grade 4 or above) in English, nearly 80% in Maths and three-quarters in both English and Maths.

Students of all abilities achieved success, with over 20% of students achieving 5 or more top grades (i.e. Grade 7 or above), over half of all students achieving a top grade in at least one subject and 80% of all students achieving standard passes in 5 or more of their GCSEs.



*Year 11 Exam Results Day*

Congratulations to the Year 11 class of 2019 on their fabulous GCSE results. The students not only worked hard, but also contributed so much to the wider life of the school and their success was richly deserved.

Thank you too to all the parents, carers and wider families whose support of the students was such an important part of that success.

## Staff Farewells

We had a lovely afternoon on the final day of term, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, saying farewell to the departing colleagues whom I wrote about in my July letter. There was much reminiscing, lots of well-deserved tributes and best wishes aplenty, with staff enjoying a special cake to mark the occasion.



## Staffing Update

As mentioned in my July letter, we are delighted to welcome the following new teaching colleagues to the school:

English: Miss Harrison; Miss Kady and Miss Parker  
 Maths: Mrs Hartland and Mrs Little  
 MFL: Miss Bargh and Miss Shute  
 Geography: Miss Smith  
 History: Miss Wetton  
 RS: Miss Corlett  
 Drama: Mr Tolley  
 Music: Miss Yates and Mr Singh  
 PE: Miss Crabb

I am sure all of our new colleagues will really enjoy working at our wonderful school.

As part of our new pastoral systems, students will have the support of both a Progress and Pastoral Leader (replacing the former Year Leader roles) and a Student Support Co-ordinator. If you have any queries or require any further information at any stage, please feel free to contact the school by e-mailing the Pastoral Support administration team:

Year	Progress & Pastoral Leader	Student Support Co-ordinator	Contact details
7	Mrs Turner	Miss Barker	year7admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
8			year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
9	Mr Shelton	Mrs Wright	year9admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
10			year10admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
11	Dr Ravetz	Mr Whitfield	year11admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
12	Mrs Robinson (Deputy Director of Sixth Form)	Mrs Cook & Mrs Till (Sixth Form administrators)	6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org.uk
13			

### High Expectations

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

Full details of our expectations on uniform, particularly shoes and skirts, and general behaviour, including the use of mobile phones, can be found on the school website. We would like to thank you for your support in ensuring that your son/daughter meets these expectations.

### Premises Update

Our site maintenance team have once again worked very hard over the summer holidays to improve various aspects of the school's building.

This year's work has included the installation of new windows along the school's main A block and B block corridors, the setting up of the aforementioned Student Support Centre, re-locating various subject classrooms (so that our English, Maths, MFL and Business, Computing & Economics departments now have their classrooms together more) and a substantial amount of internal decorating, including in many of our Science classrooms.



*New windows in the B-block corridor*

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Within the next few weeks, all students will be given a data collection sheet to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Thank you to those who have returned the photograph consent form as required by GDPR. For those who have yet to return the form, a copy will be sent home with your child for you to complete and return to school as soon as possible.

The school works hard to ensure it complies with the requirements of GDPR and your assistance in helping us to do so is much appreciated. Please do let us also know of any changes during the school year in order that we can continue to keep our 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 updates on the school's Twitter account and Facebook page so do please follow us there too.

### Key Dates

As a reminder, Year 7, 11 and 13 photographs will take place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Other key dates this term are Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, when on both occasions the school will be closed to students for staff training days.

In terms of reporting on academic progress, we will inform you shortly of all of our key reporting dates, including examination weeks and report publication dates. Also important are the following Parental Information Evenings (when greater detail will be provided about the school's academic processes) and Parent Consultation Evenings (opportunities to discuss your child's progress with their teachers):

Year	Parental Information Evenings (6pm start)	Parent Consultation Evenings (4pm start)
7	Thursday 7 November	Tuesday 15 October (meeting form tutors only)
8		Thursday 5 March (all teachers)
9	Wednesday 29 January (NB 5.30pm start) - Year 9 Options Evening	Wednesday 13 November
10	Thursday 9 January	Thursday 13 February
11	Wednesday 18 September Thursday 24 October – 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening	Thursday 9 January
12	Thursday 12 September Thursday 24 October - 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening	Thursday 13 February
13	Tuesday 10 September (NB 6.30pm start) Wednesday 10 June - UCAS Applications Information Evening (provisional)	Wednesday 2 October & Thursday 19 March
		Tuesday 15 October (meeting form tutors only) Wednesday 1 April (all teachers)
		Thursday 10 October & Wednesday 25 March

We very much look forward to seeing you at the above events and working in close partnership with you over this school year. We would like to thank you, in anticipation, for all your help and support over the next 12 months.

Best wishes,



**Martin Hill**  
Headteacher