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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that all of our students have had a good week in school, particularly our Year 11 and 13 cohorts for whom it was their last week in school in this most different of academic years.

### **Years 11 and 13**

Both cohorts completed their assessments this week with the same impressive maturity which they have shown throughout the assessment period. I suspect that after a demanding 5 weeks they are now very much looking forward to a very well-earned break.

Although all the students in both year groups have fully completed all of their courses and hence are able to progress in a straightforward manner on to the next stage in their lives, we will be back in touch after half-term with details of some transition activities for them to bridge the gap between now and September. For now though we will let them enjoy a period of rest and relaxation.

Students in both year groups have been urged by the Local Public Health Team to continue with the practice of twice-weekly Lateral Flow Device testing over their summer break. The kits can be sourced from a variety of locations - to find your nearest one please use the following:

- Collection of home testing kits from a local community collection site, locations can be found via this link: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Collection of home testing kits from a testing site: locations can be found via this link, <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- Test kits can also be collected from the three walk-in testing centres in the borough at Chester Cathedral, the Dingle Centre in Winsford and Stanney Oaks Leisure Centre in Ellesmere Port, as well as at Northwich, Neston, Frodsham and Ellesmere Port libraries, Dee View Distribution Hub near Chester Retail Park and the mobile library van at Tarporley, Tattenhall, Malpas and Tarvin. For more information see [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/c19testing](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/c19testing)
- Alternatively, free test kits can be picked up at most pharmacies, with a map of participating venues at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. They can also be ordered on-line at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or by calling 119 (lines open from 7am to 11pm and free to call).

### **Lateral Flow Device Testing**

Students in all other year groups should continue with the twice-weekly testing at home over the half-term break and also into the next half-term, testing on Monday and Friday mornings. Kits will continue to be provided in school. Please do let us know of any positive test results as quickly as possible via [contactportal@helsbyhigh.org](mailto:contactportal@helsbyhigh.org)

## Year 7, 8, 9 and 12 Assessments

A reminder of key dates for these year groups next half-term:

Year	Assessment Window	Progress Data Report publication	Parent Consultation Evening(s)
7	w/b Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July
8	w/b Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
9	w/b Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
12	w/b Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June

Full details of the Year 7, 8 and 9 assessment windows, including assessment timetables, test content information and revision resources, can be found on our website at [KS3 Assessment Schedules and Information - Helsby High School](#). Ordinarily we wouldn't normally have an assessment window straight after a holiday, but unfortunately it has been necessary on this occasion in order to squeeze all of this term's assessments, including the one-off in-school assessment periods for Years 11 and 13, into the 12-week period between April and July.

### Half-Term Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

Funding has once again been provided for eligible families over half-term break, this time via a new 'Covid Local Support Scheme'. Eligible families will shortly receive an e-mail from Tesco (on behalf of the school) providing a link to one £20 e-voucher per child - please note that this will take the same form as the scheme we used at Easter. Please do look out for this e-mail, which as it comes directly from Tesco could possibly be re-directed to e-mail 'Junk' folders.

### After Half-Term

I am sure that all of our students are looking forward to accessing specialist classrooms in all of their subjects after half-term. I would be very grateful if you could re-iterate the information provided in Mr Cooney's letter earlier this week with your child. Because of the limitations of the ways in which we have been working, and also probably partly because of their frustration with them, a small number of our students have slipped into some less desirable habits in school in terms of their wearing of full uniform and their punctuality to lessons. The fresh start in new classrooms offers a fresh start in terms of these vital aspects of school life and we will be insistent, consistent and persistent in our expectations next half-term. Thank you in advance for your support with this - your child will know what to expect as we went through arrangements for after half-term with all students in a special form tutor lesson Period 5 yesterday.

There will though be an element of sadness to our work in the first week back after half-term as it will be Miss Louden's final week with us in school. As a Student Support Coordinator and our TAF ('Team Around the Family') Lead, Miss Louden will have supported many of our families in times of need and her calm and thoughtful support and guidance will be very much missed. I am sure all of those families in particular would like to thank Miss Louden for her work in school and wish her all the very best in her new role with the Cheshire West and Chester's Education Access Team.

I am sure that, after a very busy half-term, all of our students will now be ready for a break next week. I hope that all of our families have a very enjoyable time over the Bank Holiday weekend and then into next week and enjoy the chance to spend time with families and friends in what promises to be some very pleasant weather.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill  
Headteacher