



Head Teacher:
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Dear Parent/Carer,

In more 'normal' times, a headteacher's newsletter at this stage in the academic year would be full of the highlights of the term just gone. There have been many, far too many to mention here and I would encourage all parents to follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for details of the wonderful things which our students have achieved since the beginning of September. Inevitably though, this letter needs to include within it a little detail about the current circumstances we find ourselves in.

Christmas Break

First and foremost, I would like to wish all our students and families all the very best for the festive season and hope that everybody is able to stay safe and well and enjoy an enjoyable and restful break with families and friends. Please follow the link below for messages in the form of a Christmas card and Christmas music put together by our very talented students:

[Merry Christmas from Helsby High School - Helsby High School](#)

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

Kits have been made available to students for use over the holiday period and I would strongly encourage all students to take an LFD test on the morning of their return to school in January, regardless of whether or not they are participating the testing programme in school. Further details about the assisted on-site testing will be provided separately by Mrs Warburton, Senior Deputy Headteacher.

Winter Support Grant

A reminder that eligible families should look out for the first £35 e-voucher (in the form of an e-mail directly from Tesco) this Saturday, with the second one due to be sent out on Monday 27th December.

Contact Portal

A reminder that the school's Contact Portal, contactportal@helsbyhigh.org should be used to communicate with us regarding Covid-related issues during the forthcoming holiday period.

Spring Term

I hope the following is a helpful reminder of current arrangements for the start of next term:

| Date | Wednesday 5 th January | Thursday 6 th January | Friday 7 th January |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Years 11, 12 and 13 | Return to school (including on-site LFD testing) | Normal in-school timetable | Normal in-school timetable |
| Years 9 and 10 | Remote learning at home (provided via ShowMyHomework) | Return to school (including on-site LFD testing) | Normal in-school timetable |
| Years 7 and 8 | Remote learning at home (provided via ShowMyHomework) | Remote learning at home (delivered via Microsoft Teams) | Return to school (including on-site LFD testing) |

2022-23 Term Dates

Please see [2022-23-HHS-Term-Dates-for-website-1.pdf \(helsbyhigh.org.uk\)](https://helsbyhigh.org.uk/2022-23-HHS-Term-Dates-for-website-1.pdf) for confirmed term dates for the 2022-23 academic year.

Staff Farewell

I have read about the unusually high number of staff moving on from schools across the country at the end of this term and sadly we are saying good-bye to a number of colleagues ourselves at the end of this week:

- Mrs Wynne is taking up the post of Education Advocate with Down Syndrome Cheshire after teaching Physics at the school since 2014. I have seen for myself first-hand this week how sad her classes are to see Mrs Wynne leave and how well-liked by students she is for her enthusiasm and her positivity. We wish her well in her new role and look forward to welcoming Dr Leonard back to the Science department in January.
- Thank you to Mr Holland for the care and support he has given to students in his role as Teaching Assistant at the school. We wish him well in his new role at Cheshire College.
- Thank you too to Miss Kesic and Mr Carrigan for all the support they have provided to students in their Cover Supervisor roles since joining the school last September. We wish Miss Kesic well in her new role as a Children's Residential Care Worker and wish Mr Carrigan well as he moves to the post of Sixth Form Academic Mentor at Upton High School.
- After over 6 years at the school, Mr Whitfield is moving on to a Pastoral Leader's role at Rainhill High School. In his role as Student Support Co-ordinator at Helsby, there will be many students and families who have benefitted from Mr Whitfield's care, support and guidance when needed and our Year 9 cohort who he works with this year will be especially sad to see him to leave. We thank Mr Whitfield for all of his work in the school and wish him well for his new role. One of current Student Support Co-ordinator team, Ms Wilkinson, will taking over as Year 9 Student Support Co-ordinator next term.
- After over 15 years at the school, Mr Cooney is moving on from Helsby at the end of this term to take up a role based in Manchester with the Department for Education. Mr Cooney has had a variety of roles within the school, most recently Assistant Headteacher with overall responsibility for our pastoral work. As a result of that role in particular, Mr Cooney is well-known to both students and parents and will have helped many of them in some way or another over the last few years in particular. As a result of his positive outlook and unwavering commitment to the school and its students, he is a much-respected colleague and will be sadly missed by the entire school. The support and commitment Mr Cooney has offered to the area has gone well beyond the school gates though. Through his leadership of the school's outreach work he has supported the local community through many

charitable and fund-raising ventures and hence his departure will be felt further afield too. He is also the person behind our social media sites and hence the generator of the many animal gifs which have appeared on there on regular occasions! I am sure that parents would want to join me in thanking Mr Cooney for his immense contribution to the school and wishing him all the very best for the future in the exciting role he has secured for January onwards. Following Mr Cooney's departure, Mrs Eastwood and Mr Callaghan will be joining the school's Senior Leadership Team in January and Mrs Cross will be taking over the leadership of the school's marketing and community work.

I guess none of us quite know what the start of 2022 has in store for everybody and of course I will be in touch over the Christmas holiday if there are any changes to plans for the start of the Spring Term. Despite the uncertainty, very best wishes for the next two and a half weeks. We look forward to working with parents to support our students once again in 2022 as they continue to impressively learn and move forwards with their lives, despite all the unfortunate circumstances which they have found themselves in over the last 18 months or so.

Very best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher