



21 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

After two very Covid-restricted summers in 2020 and 2021, it has been wonderful to see our students enjoying so many events over the last few weeks that sadly haven't previously been possible since before the pandemic. Proms, a Music Concert and a Sports Day are just a few of the events that are far too numerous to list in full in this letter – please see our latest newsletter, <https://sway.office.com/uUKEnyJ3sx Cp525I> for much more information and photographs containing many smiling faces.

It is important not to forget what a challenging year the 2021-22 academic year has been for our students. Students have had to deal with illness due to Covid, which has affected the attendance of both students and staff, and they had to wear face-coverings in school for a considerable time in the winter. Back in the winter none of us were sure whether there would be a return to remote learning in January and Year 11 and 13 students spent much of the year wondering whether or not their examinations would go ahead this summer.

Once again our students, and their parents, can be very proud of the resilience of our young people and the way in which they have supported each other through the academic year. Not only have they made wonderful progress in their lessons, but through the challenges of the pandemic our students have developed attributes such as adaptability and compassion that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. In the short-term though I suspect they are more than ready for a break and I hope they have a wonderful, relaxing holiday with their friends and families before all students return to school on Tuesday 6th September.

Summer Reading

The summer holiday is always a chance to sit back with a good book and I hope that students will enjoy the books that have been given out over the last two weeks (over 600 books in total). This year we have been running the Helsby High Free Bookshop for Years 7, 8, and 9 and students have all had the opportunity to take home a free book from a choice of all different genres, fiction and non-fiction. It has been fascinating over the last two weeks listening to students having conversations about books as they have been making their choices and giving each other recommendations. These summer books are in addition to the two free books Year 7 and 8 students have had throughout the year and the free book that Year 9 students received in the Spring Term.

Household Support Fund

Once again the government has released Household Support Fund money to Local Authorities in England to support those most in need due to rising living costs, particularly around the need for food and fuel. Cheshire West and Chester Council are using some of the funding to support students in receipt of Free School Meals to access food during the summer break. Hence families of students in receipt of Free School Meals will receive £15 per week (£90 in total) per student in the form of Tesco e-vouchers, with the first £45 to be issued at the start of the holidays and the second £45 in mid-August. As previously, please do look out for the e-mails which provide access to these vouchers.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Families of students in receipt of Free School Meals or with SEND can access extra support from the Local Authority over the summer via their Holiday Activities and Food programme,

https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Services/3991?fbclid=IwAR2OcbnRC3jMB8BcxMYMsQc_Be7WXGqGLJBwPbDq78ns9iuqPq6Meq0jTo&mibextid=qIFLSC&fs=e&s=cI

'Kids Eat Free'

Please see <https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free> for details of places offering deals for families this summer (you have to scroll down the page to get to the Summer 2022 section).

School Uniform Share (SUS) Scheme

Please do see the letter from Mrs Cross which gives more details about how uniform can be donated to, or requested from, our SUS scheme. Please do e-mail schooluniformshare@helsbyhigh.org if you have any specific queries.

School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) Survey

The SAIS in NHS England North West would like to understand the views of parents about their services. The findings from this survey will inform future planning of their work. The link to the survey is as follows and NHS England North West would like to thank parents for taking the time to complete this survey:

<https://nhs.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=165712699386>

Arrowebrook Coaches

Unfortunately, we have learned very recently that Arrowebrook Coaches will no longer be operating their school bus services in September. We appreciate that this will be a real cause for concern for families of students who currently use these buses and the Local Authority have advised us that they are working hard to find replacement operators in time for September. For students who are eligible for assisted travel the Local Authority will ensure that there is a suitable service for them to use when school re-opens. As soon as we have any update from the Local Authority we will share it with parents immediately.

Farewell and Welcome

As always, the end of the summer term is a time of very mixed emotions in school as we sadly say goodbye to some current colleagues and welcome new ones for September.

I know that all parents would want to join me in thanking the following colleagues, who are moving on from Helsby at the end of this term, and wish them all the very best for the future:

- Mrs Leonard and Ms Stratton, who have worked with us since September and January in our Science and PHSCE departments respectively.
- Mr Ives (Maths) and Ms Sayan (Science) who are moving on to work at Abbeygate College in Chester and the University of Salford respectively after their work with us during this academic year.
- Miss Morton, who moves on to the Dean Trust Ardwick school in Manchester after spending a year with us, Miss Mitchell, who takes up a Year Leader role at Weatherhead High School in September and Miss Bollard, who after two years with us moves on to the role of KS3 English Lead at Bishop Heber High School.
- Thank you to Miss Wilkinson (who takes up a Student Support Co-ordinator role at Middlewich High School in September), to Mr Morfett (moving on to a business IT support role on the Wirral) and to Mrs Cartmell (who is moving into primary Languages teaching) for all their dedicated support, the type of which schools simply could not function effectively without.
- Thank you to Mr Needham for all his dedicated work in both the Maths and SEND departments as he moves on to The Bridge School in Runcorn.
- Best wishes to Mr Whelan for his new role at Amazon UK following all the support and leadership he has given to the Science department in his role as Physics Subject Leader.
- Very best wishes to Mr Zolman as he moves on to the role of Head of the Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty at the British School of Brussels. Mr Zolman's inspirational teaching and leadership of Mathematics will be sadly missed at the school.
- Thank you to Mrs Jones for her work in various roles in the school, most recently as Progress and Pastoral Leader for Years 7 and 8. We wish her well for her new role as Head of History at Weaverham High School. Mrs Jones will be sadly missed by all the colleagues, students and parents whom she has worked so closely with over the last few years.

Thank you also to Mrs Lindop, Mr Callaghan, Mr Davies and Miss Tatham for all their work in their temporary roles this year (Director of Sixth Form, Assistant Headteacher, Business, Computing and Economics Department Leader and Business, Computing and Economics Deputy Department Leader respectively). All four colleagues have made significant contributions to the school during 2021-22 and provided invaluable support to their teams over the last 12 months.

A very warm welcome to new colleagues joining us in the following teams this September:

Senior Leadership Team: Our two new Assistant Headteachers, Mr Davies (who started with us earlier this month) and Mrs Witcher.

English: Miss Barlow (which has been with us this year) and Miss Middleton.

Maths: Mrs Hughes, Miss Roughsedge and Miss Whitby.

Science: Miss Kayll (who joined us this half-term), Mr Sykes, Mr Woolley and Mrs Jones (new Science Technician).

Modern Languages: Miss Snowden.
 Humanities: Miss Taylor (History) and Miss Pugh (Geography, History and PHSCE).
 Social Sciences: Miss Ryan.
 Performing Arts: Mrs Ratcliffe (our new Subject Leader) and Mr Sheppey (Music).
 PE: Mr Price.
 Teaching Assistants: Mrs Edwards and Miss Stanton.

We also wish the following Helsby High colleagues all the very best as they begin new roles in school from September:

Mrs Cross, Assistant Headteacher (Director of Sixth Form).
 Mrs Walker, Assistant Headteacher (SENDCo).
 Mr Probert, Department Leader for Mathematics.
 Mrs Ramage, Deputy Department Leader for Mathematics.
 Mrs Joyce, Department Leader for Social Sciences.
 Mr Wheeler, Deputy Department Leader for SEND and for Social Sciences.
 Mrs Ray, Department Leader for Art.
 Mr Singh, Deputy Department Leader for Performing Arts.

We have also recently welcomed back Mr Jones to the role of Education Welfare and Attendance Officer and Mr Parker to the role of Caretaker.

Student Support for September onwards: Please note the following expanded Pastoral Support Team for Years 7-11 from September:

Year	Progress & Pastoral Leader	Student Support Co-ordinator
7	Miss Smith	Mrs Dalrymple
8	Miss Corlett	Mr Parkes
9	Miss Kavanagh	Miss Terry
10	Mr Tolley	Mrs Nixon
11	Mr Lawless	Miss Gobin

Finally, I just like to thank all of our families for all their support over the last 12 months as you have worked with the school to continue to guide, encourage and support our young people through their secondary education at a time when the world isn't the most straightforward of places. We really do value and appreciate the way our families work with us and look forward to seeing that partnership result in our students continuing to progress and develop in 2022-23. Before then though I hope that all of our families have a very restful, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
 Headteacher