

17th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although the weather unfortunately meant that our annual Sports Day was unable to take place last week, otherwise it has been a very busy final month of the academic year and I hope that all students are looking forward to our 'Futures Week' this week and then a well-deserved break over the summer. It would be impossible to mention here everything that has happened in school this half-term - please see our final newsletter of the year, [End of Term Newsletter](#), for more information and photographs of all the different events that have taken place.

Final Day of Term

Please note that this Friday will be a (no-cost) non-uniform day for students and the day finishes at 12.45pm. School transport buses will collect students from the Bus Park at the earlier finish time, however students who use public transport will need to consider how they will get home. For example, the Stagecoach bus to Frodsham, Sutton Weaver and Runcorn will not arrive outside school until 1.19pm and will not pick up from the Bus Park in the usual manner.

Summer Holiday Household Support Fund Payments

Cheshire West and Chester council are once again using some of the government's Household Support funding to support students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) to access food during the summer break. The council has approved an allocation of £15 per week per FSM recipient for the six-week school summer holiday. Tesco e-vouchers will be distributed in the usual manner to eligible families, including those with students in Years 11 and 13 - an initial £45 e-voucher on Saturday 22nd July and a further £45 on Saturday 12th August (plus additional payments in lieu of meals missed due to the industrial action in school on Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July where applicable).

CWAC Summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC), alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, is running a wide range of activities for the Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) that will run throughout the school summer holiday. HAF is a national funding programme for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays.

[Holiday Activity Fund Website](#)

Edsential

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 47 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 66 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this summer period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with:

- healthy meals and snacks, along with family cooking sessions and nutritional/health education
- a variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops
- diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, and much more.

Families can also keep up-to-date with Edsential's Holiday Activities and Food programme on social media and the [HAF website](#).

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds

Operated by the Council's Youth Service, Youth Zones will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a Summer offer. All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal or packed lunch. Programme plans include Arts and crafts, Face painting, Silent Disco, Urban Music Event -including beat boxing, mc-ing and Rapping, Graffiti, Dance workshops with Studio 13, Boo Zoo, Multi sports, inflatables, and trips out.

For further information [visit the HAF website](#) or email EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. The varied offer will include sessions for children and young people such as arts and crafts, gardening, music and dance, cooking and baking, cycling and swimming. Activities will be on offer across the whole of the summer holidays and a healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, [visit the HAF website](#) or e-mail: AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Brio Leisure

Brio Leisure will be running various activity programmes from sites across the borough. The range of activities include multi-sport activities, Fun and Floats and Sports Camps, all of which will include a healthy meal. [You can find out more here](#)

Criteria/eligibility for the programme

HAF holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, and for all children with SEND. Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, and have a claim verified by their school or local authority. [Further information on eligibility for free school meals](#) or e-mail haf@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cost of living support

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. They may need help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, support getting all the money they're entitled to, or simply want to know more about national recent support measures.

Whatever their money worries may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help. The web page includes a wealth of information including the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, Warm Welcoming Spaces and much more. Visit: [Cost of living support](#)

Results Days

A reminder that Year 13 Results Day is on Thursday 17th August and Year 11 Results Day is on Thursday 24th August. We are very much looking forward to joining our students in celebrating their successes on these days and students/parents should refer to separate correspondence already sent out for further information.

Diary Dates for 2023-24

A reminder that the new school year begins on Tuesday 5th September for all students, with the new school day starting at **8.40am** and finishing at the slightly later time of **3.10pm** from the start of the Autumn Term.

Please see below some Autumn Term dates which will hopefully be of use/interest to parents:

Thursday 14th September - Year 12 Information Evening
Thursday 21st September - Pastoral Evening (remote meetings with Form Tutors)
Tuesday 26th September - Year 13 Information Evening
Thursday 28th September - Year 11 Information Evening (in school)
Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th October – Year 6 Open Evenings
Thursday 12th October - Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 18th October - Year 7 Information Evening (in school)
Thursday 19th October - Year 8 Information Evening
Friday 20th October - Finish for Half-Term

Monday 30th October - Start of (2-week) Year 13 PPE1 Examinations
Monday 6th November - Start of (2-week) Year 11 PPE1 Examinations
Monday 13th November - Start of (2-week) Year 7 and 8 Assessment Window
Wednesday 29th November - Year 10 and Year 12 Information Evenings
Thursday 30th November - Year 13 Parent Consultation Evening (in school)
Wednesday 6th December - Year 9 Information Evening
Thursday 7th December - Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (in school)
Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th December - 'School of Rock' Production
Friday 15th December - End of Term

Please note that Parent Consultation Evenings for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will take place in school during the Spring Term.

Staff 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:

- Best wishes to colleagues who have worked temporarily in the school this year: Teaching Assistants Mr Ogden and Miss Bath; Reflection Room Manager Miss Colloby and Mrs Nyakatawa, our off-site tutor. We are very grateful for their work with us and wish them all the very best for the future.
- Thank you to Miss Ide for all the support that she has given to Year 12 and 13 students in her role as Sixth Form administrator as she moves on from the school at the end of this term.
- Best wishes to Miss Kayll as she moves on to a role at Dixons Croxteth Academy in Liverpool from September.
- Best wishes also to Miss Stone as she moves on to teach at Great Sankey High School in Warrington in September.

- We wish Miss Tatham well as she moves on to Carmel College this summer. Miss Tatham's A-Level Business and Economics teaching, and also her leadership of the school's Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, has been much appreciated and will be sadly missed.
- Thank you to Mrs Lewis for all that she has contributed to the school in a variety of roles since joining the school. We wish her well as she moves on to the role of Key Stage 4 Modern Foreign Languages Coordinator at Woodchurch High School on the Wirral.
- Another colleague who has served the school with dedication in a variety of roles is Mrs Llewellyn, who moves on to a History Department Leader role in September, also at Woodchurch High School.
- Mrs Stewart is moving on from the school at the end of this term after working at the former Frodsham High School and then Helsby High School. Mrs Stewart has contributed much to the school as Design and Technology teacher, Deputy Faculty Leader and Department Leader at different times and we wish her all the very best for the future.
- Best wishes for a very happy retirement to Mrs Marvin, who moves on from her History Department Leader role at the end of this term. The guidance and support that Mrs Marvin provides to both students and staff will be sadly missed and we wish her well as she begins a very well-deserved retirement.
- Also retiring after many years of service in the profession is Mr Higgins, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant at the school for nearly 19 years. During that time there will literally be hundreds of students who will have benefited from Mr Higgins' thoughtful and committed support of their learning and we wish him all the very best for the future.
- Finally, Mr Wilson joined the school in September 1988 and has dedicated 35 years to teaching and supporting the students of Helsby High School as a Form Tutor, Art Teacher and Department Leader during that time. Thanks to his enthusiasm and passion for his subject many students have been inspired to continue to study art beyond their time at the school and many more have left with a simple love of art for the rest of their lives. Mr Wilson has certainly earned the right to a very happy retirement and I know that all parents would want to wish Mr Wilson all the very best for the future after the end of this term.

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

- Mr Owen, Science.
- Miss Beardmore, Design and Technology.
- Mr Kelly, Design and Technology Deputy Faculty Leader.
- Mrs Lowe, History Department Leader.
- Mrs Garratt, Modern Foreign Languages.
- Mrs Black, Education Welfare and Attendance Officer (replacing Mr Jones, who left us on June to take up a managerial role with the Army's Reserve Forces and Cadets).
- We also welcome back in September Miss Shute to the Modern Foreign Languages Department and Mr Needham to the Maths Department.

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

- Miss Snowden, Modern Foreign Languages Deputy Department Leader.
- Miss Collier, Physics Department Leader.
- Mr Sykes, Key Stage 3 Science Leader.
- Mrs Chow and Mrs Newman, Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs).
- Mrs Gibbs, Senior Science Technician.
- Mrs Dickson, SEND Administrator.

In addition, Miss Corlett will be known as Mrs Godwin from September following her wedding this Summer. We wish her all the very best for her special day.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your on-going support this academic year, working in partnership with the school to support our students through another year of secondary education. The start of the new school year is always a time of excitement and anticipation in schools, but before then there is a summer break to enjoy first. I hope that all of our students and families have a wonderful summer of rest, relaxation and time with families and friends. Have a lovely break and we'll look forward to seeing our students in school again on 5th September.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher