



HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

October 2023

www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk

Issue 125

Headteacher Editorial: The new academic year has started off really well. The DfE have just published the school's most recent GCSE results which compare favorably locally and nationally (click [here](#)) and this has set the standard for the rest of the year ahead. The new Year 7 and Lower Sixth have impressed their teachers with their enthusiasm and commitment to their studies at Heber. Similarly, those students returning in other Year Groups have also made an excellent start.



Charity: Jeans for Genes Day is our annual fundraising event and took place on Friday 15th September. Staff and students were encouraged to wear **jeans** and make a donation. Together we raised over £934 for gene therapy & research.

The annual **Year 7 Music Day** supported by Music for Life on Thursday, 5th October was another fabulous celebration. For the evening's performance there was little room to move in the Main School Hall. Having spent the day in workshops practising their set pieces, over 90 of our new Year 7 students entertained the audience with their musical talents.

The annual **Governors' Day** in school was on Thursday, 12th October this year. The governors visited 30 lessons and met with student focus groups throughout the school. In the



afternoon their focus was on setting the 2023-2024 strategic direction for the school. The school continues to set itself the highest of expectations and its ambition for itself and the students will never be compromised so that every student at Heber can be the best they can be both inside and outside of the classroom.

The **Harvest Assembly** also took place on Thursday, 12th October and was, yet again, outstanding. Chester Aid for the Homeless (CATH) was once again overwhelmed with the sheer number of decorated Harvest Boxes donated at the assembly. Rob Whittall – CEO of CATH took all this produce to their HQ to distribute through their foodbanks and networks to support the homeless in our locality.

Our Upper Sixth students have made an outstanding start to this academic year and are again demonstrating their high aspirations by submitting applications for highly competitive university courses and institutions. Bishop Heber Sixth Formers have an excellent record of securing places at highly respected 'Russell Group'



universities, including at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge.

This year, eight students (a record proportion of the year group!) have submitted 'early entry' applications to Oxbridge for courses including Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Maddie Connor), Architecture (Hermione Ball and Juliet Gordon), Economics (Alfie Hughes), PPE (Charlie McMullan), Natural Sciences (Emily Robinson), Physics (Caspar Walker) and Aerospace Engineering (Natalie Segamwenge). In addition, well done to Dylan Soal who has sent off his application for Dentistry. Many other Upper Sixth students are now working hard to finalise their UCAS applications with an internal deadline to submit these by Wednesday, 13th December. 25 members of the year group who are interested in Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships are looking forward to receiving further support and guidance on non-university pathways and applications during our upcoming PSHCE Day on Thursday, 9th November.



The show goes on... This year's annual **school production** is **Oliver**. It's a highly prestigious and well sought after school

production and we're so excited to receive the rights to perform it at Heber. Rehearsals have been underway from September and our cast and crew cannot wait to welcome you to our performances from Tuesday, 21st November to Friday, 24th November. Tickets are on sale from Friday, 27th October - please click [here](#) for the link to the electronic box office to reserve your seats.

Academic Year 2023-2024 (important dates)

06.11.23	Students return to School (Week B)
07.11.23	Year 10 GCSE English Mock Examinations
09.11.23	PSHCE Day
09.11.23	Remembrance Assembly (SPH 9.10 a.m.)
09.11.23	Upper Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
16.11.23	Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
20-24.11.23	School Production 'Oliver'
27.11.23	Year 11 Mock GCSE Language Speaking Test
30.11.23	Year 7 Parents' Info. Evening (SPH 6 - 8 p.m.)
19.12.23	Carol Concert (St Oswald's, Malpas 7 p.m.)
20.12.23	Christmas Lunch
07.12.23	KS3 Christmas Disco (MSH 7 - 9 p.m.) tbc
21.12.23	End of Autumn Term (12.30 p.m. finish)

Spring Term 2024

08.01.24	Students return to School (Week A)
11.01.24	Lower Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
15.01.24	Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations start
22.01.24	Year 7 Assessment Week
25.01.24	Year 8 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
01.02.24	Year 9 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
08.02.24	Year 9 GCSE Options Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)

[Please visit our website for further information.](#)



Follow us on @BishopHeberHS / @Heber_Head or
for sports fixture/updates @HeberSport

Year 7 Music Day

As the Headteacher mentioned on Thursday, 5th October, we held our annual Year 7 Music Day. Over 80 students took the opportunity to participate in workshops which included a concert band, samba group and choir.



They all began the day with little indication of what pieces were going to be performed and just four hours later the same students were performing a series of concert items to their peers.



After a short break at home, the students returned to school to give a concert of these pieces to their families in front of a full school hall.



Many congratulations to all of the students who performed and particular thanks to our musician colleagues from Music for Life whose team of specialist teachers led the workshops. The pictures show the students enjoying the workshops.



In the Music department, we encourage students to continue their musical interests by joining choir on a Wednesday lunchtime - (Christmas is not far away!) or contact *Music for Life* to set up a course of lessons.

Mr S Ferrelly, Head of Performing Arts

Oliver!



Tickets are now on sale for our production of *Oliver!* Students and staff are rehearsing daily to get the production ready and we are all excited about it. The show runs from Tuesday 21st - Friday 24th November and you can get your tickets here:

<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events?search=oliver>

Tickets are sure to sell quickly so don't delay.

Mr S Ferrelly, Head of Performing Arts

BHS Royal Navy Cadets Southport Report

Fifteen Royal Navy Cadets from Bishop Heber Combined Cadet Force spent an action-packed weekend at 'Waterside Lodge' Southport Marina. Expert instruction was provided by our section commander, Lieutenant Ridley Thomas to develop a range of sailing skills.



Newly promoted cadet, Leading Hand Seren Jackson-Norman (10CHa) is pictured driving a 'rigiflex' safety boat around Southport Marina.

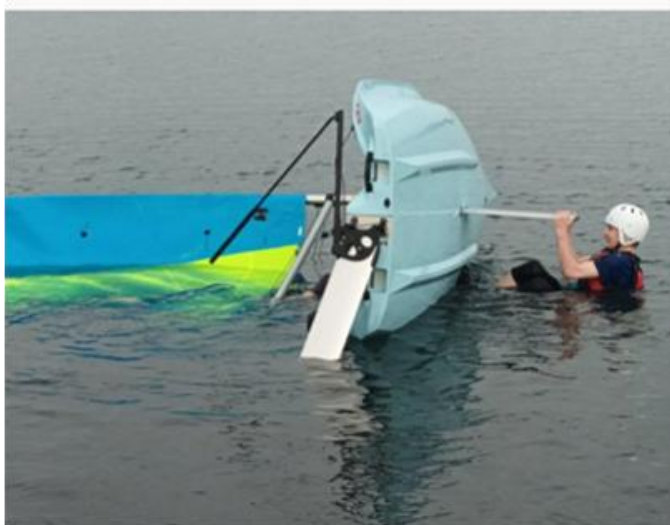


Cadets started off by learning how to rig a Fusion sailboat.



Any students who are interested in joining Heber Royal Navy Cadets are welcome to contact Mr T Roberts.

Mr T Roberts (2nd Lieutenant)



Practicing capsizing drills. The boat is deliberately capsized, and cadets learn how to use the daggerboard to correct the position.

Sailing in pairs, students took turns in tacking which involves bringing the bow through the eye of the breeze.

Students were kept busy in the evening with table tennis, pool and an organised visit to the bowling alley. On the second day of our residential visit, students had the opportunity to drive two different types of motorboat. Mooring drills were carried out in the 'Champ' during which cadets practiced using mooring lines and giving the correct commands for passengers arriving and leaving a berth.

Year 9 - The God Debate

'Does God Exist?' is one of the ultimate questions in life and our Year 9 classes have been holding whole-class debates on the subject. This is the culmination of their learning on the subject over several lessons, exploring the theories of different theist and atheist philosophers, such as Blaise Pascal and Ludwig Feuerbach, as well as students conducting their own research on the matter.



In the debates, students were incredibly eloquent and passionate in presenting their ideas, which could be a particular challenge if they were required to debate from the opposite perspective than their own personal beliefs! Excellent persuasive and critical thinking skills were developed, and they are to be congratulated on their efforts – it was impossible to pick a side that won each time!

Mrs N Stubbs, Subject Leader of Religious Education

Bentham's Ethical Theory

After studying the ethical theory of Jeremy Bentham, Mrs Stubbs had us take part in an ethics game (Trial by Trolley) as a class. We were split into two teams and picked cards which we thought would influence Mrs Stubbs (who was playing the role of the train conductor) not to choose our railway track, to send an out-of-control train down. The aim of the game was to get the conductor to send the train down the other team's track.



The cards consisted of smaller moral and ethical decisions (such as running over a friendly talking dinosaur) and more complex ones (like avoiding a cancer and AIDS curing flower). As a class it helped us to understand how to apply Bentham's Utilitarianism to moral and ethical dilemmas in a variety of situations.

Isobel Doyle (13CSe)

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, 29th September, Heber Library participated in the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning event. The occasion brought our school together with staff and students collectively donating cakes to be sold on the day.



With a total of £102.92 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support, Heber Library would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff and students who contributed to the event's success. The funds raised will make a valuable difference to the charity's vital work in supporting those affected by cancer.

Mr L Doran, Library & Student Resources Manager

Year 10 GCSE D&T



This half-term Year 10 students have been working on some 'Designer' picture frames. Having been inspired by a range of design movements, they have designed and made sublimation print picture frames that represent an era of design in the last 100 years.

From William Morris to Bauhaus and Channel to Memphis, the students have produced some excellent outcomes. A great start to the GCSE Design and Technology course Year 10 – well done!

Miss J Stockley,

Subject Leader of Design and Technology

Letters Of War

9B1 have written letters to the unknown soldier as part of their recent War Poetry topic. The idea to write letters was inspired by the 14-18 NOW organisation and the unknown soldier statue that stands in Paddington Station, London.



After writing the letters, they have created a memorial in the classroom ahead of Remembrance Day in November.

Mrs K Moreland, Teacher of English

Sport

Hockey

Isobel Adams (9DUUp) is now a part of Hockey Mentors - a national programme, backed by top GB and England coaches and mentored by past and current U16, U18, U21 and adult England players.

Isobel has been invited to a two day training camp Repton School - based on what they saw at an Open Day in August, she has already been selected to play in an U14s match in Surbiton on Saturday 28th October against Surbiton U14s (widely regarded as the best U14 girls team in the UK at the moment) and she's also been selected to be in the girls U14s Indoor Hockey team for Hockey Mentors at the UK Indoor Hockey Championships on 29th December.

Miss E Smith, Teacher of P.E.

Equestrian

Ollie Rowlands (9B&M) qualified his two wonderful ponies to compete at the HOY show – this quite an achievement as only the top 17 ponies in the country actually qualify for this event.



By qualifying, this led Ollie to participate in the 122 Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter Pony final on Thursday 5th October and also in the 133 Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter Pony final on Friday 6th October.



Ollie had the most amazing time at the HOYS show where he accomplished a 1st and a 2nd in the international arena against all of the other sections. All of us at Bishop Heber are so proud of Ollie's achievements!

Mr M Lindley, Subject Leader of P.E.

Slalom Kayaking

Congratulations to Tom Kearsley (8KCI) who has successfully been offered a position with the Welsh Talent Development Pathway.



He is one of 12 people selected in Wales. Starting in November, he will attend training camps in Cardiff, Nottingham, Llandysull & the Olympic course in London.

Mr M Lindley, Subject Leader of P.E.

Netball

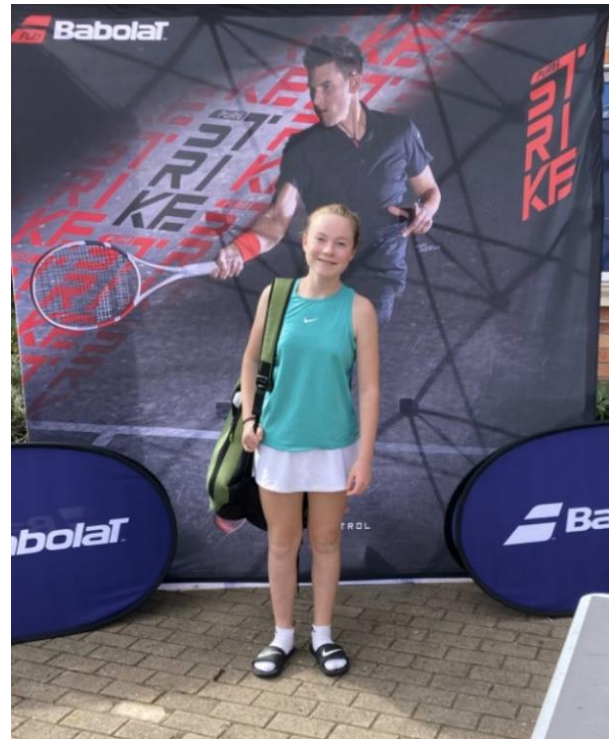
Congratulations to Sophia Haworth (9B&M) who successfully trialled for Cheshire and got into the U15s Netball Academy.



Mrs H Corrigan, Teacher of P.E.

Tennis

Congratulations to Maddie Crabb (8SFe) on her recent tennis success. Maddie played as No. 1 for Shropshire in the County Cup where she maintained her position of number 1 in Shropshire by successfully winning the County Championship.



On Saturday, 23rd September, Maddie competed in her first national tournament at Edgbaston where she came sixth place on the leaderboard.



Our congratulations also go to Emelyn Walker Jones (9AOg) who competed in the Fred Perry National Championship Finals this summer. After winning the northern qualifier (there are three qualifying events in the country) he won two matches at national finals finishing a very creditable 9th overall.

Miss E Smith, Teacher of P.E.

Main School Office

Your help with the following would be appreciated.

Lost property:

- Please ensure all items of School clothing and equipment is clearly named/labelled.

Equipment:

- Please ensure your child comes to School with the correct equipment for the day.

Please do not allow students to bring any items of value into School as we cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage.

Attendance

Our School's attendance policy has recently been updated and can be located under the parents' section of the school website for further information.

<https://www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/policies/attendance-policy>

Finance

You can now donate to the Enrichment support fund via Scopay. The following items are available to purchase online via Scopay:

Casio Scientific Calculator fx-83GTX £8.00

Casio Classwiz Scientific Calculator fx-83GTX £20.00

8GB USB Memory Stick £5.00

Gum Shield £2.50

If you wish to purchase any of these items, please do so via Scopay and they will then be available for your child to collect from the Finance Office. If you have not yet signed up for Scopay and you need the information on how to do this please email **finance@heber.org.uk** and we will send you the details, please include the student's name in the email so that we can send you your unique log in.

Free School Meals

Did you know that by registering for Free School Meals your child not only has the opportunity to enjoy a free school meal, but they could also be entitled to a substantial reduction in the cost of some educational visits and after School activities?

The School also benefits from additional funding for children who are registered for free school meals or who have been registered in the past six years. The funding

gives every student in the schooling system the same opportunities to succeed.

Additional support mechanisms at Bishop Heber include intervention classes along with financial support for educational visits and activities.

Am I eligible for Free School Meals?

You will qualify if you are receiving one of the following benefits;

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Do you receive Working Tax credit?

If you or a partner receive Working Tax Credit regardless of income you will not qualify for free school meals.

Free School Meals Helpline - 0300 123 7039

Free School Meals Information –

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/.../school-meals.aspx>

The free school meals team can assess your claim over the phone using an eligibility checker to confirm entitlement.



INSPIRE CREATE PERFORM

www.musicforlife.org.uk

Learn an instrument at school!

Music, like language, is a fundamental part of human existence and of the societies in which we live. The opportunity to learn to play an instrument enables children to participate in an activity which many will find to be one of the most formative experiences they have as they grow up, developing an interest and a skill which opens up so many possibilities now and in later life. A bonus is that involvement in music has been shown to have a positive effect on other aspects of development—social skills, language, physical coordination and emotional development.

[Click here to watch a short video!](#)

Why choose Music for Life?

Music for Life offers children something special. We work in partnership with over 100 music tutors who visit 130 schools teaching 4,000 children each week from complete beginners to some of the most accomplished young musicians in the UK. Two national independent reviews of school music services rated Music for Life an “outstandingly effective service” offering parents and schools “outstanding value”.



Instrumental lessons during the school day.

Instrumental lessons take place during the school day, convenient for parents and meaning students become part of a wider community of young musicians in school, avoiding the isolation that can be felt when learning at home. Thousands of students take part in our extra curricular activities—workshop days, concerts and groups, with many taking Associated Board exams. All tutors are DBS checked, and to work with Music for Life, tutors must be first class musicians and are required to meet professional performance standards.



Instruments offered

Lessons may be available on guitar, piano, keyboard and violin (usually suitable for Year 2 or above) cello, clarinet, saxophone, flute, cornet, trombone, trumpet and euphonium (usually suitable for Year 4 or above) bass guitar, drums and singing (usually only available at secondary school). If we are unable to provide lessons on your first choice, we will contact you with the possibility of offering lessons on a second choice if you specify one.



[Click here](#) for videos on a selection of instruments that are currently taught in school!

Course Fees

Specialist teaching of a musical instrument falls outside the National Curriculum, so there is a charge for lessons. This varies as some schools provide a subsidy, but up to date details of course fees for your school appear on our booking form [here](#). Music for Life offers the facility to set up a monthly subscription which makes paying for music lessons so much easier! Support with fees may be available, so please get in touch with your school for details if you are in receipt of Income Support.



Book Lessons

Lessons can be booked online at www.musicforlife.org.uk where you will find much more information and a simple online booking form where you can make payment in full or set up a monthly subscription via our secure booking portal. The course length will be set automatically according to the time of year you book and how many lessons we would expect to provide during the remainder of the school year, but all new courses are only have a one term commitment period. After that, you may choose to try another instrument, cancel remaining lessons, or join the 95% of children who decide to continue with their course! Alternatively, please email admin@musicforlife.org.uk and we will get back to you.



Recently, we have had great success in lessons online through Skype. If lessons are not possible in school or you would like some information regarding Skype lessons, please get in touch with us at admin@musicforlife.org.uk or select the option of online lessons on the booking portal.

“We have been extremely pleased with the service you have provided over the past 9 years. Your admin has been excellent and you have always been helpful and polite.”

“May I take this opportunity to say how very happy and impressed we are with the level of care and motivational input given to young musicians by ALL of your staff”

“A big ‘THANK YOU!’ to Music for Life for the wonderful service and great teaching for quite a number of years!”



[CLICK HERE to go directly to our booking page](#)

Deadlines for course bookings are as follows:

End of July to start in September, although later bookings will be accommodated wherever possible.

20th October to start after October half term

21st December to start in January

31st March to start after Easter

Please note, we are able to accommodate almost all requests received before the end of July for a September start, after this, teachers may get booked up and new places can become more limited.

Keep in touch!

www.musicforlife.org.uk

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Awards for
Young Musicians

future
talent

inspiring young musicians

