



# HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

December 2023

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Issue 126

**Headteacher Editorial:** As we traditionally reflect at this time on the year, 2023 has been enormously rewarding and deflating in equal measure. The cyber-attack in the Spring Term truly tested our resolve and ability to respond to a crisis. Staff and students were amazing and to see that reflected in the GCSE and A-level results this summer was testimony to the strength of character within the school as a whole. To be ranked in the top 1% of all non-selective schools nationally at GCSE is something we should all be very proud of and a new benchmark to aspire to looking ahead.

The new Year 7 and Sixth Form students have made an enormous contribution to Heber life already. The popularity of both Open Evenings this term has been overwhelming. It's humbling that so many families want to consider Heber as their school of choice for their child/ren, with 300 applications to Year 7 and over 170 applications to Sixth Form already for September 2024.

Following the CATH Harvest Assembly, the School held its traditional whole school **Remembrance Assembly** in November. Again, the students were generous, donating £284 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Thank you!

This year's whole school production of Oliver was truly outstanding. The sellout audiences over the four-night run showcased the students' talent both front and backstage, so ably led by the great Performing Arts team at Heber.



As mentioned in the previous edition, students raised £947 on the Jeans for Genes Day in September 2023. In addition, the school raised £9,351 (£10,795 including Gift Aid) for the Bobby Moore Fund in the Summer Term during our school race and event, held in memory of former colleague, Conor McMullan. In total, we have raised £12,599 for charity in 2023; thank you!

The **2023 Heber Charities** chosen by the students were:

North West Air Ambulance Charity (Local Charity)  
Bobby Moore Fund (Cancer Research) (National Charity)  
WaterAid (International Charity)

This year we will be able to donate a total of £1,650 to our Heber Charities. Each charity will be presented with a cheque for £550 in the New Year. The 2023/24 School Council has agreed, following a whole school on-line vote, that the three charities for 2024 will be:

Chester Aid for the Homeless (CATH) (Local Charity)  
Guide Dogs for the Blind (click [here](#)) (National Charity)  
World Wildlife Fund (click [here](#)) (International Charity)



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**Heber Trust Fund:** The Trustees meet at least annually to consider the applications to The Trust Fund which is supported by all the generous donations made by families to the School's Enrichment Trust Fund. I'm so pleased to report that the Trustees have distributed the Enrichment Trust Funds to the following areas:

Clevertouch Screen in D+T	£1,999
Lighting training for events / productions	£300
DJI Pocket Gimbal Camera in Art	£424
5 a-side goals in P.E.	£500
Music recording software (inc. two MacBooks)	£2,978
11-18+ Careers + Destination Platform ( <a href="#">unifrog</a> )	£2,695
Young Enterprise Scheme in Sixth Form	£350
Student on-line research resources ( <a href="#">JSTORE</a> )	£1,024
KS3 lunchtime Wellbeing Clubs	£300
Lunchtime History Club	£100
Politics Review annual subscription	£45
Sixth Form Induction Programme	£690
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,405</b>

At present there is £10,000 held in the Trust Fund for a further round of bidding in the New Year.

We also have one member of staff leaving Heber this term: **Mr L Doran (2022-2023)** joined Heber 20 months ago in April 2022 as the Library and Student Resources Manager. Mr Doran joined us from Cheshire East Libraries and has been instrumental in the post covid growth of the library and promoting reading across the school. Mr Doran leaves us to work at Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group as a Lecturer in GCSE & Functional Skills English and we wish him all the best.

## Academic Year 2023-2024 (important dates)

### Spring Term 2024

08.01.24	<b>Students return to School (Week A)</b>
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.)
09.02.24	Upper Sixth Mock Examinations start
15.02.24	Year 10 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
15.02.24	Year 7 Valentine Disco (MSH 7-9 p.m.) tbc
15.02.24	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
16.02.24	INSET CPD Day 2 (Staff only)
19.02.24	<b>Half Term</b>
26.02.24	<b>Students return to School (Week A)</b>
29.02.24	Year 11 Learning Conference
29.02.24	Year 11 GCSE Parents' Info. Eve (SPH 6 p.m.)
07.03.24	Year 7 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)

**Please visit our website for further information.**

Merry Christmas, Nadolig Llawen, Frohe Weihnachten, 圣诞节快乐, Joyeux Noël, Feliz Navidad and Buon Natale.

## Spanish Exchange

In October, 21 students from Years 8 and 9, and three members of staff had taken part in the Spanish exchange to Valdepeñas. The partnership with Instituto Bernardo de Balbuena has been running now for 30 years, and we are glad to be able to restart it after being put on hold for three years. It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to be immersed in the Spanish culture and language learning experience and make new friends, while living with the host families.



In addition to time spent with families, Heber students also took part in many cultural visits, taking in the sights of Toledo both on foot and by the tourist train. Heber students also got the opportunity to visit Ciudad Real, the capital of the province, and make Roman oil lamps out of terracotta. This year was a real action-packed cross-curricular experience with opportunities to learn about history, geography, religion, art, music, food and of course Spanish! We were given a feel for local industry and learnt how to recognise the real Manchego Cheese, how the olive oil is made and all about the history of wine production in the town.

In Valdepeñas itself we were formally greeted by the mayor of the town who made us feel very welcome, making comparisons between Britain and Spain and highlighting the benefits of cultural exchanges. All in all, good friends and superb hospitality made for everyone having a fantastic time.



Our Spanish partner school are due to visit in April 2024 and exact dates will be confirmed very shortly. I know that all of our students are looking forward to being reunited with their newfound friends.

Special thanks must also go to Mr. Penlington and Mrs. Arto for their hard work and support during the trip.

¡Gracias a todos!

Mrs. E Hopley, Teacher of Languages

## Oliver!

*Consider ourselves well and truly proud.*



Our November production of Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* was a spectacular success. Involving a cast, orchestra, and crew of almost 70 students and with nearly 1,000 seats sold over its four-night run, our show was thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it- and many of you saw it several times!

Thank you to everybody who supported the students at this incredibly busy time; it is greatly appreciated. We are very proud of all the students and so are the community judging by the lovely messages received – here is just a selection, together with some pictures of the performances. We look forward to staging our next production, details of which will be announced at Heber Footlights on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

*"I just wanted to say how astonished and in awe we were at the phenomenal performance of Oliver!"*

*"The standard of singing and acting from the children was outstanding. A truly breathtaking experience."*

*"This was a tremendously enjoyable evening, and it was wonderful to see the enjoyment of the cast."*

*"Everything was exceptional - the performers, musicians, lighting, sound, and organisation. It was of a professional standard, and I do hope to return next year!"*



*"A tremendous amount of work in such a short time to achieve such a standard, I felt I had to write - thank you and the cast!"*

*"What a fabulous performance you put on! We watched last night. It was truly super, we all enjoyed it very much."*

*"I had the most wonderful evening when I attended the first performance of the musical Oliver! All the departments excelled with professionalism from drama, music, stage craft, lights, and direction."*



*"The cast were excellent in their roles. It is difficult to pick one, as we all have our preference. I really was moved by the street seller's scene, it was beautifully interpreted, and I was transported back to Dickensian times."*

Mr S Ferrelly, Head of Performing Arts

## Step Into Christmas!

No sooner had the final bars of Oliver's music faded, our Performing Arts students and staff hit the ground running with preparations for the Christmas Carol Service and final day assembly. Last year's Carol Service at St. Oswald's church was the first since Covid lockdowns and although we were delighted to present a varied mix of Music and Drama involving about 40 students, this year's event is planned to involve a significantly increased number of students and an even greater variety of ensembles with debuts for our Senior Singers, KS4/5 Drama Group and Music Theatre Ensemble. Furthermore, a newly formed orchestra will contribute a piece in addition to our usual array of soloists, KS3 choir, Brass Group and KS3 Drama. Preparations are in full swing as I write – a review to follow in the Spring Newsletter.

Mr S Ferrelly, Head of Performing Arts

## Blue Peter Book Badges

Year 7 rose to the challenge of submitting a Blue Peter Book Badge application which included writing a summary of their favourite book, drawing an image and naming other authors that they have enjoyed reading.



Year 7 have recommended a fantastic range of books from 'Mega Robo Bros' by Neill Cameron, to 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' by Judith Kerr as well as classic stories such as 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' by Lemony Snickett. They have promoted non-fiction books also, from 'Racing Cars' by Richard Hough through to Ancient History, 'SPQR' by Mary Beard and Science 'Marvelous Medicine' by Adam Kay. We look forward to celebrating their achievement with their Blue Peter Badges.

Mrs R Abbotson, Assistant Headteacher

## Year 8 Rivers Trip



The annual Year 8 Rivers trip took place at the beginning of October.



Year 8 Geography classes spent either a morning or afternoon at the Iscoyd Brook in Higher Wych learning field work techniques, sketching and gathering data for their Autumn term assessment.



We would like to thank you Mr Bourne for his continued support in allowing us to use his field for the Year 8 River Project.

Miss O Lewis, Subject Leader of Geography

## GCSE History – Berlin Trip

Year 10 and 11 History students visited Berlin for a GCSE History trip in October for their Weimar and Nazi Germany topic. The pictures here are group photos of the walking tour outside the town hall, then at the dome on the Reichstag roof.



Mr J Penlington,

Subject Leader of History and Politics

## Glass Blowing Open Day

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Art department spent a fascinating morning at the open day of E&M Glass in Sarn near Malpas. We were treated to demonstrations of glass blowing in the hot shop, where the furnaces were glowing brightly on a bitterly cold day. We watched while GCSE student Ruby Skachill-Saunders (11RM) took us through the process of gathering the molten glass from the furnace on a blowing iron to manipulate the glass into the desired shape.

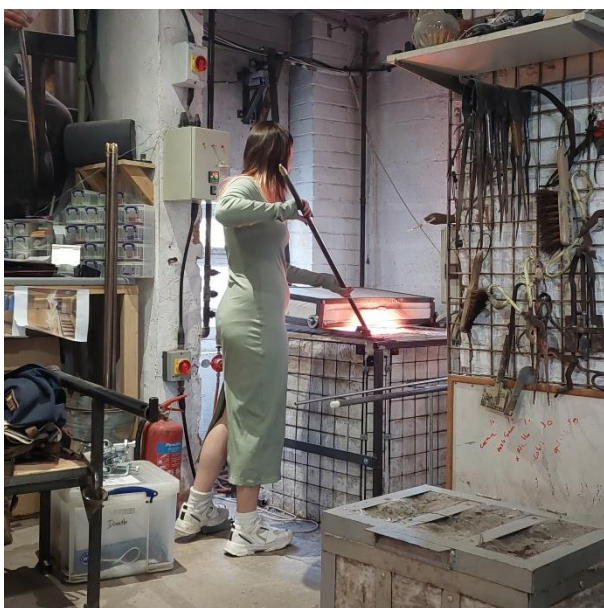


We were impressed by the skill it takes to fashion the shape, then to add colour by rolling it onto powdered glass. A few visits to the main furnace are needed to gather the glass onto the blowing iron and to keep it at a workable temperature. The hot glass, which is gathered at 1,100 degrees, is manipulated with a wad of water-soaked paper held in the hand.



With so many factors to take into consideration, it gave us a new appreciation of the art of blowing glass. Thank you, Ruby and family for an enlightening and heartfelt journey into your craft. We can't wait to see the finished piece!

Miss K Clulow, Teacher of Art



Ruby made a piece that encapsulated constriction and decay for her Art coursework, and she deftly released her blown glass into the wire cage that she had woven, then blew to distort and expand the glass through the holes in the cage. She distorted the neck of the vessel by cutting and twisting before leaving it to anneal in a kiln – a vital cooling process that ensures the glass cools very slowly so it will not shatter.

## Unilever Bright Futures

A group of Year 8 and 9 students went to the Unilever Bright Futures research and development showcase day in Port Sunlight to learn about how products are made.



Students took part in workshops covering processing, formulation, packaging, digital and consumer and will now be using what they have learnt to design a new product as part of the Bright Futures competition in 2024.



Miss S Jones, Teacher of Chemistry

## Science Club



Science Club has been very popular again this year with Year 7 and 8 students on a Tuesday lunchtime.



Students have been enjoying a variety of experiments each week.

Miss S Jones, Teacher of Chemistry

## Well-Being Club

Wellbeing Club on a Wednesday lunchtime is a new club that started this year with different enjoyable themed activities each week.



So far this year students have been creating everything from salt dough Christmas decorations to birdfeeders.

Miss S Jones, Teacher of Chemistry

## Senior Mathematics Challenge Results

The Senior Maths Challenge is a national competition for the best mathematicians in years 12 and 13 with only the top 25% of those entering receiving silver or gold certificates. The following students did incredibly well to earn the silver award;

**Year 12** - Hannah McKew (12B&W) and Lulu Ralison (12KLo)

**Year 13** - Noah Pearson-Herbert (13SBo), Isaac Staden (13KNa) and Owen Tomlins (13MLi)

Only the top 8% of entrants manage to achieve the gold award, and this year we had five achieve that level.

**Year 12** - Cameron Fisher (12B&S) and Fletcher Morgan-Williams (12KWj)

**Year 13** - Sam Hedges (13CSe), Gabriel de la Peña Edgar (13NSt) and Caspar Walker (13MLi).



Four of the gold winners have qualified for the next round of competitions called the Senior Kangaroo Challenge, but a special mention must go to Cameron who not only top scored, but for the first time in Heber's history, has qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad follow-on round. Good luck to all five in the next round of competitions.

Mr K Lowe (Teacher i/c Maths Challenges)

## Feminist Friday's

This term has seen the successful launch of our new book club, *Feminist Friday's* led by Imogen Baker (10JGI) and Libby Taylor (10JGI). The group meets every Friday to discuss young womanhood values, concerns and politics alongside a designated reading book.



The club is currently reading *Watch Us Rise* (Renee Watson, 2019) which explores two female artists who form a new society in their misogynistic school to put the voices and ideas of young women front and centre.

This is the first of many texts the group will be reading based on the list curated by Imogen and Libby which includes feminist classics such as *The Madwoman in the Attic* (Sandra Gilbert, 1979) and *The Female Eunuch* (Germaine Greer, 1970) to

modern texts, *Invisible Women* (Caroline Criado-Perez, 2019) and *The Burning* (Laura Bates, 2019).

For further details of how you can participate in the group, please contact us at Heber Library.

Mr L Doran (Library and Student Resources Manager)

## Sixth Form

The first term has been especially busy as always, and both Year 12 and Year 13 have made a great start to this academic year. Both year groups' dedication to their studies and wider school life has been exemplified by strong attendance, and we'd like to thank families for your support in trying to avoid appointments during school time as this has had a positive impact. We ask all young people to strive for 100% attendance as obviously, being 'in lessons and learning' as much as possible can only benefit our students.



In terms of contributions to wider school life, we are delighted that over 60 sixth form students are now contributing to our 'Book Buddies' programme, supporting Key Stage 3 students build their reading confidence. I also know that many students have been volunteering across school by assisting in lessons and helping at Key Stage 4 revision sessions. It's fantastic to see our Sixth Form Role Models mentoring younger students whilst also building their own leadership experiences.

## Sixth Form Personal Development

Students enjoyed a variety of activities during the PSHCE Day on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, including Year 12 students participating in an introductory apprenticeships workshop and Year 13 students learning practical skills in their paired cooking sessions.



Year 13 students had the opportunity to experience a practice interview on 10<sup>th</sup> November, thanks to many volunteers including local businesses and organisations drawn from connections within the school community. It was fantastic to receive such positive feedback from all those involved.



A huge thank you to all those who gave up their time to support our students.

## Post-Sixth Form Pathways

At the time of writing, we are in the final throes of submitting this year's university applications and were delighted to hear the news that five of our Year 13 students have received invitations to interview from either Cambridge or Oxford. As usual, the year group are applying for courses across a wide range of subject areas, including Architecture, Music and Sound Production, Geology, Aerospace Engineering, Japanese Studies, Zoology, and dozens of others. We also have a number of students who are in the mid stages of apprenticeship applications and will be supported through the process in the coming weeks and months.

## Sixth Form Applications

A reminder that our 'formal' Sixth Form applications will open in the New Year. Thank you to the Year 11 students and their families who submitted initial course preferences last month.

This data has been used to help form the curriculum offer and option blocks/course combinations for 2024-2026.

More information on the next stage of the application process will follow but please contact [sixthform@heber.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@heber.org.uk) with any queries.

## Congratulations Miss Johnson

After 18 months of studying, Miss C Johnson has recently celebrated the completion of her Level 6 Careers Diploma in Careers Guidance and Development, with RGG Associate. We are sure you will join us in commending her on this great achievement.



Mr J Garnham, (Director of Sixth Form)

## Staff Movember

Through the whole of November, a number of staff have been growing moustaches in an effort to raise money for the Movember Foundation and raising awareness for men's health issues.

Through the generous donations from the school community, we have raised a grand total of £510!

A huge thank you to those who donated and to Mr Badley, Mr Barley and Mr Samuels who joined me in the "big grow".

Mr J Brown, Teacher of P.E.



# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## **Bronze Award**

117 Year 9s signed up to the Bronze Award in September. They have been planning their sections over the autumn term and have started their DofE journey.



During the autumn term many students have been working hard to complete their award. 64 students have completed their award since the beginning of September of and I am pleased to announce we can celebrate the following students achieving their Bronze Award:

Ursula	Archer	Year 10
Lottie	Ashton	Year 10
Imogen	Baker	Year 10
Annabel	Clegg	Year 10
Alexander	Foster	Year 10
James	Hassall	Year 10
Oliver	Hayward	Year 10
Freddie	Owen	Year 10
Anna	Palgrave-Jones	Year 10
Alfie	Partington	Year 10
Kathryn	Taylor	Year 10
Angus	Wilson	Year 10
Olivia	Wilson	Year 10
Rohan	Southward	Year 10
Emily	Williams	Year 10
Joshua	Andrews	Year 10
Isla	Roberts	Year 10
Isabella	Rice	Year 10
Alexandra	Hughes	Year 10
Anna	Chapman	Year 10
Erin	Harnden	Year 10
Harry	John	Year 10
Ava	Bateman	Year 10
Halle	Cole	Year 10
Poppy	Gilbert	Year 10
Ruby	Hay	Year 10
Amy	Grocott	Year 10
Seren	Jackson-Norman	Year 10
Arabella	Andrews	Year 10
Isaac	Lee	Year 10

Harris	Cawley	Year 10
Imogen	Chorley	Year 10
Lydia	Dilworth	Year 10
Oscar	Fox	Year 10
Hector	Ghattas	Year 10
James	Gordon	Year 10
Alannah	Hirst	Year 10
Lexi	Ireland	Year 10
Bethan	Kelly	Year 10
Effy	Lewis	Year 10
Hari	Middleton-Patel	Year 10
Tom	Pearse	Year 10
Ed	Roberts	Year 10
Oliver	Wilson	Year 10
Libby	Taylor	Year 10
Charlie	Edwards	Year 10
James	Barnes	Year 10
Maisie	Holt	Year 10
Holly	Royles	Year 10
Ruby	Johnson	Year 10
Theo	Shepherd	Year 10
Ellie	Tayler	Year 10
Tabbatha	Cowell	Year 10
Erin	Roberts	Year 10
Rhys	Owen	Year 10
Beth	McMullan	Year 10
Cameron	Robinson	Year 10
Max	JOHNSON	Year 11
Cameron	WRIGHT	Year 11
Lola	ROBERTSON-WALKER	Year 11
Amelia	MAY	Year 12
Mathilda	WOOLRICH	Year 12
Henry	CLARK	Year 12
Abbie	BLAKE	Year 13

Once again this is an outstanding achievement by all, showing a real self-motivation, determination and commitment – congratulations!

### **Silver Award**

34 students in year 10 have been the first cohort to start the silver award at Heber. The Silver Award follows the same programme as the Bronze with one section an extra three months longer. Students have been working hard at planning and beginning their sections. The Silver Award will be the first of expeditions next year with their training in the Clywdians in March. Start getting some long walks in now to get prepare for the hike!



## **Gold Award**

### **Year 12**

18 students enrolled onto Gold DofE in September. The award involves volunteering in the local community, learning a new skill, improving physical fitness and a 5-day residential away from their peers meeting new people and sharing a common goal.



## Sport

### Rugby

Congratulations to James Morris (13SSm) and Douglas MacIver (13NSt) for being selected for the Cheshire U18 Rugby squad.

### U16 Rugby Team - Cheshire Shield Finalists

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, our U16 rugby team represented the school in the final of the Cheshire Shield at Chester Rugby Club, against Birkenhead School.



Birkenhead were the toughest opposition the team had faced all season, and unfortunately, we were not able to come away with the win on this occasion, losing 32-12.



The boys demonstrated great courage and determination to keep playing and at half time the scores were tied at 12-12. Player of the day went to Charlie Paton, who scored 2 tries in the first half and demonstrated outstanding individual skill and vision.

Mr J Brown, (Teacher of P.E. i/c Rugby)

## Football

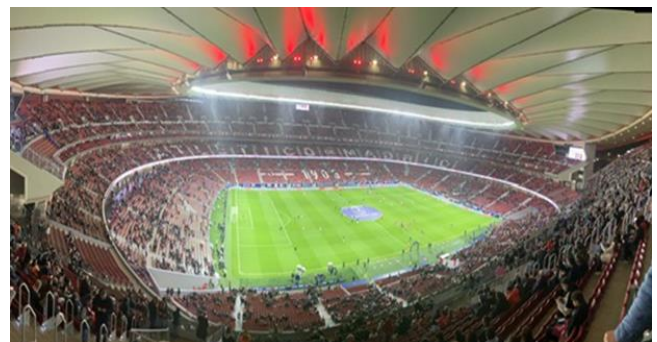
### Madrid Football Tour



During October half term, 66 students from Year 8 - 11 (three boys' team & one girls' team) embarked on a five-day football tour to Madrid where they had the fantastic opportunity to be coached by both Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid Academy coaches in their state-of-the-art training ground and facilities.



They played three matches per team against local opposition from the area, winning all 12 games during the stay playing some excellent football on the way. They also had the chance to go watch a La Liga game at the highly impressive home of Atletico Madrid 'Civitas Metropolitano', as well as a tour of the stadium itself.



All the players were an absolute credit, representing Heber to the highest standard throughout the tour. Can I say a huge thankyou to the sixth staff that accompanied me on the tour, giving up their half term break, Mr Martin, Mr Kynaston, Mr Parsons, Mr Calvert, Miss Smith and Miss Ardeshir.



Mr M Lindley, (Subject Leader of P.E.)

A great effort by the Year 11 boys football team on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, in the Cheshire cup. Narrowly losing out 6-5 on the dreaded sudden death penalties to Neston after a 2-2 draw.



Congratulations to the Year 8 girls 5-side team that won the tournament at Catholic High on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. Three wins and one draw. We are now hopeful the Year 8 girls in the District finals after Christmas.



Year 7 Girls 5-side football team have delivered an outstanding performance this term with four games, four wins and securing themselves through to the District final.



Mr M Lindley, (Subject Leader of P.E.)

## Netball

Congratulations to Poppy Hughes (8SF<sub>e</sub>) who has been selected for both Cheshire and Manchester Thunder U13's.



She also played in a tournament last weekend for Cheshire at Lancaster University and was picked as 'Coaches' Player of the Tournament'.

We have also had lots of netball success this term as Year 7,8 and 9 beat Tarporley high school away and Year 7A and B squad and 8A and B squad beat Abbeygate at home.



Well done girls some amazing talent in these teams.

Mrs H Corrigan, (Teacher of P.E.)

## Hockey

Congratulations to Toby Morris (12B&S) who has been selected for The England U18 National Hockey squad.



Toby also plays for the Men's first team at Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club competing in Men's National Hockey League Division 1 North.

A fantastic achievement!

Mr M Lindley, (Subject Leader of P.E.)

## Jujitsu

Congratulations to Maxwell McCleave (9AOg) and Charlie Rice (8JBr) who at the weekend were both awarded with their junior black belts in Jujitsu.



Mr R Martin, (Teacher of P.E.)

## Equestrian

A huge well done to Charles Gallacher (12B&W) who competed in the U18 Team Mounted Games in Australia in November on behalf of Team GB. The competition was fierce with Australia being the reigning World Champions. Despite this, and after 20 races on the final day of competition against the best riders from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and USA, the result was that GBR won by a single point. Congratulations to Charles and the team.

## Ice Skating

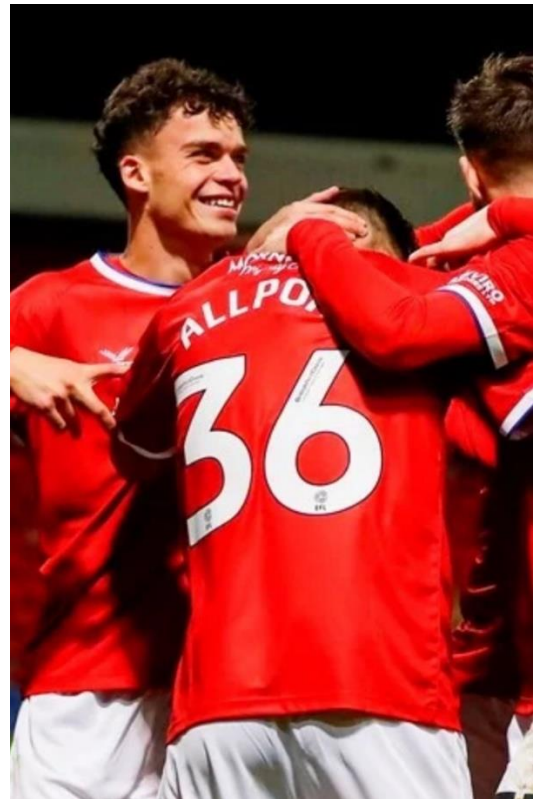
In April, Jessica Hennessey (13CSe) and her Pairs partner represented Great Britain at an ISU funded training camp in Berlin with other pairs skaters from around the world. They spent a week there and trained for seven hours each day on various jump, spin and pairs elements. They worked both on and off ice to improve flexibility and strength for the lifts and other pairs elements.



Mr M Lindley (Subject Leader of P.E.)

## Post-Heber Success

Congratulations to former student Zak Kempster Down who made his professional debut in November for Crewe Alexandra in the EFL trophy with a win against Newcastle United U21's.



Mr M Lindley, (Subject Leader 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](mailto: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/.../schoolmeals.aspx>

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

## NHS Hand Hygiene Advice



As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their classmates and studies. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The [e-bug resources](#) for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important - to your child or teenager.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the [NHS web pages](#). For useful handwashing tips please have a look at the [following NHS video](#)



## **Urgent Winter Water Safety Message**

RLSS UK offer safety advice for winter water safety, with simple steps to keep safe during the winter:

1. Never go onto the ice to play, to retrieve an object, or a pet
2. Never enter the ice to rescue somebody, call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service

### *What to do if you fall through the ice:*

- Keep calm and shout for 'help'
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice
- Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you anyway
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water
- Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up

### *What to do if you see someone fall through the ice:*

- Shout for assistance and phone the emergency services – call 999 or 112
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm
- Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats, such as a plastic bottle or football, across the ice for them to hold onto to stay afloat whilst help is on the way
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring the casualty

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety>

[Winter water safety](#) | [Staying safe on our canals](#) | [Canal & River Trust \(canalrivertrust.org.uk\)](#)