



HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

February 2026

www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk

Issue 141

Headteacher Editorial: I would like to begin by wishing you all a belated Happy New Year. I acknowledge the disruption caused on the first day of term due to the adverse weather conditions was not the start we wanted. We do not often issue a 'School Closure Notice', but with bus routes and food deliveries unable to operate safely, we felt it necessary to make an early decision. This allowed staff time to prepare for remote teaching, which I understand was appreciated. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

Tuesday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) internationally which marked the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

HMD reminds us of the millions of people who suffered under persecution and genocide and encourages us to reflect on the importance of standing against hatred in all its forms. As a school community, we took this opportunity to learn from the past so we can help build a future founded on respect, dignity, and compassion. By remembering these events together, we strengthen our commitment to ensuring that such atrocities are never repeated.

Staff recently celebrated the achievements of 27 students in Year 13 who received their EPQ results in January, with 60% of students achieving the top grades of A* or A, and a fantastic 78% awarded at least a B. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent research-led project completed in Year 12, allows students to investigate an area of their own choice and complete either a 5000-word dissertation or an artefact based on their findings. Worth half the UCAS points available for a full A-level, it is highly valued by many institutions and can result in lower grade offers from universities. The EPQ team (Mrs Budgen (Coordinator) and supervisors Mr Badley, Mr Garnham and Mr Upton) always enjoy reading the variety of subjects that students have chosen and this year was no exception, with dissertations ranging from the value of art therapy as rehabilitation and the impact of badger management on bovine TB, to artefacts illustrating urban garage design and the history of Japanese fashion. If any Year 11 students are interested in the EPQ, they should speak to Mrs Budgen to find out more.



As in previous editions, our most recent **Staying Safe @ Heber** bulletin is enclosed and focuses on the Safer Internet Day (SID) held nationally on Tuesday, 10th February.

Safer Internet Day 2026 **Tuesday**
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre
saferinternetday.org.uk

Nationally, Safer Internet Day 2026 is based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI' Click [here](#) for more information.

Following the tremendous success of our production of *Grease* in November and the Christmas Carol Concert in December, we now look ahead to our first major performing arts event of 2026: **Heber Footlights**. This annual showcase features student-devised performances, including vocal solos, small ensembles, dance pieces, and drama work. As we go to press, students are busy preparing for their auditions.

Further details can be found on the enclosed poster, and of course, in true Heber tradition, the evening will conclude with the much-anticipated announcement of our next November musical production. Be among the first to find out what it will be by securing your seat for Footlights an evening that promises wonderful entertainment and a grand reveal guaranteed to spark excitement (and a scramble for tickets!)



A reminder that our Spring Term Non-uniform Day in support of Red Nose Day will take place on Friday, 20th March. With a contribution of £1 per student, the school will be able to donate over £1,300 to this important cause.

We have two members of staff leaving Heber this term:

Mrs Taylor (2015-2026) joined Heber over ten years ago in September 2015 as a part-time Receptionist. Prior to joining Heber, Mrs Taylor worked as an Assistant Exams Officer at Queen's Park High School (2005-2015), an Exam Invigilator at Wirral Grammar School for Boys (2003-2005) and Customer Service in both the Nationwide and TSB Bank (1977-1985).

Mrs Briscoe (2016-2026) joined Heber nearly ten years ago in September 2016 as a Teaching Assistant. Prior to joining Heber, Mrs Briscoe worked as a delivery driver (2014-2016) and a disabled support companion (2009-2013).

Both Mrs Taylor and Mrs Briscoe are leaving us to enjoy their retirement, and we wish them all the very best.

Academic Year 2025-2026 (important dates)

Spring Term 2026

- 23.02.26 **Students return to School (Week A)**
- 26.02.26 Year 11 Learning Conference
- 26.02.26 Year 11 GCSE Parents' Info. Eve (SPH 5.30 p.m.)
- 27.02.26 Curry + Quiz Night (7 p.m.)
- 05.03.26 Year 10 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
- 09.03.26 Science Fair (SPH 4 – 7 p.m.)
- 09.03.26 Careers & Discovery Week Years 9 & 12
- 17.03.26 Heber Footlights [KS3] (MSH 7 – 9.30 p.m.)
- 19.03.26 Year 8 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
- 20.03.26 Non-uniform Day (RND 2026)
- 23.03.26 Year 10 Exams
- 26.03.26 Lower Sixth 18+ Parents Info Eve (MSH 6 p.m.)
- 26.03.26 ATC Civilian Committee AGM Mtg (7 p.m.)
- 01.04.26 **End of Spring Term (3.20 p.m. finish)**
- 02.04.26 INSET CPD Day 3 (Staff only)

Please visit our website for further information.



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

Employment Readiness Programme

12 Sixth Form students from Bishop Heber High School attended an Apprenticeship Mock Assessment Centre experience on 20th January at Chester Town Hall. The event, organised by The Pledge, was designed to give students experience of a variety of tasks typically used in the apprentice selection process. These included: a 20 minute one to one interview; a group presentation; and a group problem solving challenge. Our students performed brilliantly and have come away with a better understanding of the apprenticeship selection process and hopefully the confidence to and skills to be successful in their own future applications. They all have bright futures ahead of them.

Mr C Williams – Deputy Head of Sixth Form



The Royal Navy Catering Corps

On Thursday 5th February the Design Technology team organised a visit for the Year 10 Food preparation and nutrition class, from The Royal Navy Catering Corps. They gave the students a talk on careers and a ready steady cook along competition. The careers talk was about careers in the Navy and spoke predominantly about the Catering Corps. They explained the main roles and gave examples of the tasks and duties involved:

"Travelling around the world, your job will range from cooking for the ship's company on board warships or Royal Marines on land operations, to serving a fine dining

experience to politically influential VIPs and Royalty. Responsibility for ordering, receiving, and accounting for provisions to sustain the menus you write ashore and at sea"

The students were able to ask questions about the various roles including apprenticeships, salaries and expectations from the two officers. They also offered insights from their own experiences working at sea and on land.

After the talk the students then took part in a cook along, the officers organised the whole event including all of the ingredients and recipe cards. The students worked in groups to make spaghetti with meatballs, served with garlic bread. The officers turned the cook along into a competition with the winning team being Emily Hutson and Darcey Reynolds. All of the students received a certificate and enjoyed the session and enjoyed the opportunity to understand the various careers within the Royal Navy.

Mrs C Selwood – Teacher of Food Technology



Sixth Form visit to Parliament

Sixth Form Politics visited Parliament on Friday 30th January. The group had a tour which included watching a debate in the House of Lords and meeting a peer for a talk, Lord Russell of Liverpool. The students then explored the areas around Whitehall, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square. It was a great day that really helps complement the studying of A-level Politics.

Mr J Penlington - Subject Leader of History and Politics



Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is a national competition held each year for the best mathematicians from Year 9 to 11. This year, 11 Year 9s received a bronze award as did 12 Year 10s and six-year 11s. Only the top 16% of those entering receive silver award so the following students did incredibly well to earn silver award; Year 9 – Florence Wright (9CHe), Year 10 - Isla Hearn (10T&W), Emily Jones (10JPe), Oliver Langley (10AWn), Rebecca Lewis (10T&W), Harvey Roberts (10AWn), Year 11 – Jamie Bryant (11B&H), Lilly Deakin (11GLe), Jack Huxley (11B&H), Gabriel Jenkins (11B&H), Charlotte Millington (11GLe), Xavi Ralison (11B&H), Isla Saltiel (11KCa).

Congratulations to the Gold winners (top 8% of those that enter) who are all invited to sit the Pink Kangaroo or Grey Kangaroo follow-on round in March. Year 9 - Jacob Magrath (9CHe) – Best in school, Year 11 - Alexander Barrington-Crow (11RKy) and Luca Owen (11AWH).

Ms J Symes – Teacher of Maths, I/C UKMC

Spanish Exchange

We look forward to welcoming the students and teachers from our Spanish link school IES Bernardo de Balbuena to the return visit of the Spanish exchange from 16th - 23rd March 2026. The exchange has been running for over 30 years! Heber students are looking forward to sharing their lives in the UK with their Spanish friends.

Mrs L Stanisstreet – Subject Leader of Languages

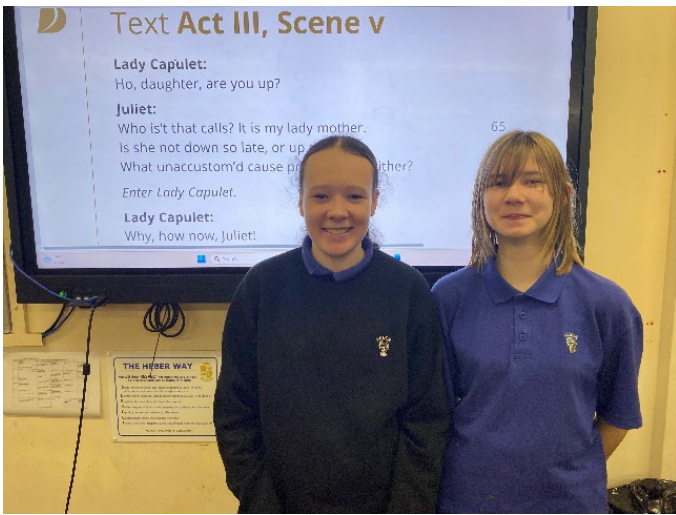


International Read Aloud Day

On Wednesday, 4th February as a school, we celebrated International Read Aloud Day, the day encourages people of all ages to share stories to build community, enhance literacy skills and foster a love of reading.

Students started the day sharing their books in form and then were encouraged to read in lessons across all our subjects.





Languages and English Department Collaboration

As part of our Reading for Pleasure project, students have been using their French and English skills to compose letters to our partner school in Morocco. Students used their language skills to introduce themselves and their families. They then shared a book or television series they enjoyed. Even students who study Spanish in their lesson time bravely challenged themselves to converse in French. Bravo! Year 7 students have been busy creating bookmarks and postcards to send over to Morocco.

Mrs C Barnett – KS3 English Coordinator

Music Exams

Congratulations also to Emily Hughes (9RWh), for recently passing her Grade 5 singing with **DISTINCTION**. As part of the examination Emily had to prepare a 25-minute recording that included technical work, an improvised riff, three songs with a memorised introduction to each, and several discussion questions. Well done Emily!

Congratulations also to Year 13 student Amelia Bocan on the award of Grade 8 Singing (Pop Vocal). Amelia received the outstanding result of **DISTINCTION**, in a challenging set of pieces recorded shortly before Christmas. Well done Amelia on this fantastic achievement.

Mr S Ferrelly – Subject Leader of Performing Arts



Sports

Rugby

Finally back on the grass for the first rugby match of the new year vs Altrincham Grammar. Wins for both Year 7 and Year 8 teams plus a new look for our Year 9, courtesy of Hampton Vets, Malpas. Well done everyone!



The penultimate Saturday of the season saw us in action against St. Edwards College with a win for Year 8 and very narrow defeats for Year 7 and Year 9 teams. With Year 9 playing some of the best rugby they have played all season. Well done to all involved.



It is now the end of the regular season for Heber Rugby. Wednesday, 28th January saw the 1st XV take on Adams Grammar and Saturday 31st January Year 8 and Year 7 teams beat Liverpool College with some fantastic performances. As always, thank you to all volunteers who keep the ship sailing. Roll on to the 7s season!



Cross Country

Congratulations to Lewis Dutton (9BL0) who got silver in the U15's boys race for the Shopshire Cross Country Championships 2026. This now qualifies him to represent Shropshire in the UK Inter Counties Cross Country at Wollaton Park in March.



Congratulations to Emilia Pyper (11RKY) who completed in the Cheshire Cross Country Championships. She came 3rd and qualified for the Intercounties race in Nottingham in March.



"I am pleased to announce that the Year 8 rugby team has secured a new kit sponsor for next season. We are very grateful to Gilding Orthopaedic Services for their generosity." – Mr J Brown - Teacher i/c rugby

A huge thank you to our Heber Sports Leaders who were fantastic helping run the Year 2 Multi Skills Event and supporting all the primary students around each of the activities.



Two excellent games for the Netball vs Abbeygate and honours even. Heber Year 8 winning 23-15 and Abbey Gate Year 7 winning 25-22. Well done everyone.



Netball

Two excellent games this week for the Year 9 & 10 netball teams against Upton. Year 10 winning 16-13 and Year 9 losing 9-18. Well done everyone.

Athletics

Well done to all the Year 8 students who represented the school in the District Indoor Athletics.



Great effort by the Year 7 boys at the District Indoor Athletics at Catholic High School Chester.



Table Cricket

Great start to the season with wins against Greenbank and Congleton.



Another win vs West Kirby to finish top of the group and now onto the semifinals! Well done team.



Another fantastic performance in the semi-finals to beat former champions Wirral Grammar by 22 runs. Congratulations!



British Sleddog Sports Federation British

On January 24th & 25th Imogen Baker (12OLi) was competing in Round Two of the British Sleddog Sports Federation British Championships held in Thetford forest. She won the gold medal in her category and is now eligible for team GB selection to compete in the European Championships in Sweden in October. Congratulations Imogen, what an achievement!



Hockey

Well done to your U16 girls hockey team with a 5-2 win against Abbey Gate. A great game by all.



Tennis

Well done to Maddie Crabb (10SFe) who won the U18 Grade 4 tennis tournament at Wrexham. A great achievement!



Tae Kwon Do

Sophie Hewitt (8B&S) came first winning Gold in the International Taekwondo Federation of Wales Under 14s category in Cardiff. She won the final unanimously with all four judges scoring in her favour. Congratulations Sophie, a fantastic achievement.



Fencing

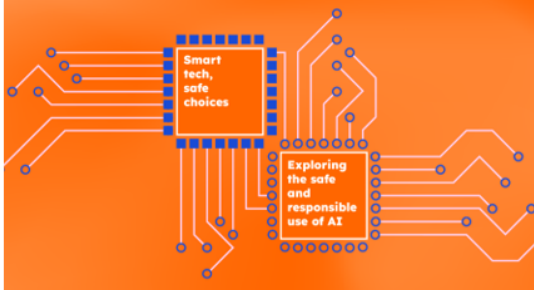
Becky Lewis (10T&W) competed in Solihull two weeks ago at the West Midlands Youth Fencing Competition and has qualified to compete in Sheffield in May representing the West Midlands at the British Youth Fencing Championships. Congratulations Becky!



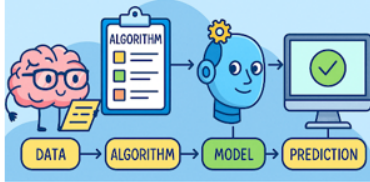
Staying Safe @ Heber – February 2026

SAFER INTERNET DAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. This year's theme is:



HOW DOES AI WORK?



TIPS FOR USING AI

<p>Understand AI</p> <p>As AI use grows and develops, it can feel harder to recognise. Have conversations with people you know about how they are using AI, where they have seen AI online, and the signs to look out for that something was created by AI or not.</p>	<p>Think critically about AI</p> <p>Whilst AI can be helpful, you need to ask yourself if it is developing your skills or whether you feel reliant on it. It could be limiting your creativity. AI Information is not always reliable and as new AI tools are developed, not all of them will be safe or trustworthy. Make sure that you use AI positively and check the information it provides.</p>
<p>Consider the ethics of new technology</p> <p>Consider the debates about the environmental impacts of AI, concerns around data use and creative ownership, and evidence that some tools can be harmful or biased. Do your own research and listen to the perspectives and experiences of other people.</p>	<p>Speak out or report any issues</p> <p>If you see AI being used in negative or harmful ways, such as for spreading false information or to bully others, report it on the platform where you see this happening. Although AI can be a source of advice or support, if you are struggling with any issue, online or offline, then it is best to talk to a trusted adult or your friends.</p>
<p>Reporting illegal AI images</p> <p>Illegal images of children that show abuse (including AI generated images), should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation and on the platform where they are being shared. AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Childline Report Remove (for images of under 18s).</p>	

21.02.2026
£12.50 Pp

18+ ONLY

Curry & Quiz Night
Bishop Heber
High School
Main School Hall
Teams of up to 8
7pm - 10pm
Friday 27th Feb 2026

Book now
Email: foh@heber.org.uk



HOME OF
617 (HEBER)
SQUADRON

ROYAL
AIR FORCE
AIR CADETS
the next generation

JOIN THE RAF AIR CADETS!

617 Heber Squadron is more than just a youth organisation, it's an opportunity to stand out above the rest.



Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00pm - 9:30pm



617 Heber Sqn, Heber School,
Chester Road, Malpas, SY14 8JD



oc.617@rafac.mod.gov.uk



linkt.ree/heber.rafac



NEXT INTAKE:

3RD MARCH 2026



BISHOP HEBER
SCIENCE FAIR

Monday 9th March 2026
4.30pm-7pm Sports hall

BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK

CURIOSITY:
What's your
question?

HEBER FOOTLIGHTS 2026 PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

CONCERT DATE: TUESDAY, 17th MARCH
(Including School Production reveal for November 2026)
SING PLAY ACT DANCE

Auditions for Applicants begin on Tuesday, 24th February



Tickets on sale from Wednesday, 4th March at
yourboxoffice.co.uk

Train To Teach

The Sandstone Trust is able to offer bespoke, high quality teacher training, leading to the Post Graduate Certificate of Education with Qualified Teacher Status. The Lead School within the Trust is Tarporley High School & 6th Form College and we work collaboratively with a large group of schools, offering both Placements and Professional Studies to our ITT PGCE Students, developing them into outstanding Teachers of the future. If you have finished a degree or have been working in a career for many years, our school-led course could be the way forward for you. It is a great way to gain both the qualifications and practical skills you need to achieve Qualified Teacher Status. We offer both Secondary and Primary routes and the course is delivered alongside our Higher Education Partner, The University of Chester.

In Partnership
with
University of
Chester



As a Partnership, it is our mission to provide high quality, school based, initial teacher training. We know our provision ensures trainees feel fully prepared for life in the classroom and a career in teaching. Trainee teachers will from day one, have the benefit of working with a strong alliance of schools during their training year. You will be placed in one of our schools who have a strong history of highly successful teacher-training, where you will receive intensive support from experienced teachers and mentors.

Your ITT PGCE Programme will consist of a combination of classroom practice and high-quality training from experienced school staff and University of Chester tutors. You will be given the opportunity to spend much of your time 'improving your teaching and students learning experiences' with high quality school placements from across our Partnership Group.

Find Out More..

SCAN ME



Please join us at our Train to Teach Afternoon on Monday 23rd March 2026 1.00 – 2.30 p.m.
@ The Library, Tarporley High School & 6th Form College



If you would like to attend, please confirm by emailing: Clare Rice, ITT & School Support
Business Development Manager

E-mail: crice@sandstonetrust.co.uk or Telephone: 01829 733868

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Find Out More..

SCAN ME



Please come and join us at our stand at The University of Chester Open Evening, Exton Park, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ. **Wednesday 25th March 2026, 5-7 p.m.**

Applications for our ITT PGCE Course can be made directly through the DfE:-

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

If you would like any advice or guidance before you apply to us, please contact:- Clare Rice,
ITT & School Support Business Development Manager

E-mail: crice@sandstonetrust.co.uk Telephone: 01829 733868

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:

Calculator - Casio fx-85GTCW Scientific (Solar Powered) £10.50

Calculator - Casio fx-991CW Scientific (Solar Powered) £20.00

Gum Shield £2.50

Core four pencil case - £4.00

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/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

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