



HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

September 2024

www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk

Issue 131

Headteacher Editorial: Firstly, I hope you all had a good summer break, and I welcome you back to the new academic year on behalf of all the staff. Looking back at the summer's exams, we are extremely proud that students have yet again achieved great results. They demonstrate excellent progress which is a result of the culture of hard work, dedication and commitment that they have developed during their five or seven years at Heber.

The Year 10s through to the upper Sixth Formers taking their exams upheld the tradition of excellence at Heber. We now take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past five or seven years and build on these successes to improve standards even further at Heber. Here are the highlights:

Sixth Form (A-level)

27% of all Upper Sixth A-level grades were A*/ A

54% of all Upper Sixth A-level grades were A*- B



We are delighted to be celebrating yet another set of excellent results with over 27% of all A-level grades awarded being either an A* or A. Furthermore, 54% of A-level grades were grade B or higher and over 76% of grades were A*- C. In our vocational courses, over 40% of grades awarded were Distinction* or Distinction, and an impressive 86% of all vocational grades achieved were Merit or above.

These outstanding results demonstrate once again that Bishop Heber High School is one of the leading comprehensive Sixth Forms in Cheshire. Many students will now be looking forward to taking up their places at prestigious universities across the country or in highly valued apprenticeship schemes, whilst others will be entering employment or taking gap years abroad. Performance across all subjects was impressive, but of particular note were Art, Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Extended Project (EPQ), French, Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Media Studies, Product Design and Sport where two thirds of all grades achieved were A*- B, or Distinction and above.

The performance of the following students is particularly impressive. Caspar Walker (Malpas) achieved an outstanding four A* grades and A* in EPQ and will now attend Lancaster University to study Physics. Hermione Ball (Malpas), Beatrice Morland (Holt) and Megan

Nicholson (Whitchurch) each achieved two A* grades and an A and intend to study Architecture at Loughborough University, Law at the University of Leeds and Fine Art at Newcastle University respectively. Hermione and Megan also achieved the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), receiving A* and A for their projects respectively. Noah Pearson-Herbert (Newton by Tattenhall) also achieved two A* grades and he plans to embark on an apprenticeship to pursue a career in policing.

Natalie Segamwenge (Holt) achieved excellent results with four straight A grades and an A in EPQ securing her place to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bristol. Madeleine Connor (Malpas) and Isaac Staden (Llay) both did wonderfully well to receive three straight A grades. Madeleine also achieved an A* in her EPQ and has achieved a place at Durham University for Japanese Studies, and Isaac intends to take a gap year and pursue his passion in Ski Racing. With A*, A and B grades along with an A* in EPQ, Elana Lumb (Malpas) is taking up a place at Nottingham Trent University to study Animation. Georgia Warburton (Tarpoley) also achieved A*, A and B grades and is going to Liverpool to study Geology.

Further recognition goes to Owen Tomlins (Malpas), who secured three A grades and a B, and will take a gap year whilst he decides on his next steps. A big well done also to Abbie Blake (Farndon) and Juliet Gordon (Farndon) who each received one A* and two B grades. Abbie looks forward to taking up her place at the University of Warwick to study Sociology and Criminology, whilst Juliet will study Architecture at Newcastle University. Head Prefect Nerys Williams (Farndon) achieved three A grades and has secured an Accountancy apprenticeship with the firm 'EY'.

A significant number of students deserve praise for achieving two A grades and a B, including Holly Edwards (Whitchurch), Robyn Hearn (Whitchurch), Jessica Hennessey (Chester), Joseph Huxley (Malpas), Willow Lewis (No Man's Heath), Emily Robinson (Farndon), and Head Prefect Charlie McMullan, who plans to study PPE at the University of York, following a gap year.

Well done also to the following students who have achieved the highest Distinction* grade in their BTEC / vocational courses: Ollie Holden, Charlotte Rushton (both Whitchurch) and Imogen Ward (Market Drayton).

We are extremely pleased that so many of our students have achieved their expected places at a wide range of universities. Students have once again secured places at top/prestigious institutions such as Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Newcastle, UCL, Warwick and York, amongst many others. These achievements demonstrate yet again that the School continues to provide exceptional education to students across Cheshire and the wider area, and most importantly, that our students feel challenged and supported to achieve their very best. Bishop Heber High School is an established centre of excellence for A-level and these results again demonstrate the outstanding efforts of both the students and staff.

Finally, I am sure that the students would also wish me to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the teaching and support staff at Heber who work tirelessly to help students achieve the best results they can.

Director of Sixth Form, Mr Garnham remarks that he is extremely proud of the effort students have made during their time in the Sixth Form. *"Our departing Year 13 students have been a real source of inspiration over the last two years. This cohort have demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and excellent working relationships with their tutors and teachers. They have continuously demonstrated positivity and have made a valuable contribution to wider school life during their time in the Sixth Form. I wish them all the very best with their exciting future plans and destinations. We of course remain available to all our alumni, for any support or guidance they may need again in the future. Stay in touch!"*

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

32% of all students' grades were 9-7 or D*/Distinction

67% of students achieved 5+ in both English and Maths

84% of students achieved 4+ in both English and Maths



Students, staff and parents are once again celebrating an outstanding and richly deserved set of GCSE results at Bishop Heber High School, which demonstrate the school's unwavering commitment to supporting all students to achieve their academic potential. Over 84% of students achieved grade 4 or better in both English and Maths and 67% achieved no less than a grade 5 in both subjects. These results are a clear reflection of the students' hard work over the past five years as well as the considerable support they have received from their families and dedicated staff in school.

Particular congratulations go to Emily Russell (Farndon) with her standout results - an incredible ten grade 9s. Hot on her heels is Amelia Bocan (Farndon) who secured an amazing eight grade 9s and two grade 8s. Also celebrating success are Leo Dixon (Wrexham) who achieved a fantastic six grade 9s, two grade 8s and a grade 7, Owen Shrimplin (Whitchurch) who achieved an impressive five grade 9s, four grade 8s and a grade 7, Hope Wormley (Whitchurch) who achieved four grade 9s and five grades 8s, as well as Keziah Burge (Bickerton) and Laura Berisa (Clutton) who both achieved five grade 9s, two grades 8s and two grade 7s.

In addition to this, 33 Year 11 students also achieved the top grades (9-7) in at least seven subjects. These include: Amelie Barry (Bunbury); Phoebe Blake (Farndon); Beth Bryant (Malpas); Reuben Burge (Bickerton); Ella Catherall

(Aldersey); George Chaloner (Shocklach); Oliver Chapman-Brown (Holt); Rebecca Clark (Malpas); Olivia Davies (Farndon); Charlotte Dunn (Farndon); Thomas Edwards (Bronington); Rhys Evans (Wrexham); Kathryn Gray (Wrexham); Nox Guenther (Chester); Kristel Guerra (Threapwood); Emily Haycox (Wrexham); Katie Holmes (Tattenhall); Joseph Hughes (Tilston); Maisy Jeffery (Threapwood); Owen MacKreth (Tilston); Kian Maxwell-Keys (Malpas); Zoe McKew (Malpas); Austin Morgan-Williams (Handley); Lawson Morgan-Williams (Handley); Eliza Sugden (Whitchurch); Amber Thompson (Whitchurch); Ted Tindle (Malpas); Maisy Tudor (Nomansheath); Jonnie Vernon (Farndon); Edie Walker (Whitchurch); Harriet Wheeler (Tattenhall); Molly Williams (Malpas); and Thomas Wyndham Lewis (Nomansheath).

Performance across all subjects was strong again this year and there were some incredibly impressive achievements for individual subjects including at the higher level. Of particular note were Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Drama, English Language and Physics where over 90% of all grades achieved were no less than a grade 4.

The Class of 2024 have been a particularly special year group, and this Year 11 cohort will be remembered for their commitment to their studies, their invaluable contributions to the school and wider community and for their engagement in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities such as drama, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, music, and a wide range of sports.

Head of Year 11 Mr Ridley could not be more pleased, *"I am delighted with these outstanding results and am genuinely proud of this year group. It has been a real pleasure working with these students since they were in Year 7, particularly over the past two years when they demonstrated dedication to their GCSE studies and a determination to succeed. This cohort have also acted as role models for their fellow students, conducting themselves with maturity and kindness. The students can take their next steps with pride and confidence, and I wish them all the best for the future."*

Our Director of Sixth Form, Mr Garnham added, *"Following on from the fantastic Sixth Form results received earlier, these results demonstrate that Bishop Heber High School continues to offer exciting and successful learning opportunities for all young people. We are looking forward to welcoming most of our Year 11 students into the Sixth Form where they will be valued senior members of the Heber community."*

The School is also celebrating the success of Year 10 students, who were once again entered for their English Language GCSE a year early, with strong individual and collective results. 84% of students achieved a grade 4 or better – a great springboard for their Year 11 GCSEs next Summer!

We say farewell to staff who are either retiring or moving to promoted posts in other schools at the end of each academic year. I would now like to introduce you to the ten new colleagues who are joining Heber this new academic year as teaching and support staff:

Dr S Andrews (SAn) ⇨

Teacher of Science

BVSc Bachelor of Veterinary Science (University of Liverpool)

PGCE in Secondary Science (Biology Specialism) (University of Chester)

Dr Andrews joins us as an Early Careers Teacher (ECT)



Mr C Lewis (CLe) ⇨

Teacher of Maths i/c STEM

BSc Mathematics (Open University)

PGCE in Secondary Mathematics (University of Chester)

Mr Lewis joins us from Rhosnesni High School



⇨ Ms C Barnett (CBT)

Teacher of English

BA English Literature (Lancaster University)

PGCE in Secondary English (University of Manchester)

Ms Barnett joins us from Sir John Talbots



⇨ Mrs A Stoddart (ASt)

Subject Leader of Art

MA Education Practice (Liverpool John Moores University)

PGDE in Art and Design (Liverpool John Moores University)

Mrs Stoddart joins us from Knutsford Academy

Mrs S Griffiths (SGr) ⇨

Subject Leader of Maths

Masters in Mathematics (Lancaster University)

PGCE in Maths (Keele University)

Mrs Griffiths joins us from Alun School



Mrs M Whitmarsh (MWh) ⇨

Teacher of English

BA (Hons) English Literature and History (University of Liverpool)

PGCE (University of Chester)

Mrs Whitmarsh joins us from The Oaks Academy



⇨ Mrs L Griffiths (LGr)

Teacher of Religious Education

BA (Hons) Philosophy (University of Liverpool)

PGCE in Religious Education (University of Chester)

Mrs Griffiths joins us from Furze Platt Senior School



⇨ Miss D Baer (DBe)

Finance Assistant

Miss Baer joins us from Iscoyd Park

Mrs E Hopps (EHs) ⇨

Teacher of Spanish

BA (Hons) French and Spanish (Cardiff University)

PGCE in Spanish (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Mrs Hopps joins us from Laurus Cheadle Hulme School



Mrs C Buapim ⇨

Kitchen Assistant

Mrs Buapim has relocated from Thailand



⇨ Mrs L Jones (LJo)

Teaching Assistant

BA (Hons) in Primary Education (Glyndwr University)

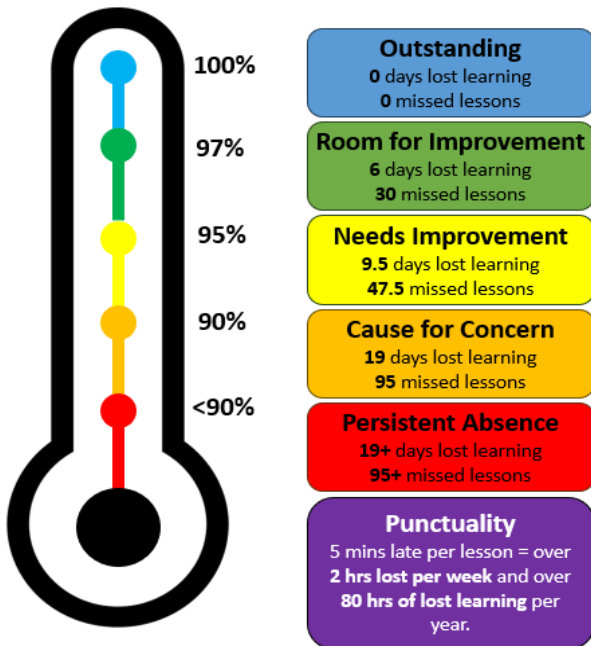
Mrs Jones joins us from University .

As usual, we will keep you updated with any staff changes as and when they happen during the year.



Our continued focus on reading at Bishop Heber High School has resulted in excellent outcomes for students. It is well known that reading for pleasure significantly improves a person's vocabulary, spelling and maths which leads to better academic qualifications and life chances. There is also good evidence linking reading to positive mental health, reducing social anxiety and improving self-esteem. A recent study found that reading for pleasure declines as young people get older, for example, 30% of children aged 8-10 said they read for pleasure every day, which fell to 20% for children aged 11-13 and further again for those aged 14-17 to just 15%. However, at Heber along with support from families, we are working hard to address this and to ensure that young people in our school see the value in reading. This year we continue our 'Words Matter' programme, by starting every morning with form time reading. We would like to say thank you to all families for reminding students to bring a reading book into school. Reading is regularly planned into our lessons and homework also. Students are encouraged to visit our brilliant library, where our librarian Ms Codner is keen to speak to students about what they're reading, recommend books or order in specific books on request. We are very pleased to report that book loans from our school library are at an all-time high and that in the recent NGRT reading test, students performed exceptionally well.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS IN LESSONS AND LEARNING



We know that students have the best chance of success in all areas of school life when they are **in lessons and learning**. As we start the academic year, we would like to remind families about our high standards and expectations with regards to attendance. We expect students to be in school every day and punctual for each lesson. Evidence based research shows that students underachieve by a whole grade in each subject, for every 10% of school days missed. When a student is absent, they develop gaps in their learning and miss out on the social, emotional and cultural benefits of being at school.

We request that all medical or dental appointments are made outside of the school day. When your child is absent, please inform the school before 8.30 a.m. by emailing attendance@heber.org.uk or by calling the absence line on 01948 860571, selecting option 2. When your child returns to school, they should catch up on any missing work.

THE HEBER WAY Mobile Phone Policy



NEVER USED, SEEN or HEARD

If you choose to bring your mobile phone* into school:

- ✓ Turn it off
- ✓ Put it in the bottom of your bag
- ✓ Do not use it between 8:55 a.m. and 3:20 p.m.

*The use of the term 'mobile phone' includes associated items such as airpods, connected smart watches and other electronic devices.

What happens if my phone is **seen or heard**?

Choice	Action	Consequence
If your phone is seen and/or heard...	You will be asked to hand your phone to the member of staff immediately for safe keeping	Phone locked away in MSO for you to pick up at 3.20 p.m. 1. C2 logged on Arbor and email sent home.
If you refuse to hand your phone in... 	You will be asked to hand your phone to SLT immediately for safe keeping	Phone stored safely in MSO for you to collect at 3.20 p.m. 1. After-school Detention 2. C5 logged on Arbor and email sent home
If you continue to refuse to hand your phone in to SLT...	Reflect on behaviour and final warning and opportunity to hand phone to SLT before parents are contacted	Internal Exclusion until the phone is handed in
If you continue to refuse to hand your phone in to SLT...	Your Parents/Carers will be contacted to come to school and collect the phone	Suspension if you do not comply

In February 2024 the government released *Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day* (click [here](#)). Following stakeholder consultation, the decision was made to use the guidance to introduce a never used, seen or heard approach (option d) at Heber. The policy is research based supported by a range of studies, including, the United Nations study in 2023, which cited that mobile phones interrupt learning in a school environment.

We wrote to all parents/carers in July outlining the new policy which also included the infographic guidance (above) to outline the consequences if a student's phone is seen, used or heard during the school day between 8.55 a.m. and 3.20 p.m. (i.e. from bell to bell).

We then took the opportunity to launch the new policy during the final weeks of the summer term in July. It was impressive to see how well the students (and staff) adapted to the changes and we are pleased with the impact of the policy so far. Thank you for your continued support as we embed the policy this academic year.

Academic Year 2024-2025 (important dates)

02.09.24	INSET CPD Day 1 (Staff only)
03.09.24	INSET CPD DAY 2 (Staff only)
04.09.24	Year 7 (only) - Induction Day
04.09.24	Lower Sixth - Induction Day
04.09.24	Upper Sixth - Applications Day
05.09.24	STEPS Day (15 min appointments) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
06.09.24	ALL students normal Timetable (Week B)
12.09.24	Lower Sixth Parents' Info. Evening (MSH 6 p.m.)
13.09.24	Jeans 4 Genes (non-uniform) Day
24.09.24	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg (7.15 p.m.)
25.09.24	Year 6 Open Day - School closes at 2.30 p.m.
26.09.24	Year 13 Pre-Mock Examinations (SPH)
03.10.24	Year 7 School Production Taster Day
03.10.24	Harvest School Assembly
10.10.24	Governors' Day in School
10.10.24	Year 10 English Parents' Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
11.10.24	Non-uniform Day (Heber Charities)
14.10.24	Year 11 Autumn Mock GCSE Exams start
15.10.24	DofE (Bronze) Parents' Mtg. (MSH 6 p.m.)
24.10.24	Sixth Form Open Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
25.10.24	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
28.10.24	Half Term

04.11.24 Students return to School (Week B)

04.11.24	Year 10 GCSE English 'Walk Through' Paper
06.11.24	Year 7 Parents' Info. Evening (SPH 6 - 8 p.m.)
07.11.24	PSHCE Day
07.11.24	Remembrance Assembly (SPH 9.10 a.m.)
14.11.24	Upper Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
18-22.11.24	School Production 'We Will Rock You'
25.11.24	Year 11 Mock GCSE Language Speaking Test
28.11.24	Careers Convention
05.12.24	Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
12.12.24	KS3 Christmas Disco (MSH 7 - 9 p.m.)
17.12.24	Carol Concert (St Oswald's, Malpas 7 p.m.)
19.12.24	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
20.12.24	End of Autumn Term (12.30 p.m. finish)

Spring Term 2025

06.01.25	Students return to School (Week A)
09.01.25	Lower Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
13.01.25	Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations start
20.01.25	Year 7 Assessment Week
30.01.25	Year 9 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. remote)
06.02.25	Year 9 GCSE Options Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
10.02.25	Upper Sixth Mock Examinations start
13.02.25	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
13.02.25	KS3 Valentine Disco (MSH 7-9 p.m.) tbc
14.02.25	INSET CPD Day 3 (Staff only)
17.02.25	Half Term
24.02.25	Students return to School (Week A)
25.02.25	Year 10 GCSE English Mock Exam
27.02.25	Year 11 Learning Conference
27.02.25	Year 11 GCSE Parents' Info. Eve (SPH 6 p.m.)
04.03.25	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg (7.15 p.m.)
06.03.25	Year 10 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
10.03.25	Science Fair (SPH 4 - 7 p.m.)
10.03.25	Careers & Discovery Week Years 9 & 12
14.03.25	Non-uniform Day (RND 2025)
18.03.25	Heber Footlights [KS3] (MSH 7 - 9.30 p.m.)
20.03.25	Year 8 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
24.03.25	Year 10 Exams
26.03.25	Lower Sixth 16+ Parents Info Eve (MSH 6 p.m.)
27.03.25	Y11 / Y13 Year Photographs (MSH 9-10.30 a.m.)
04.04.25	End of Spring Term (12.30 p.m. finish)

Summer Term 2025

22.04.25	Students return to School (Week A)
22.04.25	Lower Sixth Mock A-Level Exams
24.04.25	Year 10 English Mock Exams (P1 & 2)
25.04.25	Non-uniform Day (Friends of Heber)
26-28.04.25	Year 10 DofE Silver Award Expedition (tbc)
26-28.04.25	Year 13 DofE Gold Award Expedition (tbc)
28-30.04.25	Year 11 GCSE Languages Speaking Tests
29.04.25	Year 7 Menai Trip - Parents' Mtg. (MSH 6 p.m.)
01.05.25	Year 7 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
05.05.25	School closed: May Day Bank Holiday
08.05.25	GCSE external exams start
22.05.25	Upper Sixth Leavers Assembly
23.05.25	Year 10 English GCSE Paper 1 (a.m.)
23.05.25	Year 11 Celebration Assembly
23.05.25	Year 11 Exam Preparation Period starts
23.05.25	Upper Sixth Study Leave
23.05.25	Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball (Chester Racecourse)
23.05.25	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
26.05.25	Half Term
02.06.25	Students return to School (Week B)
02.06.25	Year 7 End of Year Examinations start
06.06.25	Year 10 English GCSE Paper 2 (a.m.)
09.06.25	Year 8 & 9 End of Year Examinations start
10.06.25	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg. (7.15 p.m.)
16-18.06.25	Year 10 Mock GCSE Languages Speaking Tests
19.06.25	Year 9 GCSE Parents' Award Eve (SPH 6 p.m.)
20.06.25	New Year 7 Languages/Science Day
23-27.06.25	Year 12 DoE Gold Award Expedition (tbc)
23.06.25	Activity Week (Year 7-10) & Menai (Year 7)
23.06.25	Year 10/Lower Sixth - Work Experience Week
03.07.25	Sixth Form University Day (Bangor) - tbc
04.07.25	Year 11 Prom (Carden Park)
08.07.25	Years 7-9 Sports Day (@ Heber)
09.07.25	Arts Celebration Evening (5 - 7 p.m.)
10.07.25	KS3 Sports Award Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
10.07.25	ATC BBQ. (7.30 p.m.)
11.07.25	Year 9 DofE (Bronze) Award Training (tbc)
15.07.25	Year 6 Intake Day and Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
18.07.25	End of Summer Term/Year (12.30 p.m. finish)
21.07.25	INSET CPD Day 4 (Staff only)
22.07.25	INSET CPD Day 5 (Staff only)

Please visit our website for further information.



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

CORE 4: We expect that all students will be ready to learn for each lesson and in preparedness have the CORE 4 with them. These are the essential items of school equipment that students must have:

1. School Bag
2. School Diary (Planner) – Year 7 Autumn Term only
3. Pencil case (items available from the Finance Office) to include: Scientific calculator, Pens (preferably black & a **green** pen for feedback), pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler, glue, scissors, colouring pencils
4. Correct exercise books* / folders / paper / P.E. kit
It is important that students remember to bring the above stationery into school as teachers will not be permitted to share equipment with students.

* inc. Reading Book

Uniform: We currently have many items of kindly donated "pre-loved" school uniform and PE Kit available in School. To donate or see a current stock list (sizes), please contact Mrs Partington mso@heber.org.uk