



HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

September 2026

www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk

Issue 145

Headteacher Editorial: I'd like to warmly welcome you back to the new academic year and I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we begin this new academic year, we take great pride in this summer's exam results and look ahead to build on these successes. Our shared goal remains clear: to continue to raise standards to ensure that every student thrives at Heber. Here are the many highlights:

Sixth Form (A-level | BTECs)

30% of all Upper Sixth A-level grades were A*/ A

61% of all Upper Sixth A-level grades were A*- B



Collectively, almost one third of all A-level grades awarded this year were either A* or A, while an impressive 61% were awarded at grade A*-B or higher and over 80% of A-level entries achieved grades A*-C. Vocational BTEC outcomes were also exceptional, with an outstanding 76% of all grades awarded at Distinction* or Distinction and 98% of grades achieved at Merit or above.

At subject level, outcomes across the curriculum were extremely impressive. Particular congratulations go to students and staff in Art, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, Further Mathematics, Mathematics, Physics, and Politics, where more than 65% of all grades awarded were A*-B. Students studying Biology also enjoyed another outstanding year, with almost 38% of grades awarded at A*-A. Vocational outcomes were equally impressive, where over two-thirds of all grades awarded were at Distinction* or Distinction. Most notably, every student studying Sport achieved either a Distinction* or Distinction grade.

Many students deserve special recognition for their outstanding achievements this year. Emily Russell (Farndon) and Lawson Morgan-Williams (Handley) achieved an outstanding four A* grades each. Emily has secured her place at the University of Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, whilst Lawson will study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Sheffield. Also celebrating exceptional success is Hope Wormley (Whitchurch), who achieved three A* grades and has secured her place at Newcastle University to study Marketing and Management. Phoebe Blake (Farndon) achieved two A* grades and an A, securing a place to study Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

Further congratulations go to Olivia Else (Nomansheath), Imogen Ford (Handley), Eliza Sugden (Whitchurch) and

Lila Larsen (Stretton), who each achieved A*, A and B grades. Olivia's achievement was complemented by an A* in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), whilst Eliza also achieved an A grade in the EPQ. Their achievements will enable them to pursue future studies in Law, Psychology, English Language and Linguistics, and Criminal Justice and Criminology respectively. Meanwhile, Alfie Fox (Threapwood) achieved an outstanding combination of A*, Distinction* and Distinction grades and is applying for an apprenticeship in the financial sector.

Further outstanding achievements were recorded by Leo Dixon (Malpas) and Austin Morgan-Williams (Handley), who each achieved an A*, two As and a B grade. Leo will study Mathematics at Lancaster University whilst Austin will study Economics and Mathematics at the University of Bristol. Zoe McKew (Malpas) and Abigail Segamwenge (Wrexham) both achieved an A* and two A grades. Zoe also achieved an A* in the EPQ and has secured her place at the University of Glasgow to study Psychology, whilst Abigail's outstanding results have enabled her to pursue a place to study Medicine. Owen Mackreth (Tilston) also achieved an A*, two As and a C grade, enabling him to pursue his chosen pathway in Aerospace Engineering.

Further congratulations go to Head Prefect Ted Tindle (Malpas), Thomas Wyndham Lewis (Nomansheath) and Owen Shrimplin (Whitchurch) who all achieved three A grades. Ted additionally achieved an A grade in the EPQ.

Oliver Chapman-Brown (Holt), Roahon Doyle (Tattenhall), Thomas Edwards (Bronington), Rhys Evans (Pandy, Wrexham), Joseph Hughes (Tilston), Maisie Jeffery (Threapwood), Franz Saksarov (Tattenhall) and Daniel Willis (Clutton) each achieved two As and a B grade. Oliver also achieved an A* in the EPQ, whilst Joseph and Thomas each achieved an A grade. Amongst this group, Joseph will progress to the University of Manchester to read History, Maisie will pursue Veterinary Medicine, and Franz has secured his place at the University of Southampton to study Aerospace Electrical Engineering.

Outstanding vocational results were also achieved by several students. Lara Cleland (Clutton), Lily Harnden (Marbury) and Edie Walker (Whitchurch) each achieved A, Distinction* and B grades. George Chaloner (Shocklach) and Ruby Dratwinska (Whitchurch) also performed exceptionally well, each achieving Distinction*, B and B grades. George has secured his place at Cardiff University to study Human Geography, whilst Ruby has secured her place at the University of Leeds to study Business Management.

Congratulations also go to Laura Berisa (Clutton), Izabelle Hillary (Tilston) and Molly Williams (Nantwich), who each achieved an A* and two B grades. Laura's achievements, complemented by an A grade in the EPQ, have enabled her to progress to study Psychology, whilst Izabelle has secured her place at the University of Leeds to also study Psychology. Molly's excellent results have enabled her to progress to study Biomedical Sciences.

Special recognition must also go to Elliot Bosley (Farndon), Molly Brereton (Sarn) and Harry Nove (Farndon), who each exceeded their already ambitious target grades in at least two of their subjects - demonstrating the determination, resilience and commitment that have characterised this year's cohort. Molly has secured a place to study Bioveterinary Sciences, whilst Harry is looking forward to pursuing his next steps in Sport and Exercise Science and Elliot is seeking to secure an apprenticeship. Their achievements provide an excellent example of the outstanding progress made by students across the Sixth Form, from a variety of different starting points.

On behalf of all staff and governors, I'd like to congratulate every student that received results this summer and wish them every success and happiness for the future. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved and we look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.

Director of Sixth Form, Mr Jonathan Garnham, added: "We are incredibly proud of this year's Year 13 cohort and the outstanding results they are celebrating today. Throughout their time in the Sixth Form, they have demonstrated resilience, maturity and a genuine commitment to both their studies and the wider life of the school. It has been a privilege to work with such a positive and ambitious group of young people.

We wish every student every success in the future and hope they will remain in touch as valued members of the Heber alumni community."

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

28% of all students' grades were 9-7 or D*/Distinction

66% of students achieved 5+ in both English and Maths

83% of students achieved 4+ in both English and Maths



Students, staff and parents at Bishop Heber High School are celebrating another year of strong GCSE results. Across all Year 11 entries, 83% of grades achieved were at least a Grade 4, 66% were a strong pass at Grade 5 or above, and over 28% of the grades accomplished were the very highest grades of 7-9. These results reflect the dedication, resilience and ambition of both students and staff, and once again demonstrate the school's commitment to supporting every young person to achieve their academic potential.

Particular congratulations go to Beth Manson (Tattenhall), whose incredible seven Grade 9s make her one of the standout performers of the year. Close behind her are Sophie Doyle (Tattenhall), George Osian Jones (Bangor-on-Dee), Xavi Ralison (Malpas), and Tilly Russell (Tattenhall) who each achieved six Grade 9s.

In total, three students achieved an outstanding ten grades at 7-9, including Gabriel Jenkins (Whitchurch), Tia Kitchen (Wrexham) and Sienna Rafferty (Malpas). They were closely followed by twelve students who achieved an impressive nine grades at 7-9: Isobel Adams (Ightfield), Daniel Aka (Malpas), Daniel Atkinson (Overton), Teagan Ayton (Malpas), Jamie Bryant (Malpas), James Davidson (Clutton), Frankie Farmer (Tattenhall), Rosie Gaskell (Churton), Charlie Lawrence (Tattenhall), Harry Mohan (Tattenhall), Eva Perry (Malpas) and Finlay Russell (Farndon).

In addition, a further 19 Year 11 students also achieved the top grades (7-9) in at least seven subjects. Achieving eight grades at 7-9 were Alexander Barrington-Crow (Barton), Orla Dancy (Tattenhall), Lilly Deakin (Tattenhall), Jack Huxley (Malpas) and Emlyn Walker Jones (Bulkeley). Achieving seven grades at 7-9 were Grace Carter (Wybunbury), Charlotte Catherall (Aldersey), Erin Chadwick (Farndon), Jacob Gearing (Burwardsley), Isabelle Gilbert (Hanmer), Ethan Kirk (Farndon), Drummond Morgan (Whitchurch), Archie Osmond (Horseman's Green), Luca Owen (Rhostyllen), Marcelina Szczypa (Churton), Eleanor Wheeler (Tattenhall) and Isobel Zazzi-Vincent (Pulford).

Performance across all subjects was strong again this year, with some particularly impressive achievements at the higher levels. Of particular note were Biology, Chemistry, Design and Technology, Drama, English Language, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, Music, Physical Education and Physics, where over 90% of all grades achieved were a Grade 4 or above.

This Year 11 cohort has also made invaluable contributions to school life and the wider community, taking part in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities including drama, music and a wide variety of sports, with many students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award and raising significant sums for charity along the way.

The School is also celebrating the success of its Year 10 students, who once again sat their English Language GCSE a year early. 85% of students achieved a Grade 4 or above, with 66% securing a strong pass at Grade 5 or above and 21% achieving the top 7-9 grade, a great springboard for their Year 11 GCSEs next summer.

Year Leader, Mr Ridley, said, *"This cohort of students has worked extremely hard, and I am delighted and genuinely proud of what they have achieved. Over the past two years they have shown real dedication to their studies, alongside a maturity and kindness that has made them excellent role models for their fellow students. Heber has a long history of academic success, and this cohort has continued to build on that tradition. I would like to thank their families for their support throughout this journey, and I wish every one of them the very best as they take their next steps with pride and confidence."*

Our Director of Sixth Form, Mr Garnham, added, *"Bishop Heber High School continues to offer exciting and successful learning opportunities for all our young people. We are delighted to see so many of our Year 11 students achieving the results they need to progress, and we are looking forward to welcoming a significant majority of them into our Sixth Form, where they will continue to thrive as valued senior members of the Heber community."*

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 eight new colleagues who are joining Heber this new academic year as teaching and support staff:

Miss A Brooks (ABr) ⇨

Teacher of Girls PE

BSc in Sport and PE (Cardiff Metropolitan University formerly UWIC)

PGCE in PE (Cardiff Metropolitan University)

Joins us from NEWCIS Young Carers.



Mrs M Hughes ⇨

Teaching Assistant

HND in Applied Biology (University of the West of England)

Joins us from Tattenhall Park Primary School



⇨ Miss C Ijewsky (CIj)

Teacher of Art

BA in Fine Art Studies (University of Worcester)

PGCE in Art & Design (University of Chester)

Miss Ijewsky joins us as an Early Careers Teacher (ECT)



⇨ Mrs A Cooper (ACo)

Teaching Assistant

BSc Landscape and Garden Design (Writtle College)

PGCE Design Technology (Edge Hill University)

Mrs Cooper joins us from Chester Diocese

Mrs S Maddox (SMA) ⇨

Kitchen Assistant

Diploma in Professional Bakery (Reaseheath College)

Joins us from Sainsbury's, Whitchurch



Mr O Dixon (ODi) ⇨

Teacher of RS | History

BA in Philosophy (University of Liverpool)

PGCE in English (Liverpool John Moores University)

Joins us from Malbank School & Sixth Form College.



⇨ Ms H Nutton (HNu)

Assistant Headteacher i/c Learning + Teaching / CPD

BA in MFL (Newcastle University)

PGCE in French (University of Manchester)

Joins us from Tarporley High School.

⇨ Mr E Harvey (EHa)

Teacher of History | RE

BA in History (University of Lincoln)

MA in International and Military History (Lancaster University).

Mr Harvey joins us as an Early Careers Teacher (ECT)



Mr J Pedder (JPr) ⇨

Subject Leader of Maths

BEng in Mechanical Engineering (University of Liverpool)

PCGE in Mathematics (Edge Hill University)

Joins us from Blacon HS



Mr P Howard (PHo) ⇨

Caretaker

Joins us from Sainsburys.



Miss J Proctor Crozier ⇨
(JPC)

Teacher of History
BA in Chinese with History
(Newcastle University)
PCGE in History
(University of Chester)
Miss Proctor Crozier joins
us as an ECT



Ms U Mort (UMo) ⇨

Deputy Headteacher: DHT i/c
Curriculum and Achievement
BA Hons in History
(University of Manchester)
PGCE in History (Manchester
Metropolitan University)



As usual, we will keep you updated with any staff changes as and when they happen during the academic year. New posts are advertised on the School's website ([here](#))

As you will be aware Ofsted completed an inspection at Heber in the last week of the school year. The school was last inspected less than four years ago so the timing was somewhat unexpected. The visit also presented its challenges with Year 11 and Year 13 having left school as well as the planned Year 6 Intake Day during the second heatwave. Notwithstanding, I hope to be able to share their findings shortly once we've had sight of the draft report - there's much to celebrate.



Traditionally, I set out the school's main priorities or any new initiative +/- policy for the upcoming year in this communication. Whilst the Ofsted findings are embargoed presently, it will not be surprising that Ofsted agreed with much of our own self-evaluation (SEF) of the school's strengths and areas for continued success. Not to second guess their 'next steps' recommendations that will be published we will continue to develop the areas below to sustain our students' outstanding achievements over time.

Mrs A Samuel (ASa) ⇨

Cover Supervisor
BA (Hons) in English and
American Literature
(University of Warwick)
Mrs Samuel joined us a
Teaching Assistant last
academic year



⇨ Mrs B Richards (BRi)

Finance Assistant
Joins us from Marches
Academy Trust



Restructured Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

As stated in the end of term Newsletter, Mr M Ridley Thomas and Miss H Windsor are stepping back from their leadership responsibilities after an incredible 40 years collective service in the SLT. Mr Ridley Thomas will continue to support CCF Cadets, DofE and be responsible for the construction of the School's Timetable this year and Miss Windsor will be a part-time Teacher of Biology.

As part of the restructure - Ms Mort will move to a new deputy headteacher position. National adverts attracted almost 100 applicants for the other positions, and I'm delighted to introduce Mrs Abbotson, Ms Barnett and Ms Nutton (previous page) in their new roles within SLT.



⇨ Mrs R Abbotson (RAB)
Deputy Headteacher: DHT i/c
Personal Development and Culture
BA Hons and MA in History
(University of Cambridge)
PGCE in History (University of
Birmingham).

Ms C Barnett (CBt) ⇨

Assistant Headteacher: Raising
Standards Lead (RSL) KS3 |
Transition)
BA English Lit (Lancaster University)
PGCE in English (University of
Manchester)



Attendance underpins everything we seek to achieve at Heber. Students benefit most when they are in school, taking part in teaching, discussion, practice and experiences that build knowledge and understanding over time. Strong attendance is closely linked to higher attainment and supports wellbeing through routine, positive relationships, a sense of belonging, and access to trusted adults and peers. Our aim is for all students to achieve 100% attendance. We ask families to by arrange any appointment outside school hours whenever possible.

Curriculum remains at the heart of our work. We are fully staffed with expert teachers and excellent support staff, whose commitment is reflected in the strong outcomes our students achieve year after year. Our focus is on delivering an ambitious, inclusive and responsive curriculum. Students are expected to engage fully in lessons, make the most of extra-curricular opportunities, and take pride in completing homework, revision and assessment preparation to the highest standard.

Building on the success of our reading focus, we will place greater emphasis on spelling and handwriting this year. Some students may receive additional support with literacy and numeracy, while all students will be expected to present their work carefully and accurately. Regular reading, proofreading and handwriting practice strengthen communication, note-taking and exam performance.

Uniform: Full details of our Uniform Policy can be found in the Parent A-Z and on the school website. A range of donated pre-loved uniform and PE kit is available through school. For donations or current stock information, please contact Mrs Partington at mso@heber.org.uk

Academic Year 2026-2027 (important dates)

01.09.26	INSET CPD Day 1 (Staff only)
02.09.26	INSET CPD Day 2 (Staff only)
03.09.26	Year 7 (only) and Lower Sixth - Induction Day
03.09.26	Upper Sixth - Applications Day
03.09.26	STEPS Day (15 min appointments) 4 p.m.- 8 p.m.
04.09.26	STEPS Day (15 min appts) 8.30 a.m.- 4 p.m.
07.09.26	ALL students normal Timetable (Week A)
10.09.26	Lower Sixth Parents' Info. Evening (MSH 6 p.m.)
18.09.26	Jeans 4 Genes (non-uniform) Day
22.09.26	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg (7.00 p.m.)
30.09.26	Year 6 Open Day - School closes at 2.30 p.m.
01.10.26	Harvest School Assembly
01.10.26	Year 7 School Production Taster Day
02.10.26	Year 13 Pre-Mock Examinations (SPH)
02.10.26	Non-uniform Day (Heber Charities)
08.10.26	Governors' Day in School
12.10.26	Year 11 Autumn Mock GCSE Exams start
13.10.26	Meet the SENDCo 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
15.10.26	Year 10 English Parents' Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
21.10.26	DofE (Bronze) Parents' MTG. (MSH 5.15 p.m.)
22.10.26	Sixth Form Open Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
23.10.26	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
26.10.26	Half Term

02.11.26 Students return to School (Week B)

04.11.26	Year 7 Parents' Info. Evening (SPH 6 - 8 p.m.)
05.11.26	PSHCE Day
05.11.26	Remembrance Assembly (SPH 9.10 a.m.)
12.11.26	Upper Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
17-20.11.26	School Production 'Grease'
23.11.26	Year 11 Mock GCSE Language Speaking Test
26.11.26	Careers Convention 5.30 - 7.30 p.m. (MSH SPH)
01.12.26	Meet the SENDCo 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
03.12.26	Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
07.12.26	Year 7 Trip to Chester Zoo
10.12.26	KS3 Christmas Disco (MSH 6 - 8 p.m.)
15.12.26	Carol Concert (St Oswald's, Malpas 7 p.m.)
17.12.26	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
18.12.26	End of Autumn Term (12.30 p.m. finish)

Spring Term 2027

04.01.27	Students return to School (Week A)
07.01.27	Lower Sixth Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
11.01.27	Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations start
12.01.27	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg (7.15 p.m.)
25.01.27	Year 7 Assessment Week
26.01.27	Meet the SENDCo 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
28.01.27	Year 9 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. remote)
04.02.27	Year 9 GCSE Options Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
04.02.27	Year 10 GCSE English Mock Exam
08.02.27	Upper Sixth Mock Examinations start
12.02.27	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
15.02.27	Half Term
22.02.27	Students return to School (Week A)
25.02.27	Year 11 Learning Conference
25.02.27	Year 11 GCSE Parents' Info. Eve (SPH 5.40 p.m.)
26.02.27	Curry and Quiz Night (MSH 7 p.m.)
01-05.03.27	Year 10 Mock GCSE Languages Speaking Tests
04.03.27	Year 10 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
08.03.27	Science Fair (SPH 4 - 7 p.m.)
08.03.27	Careers & Discovery Week Years 9 & 12
12.03.27	Year 10 Mock Exams
16.03.27	Heber Footlights [KS3] (MSH 7 - 9.30 p.m.)
17.03.27	Gold DofE Parents Expeditions Mtg MSH 5.15 p
18.03.27	Year 8 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)

19.03.27	Non-uniform Day (RND 2025)
23.03.27	Meet the SENDCo 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
24.03.27	Lower Sixth 18+ Parents Info Eve (MSH 6 p.m.)
25.03.27	End of Spring Term (12.30 p.m. finish)

Summer Term 2027

12.04.27	Students return to School (Week B)
15.04.27	Y11 / Y13 Year Photographs (MSH 9-10.30 a.m.)
15.04.27	Year 7 Parents' Eve (4.15 - 7.15 p.m. SPH)
19.04.27	Lower Sixth Mock A-Level Progression Exams
20.04.27	Year 7 Menai Trip - Parents' Mtg. (MSH 6 p.m.)
21.04.27	Year 10 English Mock Exams (P1 & 2)
23.04.27	Non-uniform Day (Friends of Heber)
26-30.04.27	Year 11 GCSE Languages Speaking Tests
03.05.27	School closed: May Day Bank Holiday
06.05.27	GCSE external exams start
14-15.05.27	Year 9 DofE (Bronze) Award Training
24.05.27	Year 10 English GCSE Paper 1 (a.m.)
24.05.27	Year 9 End of Year Examinations start
26.05.27	Upper Sixth Leavers Assembly 4.30 p.m. MSH)
28.05.27	Year 11 Celebration Assembly
28.05.27	Year 11 Exam Preparation Period starts
28.05.27	Upper Sixth Study Leave
28.05.27	Upper Sixth Leavers' Ball (Chester Racecourse)
28.05.27	Close for Half-term (3.30 p.m.)
28.05.27	Half Term
07.06.27	Students return to School (Week A)
07.06.27	Year 8 End of Year Examinations start
08.06.27	Year 10 English GCSE Paper 2 (a.m.)
14.06.27	Year 7 End of Year Examinations start
15.06.27	ATC Civilian Committee Mtg. (7 p.m.)
15.06.27	Meet the SENDCo 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
17.06.27	Year 9 Award Eve (SPH 6 p.m.)
18.06.27	New Year 7 Languages/Science Day
21.06.27	Activity Week (Year 7-10) & Menai (Year 7)
21.06.27	Year 10/Lower Sixth - Work Experience Week
02.07.27	Year 11 Prom (Carden Park)
06.07.27	Years 7-9 Sports Day (@ BHHS)
07.07.27	Arts Celebration Evening (5 - 7 p.m.)
08.07.27	ATC Summer BBQ. (7.30 p.m.)
13.07.27	Year 6 Intake Day and Evening (SPH 6 p.m.)
16.07.27	End of Summer Term/Year (12.30 p.m. finish)
19.07.27	INSET CPD Day 3 (Staff only)
20.07.27	INSET CPD Day 4 (Staff only)
21.07.27	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



All students are expected to bring their **CORE 4** equipment to school every day so they are fully prepared for learning.

CORE 4 includes: a school bag, reading book, pencil case and whiteboard equipment containing a scientific calculator, black and green pens, pencils, a sharpener, eraser, ruler, glue stick, safety scissors and colouring pencils, along with the correct exercise books, folders, paper and PE kit as required.

Need equipment? Most CORE 4 items can be purchased from the School Finance Office.

Each newsletter includes a '**Staying Safe Bulletin**', highlighting relevant safeguarding themes and emerging issues. These bulletins are designed to help parents support their child's safety and wellbeing. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Form Tutor, who can offer advice and signpost further support where needed.