HEBER HIGHLIGHTS

October 2024 www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk Issue 132

Headteacher Editorial: Despite the weather, the new school year has started off very well indeed and I congratulate the new Year 7, sixth formers and new staff for their contributions so far. As is traditional at this time of year, the DfE have just published the school's most recent GCSE results which compare favorably both locally and nationally (click here) and this has yet again set the standard for the rest of the year ahead.

Charity: **Jeans for Genes Day** is our annual fundraising event and took place on Friday, 13th September. Staff and students were encouraged to wear **jeans** and make a donation. Together we raised almost £920 for gene therapy & research.

To accommodate the Year 11 and 13 pre-mock exams in the Sports Hall the **Harvest Assembly** was earlier in our school calendar and took place on Thursday, 3rd October. This year represents the 20th year of the school's association with Chester Aid for the Homeless (CATH).



Chester Aid to the Homeless

Once again it was great to see the decorated Harvest Boxes donated in the assembly. Rob Whittall CATH CEO took all this produce to their HQ to distribute through their foodbanks and networks to support the homeless in our locality. CATH is also a nominated Heber Charity, and we hope to be able to make a sizable donation in the new year to support their work in Chester and Cheshire West.

The annual **Governors' Day** in school started in 2007 and was held again on Thursday, 10th October this year. The governors visited almost 40 lessons and met with student groups throughout the school. In the afternoon their focus was on setting the 2024-2025 strategic direction. The school continues to set itself the highest of expectations and its ambition for the students will never be compromised so that every student at Heber can be the best they can be both inside and outside of the classroom.



Our Upper Sixth students are again demonstrating their high aspirations by preparing applications for competitive university courses and institutions. Bishop Heber Sixth Formers have an excellent record of securing places at highly respected 'Russell Group' universities, including at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge.

Seven students have already submitted 'early entry' applications to Oxbridge for courses including Computer Science (Ethan Jones), English (Millie Hale), History & English (Martha Hamlyn), Natural Sciences (Lulu Ralison), Medicine (Hannah McKew), Mathematics & Computer Science (Megan Coward) and Experiential Psychology (Isabelle Shillabeer). Many other Upper Sixth students are now working hard to finalise their UCAS applications with an internal deadline to submit these by Wednesday, 18th December. Meanwhile, this year's members of our 'Employment Readiness Programme' are looking forward to their upcoming external sessions on CV and interview preparations.



Our annual school production is fast approaching! This year we are proud to present ***We Will Rock You*** on the tenth anniversary of our original staging. The music of Queen is timeless of course, and together with Ben Elton's witty script this will be a show not to be missed! Tickets go on general sale on **Tuesday 5th November** for the w/b 18th November**.** These can be purchased from our box office (Tue 19th | Wed 20th (here) Thurs 21st | Fri 22nd here). We hope to see you there.

Finally, we also have one member of staff leaving Heber this half term who I would like to mention:

Miss J Middleton (2017 to 2024) joined Heber seven years ago initially, as the school's Receptionist but was then successful at interview for the Headteacher's P.A. / Admissions Officer posts which she has fulfilled with great dedication and commitment to both the school and the families it serves. Miss Middleton leaves us to join Cheshire Wildlife Trust as a Support Care Officer with responsibility for fundraising and marketing for the charity. Our loss is certainly their gain, and we wish her every success in her new role.

Academic Year 2024-2025 (important dates)

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 - 7 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 (5.30pm – 7.30pm)
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.)

Please visit our website for further information.

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

Senior Maths Challenge

The UKMT Senior Maths Challenge is a national competition for the best mathematicians in years 12 and 13 (with a few select Y11s invited as well) with only the top 7% of those entering receiving gold certificates and being invited to the follow-up Senior Kangaroo challenge round.

Notable silver winners were Theo Hughes, Emily Russell, Harry Nove, Megan Coward, Keira Hirst, Ethan Jones, Oliver Hennessey and Hannah McKew. All others featured in the photo were bronze certificate winners.



The following students did incredibly well to win gold certificates and qualify. Year 12 - Leo Dixon (12NSt), Owen Shrimplin (12PMu) and Kathryn Gray (12RMy). Year 13 - Lulu Ralison (13KLo) and Fletcher Morgan-Williams (13KWi). And particular mention to Cameron Fisher (13 B&H) who qualified for the Maths Olympiad Round with a perfect score in the Senior Challenge!



Additionally, 8 6th form girls were invited to take part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls, and congratulations to Lulu, Megan, Keira, Hannah and Emily who all received the top award of a Merit in this extremely tough competition.



Mr K Lowe - Teacher i/c Maths challenges

GCSE Business and Enterprise & Marketing visit

Year 10 recently visited Manchester City Football Club, to learn about the business in question. Students experienced a business talk, to learn about where the revenue comes from, including TV rights, sponsorship, ticket sales through to the match day program booths and food kiosk contributions. This was followed up with a tour of the ground, where they experienced the tunnel club and importance of match day hospitality to increase revenue streams.









Mr B Lonergan – Head of Business Studies

Year 8 Rivers Trip

The annual Year 8 Rivers trip took place at the end of October. Year 8 form groups 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

Labour Conference

We were very excited that one of our A Level Politics students, Anna Gibson (13LSt), was given the opportunity to speak at this year's Labour conference. She has written a summary for the event for us. 'On the 22nd of September 2024, I had the honour of attending and speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool as part of my role as Cheshire Rep on the Youth Focus North West Steering Group. It was there that I had the opportunity to host the Youth Zone Opening Reception and deliver a speech highlighting how essential youth voice is and how politicians should be actively listening and engaging with young people in our society. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to network with many politicians, including Helen Hayes MP who is the newly elected chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee as well as Emily Spurrell who is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside. It was so interesting and insightful to speak to politicians, organisations and pressure groups at the conference and I relished the opportunity to demonstrate my passion for youth voice.'



Mrs C Williams – Teacher of History.

Poetry day

All of Year 7 were treated to an hour of entertainment and poetry from Dead Poets Live on Friday 18th of October. Three talented professionals brought verse to life and made us all think about where poetry comes from and what purpose it serves. Many of our Year 7 students joined in the performance and shared their singing, chanting, acting and poetry skills (as well as good sense of humour). This event links to our study of poetry later in the year and we hope it has inspired our students to get reading and writing!

Ms C Barnett - Teacher of English i/c KS3 Phase Leader







Performing arts news

On October 3rd, the Performing Arts department celebrated the achievements of fifty Y7 students who took part in our 'Musical Production Day'. The day was packed with excitement, creativity, and a love for the Performing Arts as students participated in two workshops where they learned both the lyrics and the choreography for ‘Radio Gaga’, ‘We Will Rock You’, and ‘We Are the Champions', from our forthcoming school production of ‘We Will Rock You’. The students demonstrated exceptional effort and enthusiasm throughout each workshop, fully immersing themselves in the activities.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly our final performance, where the students took to the stage to showcase everything they had learned. As the day came to an end, many of the students were so inspired that they decided to take their passion for performing to the next level by joining the cast of our ‘We Will Rock You’ November show.

These students will begin to attend afterschool rehearsals alongside the main cast who are working incredibly hard to bring ‘We Will Rock You’ to life. The cast have been dedicating countless hours to perfecting every song, move, and scene. Their commitment to learning the choreography and perfecting vocal harmonies has been nothing short of impressive. Their enthusiasm is simply a Kind of Magic!

The school production of ‘We Will Rock You’ will be showcased from 19th - 22nd of November, and the cast couldn’t be more excited! They have been working tirelessly, putting in Killer Queen levels of energy into every rehearsal, determined to ensure that We Will Rock You will be an unforgettable show. Whilst we don’t want to put anybody Under Pressure, tickets will go on sale from Tuesday November 5th. Please use the QR code attached to visit our online box office.

On behalf of the Performing Arts department, congratulations to all the Y7 students for making the 'Musical Production Day' such a huge success! We would encourage all the students to continue developing their interest in the Performing Arts department by joining one of our many extra-curricular activities on offer. We would also like to thank our cast for working so hard on ‘We Will Rock You’; you truly are the Champions! ROCK ON!

Our current clubs are:
Y7/8 Drama Club – Monday lunchtime
KS3 Choir – Wednesday lunchtime
Rockappella – Wednesday lunchtime
Y7/8 Boys’ Vocal Ensemble – Thursday breaktime

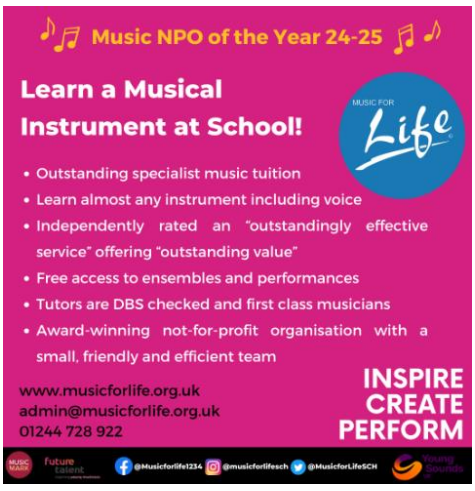
Miss A McCulloch – Teacher of Music











CCF Heber Camping

Heber Royal Navy Cadets completed two field days where they participated in activities such as building model A-frames to simulate a replenishment at sea, a nerf gun range, drill practice and learnt to tie the many knots they will need for future sailing events. Well done!



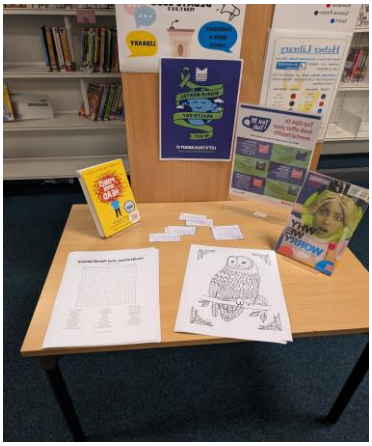




World Mental Health Day

On the 10th October we raised awareness for World Mental Health Day. We had mindfulness colouring, word searches, recommended books on display and crisis cards that included mental health support channels for students to take away. It was a great atmosphere, with the mindfulness colouring being a huge success. I look forward to hosting more events like this in the library.

Miss S Codner – The School Librarian







Book of the Month

Our student book of the month is The Reapperance of Rachel Price by Holly Jackson.

“It’s about a girl whose mother goes missing sixteen years ago and is presumed dead, one day she reappers whilst they are filming a documentary about her dissaperance however, her daughter doesn’t think her mothers story is true. I would recommend this for any readers aged 13 and over.” – Evie Williams (9AWi).



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is coming to Heber! The Canteen will open early from Tuesday 5th November to provide breakfast between 8:15am - 8:45am. The following items will be available:

Food
Sausage/Bacon bap £1.40
Vegetarian Sausage/ Bacon bap £1.40
Toast 30p
Pancakes 45p
Bagels 70p
Half bagel 40p
Bagel with cream cheese £1.00
Half bagel with cream cheese 60p
Fruit 30p
Porridge pots £1.10
Yogurts 60p
Cereal bars 70p
Cereal and milk 85p

Drinks
Water 65p
Eco Friendly flavoured 500ml water bottle – 85p
Juice 65p

Themed Food Festival

The canteen is taking part in our Themed Food Festival on the 7th of November. As part of Year 9’s PHSCE day the canteen is planning on servicing the following menu items:

Loaded Wedges with cheese & Bacon or vegetarian bacon & Tomato Salsa.
Loaded Beef or Quorn Chilli Nachos with Tomato Salsa.
Chicken or Vegetarian Fajitas in Pitta with salad and Tomato Salsa.

All of the above can be served with either hot sauce / sweet chilli sauce or garlic mayo.

These items will be the meal of the day and priced at £2.20.

Local Employers

We are hosting our Careers Convention on Thursday 28th November and we are looking for local employers to join us. This is a fantastic evening where the halls fill with alumni, employers, universities and colleges, allowing parents and students to explore and be inspired by the many career pathways available to them. Our last careers convention took place in November 2022, and it was a huge success! If you’d like to get involved please send an email to careers@heber.org.uk



Pre-Loved Uniform

On Tuesday the 29th and Thursday 31st of October the pre-loved uniform will be out for parents to collect between the hours of 2pm to 6.30pm.

Heber Leisure

Gym sessions are available at Heber Leisure for students in years 11, 12 & 13. For more information, please visit the Gym where you can speak to a member of the team.



SPORT

Rugby

Our 1st XV progress to the next round of the Schools Cup after our visit to Shrewsbury School ended in a draw. Also, a massive thank you to team sponsors SkyVision and TAPC Architects. The new kit looks great!

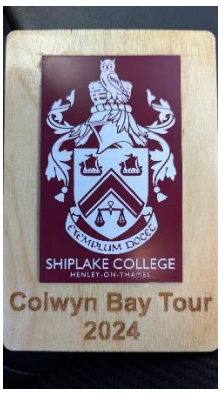


Saturday rugby is back up and running with 4 teams in action against Liverpool College. Losses for both Year 9 and Year 10 teams but a win for Year 8 and a massive 11 tries to nil victory for Year 7 in their first ever school game! Well done!



Well done to the Year 10 Rugby team who beat Shiplake Rugby 41-19 while on their tour of North Wales. Thank you also to all of those behind the scenes who made the fixture possible and to all the parents who turned up to watch.









The Year 7 rugby team played 5 teams at their tournament at Tarporley High School and took home 5 wins! Outstanding effort from all involved and great parental support from the sidelines! Well done to everyone involved.



Congratulations to the 1st XV who battles a strong St. Anselm College side to a 31-5 victory. MoM went to Noah Green (12NSt) for a hat trick of tries and a special mention to Oscar Robinson-Lea (11JGl) on his senior debut.







Football

An excellent performance and a 4-0 win for the Year 8 football team VS QPH in the first round of the District Cup. Scorers Bull (2), Hay, Brotherhood. POM Fin Hay.



A great start to the National Cup for the U13 girls and a comprehensive win vs EPCofeE.



Congratulations to the Y7 team on their first game and win in the National Cup vs The Marches winning 5-1 on the 8th of October. Sheard (3) Nelson & Williams. POM Sam Sheard.



Good win for the Y8 boys football team in the National Cup beating Thomas Adams 6-4 in a highly competitive game. Scorers R.Norman (3), Baker, Burrell (2). POM Ollie Burrell.





A great effort by the Year 7 football team in their first District tournament representing the school. One win, two draws and three losses. Well done everyone!



Congratulations to the Y8 B team on winning the District 7 aside tournament on the 19th September.



Congratulations to Y8 winning 6-0 tonight in the Cheshire cup. Many thanks to Helen and Charles @blueloos event hire for their kind sponsorship of the kit.



Good win for the Year 9 football team tonight beating Bishops 2- in the Chester Cup. Scorers – Finch, McEwan. PoM – T.Braun



Congratulations to Harry Harding in Year 9 who has had a fantastic 2023-2024 season winning the Cheshire West Country Pool Championships, awarded player of the year and has now been chosen to compete in Nationals in November.



Excellent 3-2 win in the Chester Cup for the girls U13 football side vs a very good QPH team tonight. Scorers – Stockdale, Atug, Edwards. PoM – Betty Brookfield



Netball

Congratulations to our Year 11 girls, silver medallists at the Chester and District Netball Tournament! Outstanding performances from the girls.



Congratulations to Sophia Haworth (10AWh) who has been selected for U17s player development programme for Birmingham, Panthers Netball Club.



Congratulations to the U15 girls Netball Team semi-finalists at the County Netball Tournament. Outstanding performance well-done girls!



The U15 Netball squad were oustanding in the second round of the Sisters in Sport National competition. Beating Merchant Taylors 39-18! Well done girls!



Cross Country

Congratulations to the Heber Inters Girls X-Country Team on an outstanding performance winning round one of the X-Country Cup and through to the regional finals in Bromsgrove in November. Emilia Pyper (10RKy), Harriet Beattie (9KCl), Eleanor Wheeler (10ABl), Nia Manson (8G&T), Isobel Adams (10DUp), Harley-Mai Norman (10AWh).



Congratulations to Nia Manson (Year 8) who came 4th in the English Schools Fell Championships in the Year 8/9 category today. A fantastic achievement.





Well done to our Cross Country runners competing in the district competition this week. Some excellent individual performances and successes for the minor boys, junior and inter girls.

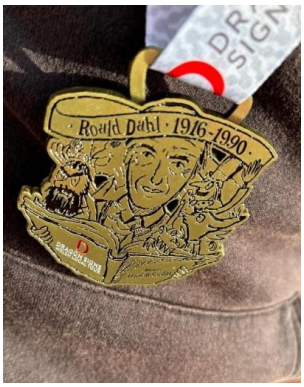






Tennis

Well done to Alfie Erraji (10KCa) back to back weedkends of tennis and finals. Runner up last week and this week tournament winner! Already a grade 5 tournament win & grade 4 tournament win. Congratulations!







Motor Racing

Congratulations to Callum Graham (7S&W) who has taken part in a number of National Motorsport Club Competition and the British Championship. He managed to take First place in the Shennington Autumn Cup. Huge well done!



Kayaking

Congratulations to Tom Kearsley (9KCl) who recently took part in the Welsh Junior Championshops in West Wales. His fastest run times in both the U13's and U14's category making Tom the 2024 U13's and 2024 U14's Welsh Champion.





Equestrian

Oliver Rowlands (10AWh) was lucky enough to be selected to represent England in a team competition in September where him and his teammates came a very respectable 3rd place overall. Ollie also enjoyed other success picking up a win at the Royal International Horse Show, which is the biggest showing championship during the summer, and more recently he has qualified to compete at the Badminton Horse Trials next year which again is an incredible achievement. Congratulations on all your success Ollie, we can't wait to see what you achieve next!







Maisie Jeffery (12SSm) rode her pony Orchid's Yoica (Jaffa) in two classes at the British Dressage High Profile Show at Aintree Equestrian Centre over two days. They were placed 5th on Friday in the Elementary 5 Silver Section bringing home a rosette from their first high profile show. On Saturday they stepped up to ride the FEI dressage Pony Team Test, the first time both rider and pony have competed at this level. They were out of the placings but did themselves proud in a very competitive field. Congratulations Maisie what an experience!





Staying Safe @ Heber

During October we encourage our students to think about how they can look after their mental health

WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU USE THE CHAT HEALTH TEXT SERVICE:



If you are feeling mentally unwell you could consider these steps:

1. Tell someone you can trust such as a friend or family member.

2. If you find it hard to talk about your feelings face to face, you could tell your trusted friends about this via an online chat or you could consider joining a safe online support group.

3. Try relaxation techniques such as practising controlled breathing. You could try the free NHS relaxation app Chill Panda.

4. Give yourselves some time away from your phone, social media and technology when you are at home e.g. 30 to 60 minutes a day.

5. Exercise for at least 30 minutes a day. Don't worry if you are not particularly sporty, short walks are good ways of managing anxiety.

6. In school you can speak with your Form Tutor or any trusted adult.

7. Ask your parents or carers to take you to your GP if you require specialist support or medical help.

8. If you or a member of your household is experiencing a mental health crisis, ask for help: Samaritans: 116 123 ChildLine: 0800 1111
If you live in Cheshire West or Cheshire East there is a dedicated crisis line: 0300 303 39
If you live in Shropshire the dedicated phone line is: 0300 124 0365
If you live in Wrexham call 111 and select option 2 to speak to a member of the mental health team

Main School Office

Your help with the following would be appreciated. Lost property:

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

Equipment:

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

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

Attendance

Our school's attendance policy has recently been

updated and can be located under the parents' section of the school website for further information.

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

Finance

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

Casio Scientific Calculator fx-83GTX £8.00

Casio Classwiz Scientific Calculator fx-83GTX
£20.00

8GB USB Memory Stick £5.00

Gum Shield £2.50

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

Free School Meals

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

The School also benefits from additional funding for children who are registered for free school meals or who have been registered in the past six years. The funding gives every student in the schooling system the same opportunities to succeed.

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

Am I eligible for Free School Meals?

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

• Income Support

• Income Based Jobseekers Allowance

• Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
• Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

• Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed
£16,190

• The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

• Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

• Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than
£7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Do you receive Working Tax credit?

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

Free School Meals Helpline - 0300 123 7039

Free School Meals Information –

https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/.../schoolmeals.aspx

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