

# Newsletter

## July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I reflect on this academic year, I also reflect on my time at Helen Allison School. At times it has been tough, especially navigating the pandemic but mostly it's been a brilliant journey. The staff and pupils are, and will continue to be truly inspirational. They are what makes this the most amazing place.

Yes, there are quantifiable achievements such as the positive outcome from Ofsted and the Advanced Autism status, but then there are the other things that matter most to the young people and parents: concerts, residentials, sporting events, sports day, fun day. These events where the whole school community come together are what makes this school truly marvellous.

Our older students graduated this term, transitioning into new settings or employment. We are proud of each and every one of them and know that they will be fantastic ambassadors for the school in the future. Good luck and keep in touch.

Many of you will be looking forward to the summer holiday which can be a time for relaxation, family time and fun, however, we appreciate that for some it can also be a difficult time of year. Remember, the school is here to support if they can so never worry about contacting us, there is always someone on call.

I will miss this place, but know that our paths will cross again. I'm only 15 minutes down the road after all!

*Simon*  
*Principal*



### British Values

The various activities highlighted in this newsletter are an example of just some of the diverse learning opportunities that are undertaken by our students. Many of these activities take place within the local community as well as at school for real opportunities to explore these values in order to support students to understand the needs of others in a wider context. Helen Allison School teaches students by planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. British values embedded within this curriculum and these values are defined as: Democracy, Rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect, Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter we would like to hear from you. If you would like to contribute to the next Newsletter, please let Francesca Shaxted have your article.

## ♥ Heartbeats ♥



Leeds class have been learning about the body's circulatory system this term by using stethoscopes to listen to heart beats. They were really quiet in order to hear the heartbeats and then were able to compare these amongst themselves.

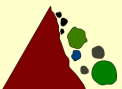
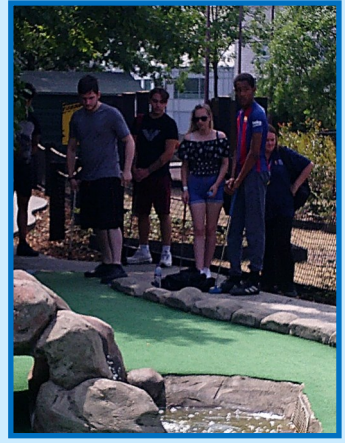
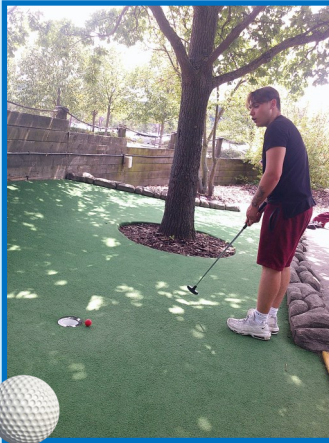
## May the force be with you!



Warwick class have been having lots of fun investigating forces. They enjoyed using the climbing frame at the school to drop objects and make changes to speed up and slow down the falling time.

## End of Term Crazy Golf

As the term began to come to an end, Group 3 students at the Hub got to enjoy some fun at the crazy golf park in Bluewater as part of their PE lesson. The competition was as hot as the weather with many of the students becoming very competitive!



## Coastal Erosion

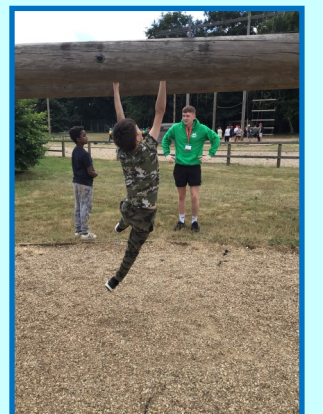


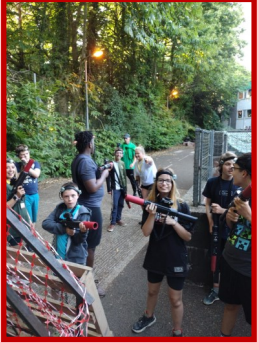
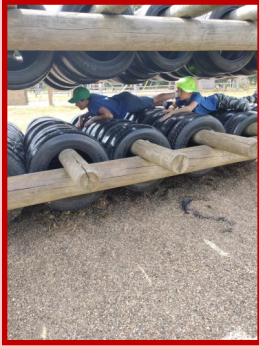
During Topic, Rufus class learnt about coastal erosion. They used water, sand and pebbles to demonstrate how waves destroy the coastline and what happens when there is a sea wall. Everyone had lots of fun and it was safe to say the sea was very choppy that day!!

# Residential Trip 2022

This term we took a group of pupils from across the school on our annual residential trip. We went to Kingswood Outdoor Education Centre in Ashford from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July. As ever our pupils loved all the activities and benefitted greatly by making new friends in their activity groups which were across year groups. The weather was kind during our visit and our pupils were busy doing activities from nine in the morning until nine at night. As you can imagine this led to some great fun, wonderful moments and memories as well as a lot of very tired minds and bodies by Friday afternoon.







A massive well done to all pupils who attended and a big thank you to all the staff who volunteered their time to facilitate the trip!

## Curly's Farm

This term at Curly's Farm the students have been expanding their already built upon knowledge of the animals and their care needs. Two of our students from the main school also visited this time and loved it so much they will be going back in September with their new classes. The students were also lucky enough to see a calf being born which was very special. We look forward to spending more time at Curly's next term.



## Clay Work



The Hub students have been creating their very own clay pots and intricate designs. Here are some examples of what they have been doing.

## OT Top Tips: Summer Activities

The summer holiday is a great opportunity to develop sensory and motor skills. Here are some ideas. What more can you think of?

- Daily or weekly plans and calendars can support regulation by keeping events predictable.
- Sand is great for developing the tactile system, e.g. drawing in it, building things with it, finding treasures in it...
- Making ice lollies by freezing flavoured milk, fruit purees or whole fruit in lolly moulds is great for developing fine motor skills.
- Water cannons are great for co-ordinating both sides of the body.
- 'Painting' with water or drawing in chalk on garden walls, floors and fences is great for fine and gross motor skills.
- Activities on inflatables are great for core stability and balance, e.g. throwing at targets or playing catch.

## Sports Day

Sports Day on the last Friday of term was another fantastic event and thank you to all those parents who came along to watch and support our pupils. It was so great to see pupils working in their teams to complete the different relay races as fast as they could and help each other to be successful. The dress up race and staff race, as always, provided the laughs, whilst our tug of war was back with a bang or rather a heave-ho. Well done to everyone who participated and kept going in the heat.



# Family Fun Day



On Friday 22nd July, we held our annual Family Fun Day event. As always there were a huge variety of stalls designed by classes and teams. As well as our usual very popular bottle tombola, BBQ and ice cream stalls, we also had a fabulous human fruit machine, tin can alley and a fantastic art exhibition of the students work from art week! On the field we had a bouncy castle, beat the goalie and crazy golf which proved to bring out many of our staff member's competitive streak! A huge thank you to everyone who helped out and attended. Roll on next year!

# Family Fun Day



A huge thank you goes out to the following companies and people who donated some fantastic items for the raffle prizes;

O2 Virgin Media  
 Counselling with Kelli  
 Bartella's Restaurant  
 Chatham Historic Dockyards  
 Charlton Community Trust  
 Tesco's Meopham  
 Olivia Hockey  
 Charism Meopham  
 Rebecca Devlin  
 Eagle Heights  
 Janette Challis



This thank you extends to every one who also donated to our bottle tombola and contributions on the day!







## Homemade Jam



As you may have seen at Family Fun Day, some of our students made delicious strawberry jam this term to sell at the event. This involved lots of cooking techniques such as checking temperatures and cutting up fruit. Well done all!

After a fantastic Art Week, many of our students felt inspired to take on new projects. Anara at the Hub has made this fantastic dress using a mannequin and newspaper. Well done Anara!



## Autism Accreditation Status

Following a recent rigorous four day inspection by the Autism Accreditation team, we are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the highest accolade of **Advanced Autism Accreditation**. We are honoured to be one of only a very few schools in the country to have been awarded this status, highlighting the exceptional work we do every day with our young people.

Autism Specialist  
Award Advanced  
2022



## Rochester Cathedral

Recently Rochester Cathedral have had a Gaia installation which was a huge 3D representation of the Earth. Leeds class took a trip to see the art installation and the boys enjoyed watching the earth spin on its axis and looking at the different cloud positions.



## Wildwood

Warwick class had an action-packed day at Wildwood Wildlife Park this term. As well as seeing a wide variety of animals, including bears, deer and wolves, they also had a brilliant time in the adventure playground.



## Indoor Camping

Whilst most of the school were away at the camp, the students from Rufus class who didn't go to camping decided to make their own camp in the classroom! The remaining boys built a camp under the tables using blankets and enjoyed having a relaxing time laying on the mats.





## Yoga Session



This term in Leeds class, the students have been continuing with their yoga sessions. One of the students in particular has come a very long way during these sessions over the academic year and really enjoys spending time stretching his body and talking to Jenny. Great work Chester!

## Crystal Palace

The trip to the Crystal Palace football stadium was a really exciting trip that the students from the football team really enjoyed. We got to see the changing rooms for the home and away team. We liked the changing room for the home team the most.



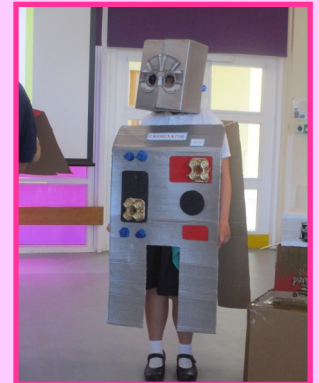
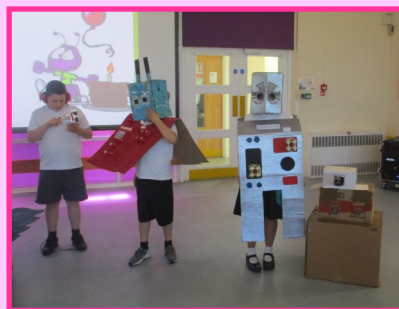
We also got to see the press conference room which is the room the manager uses to talk to the newspaper and tv people. We saw the trophy case as well, it was very big. The best part was when we got to see the pitch.

## Legoland



Leeds class have had a very exciting term which included a trip to Legoland! The boys loved the rides and got absolutely drenched on the log flume!

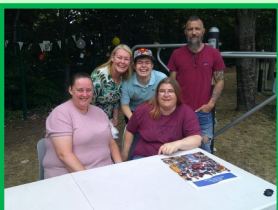
## Robot Parade



Whilst the residential trip was happening for many of our students, back at the school we created a super fun week filled with lots of activities. One of the most popular activities was the Robot Creation activity. Lots of effort went into making them and the whole school enjoyed the robot parade.

## Class of 2022

This year we have 14 students leaving us at the end of their Helen Allison journey. The Hub held a graduation ceremony for the students to congratulate them on all their hard work. They will all be greatly missed.



## End of Year Concert

The End of Year concert this year went really well. Many of the students got involved and some students felt comfortable enough to get up in front of an audience for the first time.

Each class performed their pieces with confidence. The vocals were sung tunefully, supported by different classes playing accompaniments on the chimes and percussion.

It was also very pleasing to witness the students using the skills they acquired throughout the year. They used their notation skills and rhythmic skills, coupled with instrument awareness and accurate notation reading, to produce pleasing performances.

For the first time, we had two students perform solo piano pieces and they were fantastic!

The whole school rap dedicated to Simon was also a huge highlight! Thank you to everyone who attended.



## Egg Transportation

As part of their STEM science lessons, Group 2 had to design a ramp to safely move an egg from the table to the floor without breaking. They used paper, cardboard and Sellotape to make a ramp for the egg with great success. This also helped with team skills and communication.



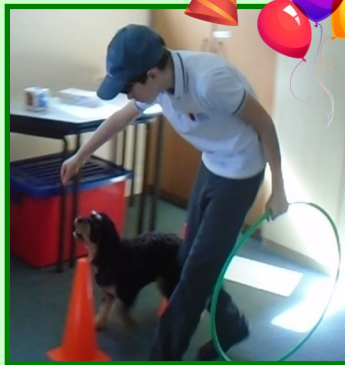
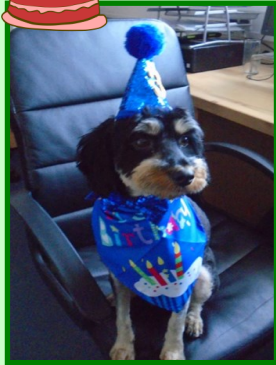
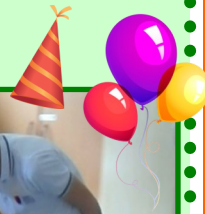
## Jubilee Competition

Warwick class entered a local Meopham Jubilee Competition this term and their winning work has been framed and displayed at Meopham library. The award was presented by the Chairman of Kent County Council and the Vice Chairman of the parish council. Well done Warwick Class! A fantastic achievement!





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY REGGIE!



Reggie celebrated his 3rd birthday on the 15th of July and has had a very busy term working closely with students to learn lots of new tricks! Here is Hayden putting him through his paces with a little agility course that includes weaving in and out of the cones, going through a tunnel and finally jumping through a hoop. Its been great fun for all involved and Reggie has certainly enjoyed some extra treats for his efforts!

## SUMMER FUN



### Word Search Puzzle

W A T E R P A R K V A C A T I O N  
 F R I E N D S W S T Z G H N A I G  
 T S A Z Q P A B Q C N P N M D C S  
 E W O N C H I I Y I A S U R X E N  
 B I C Y C L E C P C R Y O Z M C F  
 O M P W I Z J M N E F J A A P R R  
 U M E I F M A T L I U I G M O E I  
 T I H G A C O K X C C B S N P A S  
 D N N J X O N P S M B K E H S M B  
 O G W V F I I P X D R T R A I X E  
 O O U E R R O C C O O K O U T C N E  
 R A R P T L F U W S S C V Q L H G  
 S A S D F O L E M O N A D E E T A  
 B A A P E Q R S U N S H I N E M N  
 W O I F A I R G R O U N D P X B M  
 R L W N F E K N B A S E B A L L X  
 F B B M Y P M V T D G I S W O R V



BAREFOOT	FISHING	PICNIC
BASEBALL	FLIP FLOPS	POPSICLE
BEACH	FRIENDS	ROAD TRIP
BICYCLE	FRISBEE	SPRINKLERS
CAMPING	GAMES	SUNSHINE
COOKOUT	ICE CREAM	SWIMMING
FAIRGROUND	LEMONADE	VACATION
FIREWORKS	OUTDOORS	WATER PARK

Free printable courtesy of PrintFree.net

## Goodbye Simon!

With a skip and a bounce, Simon entered the Helen Allison school bringing with him relentless positivity. Over the past 3 years, Simon has used his motivational speaking ability mixed with his humorous personality, knowledge and experience, to inspire all around him. Simon is a people person and a great leader, who importantly, has shown his determination to raise morale in many different ways. This has included dressing up as a lady, posing for a photo by laying on our school logo mat, telling stories relating to all the A-Listers he knows and has met, ranging from Pete Waterman to the Queen and the constant love he has shown for our IT Department.

Simon had a goal when he joined the Helen Allison School and that was to get us to OFSTED good and beyond. He achieved this with his lead from the front attitude, his passion for education, his strategic mastermind, problem solving skills, relentless budget squeezing and above all else, being strongly passionate about the education and quality of life for each and every pupil. Simon has been proud to be the principal of the Helen Allison School, and we have been proud to call Simon our Principal.

Thank you Simon for everything you have done during your time at the Helen Allison School, and we wish you every happiness and success in your new venture.





## Dates for the diary



1st & 2nd September  
Inset Days

7th November  
Start of Term 2

5th September  
Start of Term 1

19th December  
Inset Day

24th October  
Half Term

20th December  
Christmas Half Term

## My Child At School

The school have moved to a new home/school communication portal called MCAS (My Child At School). A leaflet was sent home via the student's bags on how to access MCAS. If you have any trouble setting up your account, please contact Francesca Shaxted (Mon—Tues) and Lynn Wells (Wed-Fri).

## WELCOME TO THE HELEN ALLISON SCHOOL!



**Aimee**  
Receptionist  
(Mon-Wed)



**Rosie**  
Teaching  
Assistant



**Chloe**  
Teaching  
Assistant

We would like to welcome the following staff members to Helen Allison School. They have all started this term and already made an impact working with our fantastic young people.

## Goodbye and Goodluck!

This term we say goodbye to both our Principal Simon, and Rochester's Class Teacher Ross. We wish them all the best for their future and thank them for their hard work and dedication at Helen Allison.

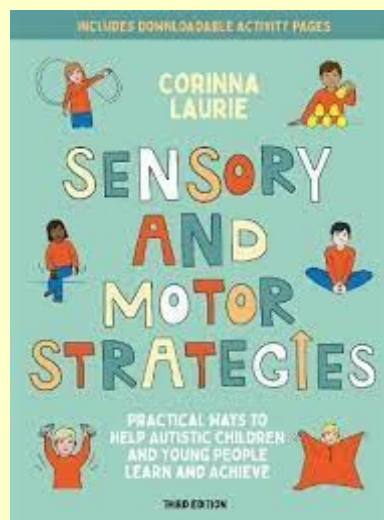


If you have any concerns around your child's computer or internet use please don't hesitate to ask us for help, guidance or support. Contact the school on 01474 814878 and ask to speak to a safeguarding officer.

The Helen Allison School website has all of our safeguarding information as well as Internet Safeguarding links you might find useful.



## Corinna's New Book



**Corinna Laurie - NAS Clinical Lead OT, sets out practical strategies to help children develop and manage their sensory differences and motor skills. The book helps identify possible challenges, recognise signs of overload and work in a co-productive way to develop sensory regulation strategies and improve motor skills and impact well-being.**

**The book provides simple, low-cost activities and practical solutions to help children meet the demands of any situation and included calming techniques and simple environmental modifications to prevent overload and meltdown.**

**Available to pre-order now from**

**[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sensory-Motor-Strategies-3rd-Practical/dp/1839972726/ref=asc\\_df\\_1839972726/?tag=googshopuk](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sensory-Motor-Strategies-3rd-Practical/dp/1839972726/ref=asc_df_1839972726/?tag=googshopuk)**