

Dear Parents and Carers

What a truly wonderful year this has been at the Helen Allison School. I want to start with our Leavers Graduation day, which showcased the amazing progress our pupils make during their time at the school. Seeing the young men achieve so much during their time with us, allowing them to successfully progress onto the next step of their education journey, is truly inspiring. The students leave us to take up their places at various colleges plus one pupil is joining the Navy. This is truly inspiring to all our students to show if you have our school value of 'Can Do' attitude you really can achieve so much.

I was incredibly proud watching our school production, which I must say is the best school production I have seen in the 10 years I have been here. Seeing our pupils perform on stage with such confidence, whether that was acting, singing or being part of the band, was great to see. Similarly, seeing our U14 football team develop outstanding team work and real dedication and determination in the training they have done with the Charlton coaches has been a real highlight, and I am pleased to say they went on to be the U14s Group D league winners which is testament their hard work!!

We have had some wonderful real life learning this year, with a dome put up in our school hall to enable our pupils to watch a Space show. The National Geographic team turned our school into Jurassic World for our pupils to explore fossils and get a greater understanding of life as a dinosaur. Our HUB students have had some amazing experiences this year including a fishing event, a visiting monk and visiting a police crime museum, to name just a few. All this has allowed our pupils to feel part of their learning and they showed such enthusiasm and willingness to learn more.

We also linked up with some students from Meopham Secondary School who are 'Community Leaders'. The students joined the Hub to celebrate Autism Acceptance Week this year. We all had a day of making colourful tie-dye t-shirts and we took part in a walk around Longfield to build links with local businesses and organisations to give our students the opportunity of being part of the local community. While the school had a fantastic time enjoying their colour run.

I would like to thank all the staff at the Helen Allison School for their constant support in allowing our pupils wonderful opportunities to experience so much. I wish everyone a fantastic summer holiday. I look forward to seeing all our pupils in September to start what I am sure will be another amazing year. Remember, the school is here to support if you need us so never worry about contacting us, there is always someone on call.

Adam

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.



Rufus Class



Rufus class have had a very busy half term. As well as developing their phonic and number knowledge, they have also been learning about shadows and how they are formed. They enjoyed making dinosaur shadows and have also created a dinosaur world. As part of their RE topic, the class visited a local church and enjoyed taking part in the scavenger hunt for the different items. We had a lovely birthday party and the class enjoyed playing party games. Breakfast club has continued to be a huge success and the final session took place at Morrisons, where the students (and the staff!) enjoyed a breakfast.

Curly's Farm

As always, the Curly's Farm group have had a very busy term.



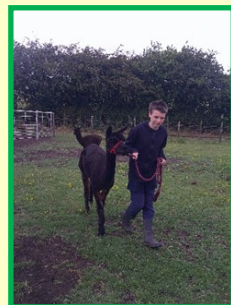
Spraying the sheep with a medicine to stop flies biting them



Cleaning and brushing the cows and calves to make their coat look good



Walking the Alpacas



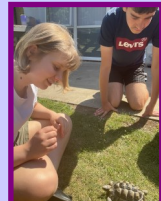
Walking the cows and calves with halters on to get them used to being led around the farm and shows

We are pleased to announce that Luke Stone will be our Deputy Head starting September 2023. Luke has been a crucial part of the school team since joining the school in September 2019 and will continue to be committed to the school and our pupils in doing the very best for them.



Melon

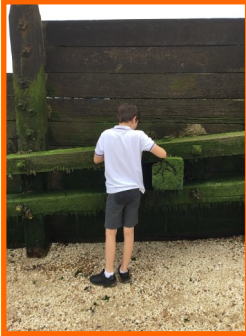
Melon the tortoise came to the Hub this term to visit the students. He had a great time meeting everyone and getting lots of attention from his new friends.



Whitstable Beach

For Art and D.T week, Leeds and Warwick Class visited Whitstable beach to collect a range of seaside materials. They also scanned the coastline observing various elements of the beach taking photos to support their creations.

The students thought about the sounds, smells and feelings that the beach gives them and how they could use these to produce their own interpretation of the beach.



Inspired by a tyre in the sea and objects he had collected, Aidin used these to create a floating sea research centre.

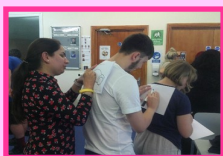
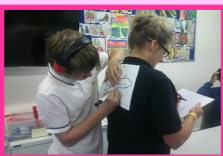
Inspired by photography Hayden then began adding shells, fabric and sand to re-create his chosen photo.



Hayden then used a plastic wallet with gel inspired by our sensory recourses.

Every Wednesday this term, students from the Hub have been horse riding locally. They have gained so much experience and confidence this term and even went out along the country lane. They have shown excellent determination and it has been brilliant to see their confidence grow!

Whilst some of the students were on our residential trip, students remaining at the hub took part in some STEM lessons. Students were tasked with working as a team to ensure an egg could travel down a ramp (only made of paper, tape and string) safely. This involved lots of communication and work as a team. As well as this, they worked as a team to draw what they felt was being drawn on their own backs.



Safari Adventure



Hever 2 class went to the Cyclopark on a 'Safari Adventure'. Pupils had to navigate the off-road terrain and find pictures of animals hidden in the wild.

Pupils showed great steering skills, driving over bumps, round corners, parking and reversing. Great fun was had by all!

Super Sunflowers

During one of the hottest weekend's of the year so far, one of our newest students was very busy. Kit has always had a keen interest in plants and growing things himself and this year decided he would like to sell his home grown goods at his local boot fair. With each sunflower plant priced at £1, these were very popular. He managed to make £35 which he very kindly donated to the school. We are all very proud of Kit's achievement and grateful that he wanted to donate this to the school. Thank you so much Kit!





This term at the hub, Josh has been mastering his cooking skills and is now the expert in bacon and American pancakes. He has worked hard to perfect the perfect pancakes just how he likes them!

Dopamine Land



Dopamine Land is a multisensory experience combining media, technology and play. It's an interactive museum that channels the limitless imagination of your inner child into reality. Warwick class loved immersing themselves in all of the installations and were a credit to our school!

Enrichment Week



Whilst the older students were away on the camping trip, the remainder of the pupils took part in their Enrichment Week. Some students spent the day at St Andrew's Lake, where they took part in rock climbing, pedalo's and the aqua park. There was also a trip to Dopamine Land, in Kensington. Students had a brilliant time and were captivated by the different sensory experiences. We had a variety of different visitors to the school, including a farm, a fire fighter and an SEN theatre experience. The students really enjoyed the water exploration afternoon and the bouncy castle day. The whole week was a huge success and it was lovely to see the positive interactions between all the pupils as they engaged in the activities.

Camping 2023

This year we completed our residential trip to Broadstone Warren Outdoor Scouts Adventure Centre within the idyllic Weald area of outstanding natural beauty. We stayed in the Broadstone Lodge which is situated in 400 acres of forest land. The students completed a range of outdoor activities that developed their team building skills and tested them to try new activities that they do not get the opportunity to experience within the normal school curriculum. The students made us very proud on the trip with their excellent behaviour, amazing perseverance and general positivity. The trip was a great success and something students and staff will remember for a long time. Well done to all the students who attended!



Wildwood Trust

Whilst some of the students were on the residential trip, those who did not go had a fun week doing enrichment based lessons. On one of the days, students from the Hub visited Wildwood Trust in Herne Bay. They got to see many different animals including bison, lynx and reindeer. They had a lovely day and thankfully the rain held off until they were on the bus back!



Class of 2023

This year we have 6 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, it was a fantastic afternoon and was attended by friends and families, ex-students and staff from both the school and the Hub.

The future destinations for the students this year are very varied and include Link19 College in Gravesend, Work on a farm on the Isle of Sheppey, a vocational college in Sittingbourne, Eco-Shed a business enterprise in Sittingbourne, Shooters Hill College and we also have a student going through the recruitment process to join The Royal Navy. They will all be greatly missed!



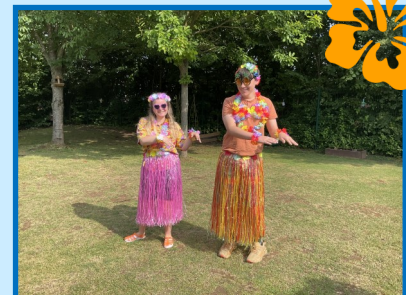
My Superpower—School Production



The Production - My Superpowers - was a great success. It was a collaboration between the music students and our budding young actors. The script, written by our own Zara Gilhooly, told the story about Sam, a boy at a special needs school who realises that the traits that define him as 'different' are what help save his school from closure. It was a pleasure to witness how the whole cast worked together to produce a performance they can be proud of. The actors, musicians, the singers, the technical crew and the backstage crew all gave their best and this was clear to everyone who was there. Well done, everyone!



Aloha! On Friday 21st July, staff and students at both the school and hub were invited to come to school wearing Hawaiian themed clothing. This was in exchange for a bottle for our Family Fun Day tombola stall. There were lots of bright colourful outfits to be seen - including these wonderful outfits from Rachel and Matthew at the hub.





Dates for the dia-



28th July 2023
Inset Day

6th September 2023
Term 1 Begins

1st September 2023
Inset Day

16th -27th October 2023
Half Term

4th September 2023
Inset Day

30th October 2023
Term 2 Begins

5th September 2023
Inset Day

21st November 2023
School Photos

More dates will follow in the next
academic year.

my **child** at **school.com**

The school have now moved to a new home/school communication portal called MCAS (My Child At School). This portal should be used for all communication to staff. You can also view your child's attendance, update their records and pay pocket or dinner money via this portal.

Please contact Francesca or Lynn if you have any problems with this system as step by step guides can be provided.

The end of this school year also see's two of our staff members leaving us. Aimee, our receptionist at the main school and Magdalena, our Assistant Principal will be leaving us. Thank you to them for all their hard work at Helen Allison and we wish them the best of luck for the future!

Goodbye and Goodluck



"It's been an absolute pleasure being part of the Helen Allison Team and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your children. I wish you all every success in the future and a wonderful summer break!" - Magdalena

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.

Safeguarding Team

The following staff are our school safeguarding team. If you have a concern or wish to speak to one of them, please call the school and we will put you in touch.



Adam
Lead DSL



Lisa
Deputy DSL



Francesca
Attendance and
Welfare



Chelsea
Behaviour



Natasha
Financial Support