

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another wonderful term, with our pupils fully engaged and enjoying taking part in the various lessons and activities across the school. We have just had the HAS Got Talent event. As always, it was delightful to see so many of our pupils having the confidence to stand in front of an audience and entertain us.

It is great to see our pupils engaging in their curriculum, with some pupils attending Challenger Troop, others enjoying gymnastics, table tennis or swimming as part of their PE lessons. This term we were also lucky enough to have students from UCL visit, who provided our pupils at the school and hub, with an amazing interactive learning experience.

World Book Day was another great success and it was lovely seeing so many pupils showing a love for reading and dressing up as their favourite characters. In our final week of the term we celebrated 'World Autism Month' with our primary and secondary pupils engaging in the colour fun run and our older pupils handing out leaflets and providing information to the local community.

I am pleased to say that the school were successful in winning a Veolia Orchard competition. The prize of two apple trees have now been added to our outdoor learning space and we look forward to seeing them blossom and bear fruit. Pupils were also given the opportunity to make wildflower seed balls, which were also added to our outdoor learning area. Thank you to Veolia.

At the hub, our U16 football team participated in a football tournament and performed incredibly well. Pupils also gained an understanding of employment when employers and employees visited the hub to talk about various careers. This included a parent who is a qualified train driver, Kent County Council and the Police talking about their roles within their workplaces. Thank you to all involved in giving up your time to support our pupils.

Adam

Principal

British Values



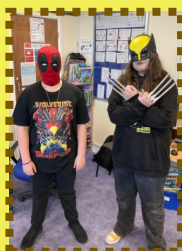
The various activities highlighted in this newsletter are an example of just some of the diverse learning opportunities that are undertaken by our students. Many of these activities take place within the local community as well as at school for real opportunities to explore these values in order to support 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 Lacie Whitehead have your article.

World Book Day 2025



For World Book Day on 6th March, yet again, the children looked amazing in their book character costumes. In the morning, we had a parade in the hall and group photo, followed by an assembly where we discussed how we choose and share our favourite stories. The Senior Leadership team delivered storytelling sessions throughout the day in our library and Lisa read a story over Teams to the HUB (apparently this is a weekly request now!). The children had a wonderful day and thank you all for your hard work in preparing such creative costumes.



WORLD BOOK DAY



Red Nose Day

On Friday 21st, we all had fun for Red Nose Day, which celebrated its 40th Year. Our 80's/red dress up theme was a success and we enjoyed a range of activities in classes. In particular, the 80s disco was fun with ribbons, lights and lots of cheesy dancing (including the Conga, Oops upside your head and Superman)!

The Hub's Student Council

Following their recent Student Council meeting, the Hub students decided they would like to raise some funds to purchase additional resources to support their social skills sessions and breaktime activities.

They decided the best way to do this would be to offer a staff car wash service.

They managed to clean a total of 7 cars and did an absolutely fantastic job!



hello MATERNITY LEAVE

On 27th March we be saying a temporary good-bye to Gemma our long-standing Occupational Therapy Assistant, as she embarks on her maternity leave and life as a new parent! This is Gemma's first baby and we are all so excited for her and partner Matt, especially as they have kept the gender of their new arrival as a complete surprise to both themselves and us! Gemma will be missed by everyone at Helen Allison School and the Hub during her maternity leave but we are all hoping to have lots of visits and baby cuddles in the near future. We wish Gemma and her new family all the very best during their exciting journey and can't wait until she returns.



Leeds Class—Challenger Troop

A group of secondary pupils have been attending a programme called Challenger Troop. This programme allows the students to work in teams solving problems and interacting with one another.

These unique leadership, team building and youth engagement programmes build character, grit and resilience in young people, whilst having fun!

The students have been really enjoying this and look forward to it weekly!

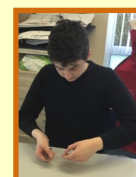
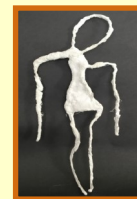


ART

Some of the students have been exploring sculpture and the work of the artist Alberto Giacometti.

Students were given the Project Brief of creating a piece of work in the style of Alberto Giacometti, focusing on form, balance and showing movement. One student also wanted to show diversity with regard to representing a person with a disability i.e amputee.

The students have used armature wire and Modroc to construct their forms. Key words used to inspire the students were Balance, Form and Plinth. Some of the students constructed their abstract sculptures using cardboard and Modroc.



LONDON MARATHON

A Student's Dad has challenged himself to run the London Marathon to raise money for the National Autistic Society.

He has been inspired to run the marathon by his son who has been attending the Helen Allison School since he was 5.

Daniel said that running the Marathon and raising money for the NAS will be a small thank you for the fantastic work they do.

If you would like to donate please click the link below

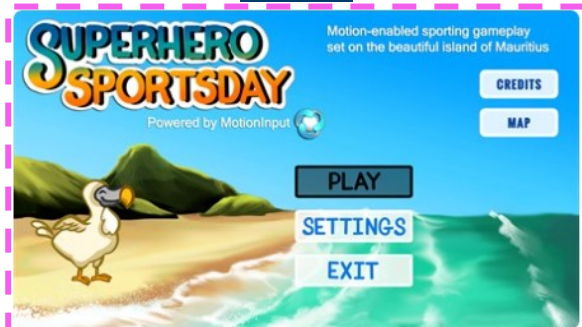
<https://2025tcs londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/daniel-mills>



Following on from the NAS's collaboration with UCL Computer Science Department, the first game for autistic students and younger players is out now on the Microsoft Store!

You can enjoy windsurfing, hang-gliding and cycling around the island simply using gestures and movements captured by a PC webcam!

<https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/9nmhflb52spx?hl=en-GB&gl=GB>



Scotney Class

As we approach the end of Term 4, I am delighted to share with you the progress that Scotney Class has made throughout this term. The students have a consistently positive attitude towards their learning, contributing significantly to a supportive and engaging classroom environment.

This term, we have explored the book *Krinklekrax*, a fascinating narrative that has allowed us to dive deeply into the lives of the characters Ruskin and Elvis, and their extraordinary encounter with the crocodile on Lizard Street. The students have engaged in discussions about the themes of friendship and bravery, broadening their understanding of character motivations. Additionally, they have ventured into a variety of writing formats, including descriptive pieces that bring the vivid settings to life.

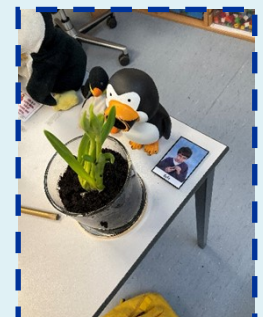
In our Science lessons, the focus has been on understanding the diverse habitats that exist within our environment, coupled with a thoughtful comparison of the lifecycles of various types of animals and plants. The students have conducted a series of hands-on practical experiments, such as planting bulbs, which underscored the importance of patience and care in the growth process. They have also examined the components of an egg, observing the stages of development, which has sparked lively discussions about reproduction in the animal kingdom.

Our History lessons have taken the students back in time to explore the pivotal year of 1066, particularly the Battle of Hastings and the events that preceded it, such as the political intrigue and power struggles of the time. Through engaging role-play activities, the students have been able to act out and evaluate the battles, the soldiers involved, and the various weapons used during this historical period.

During Physical Education lessons, the students have particularly enjoyed their Table Tennis and Gymnastics sessions. They have developed core skills, such as coordination and balance, and have begun to play rallies with opponents. The camaraderie displayed during these activities has been delightful to witness, contributing to their overall social development.

The class team and I look forward to working with the students throughout Term 5, where we will continue to build upon their learning experiences. We remain hopeful for more clement weather, as this will allow us to incorporate outdoor activities into our curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support.



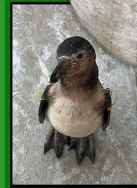
WINGHAM WILDLIFE PARK

Rochester Class

Rochester Class had a wonderful day at the zoo.

We looked at a variation of animals and their habitats.

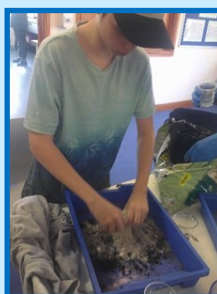
We have learnt where animals live in the wild including grasslands, deserts, mountains and polar regions.



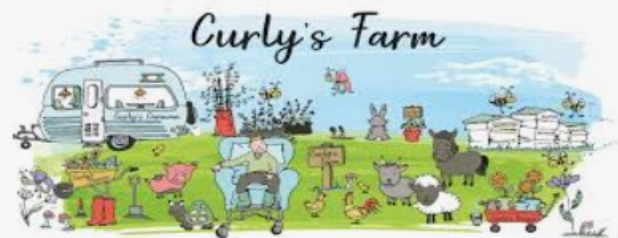
Horticulture Group at the Hub

The Hub Students have made Wildflower seed bombs, this is a natural way to distribute wildflower seeds.

They used Wildflower seeds, compost, flour and water and rolled them into balls.



The students have also been painting tyres in bright colours to use as planters in the Hub garden.



The Farm group have had a busy few weeks this term.

The students have been working really hard even though the weather has been horrible at times.

The students cleaned out the Pig pens which were very muddy..., they also cleaned out the Cow sheds which was hard work.



However, there have been some fun times too. Walking reluctant calves who did not want to go for a walk...



Group 2

Some members of Group 2 enjoyed the 80's disco.

Group 2 really enjoys the COJO sessions and Olly has a STEM session on Thursdays which he enjoys.



Training

Our Principal SaLT, Principal OT and Assistant Psychologist delivered training to a local community hospital. This training aimed to describe possible support strategies and environmental adoptions which could be put in place for autistic patients. It is hoped that this training will assist with providing an improved experience for those attending the minor injuries department. Over 20 staff received the training and the feed back was extremely positive.

One example below:

Trainers: Jo Neill Smith, Corinna Laurie, Ashleigh Henry

LO- To support the hospital with strategies for autistic patients.



Instructions: Please tick your level of agreement with the statements listed below	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not relevant to this event
1. The objectives of the training were met	x				
2. The presenters were engaging	x				
4. The content of the course was organised and easy to follow	x				
5. The trainers were well prepared and able to answer any questions	x				
6. The course content has improved my understanding	x				

7. How will this impact your work?

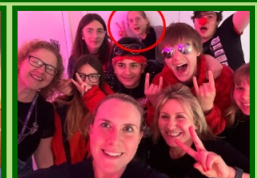
This training has helped me understand a wide range of challenges different autistic people may face and how they may mask, stim or meltdown in response to them. Understanding this will help me alter how I approach these patients to help make their experience more comfortable/positive.

8. Would you recommend this course to colleagues? Yes/~~No~~ Why?

The team worked well as a 3, each of them were clearly specialists in their field, with extensive experience and knowledge on the subject. I found them to all be friendly, approachable and exceptionally informative. All 3 of these specialists are a credit to their field and the CYP they support.

GROUP 5

Group 5 has had a busy, busy term with lots of fun and informative events happening across the short six weeks! We started with a really informative careers morning with visitors talking to us about everything from farming to train driving; followed by World Book Day celebrations and Red Nose Day fun which included dressing up and an 80s disco; plus an informative visit from UCL students who wanted our help with testing their applications.



CAMBER CLASS

Camber class have had a busy term with lots of learning and exploring taking place. The text for the term has been *What The Ladybird Heard*. There have been lots of activities based around this story and animals, which the class has really enjoy. They have also been enjoying a variety of trips into the community, including going swimming and to shops and parks. Science has involved lots of exploring, including investigating materials that change. To ensure that this was explored successfully, we ate lollies and made Rice Krispy cakes!



HEVER

This term, we have used VR headsets to experience the different types of habitats around the world. The headsets gave us a better understanding as to what's around us in other parts of the globe. This linked nicely into our science where we have been exploring the coast and understanding erosion and sea defences.

Also, in carousel play, we created large bubbles and submerged ourselves within them!



HEVER



Rufus class

Welcome to the Rufus class round up of Term 4! Our book this term was "What the ladybird heard" so we have been doing lots of activities about farm animals. We have enjoyed sensory trays of gloop, oats and cereals to represent mud, straw, hay bales and other farmyard textures. Children matched animals to their sounds and practised reading and writing animal names. All pupils have produced great work in maths, counting and ordering numbers.

Rufus have really enjoyed art this term and our fine motor skills are showing great improvement. We have used mixed media this term, including paint, glue, pom poms and different types of paper.

Pupils continue to enjoy music, song time, yoga and swimming, and we now have regular sessions with the singing bowl which is an amazing, calming, sensory experience.

We had a special visit from UCL students who brought some exciting games for us to try.

The children enjoyed trying these out.
We also celebrated Red Nose Day and World Book Day which were great fun for all!

Have a great Spring break, see you in Term 5!



WARWICK CLASS

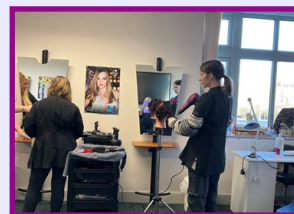


This term Warwick class have enjoyed table tennis in PE working on different skills such as serving, grip, scoring and how to play a match. We also enjoyed a trip to the Royal Engineers Museum to link with our English and History lessons about the World War. Students enjoyed the museum, exploring a mock trench and learnt about a local hero serving in the war and being awarded the Victoria Cross.



Group 3

This term the girls have been working hard on skills at hair and beauty and managed to gain their certificates in plaiting and mastered how to do a fish tail plait!



Careers Event



Students and staff enjoyed listening to the speakers and the students asked them all lots of questions .

The first speaker was Leigh Santamaria who is one of the students at the hub's mum, Leigh spoke about how she became a train driver for British Rail. Leigh gave some very in-depth information regarding the stages she had to go through to become a train driver.

She also spoke about the situations that you might come across and how to deal with them.

The talk was very informative.



The second speakers we had were staff from Curly's farm, on the Isle of Sheppey. There was one member of Curly's staff and two apprentices from the farm. The students enjoyed the talk about the farm and what animals they have there, they also enjoyed listening to some funny stories they told about the animals. The two apprentices spoke about being an apprentice at the farm and what their roles involve. They also spoke about the Youngs Farmers Group they are part of and the fun activities they take part in.

One of the apprentices was an old student from the Hub. Callum has been an apprentice for over a year at the farm and is really enjoying working there.



The third speaker was a gentleman from Kent County Council who was very entertaining, with his stories of all the different jobs he had had since leaving school. He also spoke about various jobs the students could consider undertaking if they worked for KCC.

MUSIC

It's been a very busy term in the Music department this term. Pupils at the main school have been have participated in various activities such as: learning the African drums; making their own sounds on instruments; learning songs for the mini musical 'The Magic Porridge Pot'; singing in two parts; participating in communication activities through learning/sing nurse's rhymes. A special mention goes out to Vincent Momont who sat his Grade 1 Guitar exam and passed with a distinction.

At the Hub, students have been learning songs, practicing instruments and working towards their Arts Award. Three students also sat Grade exams, George Smith (Grade 1 Guitar), Harry Newnham (Debut Grade Drums) and Freddie Johns (Debut Grade Guitar) They all passed their exams with distinctions so big congratulations to them as well. They have all made so much progress this term!



Rufus Class Choosing, Playing and Exploring



Scotney Class
Practicing
Rhythms



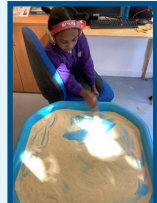
Hub Students
Working hard



Warwick Class
African Drums

Corfe Class

In Corfe Class we have been exploring different wet and dry materials and using different tools to mark make!



We have been exploring cause and effect. We have been blowing up balloons and seeing what happens when we let the air out which has been really fun. We have also been enjoying playing with the foam dominos, building them up and knocking them down again.



Corfe Class have been enjoying spending some time outside on the bikes in the first of the sunshine!



Windsor



This term the class has been learning about 'Plants' in Science. We took a trip to Millbrook Garden Centre to buy some seeds. We then discussed what plants need to be able to grow healthy, so we put some soil in the pots and planted them. We take it in turns to water them and make sure they are getting sunlight.

Veolia Orchard



Back in October, Francesca entered our school into an application to receive some fruit trees provided by Veolia under their Sustainable Schools programme. Helen Allison School were fortunate enough to be picked to receive an 'orchard'.

On Friday 28th March, some lovely Veolia staff visited the school to deliver the trees along with a presentation in assembly to explain the benefits of fruit trees. After the assembly, students went to our outdoor learning area to plant these trees with the team and then got their hands messy making some seed balls to throw and grow even more plants.

Thank you to Veolia for choosing Helen Allison School to be part of this project and we look forward to watching these trees grow over the years.





Junk Kouture

The following are this years submissions for Junk Kouture. Both students had to select a theme from UN Sustainability Development Goals into their designs.

The first student chose Peace, Justice and Strong institutions and the images in this email show her design.

Students had to produce a statement to go alongside their designs and this is part of the statement explaining her design.

Gown of Acquaintance by Rex Ogden "My design is based on Remembrance Day, specifically the significance of the Poppy. I have focused on a red poppy because it is linked to royalty. My category is peace, justice and institutions because I am passionate about people being treated the same. My inspiration is based on Queen Victoria's wedding dress and the era of that time period.

I wanted to do this dress design because it has all my subjects that i love which is history, peace, art and fashion.

The Second Student's category was Gender Equality. Anara produced an excellent mood board.

My Design - Ravina, meaning 'raven'

My design is based on baroque gothic fashion, something I feel very drawn to within the fashion realm. I have used inspiration from films like 'Nosferatu' (2024), 'Interview the Vampire' (1994) and 'Crimson Peak' (2015), as i love their use of gothic elements and details throughout the story. Gothic culture is a massive inspiration to me, as I feel it is mysterious and almost genderless, and I love the dark and peculiar elements.

I have used a variety of different materials, including a bedsheet I had used for a previous project, a used lace curtain, a second-hand velvet top and some silky red-ish pink fabric.



VOTE NOW

FOR YOUR FAVOURITE ARTWORK ONLINE
FROM THUR 3 APRIL - MON 28 APRIL 2025

The artwork from each school with the most votes wins a place in the Art Bytes virtual gallery exhibition.

The primary and secondary school with the most votes cast each win a Community Engagement Award.



[ARTBYTES.CO.UK/BROWSE-SCHOOLS](https://artbytes.co.uk/browse-schools)



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artbytes.co.uk



ArtBytesUK



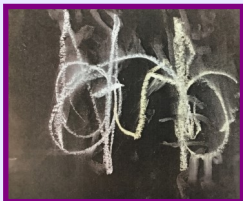
ArtBytes_



JUDGES TOP 3 PLACES FOR PRIMARY



**Donnie
Roberts**



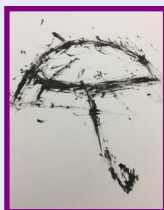
**Jayden
Jobson**



**Oscar
Eady**

PLEASE VOTE

JUDGES TOP 3 PLACES FOR SECONDARY



**Vincent
Momont**



**Freddie
Johns**



**Aidin
Sarrami**

PLEASE VOTE



Dates for the diary



21st April 2025
Bank Holiday

22nd April 2025
Term 5 Begins

5th May 2025
Bank Holiday

12th May 2025
Science & STEM Week

23rd May 2025
Last Day of Term

2nd June 2025
Inset Day

3rd June 2025
Term 6 Begins

23rd June 2025
Diversity Week

24th June 2025
Parents Evening

Keep an eye on the My Child at School app for additional dates.

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.

THANK YOU

The Admin Team (as we are sure the whole school) would like to thank Nigel for all the hard work he puts into making our school safe, clean and beautiful every single day!

We also think Nigel is doing a great job supporting one of the students in off site activities, and love hearing the positive impact this is having.



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



Luke
Deputy DSL



Lisa
Deputy DSL



Francesca
Attendance and
Welfare



Ashleigh
Behaviour and
Wellbeing



Natasha
Financial Support