

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half of the summer term, we wish all of our students who are doing their exams the best of luck. It is always a time for reflection, as we are preparing pupils who are leaving the Helen Allison School this year, with many of them having been at the school for a very long time. It is always a sad time to see our pupils leave but also a time of such joy to see how much our pupils have grown and developed during their time at the school as well as excitement to see how they progress in the next stage of their education journey.

The highlight of this term was Helen Allison's Got Talent, where pupils across the School and Hub took part in performances of their choice. I am always blown away with the amazing talent we have in the school and so proud to see pupils have the confidence to perform in front of an audience. This year was our largest to date with 19 acts participating! Well done to all who took part. A special mention to our STEM day where we had a scientist visit the school to show pupils various engaging experiments, and well done to all our pupils who participated in the Art competition through Art Bytes, a Virtual Arts platform.

The other highlight was the success of achieving 'Beacon Status' for Autism Accreditation, this is an amazing achievement and a true credit to everyone who makes the Helen Allison School such a positive learning experience.

Have a wonderful half term and we look forward in welcoming the pupils back on Wednesday 5th June.

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.

Helen Allison School has been awarded Beacon Status



National
Autistic
Society

Autism Specialist
Award
Beacon 2024



We are a Beacon of excellence in the field and so proud of this recognition!

HAS submitted their report to Autism Accreditation which had to provide evidence of quality and consistent support to autistic people but also demonstrated outstanding and innovative practice in sharing expertise and knowledge. Beacon status is the highest award Accreditation can give and is a considerable achievement.

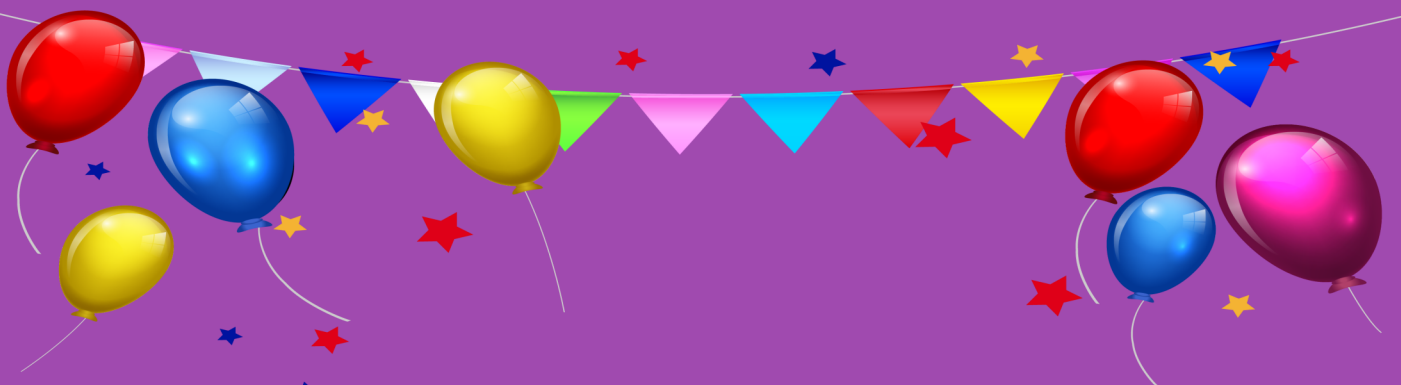
The award is given to provisions which have already achieved an advanced award and in particular describes exceptional work that has had a significant impact on how families, professionals and the local community understand and respond to autistic people. A panel of independent experts in the field found that the application “provides evidence of how a positive learning environment is created for autistic young people in the school.”

The panel also noted the following as particular areas of strength and innovation:

- The sharing of practice with parents such as yoga sessions.
 - Themed stalls at Parents evenings.
 - Support for siblings.
- The involvement of autistic young people in their local community.
 - Police and Taxi / escorts training.
 - The application of the Quality-of-Life Framework.
- The contribution made to knowledge and understanding of autism through training activities, contribution to professional events and publication of articles and resources.

We are truly proud of this achievement which further evidences our mission statement:

Our mission is to provide opportunities for improving quality of life for all of our pupils. Ensuring a holistic approach will assist our pupils with building self-confidence, resilience and independence, whilst on their educational journey and beyond. Creating strong partnership working with parents, enables us to motivate pupils to reach their dreams, goals and aspirations. We will support them to become the best version of themselves.





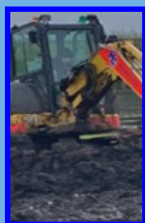
STEM WEEK

STEM week began with a visit from Sublime Science. All classes joined in with hand on activities, not only to help them develop their understanding of certain scientific topics, but also...just to have fun! Students made slime and magic snow, as well as investigating sound, light and forces.



Science
Is
Everywhere

Thankyou to everyone who entered the 'Science Is Everywhere' competition. We had lots fantastic entries, that showed science taking place in many different places.



All the entries have been proudly displayed in the school.



Group 3

GCSE Students



Exam time has hit the Hub with students sitting their GCSE's. Two students in Group 3, Alecia and Micah, have been working hard completing coursework and revision in preparation for their exams.

Alecia sat her IGCSE English Language exam this term, and Micah has still got Science and Maths IGCSE's to complete. He is looking forward to 13th June, when he finishes his last one, which is Biology.

Both Micah and Alecia, plus students from other groups, have really taken the opportunity offered to them at the Hub, and applied their skills and knowledge to their subjects, so that they can achieve well.

Well done to all those students who have sat their exams, and to those who still have a little way to go before they finish. You should be as proud of yourselves as we are.

Well Done

Rufus Class

Rufus class have been very busy this term, with lots of fun learning take place. Geography lessons have involved exploring the local community and identifying different features, including a visit to Gravesend Promenade.

In Science, the class have been learning about plants and are growing a variety of different plants and vegetables.

There have also been offsite Trips for Forest School and Swimming Lessons.



THE BEANEY
HOUSE OF ART
& KNOWLEDGE

Leeds Class



Leeds class visited the Beane Museum in Canterbury to take part in a prehistoric workshop. The pupils investigated real and replica Stone Age tools from the museum collection and then explored the galleries to search for artefacts like hunter gatherers.



Curlys Farm

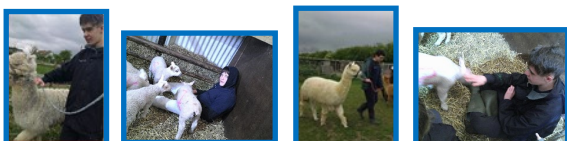
This term the students have been very busy looking after the animals at the farm, they have been cleaning out the pens, feeding and making sure they have plenty of water.

The students were also shown how to trim the sheep's hooves using special clippers and then they had a go at doing it themselves.



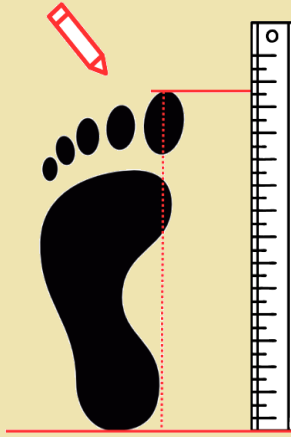
There was also time to make a fuss of the new baby (kid) Golden Guernsey Goats and some lambs that were only 1 week old.

The students were also able to walk the Alpacas which was very cool.



Group 4

Group 4 went to Dockside to have their feet measured as part of the Wheel of Independence and they had to then find a pair of suitable shoes that they could fasten up themselves.



Windsor Class

Windsor class this term went to visit Horton Kirby as part of their topic 'Flow'. They enjoyed playing the river and throwing stones to make a splash. We discussed how the river moves and threw sticks and oranges in the river to see if we could see them again, and also tested whether we could run faster than the river. The children took samples of the water and the soil and drew pictures to help them with their topic when they came back to school.



Scotney Class



In Science Scotney class have been able to recognise that vibrations from sounds can travel.

To demonstrate this we used rice on a drum and by hitting the drum harder the larger the vibration recorded.

They have also been exploring Physical Features in Geography.

A trip to Gravesend Prom where they were able to use binoculars to look at the surrounding landscape.



Corfe Class



The topic this term has been Spring.

Corfe Class have explored spring weather by going out to Trosley Park, touching and feeling different textures and making mud pies.

Food safari we have been trying new things tasting and touching.

Corfe Class have also been exploring different animals and mini beast.

Corfe have been developing our play skills alongside each other and learning to share.





Group 2 WOI

This term the students have been looking at household skills but they have also been learning about first aid, what is in a first aid box, how to put someone in the recovery position, how to do CPR and they also looked at a defibrillator and where you can find them out in the community.



Horticulture Group



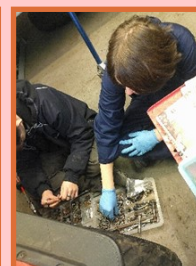
The students have been preparing the flower beds and the garden ready for spring.

The students re-planted the hanging baskets and they also planted some pumpkin seeds and runner bean seeds.

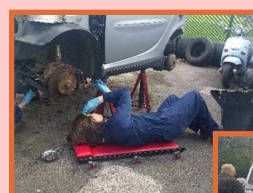


Hub Mechanics Group

This term the students have been learning new skills and putting them to good use. They have worked on a quad bike checking the engine and changing parts ready to try to start it up.



The students also worked on a smart car that needs restoring.



Warwick Class

In Wheel of Independence this term Warwick have been learning about house-keeping, self-care and laundry skills. These tasks included keeping the kitchen clean and tidy, selecting appropriate cleaning products and being able to complete different activities simultaneously.

The students explored the supermarkets and selected products that were used for both male and female hygiene and also looked at how to care for their teeth and took part in a practical cleaning teeth task!

Warwick Class also had the opportunity to take part in interactive Science lessons at the hub where they learnt about astronomy.

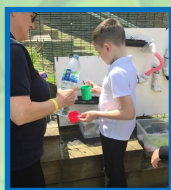




Camber Class



Camber Class have had a great term with lots of activities about dinosaurs! Carousel play has included lots of dinosaur-themed sensory activities, such as; a dinosaur swamp with Gelli Baff, washing the dinosaurs with foam and water spray, burying dinosaurs in 'moon sand', and digging for dinosaurs. Carousel play gave us lots of opportunities to work alongside peers and adults, solve puzzles and explore objects and games in new ways. The children have all been working hard on their fine motor skills this term, through early morning tasks, regulation sessions and food safari, with Gemma and Erin. This is further supported by Write Dance sessions, where children learn to make early writing shapes to music. We are seeing great progress in number work this term. Children are using Numicon to represent numbers up to 20, as well as writing the numbers and counting objects. We have been making the most of the nicer weather, too. The class have had lots of fun together on the outdoor trampoline, enjoyed some water play, and gone on trips to local parks. We're so proud of everything Camber class are achieving!



Hever Class — Science

In Science we have been planting and growing seeds. We have experimented growing plants in different environments and recording what plants need.



We have been growing larvae into caterpillars and waiting very patiently for them to emerge. We now have three beautiful butterfly's and will release them into the wild.



Hever Class — Trip

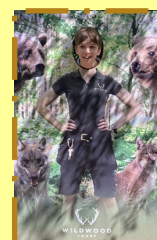
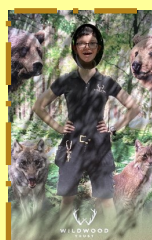
Hever class had a trip to Whitstable beach.

We have been looking at the artist Andy Goldsworthy, collecting stones, shells, seaweed and wood to create our own sculptures.



We had a wild time at Wildwood. We really enjoyed the animals, especially the bears and braved the rope path over their enclosure.

We were very lucky to see so many different animals including a baby wallaby!



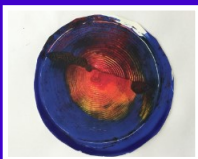
Balfour Beatty

This year we have been asked by Balfour Beatty to produce some artwork to go onto one of their service wagons and we ran an art competition for the older students. The results are in and the company have chosen not 3 but 12 images to go onto their wagons. There is going to be a grand opening on the 27th June.

Well Done Everyone.



This year we entered Art work into a platform called Art Bytes and we are pleased to announce the winners.



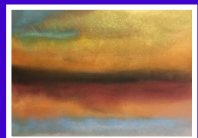
Kit Powdrill
Colour Composition



Teddy Payne
Sunflower 2



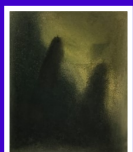
Jacob
Leaf Study



Freddie Johns
Sunset



Hayden Young
Dark to Light



Lucas Bridle
Loneliness



Well Done Everybody

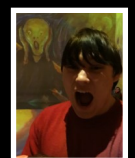
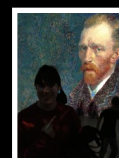
Horse riding

The students have been enjoying their horse-riding lessons and they have become more confident in controlling and guiding the horses.



FRAMELESS

The students at the HUB went to Frameless Interactive Art Gallery in London. They had to travel by minibus and underground and then walked from Bond Street. The gallery was fabulous and for many students it is the first time they had experienced something like this. This trip was to support their Arts Award Qualification. We have covered some of the artists in class like Paul Klee, Edvard Munch, Van Gogh etc.



Group 1

Group 1 this term has been completing Leisure in the Wheel of Independence .



The students have researched all different types of leisure activities and hobbies they could partake in.

Volunteering

Our regular volunteers from Network Rail continue to support us and have worked very hard to improve our Outdoor Learning area. We are very grateful for their continued support and it is always a joy to have them on site. We look forward to welcoming them back during the next school holiday.



Rochester Class

This term Rochester Class went to Ninja Warrior which they earned with their merit points. They had a great time.

They also participated with the colour run which they enjoyed getting messy and got to make goo at the STEM Science Workshop.



Donations

Outdoor Learning Area

The school received a very generous grant from the Hobson Charity to enable us to install a wonderful outdoor classroom in our outdoor learning area. The installation took place recently and although finishing touches are not yet in place as the area is being developed, the students will soon be able to benefit from this structure...and just in time for the summer which is amazing.

We are most grateful for this kind donation and the benefit to our students will be incredible.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Hobson Charity.



In addition, we have received a generous donation from The Lawson Trust to enable us to purchase additional items for our outdoor learning area.

To be able to work in this environment will enhance our students learning and development and enrich their experiences during their education.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Lawson Trust.



We are still in the process of developing this area and are endeavouring to have it completed very soon. We will share photos of progress in the next newsletter.



Bottle Tombola

Hawaiian beach dress up day!

Thursday 4th July



Aloha! Students and staff are invited to join us on Thursday 4th July in beach party dress up clothes, or an outfit of their choice.

This is in exchange for a bottle towards our Family Funday tombola stall!

Please ensure all bottle donations are consumable and in date.



Dates for the diary



27th May 2024
Bank Holiday

25th June 2024
School Parents Evening

23rd July 2024
Family Fun Day

28th May—3rd June
2024
Half Term

12th July 2024
End of Year Production

25th July 2024
School Graduation

4th June 2024
Inset Day

17th July 2024
Camping Trip Enrichment
Week

26th July 2024
End of Term Assembly

5th June 2024
Term 6 Begins

18th July 2024
HUB Graduation

29th July 2024
Summer Break Begins

24th June 2024
Diversity Week

22nd July 2024
Transition Day

1st & 2nd September 2024
Inset Day

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.



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