

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another wonderful year at the Helen Allison School with our pupils taking part in many real-life experiences. We have had some truly amazing achievements, from our positive outcome from Ofsted, to getting the Beacon Award for Autism Status.

Even more importantly, it has been a delight to see our pupils develop during their time with us. Pupils participated in several musical events throughout the year, the highlights being performing in front of more than 100 people in another school and then recently performing at the Meopham Fete. Some of our pupils were entered into Art competitions which resulted in one pupil winning the National Primary Award for Art and during our Stem week our pupils went to Canterbury Christchurch University to take part in the Vehicle Engineer Project, with one of our pupils winning the prize for best themed vehicle.

Our residential trip was another great success this year with all pupils who attended taking part in numerous land and water based activities and I know the pupils who remained at school enjoyed the experiences organised for them.

It was incredible seeing so many parents attend the school productions, Family Fun Day and both Graduations and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Once again, the Hub Graduation showed the amazing journey our pupils have had at the Helen Allison School and we wish all of our pupils leaving, the very best for their future and please do keep in touch.

I would like to thank the staff at the Helen Allison School for the constant support they give to our pupils, enabling them to achieve so much.

I wish everyone a fantastic summer holiday and 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.

Kind Regards,

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.

Class of 2024

This year we have 4 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 and staff from both the school and the Hub.

This year we are saying goodbye to Dylan Beadle, Jamie Watling, Alex Nickie and Matthew Stoneham

The future destinations for the students this year are varied and include Link19 College in Gravesend, Orpheus College which is an Arts focused college and sixth form at Grange Park School.



We wish these students all the best for the future, they will all be greatly missed!



Scotney Class

Scotney Class have had a busy term. Students have mastered lots of new skills from learning to tie shoe-laces, making smoothies and litter picking in Wheel of Independence. While in Maths, they have been learning before and after in time.



Windsor Class

Windsor Class have designed and made their own river and waterfall in Art over a few weeks.

They have been learning the topic Flow and have been to visit Horton Kirby River.

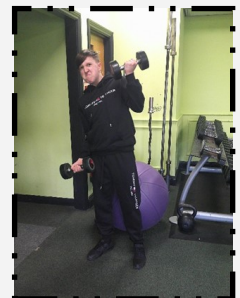
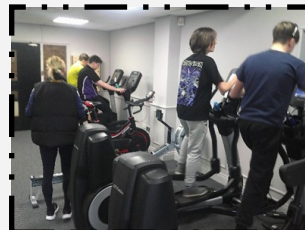


Group 1



Group 1 have been looking at leisure for their wheel of independence, they have had a gym induction and have also visited Hollywood Bowl to play pool. Group 1 students hadn't played pool before and had researched the rules of pool before going and putting this into practice.

Group 1 then had another student join their group for life skills and they have visited and explored all of the local parks for leisure walks.



Leeds Class

Leeds class have been learning about sculptures this term. We have enjoyed using mixed media to create weird and wonderful sculptures inspired by famous artists.





Family Fun Day

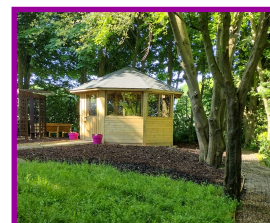


On Tuesday 23rd July we held our annual Family Fun Day event.

As always, there was 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 “pick a bogey” game, a teddy bear shire and stocks to throw wet sponges at staff....which became very popular once our Principal was in them!!!

We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the Deputy Mayor of Gravesham, Jenny Wallace and Chev Clarke who is the British Cruiserweight Champion from Gravesend who both helped to open our brand new Outdoor Learning Area.

A special thank you goes to the Hobson Charity for donating our outdoor learning classroom, the Lawson Trust for their donation which allowed us to purchase various equipment for this area including a superb mud kitchen, Turfonline for sponsoring our wonderful heritage lawn and a very big thank you to all of our volunteers from Network Rail and SGN for helping us to prepare the area prior to refurbishment.



The grand raffle, as always, provided some excellent prizes including a Samsung Galaxy phone, an air fryer and many more!

The continued support at these events helps us raise valuable funds to support our pupil's experience and development.



Roll on next year!





Sports Day



Our School Sports Days this year were both wonderful successes.

Before Sports Day at the School commenced, Adam Wadey officially opened the Multi Use Games Area and thanked Fred French, who kindly allowed the construction company to access our property via his farm. Without his support it wouldn't have been possible to construct this facility and we are most grateful. Our Pupils use the MUGA on a daily basis and it was great to be able to use it for our Sports Day.

The Hub and upper school students enjoyed an afternoon at Dartford Athletics Track and performed with great energy both on the track, over hurdles and completing relays and in the field with javelin or hammer in hand.

The school sports day was another busy and relaxed event with students all participating in running, jumping and throwing events, showing off all their skills they have been practising hard in PE.

Well done to all.



The Residential Trip 2024

We were very pleased to be able to return to the very popular Stubbers Adventure Centre this year for our camping trip. The trip was a huge success with all students (and staff!) having an amazing time.

It was great to see the students engaging in the wide variety of both land and water based activities. These included archery, high ropes, den building and crate stacking, as well as bell boating, kayaking and paddle boarding. The resilience and team work that the students showed in these activities was just phenomenal. Not only were they able to persevere with more demanding activities, but many were also able to access environments that they usually find challenging, including the dining room. There were lots of memories made and friendships deepened. It was also lovely to see how the students really looked out for each other, as well as supporting and encouraging each other during the





Camber Class



Camber have had a lovely term, playing and learning in our topic Splash! As the weather has (sometimes) been warmer, we have enjoyed time outdoors – carousal play and food safari in the playground, trips to the park, jumping on the trampoline and making giant art pieces.

Camber have continued to work hard on their number skills. We have looked at counting, ordering, missing numbers, and matching numbers to groups of objects. All the children have been working on different skills in phonics and reading, and their letter or word recognition continues to improve.

Sensory story time remains a class favourite, grabbing their attention and drawing them in through sight, sound, touch and smell.

We hope you have an amazing summer, everybody!
Camber team.



Rufus Class



Rufus Class have had a very exciting last term to end a fantastic year. There have been a few offsite trips, including visiting a local church for RE lesson, playing in local parks and taking part in gymnastic lessons in a local leisure centre. They have enjoyed lessons and stories in the new outdoor classroom, as well as using the school trampoline for rebound sessions. Their breakfast club finale was a great success and the students (and staff!) enjoyed a yummy breakfast.



Nigel to the Rescue

Nigel always goes above and beyond to ensure the safety of not only our students, but also their favourite toys!





Group 4



Group 4 have been learning about how to wash laundry and have been exploring how to put clothing into the right washing piles as well as learning about the symbols on washing labels to understand what programme they need to put the washing on.



As part of the widening experience Group 4 also visited a laundrette to find out how people use the facilities and what a professional laundry looks like.



Curly's Farm



The students have been learning how to tidy up the animals leading ropes, which is very fiddly but they all managed to do it in the end.



Students and staff helped to get the sheep used to walking on a 'rope halter' ready to show at animal shows.



Students used teamwork and problem solving to move a large hay bale from one side of the farm to another. They worked as a team and the cows loved their new hay.



Work Experience

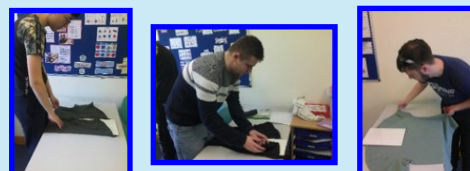
Jamie and Dylan have been going to work experience at the Oxfam shop in Gravesend, they have learnt lots of new skills, pricing up items, sorting items that are good enough to sell and filling the shops shelves with new items to sell.



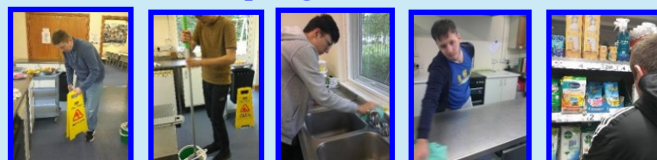
Group 2



The students have been learning about self-care and housekeeping this term and have been practising new skills, learning how to fold clothes to keep them neat and tidy.



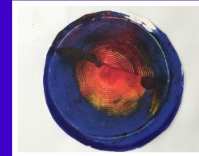
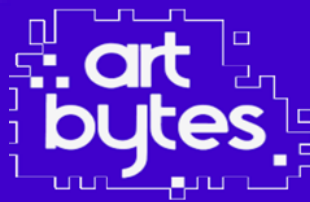
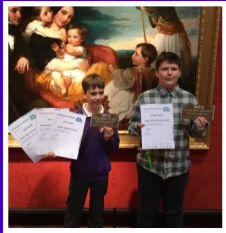
Learning about kitchen hygiene and why the kitchen needs to be clean and how to deal with spillages in the kitchen.





Hever and Rufus

Students from Hever and Rufus class took part in a Vehicle Engineer Project Event at Canterbury Christchurch University, along with 20 other schools. The students took their vehicles that they made during STEM week and impressed the judges.

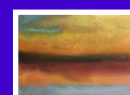
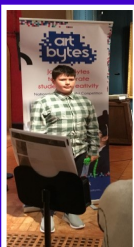


This year we subscribed to an Arts Platform called Art Bytes and we are delighted to announce that we won the South East Primary Region Award and the National Primary Award

This is a huge achievement for our first year and our award winners were invited to a celebration with their parents at the Watt Gallery in Guildford. Each winner received a Golden Ticket which is free entry with a guest to the Watt Artists Village and both Kit and Teddy came along with their families to explore the gallery and receive their prizes.

Kit Powdrill won both the South East Region Award and National Primary Award for Helen Allison School. Kit was filmed by Art Bytes at Helen Allison School in the new outdoor learning area and received a lot of art resources that he can use to continue to explore his creativity.

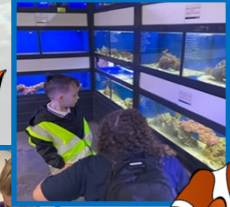
The placements for the years were: Kit Powdrill 1st place, Teddy Payne 2nd Place and Jacob 3rd Place for year 5 and then for the year 9 group Freddie Johns got 1st place, Hayden Young got 2nd Place and Lucas Bridle got 3rd Place.



Corfe Class

Our topic has been 'under the sea'. We have had lots of fun playing, exploring and making things. We have played with toy sea animals, painted an ocean scene, made 3-D fish and our own salt dough to make a star fish with.

We really enjoyed a visit to a local aquarium shop. We have been developing our early reading skills through the sensory pirate dough story. However, we have used all of these activities as well as our regular learning sessions to practice and develop our communication, social communication, problem solving, physical and sensory.



Horticulture Group



The students have been re-painting the garden bench ready for the summer! Plus planting up our hanging pots with flowers and planting vegetables in our vegetable beds.



The Hub garden has now got a small pond which the Horticulture group asked for so we can record what wildlife it attracts. Students helped to dig the hole for it to go in.



The best part of the lesson is watering the plants with the hose.



MUSIC

On Saturday 20th July, 7 of our wonderful students performed at the Meopham Fete;

Harry, Alibek, Jake, George, Freddie, Nathan & Isaac

Once again our school band were a wonderful credit to the school.

A massive thank you to Richard who supported the band on Saturday, giving up his time to ensure all our pupils were able to perform to the best of their ability.

Well Done all involved!



Group 3 - Hairdressing



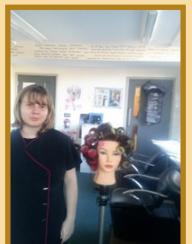
Carmen Santamaria in Group 3 has spent the year studying Hair and Beauty at Rowhill School.

She has learned a variety of different things and has already passed her AQA Unit Awards in Identifying Tools and Equipment in a Hair Salon, Applying Shampoo and a Conditioning Treatment and Applying a Temporary Tint. She has also cut the hair on a model head.

Carmen is very much enjoying this and is very proud of her achievements.

She also has her own hairdressing area at the Hub, known as Carmen's Cuts. Here, Carmen likes to style her model head, apply curlers and different accessories and has also cut the hair into a fashionable "bob".

Carmen looks forward to her second year studies and what new things she is going to learn.



Hever Class

Hever class had a fantastic river day at Horton Kirby. We observed, measured and recorded the River Darent's flow with sticks and leaves and explored river features.



Hever class had a lovely day at Minster Beach. We were looking at where the smaller rivers run and exit into the sea. We collected shells, stones and artefacts from the beach.



RE Places of worship in our community. Hever class have visited a Christian and Catholic church. We have spoken to the Priests and Vicars and learnt about different ceremonies and beliefs. We observed the historical architecture and interesting features. We discussed differences and similarities.



Rochester Class

As part of this terms wellbeing activities, Rochester class took a trip to Ninja Warrior. They had a great time trying to "beat the wall" and got very competitive against each other.



Jedd from Rochester class has been working hard this term during his Maths and Science lessons. He was tasked with measuring different items in the room and learning the difference between cm and mm. Great work Jedd.



Warwick Class



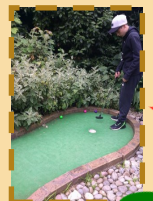
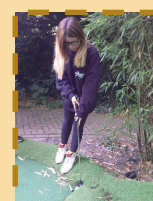
This term Warwick class have enjoyed sports day at Dartford Harriers sports track and participated in a variety of different events and enjoyed an end of term trip to Ninja Warrior. The students have also completed their final transition to the hub completing their moving on books and had a science lesson at Meopham Secondary School. In wheel of independence students have learnt about the importance of a balanced diet, planned a week of meals for the family and prepped a meal of their choice, Warwick have also taken part in housekeeping and laundry skills. Students also enjoyed an afternoon at Shorne Country Park.



Group 3 - Quex Park Crazy Golf

On Monday 15th July Group 3 students and staff went to Quex Park Crazy Golf in Birchington, for their end of term trip. Everyone had a great time, playing the 18-hole course, which went under, in and through a variety of different obstacles. Some even managed to get their ball in the water surrounding the holes and even in the bushes. However, this added to the fun.

It was a most enjoyable day and everyone, managed to score a hole-in-one.





Ursula



As we come to the end of what can only be described as an exceptionally outstanding year for us all. We have to bid a fond farewell to Ursula who has been part of our amazing team at Helen Allison for the past few years who will sadly be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been such a valuable asset to the school in so many areas, beginning as a Catering Assistant in 2016 and quickly succeeding to become a Teaching Assistant. She then furthered her career along with her experience and expertise to be appointed Deputy Lead. She has not just been a mentor to go to when we have needed support but a trusted and loyal friend to us all. May we all take this opportunity to say Thank you for everything she has done which has been beyond amazing. We would like to wish her the very best in her Retirement and for her to now enjoy the relaxation.

Pilar



Pilar came to work at HAS in September 1998, where she was employed as a TA to provide support for one pupil. She had recently moved to Kent from Nottingham. When she disclosed that she was in fact a qualified teacher with a DFE number- she was immediately taken on as a teacher and quickly learned about how to teach and support our pupils- some of whom at the time, were very reluctant learners!!

Pilar has demonstrated exceptional skills in understanding and supporting our pupils in the best possible way. She has enormous patience, empathy and has pride in all that she does- wanting above all- the very best for our pupils whilst helping them to achieve their goals and aspirations. She has led the school with regards teaching French; History and PSHE over the years in addition to providing important and much needed pastoral care to her pupils and families. She has been a loyal and dedicated member of staff and has shown an absolute passion for teaching autistic pupils. Pilar has been an outstanding member of staff. She is now ready to take time for herself and family which will afford her the opportunity to regularly visit her native homeland of Spain - without the hassle (and expense!) of being tied to school holidays. She will leave a big hole at HAS and we will miss her enormously.

Jodine



Jodine has worked at Helen Allison for over six years, firstly as a class teacher and then as Core Curriculum Lead. Within this role, Jodine has introduced Inspire Maths and Sounds Write Phonics which have had a huge impact on progress for many students. With her wealth of knowledge, Jodine has also been able to provide support to teachers with planning, ensuring that each child's needs are individually met to ensure the best possible progress.

Jodine will definitely be missed by students and staff, and we wish her well in her next adventure with her new job.

Andy



Andy will be leaving Helen Allison after nearly 4 years of working with us. He joined in October 2020 and quickly began to implement a fun, engaging P.E curriculum for our students to develop their skills and knowledge of a range of sports. Over the last few years he has taken students to a range of sport-ing competitions including Football, Cricket, the Panathlon and Dragonball. His enthusiasm for sport and P.E has had such a positive impact on our students' attitude and wellbeing that they now regularly choose to play sports in their own free time. Andy will be moving into the role of Head of P.E at another SEN school where we're sure he will continue to have a positive impact.

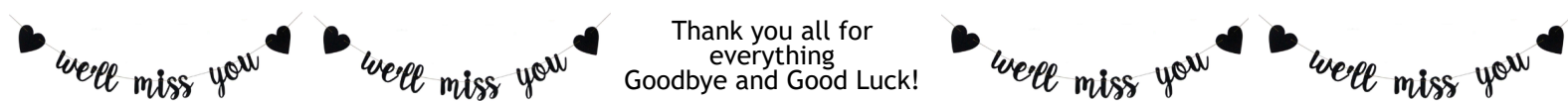
We wish him all the best for his future career.

Nella



Nella will sadly be leaving us this year and after 16 years of working at Helen Allison School we will be very sad to see her go. She has worked with many different children and in many different roles but has always come to work with a can-do attitude and supporting the students to achieve their best.

Good luck in all your future endeavours.



Thank you all for
everything
Goodbye and Good Luck!

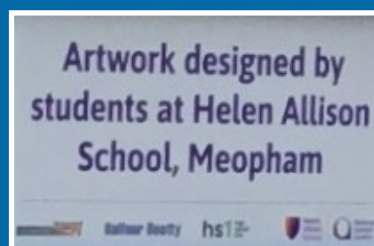
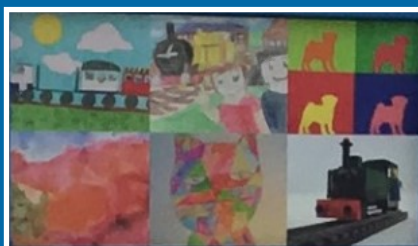
Balfour Beatty



Helen Allison School was invited to produce artwork for Balfour Beatty and Network Rail. 12 pieces of artwork were selected to be reproduced onto both sides of a service wagon that supports the High Speed Railway.

On Thursday the 27th June students whose work was reproduced were invited to a grand opening of the wagon. All students received an Amazon voucher. The 1st Place went to Daniel Simpson who received £100.00 and he spent his money on dinosaur merchandise, 2nd Place went to Bambo Atekoja who received £50.00 and 3rd place went to Micah Rick-etts who received £25.00. All the other students received £15.00 and a personalised card. All the students had to wear a high vis jacket to comply with health and safety regulations.

This was a wonderful experience and all students should be very proud of their achievements. The artwork will remain in place for 2 years and then Balfour Beatty wishes to re-commission more work for the following 2 years.





Dates for the diary



23rd August 2024
Family Picnic & Play Day

2nd September 2024
Inset Day

3rd September 2024
Inset Day

4th September 2024
Term 1 Begins

27th September
Coffee Morning

21st October—1st November
Half Term

4th November
Term 2 Begins

19th November
School Photos

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

my
childschool.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.

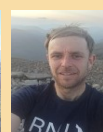
National 3 Peak Challenge - Fundraiser

On June 1st 2024 Jude Hockey's Dad Lee and his friend Joe completed the National 3 Peaks Challenge in under 21 hours.

They were absolutely exhausted but have raised an amazing £2,925 for the Helen Allison School.



Thank You



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