



July 2025

Issue 30

HENLOW HEART

SUMMER SUNSHINE

Dear Parents and Carers

After a full, hearty and rewarding year we gathered on Friday to reflect and celebrate in our final whole school assembly of the year. In recent months we have been evaluated by SIAMS:

"Leaders ensure that students have a rich and fulfilling learning programme."

March 2025

Followed by Ofsted:

"The HENLOW values of honesty, enthusiasm, nurture, originality and wisdom are evident in the positive relationships reflected in daily school life."

April 2025

As a school community we are proud of these reports and know that the contributions of staff, governors and trustees have been significant in creating a secondary school in which our students thrive both academically and as young people. We also highlight the contributions that the young people themselves make to defining the type of school that Henlow is. The roll of honour included here and in the assembly includes the range of ways in which students step forward to challenge themselves, enriching their lives and the lives of others. Jack (Year 10) received the Ray Payne award for the way in which he adopts a positive approach to all aspects of Henlow life and encourages the same in others.

Henlow life shines through in all of the attached pages and I hope you will enjoy the pictures of the many trips and visits engaged in, especially those of Paris with Year 9 which is a new venture for us. Musical and sporting activities abound with opportunities for students to challenge themselves and enjoy. The occasional orchestra included musicians from 14 different schools from Years 2 to 11. The Arts showcase was also an exciting evening with songs and sketches from musicals old and new. Six school records were broken on sports day (after navigating the weather again...) and this is impressive - matched only by the fact that so many students enjoyed both this event and the Sports Award evening.

HONESTY

ENTHUSIASM

NURTURE

LOVE

ORIGINALITY

WISDOM

The Year 11 prom was held for the second time in our young history as a secondary school and the atmosphere of the occasion is impossible to bring to life on paper - however, it was noticeable how many staff members chose to spend their evening in the company of this wonderful group of young people. Exam results were strong in 2024 and we will be in school again on August 21st to celebrate with the current Year 11 as they receive their GCSEs.

As we round off an academic year we say goodbye to some staff members, including Mrs Stapleton, our food and art technician, who has given 24 years of service to our school. We wish her well in her retirement and know she will retain a close connection with our school community. Mrs Goward has taught a range of subjects at Henlow over her nearly 16 years, notably Geography and in recent times as a primary specialist. In her leaving speech in the whole school assembly she led a moment of contemplation where we focussed on the ways in which the school has changed throughout these years: the buildings, facilities, curriculum, age-range to name a few. She was clear to emphasise that the warmth, care and love that the school consistently shows has remained a constant. Mrs Goward is moving to one of our primary feeder schools, Derwent, and I know that she will stay part of our community.

We thank Mrs Green for supporting pupils as a TA for two and a half years and Miss Bacon as English teacher for 3 years. Mrs Jackson is leaving to take up an exciting opportunity in teacher training and we wish her well in this endeavour. She has played an important role in ensuring that our English and English Literature GCSE course have been launched successfully in recent years, leading to impressive results. We will, of course, welcome new staff in September.

I started writing this newsletter in brilliant sunshine and am signing off looking at torrential rain - I wish you all a lovely summer, no matter what the British weather or that of further afield may bring. Please stay safe.

Caren Earp
Headteacher

From Whiteboard to Pulpit

Congratulations to Mrs Williams, our former English teacher, who on Sunday 29th June was ordained as a deacon at St Albans Cathedral. She will serve her curacy at St John's Boxmoor.

Mrs Williams started her theological training in the last year of her time with us, before dedicating herself to it full time this last year. We wish her every blessing as she begins her ministry within the Church of England.



ROLL OF HONOUR

Khloe E (5ZG)

For her incredible generosity, having 30cm of her hair cut off and raising an astounding £1000 for the Little Princess Trust! What a selfless act to help children facing hair loss.

Sophie B, Emily J, Milena S, Elsa S, Arabella M & Mia J (Year 7 & 8)

An absolutely phenomenal achievement! This talented team secured 7th place across the entire country in the prestigious British Schools Acrobatics Finals! Truly spectacular.

Riley J (9JM)

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment, Riley served as a referee for The Owls Tournament at Henlow Pavilion. He flawlessly officiated 17 U7 and U8 football games throughout a long day, receiving glowing feedback from coaches. A true role model!

Rita R (5SG)

Rita has shown incredible initiative and compassion by starting a Braille Club to teach other students how to read and write in Braille. Furthermore, she bravely ran 1 mile with her Dad, raising an astounding £4115 for the Guide Dogs charity! Simply inspiring!

Owen M (9CM)

A fantastic musical achievement! Owen successfully achieved Grade 4 Drums with Distinction, showcasing his dedication and talent.

Yasir T (9DW)

Showing wonderful generosity, Yasir is preparing to have his hair cut off to raise money for the Princess Trust charity over the summer holidays. We commend his kindness!

Daniela J (7TL)

For her exceptional creativity and skill, Daniela created an awesome and memorable piece of artwork for Lodge Got Talent!

Isla A, Kaycie D, Lara F and Ruby W (Year 7)

This dedicated drama team worked incredibly hard to produce a fantastic and captivating performance for the Lodge Got Talent event. Brilliant teamwork!

Jamie H (7RB)

For his incredible bravery and talent, Jamie had the courage to stand up and deliver an amazing solo singing performance for Lodge Got Talent!

Mason SB (7RR)

Mason truly entertained us all by doing a brilliant and memorable Stitch impression for Lodge Got Talent! Well done, Mason!

Isla A, Kaycie D, Lara F, Daniela J, Jamie H and Mason SB (Year 7)

For their outstanding dedication and care, this group showed amazing commitment to nurturing the sunflowers, ensuring they looked lovely outside the lodge for everyone to enjoy all year!

ROLL OF HONOUR

Matilda B, Maisie M, Emily S, Alfie W, Sahil I, Yasir T, Owen M, William D (Year 9)

Demonstrating exceptional maturity and quick thinking during their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, this group was incredibly calm and helpful when assisting an elderly lady who had fallen, ensuring her safety and getting her the help she needed. True heroes!

Bella M, Mia J, Lily H, Lillian D, Isla B, Mia D, Faith L, Elsa S, Milena S, Lois H, Bethany W, Effie L, Maisie H, Tia T (Year 7 & 8)

An outstanding sporting achievement! This formidable team successfully reached the Girls Football National Cup Quarter Finals! Unbelievable effort!

Frankie G & Oliver D (6JC)

Fantastic footballing prowess! Frankie and Oliver both reached the semi-final in the Luton All-Star Football Tournament playing for Biggleswade FC.

Connor W (6JC)

A superb performance! Connor reached the semi-final in the Shillington Tournament, securing an impressive 3rd place overall with the Shefford Saints Green Under 11's team.

Sean O (8NK)

A wonderful vocal talent! Sean achieved Grade 3 Singing with Distinction, a testament to his hard work.

Harrison B (6JF)

An incredible season for Harrison, winning four trophies playing football for Sandy Tigers Under 11's! What an achievement!

Isaac W (6JF)

For his dedication and perseverance, Isaac has been working towards and successfully achieved a fantastic 4km run!

Alek D (6JF)

Demonstrating excellent commitment, Alek has been a valuable helper, assisting in running Henlow's Braille Club and also volunteering at the Riverside Miniature Railway in St Neots. Brilliant community spirit!

Jake S (6JF)

A well-deserved recognition! Jake won a Members Award for Shefford Saints Under 11's.

Jacob M (6JF)

Jacob showed great skill on the pitch, winning a trophy playing football for Shefford Saints Under 11's.

Logan W (6JF)

A true team player! Logan won an award for most supportive player in Biggleswade Waders under 11's.

Lucas S (Year 9)

A fantastic aquatic achievement! Lucas demonstrated incredible skill by passing his Swim England Level 6 Award.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Joshua S (Year 9)

Joshua's five years of incredible dedication to the School Action Group stand out. As our most active community member, he's interviewed countless staff (many here now!), championed crucial changes and consistently embedded the student viewpoint into many decisions at Henlow. His impact is undeniable.

Flick K (5ZG)

An international star! Flick has achieved great success with her team at international cheerleading competitions! Truly impressive!

Henry D (7RR)

A fantastic musical accomplishment! Henry achieved Grade 3 Trombone with Merit.

Brendan S (7TL)

Another fantastic musical achievement! Brendan successfully achieved Grade 2 Trombone with Merit.

Antigone W (5SG)

A brilliant swimming milestone! Antigone showed fantastic achievement passing her 150m swimming badge. She has also been awarded her Chief Scout's Silver Award. This significant achievement required her to earn six Activity or Staged Activity Badges, along with successfully completing all seven Challenge Awards. A truly remarkable feat!

Penny F (5SG)

A star on the dance floor! Penny won her Duo Dance trophy at intermediate level.

Alex R (5SG)

A remarkable martial arts achievement! Alex demonstrated brilliant skill by passing his brown belt grading in Karate.

Aaron S (8SS)

An incredible feat of dedication and skill! Aaron attended a Masters Karate course in Spain where he achieved his black belt Shodan in Shotokan Karate. An truly amazing accomplishment!

Sophie B (7AC)

A truly outstanding performance! Sophie achieved an incredible bronze medal with her artistic swimming team at the National Combo Cup Artistic Swimming Championships in Sheffield. To top it off, Sophie also won the Coach's Award at her club's award night! What a talent!



THE RAY PAYNE AWARD

We were thrilled to announce our 2025 Ray Payne Award winner is Jack Gibbons. This award is given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or a number of aspects at Henlow Academy. This could be for academic achievements, dedication to the arts and sport or overcoming a personal difficulty.

Here are some of the comments from staff who nominated Jack.

'Ever since Jack has joined Henlow he has taken every opportunity offered to him with both hands.'

'Jack embraces every opportunity and is a role model student.'

'He is always the first to volunteer if you need help, he is always positive and cheerful.' 'If you are having a tough day or are feeling a little out of sorts Jack never fails to make you smile.'

'Jack has a great work ethic and is kind and polite. He takes advantage of all types of opportunities the school has to offer.'

'When I have taken on trips he has always been the most enthusiastic and engaged student. At the panto last December the audience was a bit flat apart from Jack. He was cheering and clapping along and it encouraged those around us to get more involved. Nothing seems to faze Jack!'

'Seeing him stand up and sing a solo in front of the whole school took some serious guts and was a moment that will live long in my teaching memories as it brought tears to my eyes and goosebumps on my arms.'

'Jack has faced some real challenges this year but he has never let that dent his commitment to his learning and thirst for more. I think everyone's motto should be "Be more Jack!"'

'He embodies everything Henlow. Tries everything with a smile on his face'



HENLOW TERMLY SUBJECT AWARDS

This week we have been hosting year group award assemblies where we have gathered to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Summer. In these assemblies we have given out a mix of over 250 certificates, vouchers and prizes! Over the next 3 pages are all the winners of our termly subject awards, chosen by each department. Well done to every one of our prize winners this term!

Subject	Year Group	Attainment	Progress	Honourable Student
English	Year 5	Penny F 5SG	Oscar K 5ZG	Scarlet-Rose W 5ZG
	Year 6	Amelie P 6JC	Jake S 6JF	Connie B 6JF
	Year 7	Mia J 7DC	Isobel G 7RR	William J 7DC
	Year 8	Lewis H-B 8SS	Brooke F 8HS	Alex M 8EK
	Year 9	Lily D 9MW	Alfie A 9CM	Iris G 9JM
	Year 10	Phoebe K 10RT	Lilian R 10BF	Paige W 10RT
Maths	Year 5	Finley S 5ZG	Cassie E 5SG	Darcie-Grace E 5ZG
	Year 6	Bethany C 6JF	Frankie G 6JC	Harrison B 6JF
	Year 7	Thomas D 7RB	Amelie D 7AC	Sam A 7RB
	Year 8	Dawid F 8NK	Isla G 8AB	Caleb F 8EK
	Year 9	Eliza B 9JM	Melody G 9CM	Owen M 9CM
	Year 10	Natalie M 10RT	Jack G 10BF	Ben G 10LT
Science	Year 5	Marcel S 5SG		Antigone W 5SG
	Year 6	Jacob M 6JF	Mia C 6JF	Otis C 6JF
	Year 7	Hannah T 7DC		Sam A 7RB
	Year 8	Chloe B 8NK/ Isabel T 8EK	Alara Y 8EK	Jamie S 8SP
	Year 9	Beth M 9DW	Freya H 9DW	Alfie W 9MW
	Year 10	Chloe W 10LT	Paige W 10RT	Amber R 10BF
History	Year 5	Bonnie D 5ZG	Malaika F 5SG	Shammah H 5ZG
	Year 6	Sofia T 6JC	Erik T 6JF	Jack H 6JF
	Year 7	AJ BC 7AC	Ayman C 7RR	Luke F 7RR
	Year 8	Amy F 8AB	Lewis N 8NK	Caleb F 8EK
	Year 9	Ryley G 9MW	Oscar McG 9CM	Joshua S 9CM
	Year 10	Parum S 10BF	Jakub F 10RT	Ben G 10LT
Geography	Year 5	Rita R 5SG	Aria J 5ZG	Antigone W 5SG
	Year 6	Kennedy R 6JC	Joy S 6JC	Jake S 6JF
	Year 7	Poppy C 7DC	Zara B 7TL	Lottie L 7RB
	Year 8	Zachary B 8SP	Noah G 8EK	William B 8AB
	Year 9	Iris G 9JM	Harrison B 9MW	Max D 9CM
	Year 10	Flora CW 10BF	Scarlet A 10BF	Aayan R 10BF

HENLOW TERMLY SUBJECT AWARDS

Subject	Year Group	Attainment	Progress	Honourable Student
MFL	Year 5	Amelia-Jayne L 5ZG	Marcus M 5ZG	Rebecca T 5SG
	Year 6	Isaac W 6JF	Max J 6JC	Nethuli G 6JF
	Year 7	Max M 7AC	Mariam K 7RR	Noah S 7AC
	Year 8	Amy F 8AB Jacob D 8HS Chloe B 8NK	Robbie M 8AB	Cobi G 8EK
	Year 9	Eliza B 9JM	Ava A 9JM	Isobel M 9MW
	Year 10	Chloe W 10LT	Ruby D 10LT	Parum S 10BF
Computing	Year 5	Aria J 5ZG	Amber D 5SG	Scarlet-Rose W 5ZG
	Year 6	Linnea M 6JC	Libby L 6JC	Bethany C 6JF
	Year 7	Brendan S 7TL	Poppy C 7DC	Ruby-Mae W 7RB
	Year 8	Matas P 8SS	Albany R 8SP	Alice T 8SP
	Year 9	Josh S 9DW	Thomas G 9JM	Thomas H 9DW
	Year 10	Jakub F 10 RT	Lewis S 10BF	Davison A 10BF
DT	Year 5	Bonnie D 5ZG	Heidi M 5SG	Keira A 5SG
	Year 6	Libby L 6JC	Jack P 6JC	Ellis W 6JC
	Year 7	Bradley W 7AC	Poppy C 7DC	Amber W 7RB
	Year 8	Amy F 8AB	Devon D 8SP	Jacob D 8HS
	Year 9	Isobel M 9MW	JJ O'K 9CM	Eliza B 9JM
	Year 10	Marco C 10BF	Thomas B 10RT	Sean A 10LT
	Year 7	Jacob T 7RB	Lottie L 7RB	Poppy G 7RB
	Year 8	Eloise S 8AB	Lexie W 8NK	Marley T 8HS
	Year 9	Evie M 9DW	Thomas R 9CM	Ruby B 9CM
	Year 10	Jakub F 10RT	Davison A 10BF	Tyrell F 10BF
Art	Year 5	Zoe S 5ZG	Lucy L-J 5SG	Penny F 5SG
	Year 6	Amelie P 6JC	Connor W 6JC	Isaac W Jake S 6JF
	Year 7	Sam A 7RB	Sophia W 7DC	Brendan S 7TL
	Year 8	Thomas S 8NK	Caleb F 8EK	Ellen H 8AB
	Year 9	Peyton H-J 9CM	Alexa G 9DW	Alfie A 9CM
	Year 10	Isla J 10RT	Cam V 10LT	Carla Y 10BF
Music	Year 5		Amelia G 5SG	
	Year 6	Lujayne S 6JF	Peacock I 6JC	Jack P 6JC
	Year 7	Zackariya R 7DC	Daniela J 7TL	Will HM 7DC
	Year 8	Robynne R 8SS	Rue S 8AB	Albany R 8SP
	Year 9	Seren W 9CM	Max D 9CM	Dominik K 9MW
	Year 10	Sydney R 10LT	Jack G 10BF	Amber R 10BF

$E=MC^2$



HENLOW TERMLY SUBJECT AWARDS

Subject	Year Group	Attainment	Progress	Honourable Student
PE	Year 5	Leo A 5SG	Penny F 5SG	Ellis G 5SG
	Year 6	Holly T 6JF	Logan W 6JF	Jake S 6JF
	Year 7	Arabella M 7TL	Owen R 7RB	Sam A 7RB
	Year 8	Charlie W 8HS	Ellen H 8AB	James S 8EK
	Year 9	Blake F 9DW	Jack D 9CM	Eliza B 9JM
	Year 10	Ben H 10LT	Layla S 10RT	Isla J 10RT
RE	Year 5	Khloe E 5ZG	Bonnie D 5ZG	Andrew O 5SG
	Year 6	Maia TW 6JF	Alanah Y 6JF	Owen K 6JF
	Year 7	James W 7TL	Poppy-Anne L 7RB	Brendan S 7TL
	Year 8	Bethany F 8AB	Bradley K 8NK	Ella H 8EK
	Year 9	Joshua S 9CM	Cece W 9JM	Oscar M 9CM
	Year 10	Flora C-W 10BF	Dejanna A 10BF	Parum S 10BF
Business	Year 10	Paige W 10RT	Jakub F 10RT	Lilian R 10BF
Psychology	Year 10	Chloe W 10LT	Amelia M 10RT	Hayley VB 10 BF
Health & Social Care	Year 10	Amelia M 10RT	Dejanna A 10BF	Carla Y 10BF
Drama	Year 7	Mia J 7DC	Libby B 7DC	Phoebe W 7DC
	Year 8	Ruben M 8HS	Bella W 8SP	Freddie H 8SS
	Year 9	Charlie B 9JM	Mackayla K 9MW	Beth H 9MW
	Year 10	Sydney R 10LT	Hayley VB 10BF	Isla J 10RT

SPORTS AWARDS

Jaggard Athletics Trophy

Chloe W

Girls Sports Personality of the Year

Izzy J

Boys Sports Personality of the Year

Will E

Team of the Year

Year 11 Boys Football Team

Girls Unsung Hero Award

Maddi H

Boys Unsung Hero Award

Daniel G

Sports Leadership Award

Erin D

Girls Rising Star Award

Freya D

Boys Rising Star Award

Arthur G

KS3 Girls Contribution to PE Award

Eliza B

KS3 Boys Contribution to PE Award

Jacob B

KS2 Girls Contribution to PE Award

Mia C

KS2 Boys Contribution to PE Award

Oliver D

Top CAPS

Girls

Key Stage 2 - Brooke T

Year 7 - Arabella M

Year 8 - Elsa & Milena S

Year 9 - Iris G

Year 10 - Chloe W

Year 11 - Annabel M

Boys

Key Stage 2 - Arthur G

Year 7 - Oliver M

Year 8 - Henry C

Year 9 - George E

Year 10 - Tom B

Year 11 - Will E



YEAR 11 LEAVERS

As this term draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to our second incredible cohort of Year 11 students. Their journey with us, for many starting in Year 5, has been defined by remarkable resilience and an inspiring enthusiasm to embrace every opportunity. They've skillfully balanced their academic pursuits with a vibrant array of extra-curriculars, impactful community projects, and valuable leadership roles. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements and are genuinely excited to witness their futures unfold, confident they will continue to excel and make positive contributions to their communities. Over the next few pages, we're thrilled to offer you a glimpse into the memorable moments of their leavers' journey – from the heartwarming last day shirt signing and a delightful visit from the ice cream man, to their poignant leavers' assembly and church service, all culminating in their spectacular prom!





PROM





YEAR 7 FUN DAY

What a way to wrap up the term! Our Year 7s celebrated with an absolutely fantastic treat day packed with thrilling activities. They bounced, dodged, and aimed their way through a whirlwind of inflatables, epic Nerf wars, high-flying trampolining, precision archery, and the hilarious challenges of "Wipeout" – plus so much more! It was a brilliant day of fun, laughter, and memorable moments for everyone.





What a fantastic way to cap off the academic year! Our Year 8 students had an absolutely brilliant time at Box End, diving into a thrilling range of water-based activities. From graceful paddleboarding and navigating the exhilarating aqua inflatable park to conquering the challenging Lake Ninja course and experiencing the rush of cable tow, there was no shortage of adventure. Even Miss Chalkley couldn't resist joining the fun, hitting the water on a paddleboard herself! It was truly a memorable and exciting day, perfectly rounding off a fantastic year for Year 8.

YEAR 8 BOX END

YEAR 9 PARIS

Last week, an excited group of Year 9 students, accompanied by staff, embarked on an incredible 5-day adventure across the Channel to the magical city of Paris! Their action-packed itinerary ensured a true taste of French culture and fun. Highlights included a serene river cruise along the iconic Seine, immersive visits to the world-renowned Louvre Museum and the breathtaking Montparnasse Tower for panoramic views. And of course, the much-anticipated day filled with enchantment and thrills at Disneyland Paris! What a truly memorable experience for all.





THE OCCASIONAL ORCHESTRA

On Tuesday, July 15th, the annual Occasional Orchestra convened, bringing together more than 50 students and staff from 14 schools for a captivating musical experience. This year's innovative theme, "food," inspired a diverse repertoire that included pieces such as "Chinese Takeaway" and "Moussaka."

A highlight of these gatherings is always the player-voted encore, and this year's selection, "Rock Salmon," provided a spirited conclusion to the performance. Our profound gratitude is extended to all staff members from the contributing schools; their commitment is instrumental in enabling this collaborative event. Particular recognition is due to Alison Brown for her skillful conducting, which was vital to the evening's success.



THE SUMMER SHOWCASE

We were thrilled to host our very first Summer Showcase, a spectacular evening celebrating the talent and creativity of our Year 7 and 8 students. The event brought together a vibrant mix of acting, singing, and dancing, as our young performers lit up the stage with energy, confidence, and passion.

From powerful solos to dynamic group performances, the students captivated the audience and left us all inspired by their dedication and enthusiasm. It was a true celebration of the arts — and a night we won't soon forget!



SPORTS DAY

What a day! We were delighted that the weather didn't spoil Sports Day take 2! It was a vibrant event brimming with energy, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community. Students, teachers and families came together to cheer, participate and celebrate. Students proudly competed in their house colours, earning points through participation and placements. Our house system fostered incredible camaraderie and support, with students from all year groups cheering each other on and celebrating every success. Our sincere thanks to the PE department for their meticulous planning and flawless execution. Congratulations to all participants! Whether you won a medal or simply enjoyed the day with friends, you made this Sports Day a truly memorable and fantastic occasion.







What a summer term it has been! As soon as we were back to school after eating our own body weight in Easter eggs, Year 6 put the pedal to the metal in preparation for SATs. They worked so very hard both at home and in school and when SATs week rolled around for real, they were ready for the challenge. They took the tests in their stride, keeping their focus on the important stuff: Ice-cream Friday! That day was a lot of fun, celebrating together in forms in the morning, enjoying some ice-cream as a year group after lunch. We are so incredibly proud of how they handled themselves and their subsequent results.

Despite the focus being on English and maths, lots of work was done in the creative subjects. Teddy bears were made in textiles, insect tiles sculpted in art and playgrounds designed and built out of cardboard in design and technology. In sports news, they came 3rd in the County Athletics Finals and smashed their events on sports day, showing they aren't all work and no play!

6JC developed a surprise interest in honey bees, studying the hives on school site and learning all about bee-keeping. They then wrote some amazing information texts, demonstrating their learning. Parents were invited to their end of Key Stage 2 Church Celebration Service to see certificates given out and the year's successes celebrated. Interestingly, both 6JC and 6JF chose to use the medium of song to summarise and convey their KS2 achievements: 6JF performed their own rendition of 'The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' and 6JC rapped their celebrations to the tune of 'The Fresh Prince of Belair'. How will this year's year 5s top that? We will miss Year 6 deeply but they have grown into wonderful young people ready for their next challenge.

Not to be outdone, Year 5 has also been busy in lessons and supporting the wider community. They made and raced balloon cars in design technology, planted, incubated and grew apple trees in science, performed 'The Angel of Nitshill' by Anne Fine and also did some acting whilst studying the Tudors. Reading 'Harry Potter' provided lots of opportunities to be creative in their writing. On a sunny day this month, year 5 set off on the annual village walk, looking at how history is visible in the world around us. To celebrate the end of year 5 and socialise as a year group, they took a short coach trip to Whipsnade Zoo. Again the sun shone on them as they walked and talked with the animals. As ever, we live our Mepperlow values daily and 5SG sold spider plants they had

grown and nurtured for Cancer Research. They raised a grand total of £75.50! This will make a big difference for a charity which is close to many of our hearts.

Our KS2 pupils (and their families!) have earned a well-deserved summer break. We wish all our Mepperlow community a fun and peaceful summer. We look forward to welcoming our new year 6 in September and know they in turn will welcome our new Year 5s.





Our Year 6 students have had an action-packed two weeks, celebrating the incredible conclusion of their time at Meppershall! Their send-off included everything from competitive bowling and thrilling theme park adventures, to focused archery and challenging wall climbs, exciting canoeing, and even a memorable sleepover – and that's just scratching the surface! The grand finale was a night of pure magic at their Valediction, where they donned their fancy outfits and danced the night away. Best of luck, Year 6! We can't wait to see you back with us in September, joining our brand new Year 7 Henlow cohort.







Buzzing Success: An Early Start to the Beekeeping Season!

This year, the beekeeping season truly hit the ground running! Thanks to unusually mild and dry weather, our honey bee colonies were off to a flying start, requiring us to implement swarm prevention methods much earlier than usual – well before the end of April. We're thrilled to report that our efforts have paid off; we've successfully retained and managed both of our colonies and haven't lost a single swarm this year!

The early activity also meant an early start for honey production. Our honey supers were on the hives swiftly, with one colony in particular looking incredibly promising for a significant harvest. We're currently in the exciting process of extracting and jarring some of this delicious honey, getting it ready for the upcoming Christmas Fayre.

Wasps: An Unwelcome Side Effect of Early Warmth

While the mild weather has been a boon for our bees, it's also led to a remarkably strong year for wasps. Wasps pose a unique threat to honey bee hives, initially robbing them of bee larvae to feed their own young. In return, the wasp larvae secrete a sweet substance, which the adult wasps become addicted to. This addiction then drives them to begin robbing the bees' precious honey stores. It's a challenging dynamic, but one we're vigilant about managing to protect our colonies.

Looking Ahead: Preparing for Winter

As the honey harvest wraps up, our focus will shift to preparing our colonies for the colder months. This includes initiating essential Autumn treatments for Varroa mites, a common pest that can weaken bee colonies. By ensuring our bees are healthy and strong, we'll give them the best possible chance to thrive throughout winter and emerge ready for another productive season next year.



HENLOW HUB

Many students have continued to use the library during break and lunchtimes despite the lovely summer we are having (think the air-condition in the room has helped!)

Book Fair

A huge thank you to students, parents and carers for supporting the fair that was held in the library in April. The library received approximately £180.00. This has been spent on new books for the library

Student Librarians

Student librarians play a vital role by actively contributing to the library's operations and promoting a love of reading and learning among their peers. They help with day-to-day tasks, promote the library's resources, and act as positive role models for other students, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement with the library.

This term, we said a huge thank you to 5 student librarians, all of which are going on to further education and one student who is moving to another school. We wish them all the very best in their next chapter.

Alexander: Year 11

Jessica: Year 11

Tabby: Year 11

Eadie: Year 11

Poppy: Year 7

We needed to recruit some more students to join the team. Interviews were held and training has been provided to our new members:

Antigone: Year 5

Alex: Year 5

Scarlett: Year 5

Heidi: Year 5

Lois: Year 6

Maia: Year 6

Bradley: Year 7

Maddy: Year 7

We hope our new librarians will enjoy their role and they will be supported by our existing librarians, Linnet, Nethuli, Austin, Daria, and of course Mrs White.

This summer term the following activities were held:

Monday book club

Our book club created a relaxed and informal environment where students explored different genres and authors, which has helped in leading a greater appreciation for reading and improved comprehension skills. The club was run by 2 of our student librarians Daria and Maddy. This club will continue in the new term.

Tuesday Braille club

Students are shown how to write and read braille by our visually impaired students Alec, Freya and Rita. The club has been very popular and we hope that students have enjoyed what they have learnt and has raised an awareness. A huge thank you to our VI students for running this fantastic club.

Thursday/ Reading cloud and eBooks

For the last few weeks of term, students have been shown and encouraged how to use our library system 'The reading Cloud' and how they can borrow eBooks and Audiobooks.

Reading Cloud: readingcloud.net

Students can search for books on the home page and if they log onto their own accounts, they can check to see what books they have on loan and see which resources they have borrowed in the past. They can also reserve books and write books reviews which can be published on the home page. Students will need their user name from either Mrs White or form tutors.

ePlatform: <https://www.eplatform.co/gb>

We have free access to a wide range of eBooks and Audiobooks for students to download.

Friday fun/games

Chromebooks are available at lunchtime for sensible games. We also have the chess sets out for students to enjoy this game.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

If you think you are eligible please contact Central Bedfordshire on the number below. As well as receiving the option to have Free School Meals you may also be entitled to a variety of initiatives at school. These may include free access to Breakfast Club, support with the cost of Food Tech, help towards uniform, subsidised music lessons, help towards the cost of school trips as well as other initiatives throughout the year.

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children in Year 3 and over are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

The school will then be informed and you will receive further information. If you would like to find out more about how the school uses the funding to support pupils in the school, you can find more information on the school's Pupil Premium Strategy on the school's website https://www.henlowacademy.co.uk/web/pupil_premium/643783 or contact Mrs Gregory (jgregory@henlowacademy.org.uk)

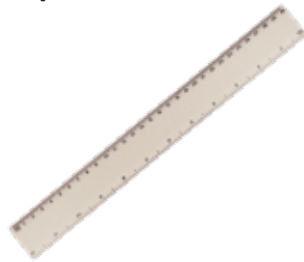
For more information on how to apply for Free School Meals, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council directly on 0300 300 8306.

STUDENT EQUIPMENT LIST

Please can you ensure that your child(ren) have a fully stocked pencil case when they return to school in September. All students must come equipped to all lessons with a fully stocked pencil case, as required by the Henlow Academy Home School Agreement. Regular equipment checks will be taking place from September. Students require the following stationery:



2 Black Pens
(cartridge, biro, Frixion or handwriting)



30cm Ruler



2 HB Pencils



Green Pen
(biro or Frixion)



2 Dry Wipe Markers



Rubber



Pencil Sharpener
(which collects the shavings)



Glue Stick



3 Highlighters
(different colours)



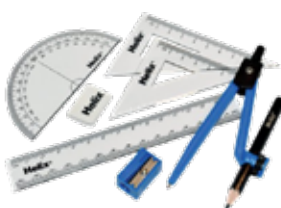
Colour Pencils



Scissors



Scientific Calculator



Geometry Set



Pencil Case
(a clear pencil case is needed when sitting exams)



Headphones
(suitable to be plugged into any tablet/keyboard)

REMINDERS



All students need a NAMED water bottle with them everyday



Please make sure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named and the name hasn't worn off



Please make sure your child has money on their ParentMail account if they have school dinners or snack



Students are not permitted to carry medication on them. Please complete a medication form and hand to the front office



Students must not be on school site before 8:30am unless they are in breakfast club



Homework Club is available to all students from 3:45pm -5:00pm daily



The front office is not able to call home if your child forgets something. Please make sure your child comes to school with everything they need for the day



Breakfast Club is available daily from 8:00am to 8:30am. The cost is £2.50 per day. Please email jmarshall@henlowacademy.org.uk to book a place



We are a nut free school due to some of our students having severe allergies. Please make sure snacks and packed lunches contain no nuts or nut products.



WISHING YOU ALL A
FANTASTIC SUMMER
BREAK!

WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU ON WEDNESDAY
3RD SEPTEMBER



HONESTY

ENTHUSIASM

NURTURE

LOVE

ORIGINALITY

WISDOM