



HEDNESFORD VALLEY HIGH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE TO ALL

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I come to the end of my first academic year in charge, I would like to take a moment to reflect. I can honestly say it's a privilege and an honour to be Headteacher of Hednesford Valley High School. Since taking over in September, I took my first term to settle in and assess the current situation of our school. What I witnessed were happy students with a zest for learning and staff passionate about teaching and supporting young people. I also took time to listen to the voice of all stakeholders, including you, our parents and carers. Your advice then and throughout the year has been pivotal in allowing me to fully recognise where we are and our potential for the future. From feedback and from observation it is clear; we all want Hednesford Valley High to become a school where students love to learn and staff love to teach and support young people.

We are getting there. We have made several appointments and changes during the year to enhance the teaching and support of our students, including:

- Increasing the staff and further developing the provisions and facilities at Hednesford Valley Sixth Form (based at Cannock Chase High School).
- Appointing an Educational Welfare Officer to support students and families with attendance issues.
- Appointing a trained Counsellor to support students who are struggling with mental health.
- Developing links with outside venues, including Gartmore Riding School, South Staffordshire College and Cannock Leisure Centre to enhance the provisions for our students.
- Starting the process with Staffordshire Virtual School and ARC to become an Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed School.
- Beginning our journey to become an Anti-Bullying School. We now have several trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in school, to support our drive.
- Joining a national programme with Whole School SEND to develop practices with other schools from across the country.
- Establishing a Parent/Carer Forum to further improve communication with parents and carers.

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This is having immediate impact. Our attendance is **well above** the national average for Special Schools and maintained Secondary Schools. It is not just attendance that has seen improvement. Our behaviour rates for students are also better than the national average for Special and Mainstream Secondary Schools. From the hard work of our Sixth Form staff, we have also seen a doubling of students registered to attend Hednesford Valley Sixth Form in September.

Although I am proud of the success of students and staff this academic year, I appreciate more is to be done and I look forward to providing an opportunity of sharing my vision for the future with you all. On **Thursday 28th September 2023** I will be hosting two events where I will share my three-year School Improvement Plan. To support parents and carers, one will be during the school day and one in the evening. More details are to follow in September. I would also like to hear your views on the academic year and ask you to complete the following questionnaire that will be open from 24th July (12:00) until 31st July 2023 (16:00) <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eTf9cuYhcOqWDXO8ZJfZRnf-oM9GJrtHnt2PBBUv4wBUMlg0NTYyWVhVT0tHRDBLOUkxNTUzSzJTRS4u>

Before we debark on the summer holidays, I would like to thank all governors, staff and students for their hard work this academic year. They are the life and soul of our school and make it such an enjoyable place to be. I would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for the support you provide your child and also the school.

We sadly are also saying farewell to four members of staff who will be leaving us. Mr Clarke, our Caretaker will be leaving us in September; he has been a very popular member of staff and we wish him well. Mrs Reynolds is an exceptional Teaching Assistant who has supported many students over the years. Although we will be sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her retirement and her relocation. Another valued member of staff, Miss Orme, is retiring. Miss Orme has worked in several different schools over the years, but her passion for supporting students with SEND led her to teaching at both Sherbrook and here at Hednesford Valley High. She has been an outstanding leader of our Complex Needs department and will be sadly missed. Finally, Mrs Hopewell our Deputy Headteacher, has been appointed Headteacher at a Special Primary School in Sandwell. Mrs Hopewell has been at the forefront of Hednesford Valley High over the years and I would personally like to thank her for the support she has provided this academic year. We wish her well in her new role.

That brings me to the end. I wish all staff, students and their families a well-earned break and an opportunity to recharge the batteries before seeing everyone back in on Tuesday 5th September.

Kind regards and take care,



Mr Stokes
Headteacher

SUMMER REWARD DAY

Students who hadn't accrued any behaviour points took part in a variety of trips and activities for Summer Reward Day which took place on Thursday 20th July.

Students within RHu and ISt had a wonderful rewards day at Statfold Train Museum and Barn. They had a tour of the museum, time on the soft play and a ride on a steam train. All students behaved wonderfully, asked lots of questions and of course, had lots of fun!

One student from RHu said when returning to the bus at the end of the day 'It's been a great day having a lovely time'.

Students in NWo and COr enjoyed their walk to Hednesford Park. Students loved playing on the slides and swings, followed by a picnic. The students worked well together to solve problems and take turns.

Everyone enjoyed an ice-cream in the sunshine and all students said they cannot wait to go back and explore again!

10APa travelled further afield to visit Chester Zoo and 8RSt visited the Museum of Cannock Chase. Everyone had a brilliant time.

Well done to all students and a big thankyou to all staff.



SPORTS DAY

We had a fantastic morning for Sports Day, thank you to all the parents/carers and families who came along to support our students.

Due to COVID and last year's heatwave, this was to be the first sports day for a few years. Thankfully the weather was kind and allowed everyone involved to have a fantastic time. It was great to see all students taking part and enjoying themselves in a variety of athletic activities.

A massive thank you must go to Mr Willett who organised the event. Everything ran smoothly and students even had the opportunity to have a well-earned ice cream before heading off for their Summer Holidays.

RHu SWIMMING LESSONS

This half term, tutor group RHu have taken part in regular swimming lessons. Students have shown an increased confidence within the water and all engaged with the sessions wonderfully.

Most notably one student who had little experience swimming is now able to go under the water and through a weighted hula hoop! She has shown a huge increase in her confidence and skills within the water.

As a class team we are all incredibly proud of how tutor group RHu represented the school whilst out in the community.

HORSE RIDING

During the current academic year we have had a total of 23 students attend Gartmore Riding School for weekly horse-riding sessions. All students have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions, their confidence grew each week and every single student was disappointed when their course came to an end.

One student who was very anxious about going declined their place initially. After explaining to the student how they would get to meet the horses and that it was ok if they did not feel comfortable getting on a horse, he then agreed to attend. His confidence grew every session and to this day, he still asks if he can go back to Gartmore.

Some of our students were 'natural riders' despite only sitting on a horse once, many years ago; these students were totally at ease with their horse.

More recently we had a student whom for the first few sessions had felt he was unable to sit on his horse and instead spent time getting to know 'Barney'. Over the course of time, he was able to not only sit on his horse but was able to ride for the full session and he completely enjoyed it.

We have had extremely positive feedback from one of the parents of a recent student on the course, who said that **"Gartmore has been the best thing that her daughter has ever been involved with, she has absolutely loved it."**

One of our students from the first course was asked to come back and support our students whom were on the next course. This student progressed well and was awarded a certificate of recognition from the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) for 'Contributing Over and Above'.



"Horses for life!"

"It was fun riding the horses"

"It was an extraordinary adventure"

"This has helped me gain confidence"

"I like Quincy, the horse I was riding"

"Staff were excellent and kind"



HISTORY

During this term, 9ABi have been learning about Littleton Colliery as part of their Local History topic.

Mr Wells came to our lesson to chat and answer questions about his time working in the local pit.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Letters and bookmarks have already been sent home. You can sign up at your local library or online at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in>. The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays - and to enjoy anything they like to read! Children are invited to set a reading goal and collect rewards for their reading.

Why should my child sign up?

- They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the Autumn.
- The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group**.
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's **confidence and self-esteem**.
- The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the Summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

How can my child take part? (Library or online)

In the library. Visit your local library and sign up. Your child will:

- Set a reading goal for the summer and borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks. Your child can choose anything they like to read!
- Receive a Challenge folder and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

Online. Take part online at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in>

- Sign up on the website.
- Set a reading goal and get tips for accessing books for free at home.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

If you have any questions, please contact your local library!



WMSSA ATHLETICS TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to our Boys team who came 2nd and our Girls team who came 3rd in the WMSSA Athletics Tournament which took place at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton on 26th June.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Well done to all the students who have successfully completed their DofE expeditions. Bronze students walked on Cannock Chase for two days and camped on the school field for one night; they had to work together to complete a series of tasks. Silver students completed a qualification expedition walking around the countryside outside Stone for three days and camped at Kibblestone scout camp for two nights.



INFORMATION & GUIDANCE EVENT

A big thank you to all the organisations who attended our Information & Guidance Event which took place in the school hall on Wednesday 5th July. 16 organisations were in attendance to give advice on further education, training and support services. Our year 10 and sixth form students and their families found the event very informative.





Special Diets Registration

At Edwards and Ward, we take great pride in our special diets process and continually strive to make it as simple and inclusive as possible to help us ensure that all children can be fed safely and effectively.

If your child is at primary school and requires a special diet due to a diagnosed allergy, intolerance or medical condition, you will need to register with us.

Even if you have already registered with the school or a previous catering provider, you still need to register with us as your details cannot be shared.

Our special diets registration form can be found on our website along with a full list of FAQs.

edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/

If your child has medical dietary requirements and is not registered with us, we may be unable to provide them a school lunch.

If there are any concerns about this, please contact our Special Diets Team for advice.



WMSSA ROUNDRS TOURNAMENT

Students took part in the U14 WMSSA Rounders Tournament at Two Rivers School on 8th June.

Well done to everyone involved - Hednesford Valley High were the overall winners!

Hednesford Valley 6 Vs 2 Two Rivers Win

Hednesford Valley 5½ Vs 2 Southall Win

Hednesford Valley 5 Vs 6 Two Rivers Loss

Hednesford Valley 6 Vs 3½ Southall Win



LIBERTY JAMBOREE, BURNTWOOD

Liberty Jamboree are a charity who offer bespoke after-school youth clubs, sports clubs and Arts programmes for young people with SEND/SEMH and Neurodiverse barriers. All the youth clubs are facilitated by qualified Youth and Community workers and/or SEN staff.

Liberty offer independent programmes with the additional support of Administration of Medication, Personal care and adapted one to one support where required.

This Summer, Liberty are also offering a FREE holiday programme which is a great opportunity for the children to meet new friends.

If you would like to discuss the opportunities Liberty offer, please email Maggi at maggi@liberty-staffordshire.co.uk to arrange a phone call/team meeting to go through how to become a member of the Liberty programmes.



Achieving Goalz and Dreams

www.achieving-goalz.co.uk infoachievinggoalz@gmail.com
or Bal.At.foster@googlemail.com



SUMMER SCHEDULE



Date	Location	Time	Activities
Monday 31 July	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ	9.00 - 1500	Football, Circuit Training, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Kick Tennis, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Boring, Safe Archery, Tug of War and Arts & Crafts.
Tuesday 1 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Wednesday 2 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Thursday 3 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Friday 4 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Monday 7 August	Pye Green Stadium, WS11 SRP	9.00 - 1500	Football, Circuit Training, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Kick Tennis, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Boring, Safe Archery, Tug of War and Arts & Crafts.
Tuesday 8 August	Pye Green Stadium, WS11 SRP		
Wednesday 9 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Thursday 10 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Friday 11 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Monday 14 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB	9.00 - 1500	Football, Circuit Training, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Kick Tennis, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Boring, Safe Archery, Tug of War and Arts & Crafts.
Tuesday 15 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Wed 16 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Thursday 17 August	Pye Green Stadium, WS11 SRP		
Friday 18 August	Pye Green Stadium, WS11 SRP		
Monday 21 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ	9.00 - 1500	Football, Circuit Training, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Kick Tennis, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Boring, Safe Archery, Tug of War and Arts & Crafts.
Tuesday 22 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Wed 23 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Friday 25 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Saturday 26 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB	10.00 - 14.00	
Monday 28 August	Pye Green Stadium, WS11 SRP	9.00 - 1500	Football, Circuit Training, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Kick Tennis, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Boring, Safe Archery, Tug of War and Arts & Crafts.
Tuesday 29 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Wed 30 August	Cannock Park, Cannock, WS11 1NZ		
Thursday 31 August	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		
Friday 1 September	Hednesford Park, Hednesford, WS12 1TB		

If any young person would like to come early or stay later, please book.



PLEASE CONTACT BAL AT ACHIEVING GOALZ DIRECT.

N.B. Space activities will be live on the website in the coming weeks.
For notifications please subscribe on the Space website. For AGD activities please contact us directly using the contact details provided here thank you.

www.staffordshirespace.uk AND www.achieving-goalz.co.uk



Achieving Goalz and Dreams

www.achieving-goalz.co.uk infoachievinggoalz@gmail.com
or Bal.At.foster@googlemail.com



SUMMER SPACE SCHEME: 31st JULY - 1st September 2023
9.00am - 3.00pm

CLIMBING WALL, FREE FOOTBALL, BOXING, CIRCUIT TRAINING, CARDIO TENNIS, TUG OF WAR, DODGEBALL, & TABLE TENNIS PLUS IT'S A KNOCKOUT-INFLATABLES



COME AND GET FIT, HAVE FUN ALL AGES WELCOME!

Why not? It's all **FREE** after all!



WIN TICKETS FOR FOOTBALL, CRICKET, TENNIS, BOXING EVENTS!

Cannock Park, Hednesford Park, and Pye Green Stadium.

OR BOOK ONLINE:

PLEASE CONTACT BAL AT ACHIEVING GOALZ DIRECT.

Contact: Bal on: 07525 169440

or email: infoachievinggoalz@gmail.com

or Bal.At.foster@googlemail.com

N.B. Space activities will be live on the website in the coming weeks.
For notifications please subscribe on the Space website. For AGD activities please contact us directly using the contact details provided here thank you.

www.staffordshirespace.uk AND www.achieving-goalz.co.uk

END OF YEAR AWARDS

We had a wonderful time at this year's awards ceremonies. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended for their support.

Congratulations to all students who received an award.

A special well done to all students who achieved 100% attendance for this academic year.



Help us protect Cannock Chase!

Explore our virtual world and meet the Chase Creatures.

There are 12 to collect!

Take on the challenge with the **Cannock Chase Can App** and gain points and rewards for your efforts!



Download the Cannock Chase App for FREE



SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form have had a very busy term and we are very proud of their contributions and achievements.

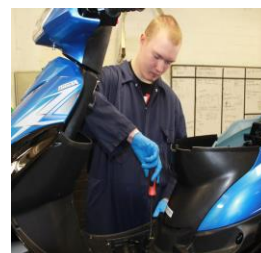
Sixth Form students were involved with designing a set of ideas for this project which has now been installed at the park as you can see from the attached email if we could use some of the poster attached and some information about designing the project for the newspaper that would be great.

In addition, Sixth Form took part in a creative arts project delivered in collaboration with Cannock Chase Educational Partnership. This consisted of several 'masterclasses' including environmental awareness, film/video skills and presentation skills. A film was created which included all the High Schools and Primary Schools involved in the project and the film premiere took place at Staffordshire University Academy on Tuesday 18th July.

Sixth Form have also been involved in a range of sporting and leisure activities which have included the continuation of the sports and leisure activities run by members of staff from Aspiring Healthy Lifestyles. These sessions have included walking, boxing and volleyball, and have also incorporated other members of the community and public who we chat to and stop for a coffee with afterwards.

We have also been privy to some amazing rugby sessions run by Leicester Tigers. The students have really enjoyed the sessions and have worked on learning the basic skills for rugby as well of having lots of fun and getting fit at the same time.

Sixth Form have continued to be present in the local volunteer work force. The development of their independence skills and confidence has been clear to see and they truly have made a huge difference within their chosen workplace. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all of our work experience placement providers this year, as without their help and support, our students would not be given the chance that they need within our local community to really make a difference and to gain valuable work experience.



EATING OUT DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

We have put together a list of places where children can eat for free or at a reduced rate during the Summer holidays.

ASDA - Kids eat for £1 every day until the end of the year at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

TESCO - Kids eat free in Tesco cafes when an adult spends as little as 60p and scans their Clubcard. This deal starts from July 24 and finishes September 1 in England and Wales.

SAINSBURY'S - Kids eat for free at Sainsbury's cafes with the purchase of an adult hot main meal costing £5.20 or more. This is available from 11.30am until September 3 - after this, kids can eat for £1.

MORRISONS - Kids eat free, all day, every day when an adult purchase a main meal for £4.49 or more.

BEEFEATER / BREWERS FAYRE - Two kids under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult during the summer holidays. An adult breakfast costs £9.99 and is served until 10.30am every day.

HUNGRY HORSE - Two kids eat for £1 on Mondays at Hungry Horse restaurants with every full paying adult.

FARMHOUSE INN - Two kids eat for free per paying adult Monday to Friday at Farmhouse Inns from July 24 until September 8.

TRAVELODGE - Two children eat breakfast for free at Travelodge when one adult buys a full priced breakfast. Breakfast is normally served every morning between 7am at 10am on weekdays, and between 8am and 11am during weekends and bank holidays.

PREMIER INN - Two kids eat breakfast for free when one adult buys a full breakfast. Breakfast is normally served every morning from 6:30am until 10:30am on weekdays and from 7am until 11am during weekends and bank holidays.

SIZZLING PUBS - Kids can eat for just £1, every Monday to Friday, 3pm until 7pm, when an adult purchases a main meal.

IKEA - Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am. Excludes IKEA Hammersmith and order and collection points.

BELLA ITALIA - Kids eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid from 4pm until 6pm, Monday to Thursday.

WHITBREAD INNS - Two kids under 16 eat for free with every adult breakfast purchased.

DUNELM - Kids get one mini main, two snacks and a drink free in Dunelm Pausa Coffee shops with every £4 spent after 3pm.

YO! SUSHI - Kids eat free with every £10 adult spend from July 17 until August 11.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2023

- ☑ 4th - INSET Day - school closed to students
- ☑ 5th - Students return to school after Summer break
- ☑ 28th - Year 5/6 Open Day
- ☑ 29th - MacMillan Coffee Morning

October 2023

- ☑ 2nd - INSET Day - school closed to students
- ☑ 4th - Bring a Guest to Lunch
- ☑ 5th - Parents/Carers Evening with Tutor
- ☑ 11th - Year 14 Coffee Morning
- ☑ 12th - Year 7 Kingswood Meeting
- ☑ 12th - Year 11 "What Next? Where Next?" Meeting
- ☑ 30th October - 3rd November - October Half Term Holiday

November 2023

- ☑ 17th - Anti-Bullying Enrichment Day
- ☑ 24th - E-Safety Coffee Morning

December 2023

- ☑ 4th - Individual and class photographs
- ☑ 7th - Christmas Jumper Day
- ☑ 19th - Christmas Lunch
- ☑ 20th - Reward Day
- ☑ 20th - Christmas Disco
- ☑ 21st - Christmas Show
- ☑ 21st - Students break up for Christmas Holiday
- ☑ 22nd - School closed to students

TERM DATES & INSET DAYS 2023 - 2024

Mon 4th Sep - Staff Inset Day - closed to students

Tue 5th Sep - Students return to school

Mon 2nd Oct - Staff Inset Day - closed to students

Mon 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov - October Half Term

Fri 22nd Dec - Staff Inset Day - closed to students

Mon 25th Dec - Fri 5th Jan - Christmas Holiday

Mon 8th Jan - Students return to school,

Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb - February Half Term

Mon 25th Mar - Fri 5th Apr - Easter Holiday

Mon 8th Apr - Students return to school

Mon 6th May - May Bank Holiday - closed

Fri 24th May - Staff Inset Day - closed to students

Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May - May Half Term

Mon 21st Jul - Staff Inset Day - closed

Tue 23rd Jul - Fri 30th Aug - Summer Holiday

Hednesford Valley High School, Stanley Road, Cannock, WS12 4JS

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