



HOPE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Message - Summer 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a privilege to be back as Headteacher at Hope High School and to reflect on what has been another successful and memorable term for our school community. Throughout this newsletter, you will see the wide range of opportunities our pupils have embraced, from educational visits and enrichment activities to developing their independence, life skills and academic achievements.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our Year 11 Leavers' Presentation. The weather was certainly kind to us, and it felt like a truly special community event as we celebrated the achievements, growth and successes of our young people. I would also like to thank everyone who supported our Summer Fair. It was fantastic to see so many pupils, families and staff coming together to enjoy the occasion.

Our pupils have now successfully moved up to their next year groups and have begun following their new timetables in preparation for September. This transition period has been positive and has given pupils the opportunity to become familiar with new routines, expectations and learning opportunities.

I would like to pay a special tribute to our Year 11 pupils. They approached their GCSE examinations with maturity, determination and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have shown throughout the year. I know they have done themselves proud, and I look forward to celebrating the results they so richly deserve. Their Leavers' Day and Presentation provided a fitting opportunity to recognise everything they have achieved during their time at Hope High School.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the new academic year and the many curriculum events, trips and enrichment opportunities we have planned. We remain committed to providing engaging experiences that inspire our pupils, broaden their horizons and help them develop the skills and confidence they need for the future. The enthusiasm, resilience and achievements of our pupils continue to make us incredibly proud, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish next.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families and wider community for your continued support. We could not be the school we are without you. Together, we make Hope High School a place where every pupil can thrive.

I would like to wish all of our pupils, families and staff a safe, happy and relaxing summer holiday. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, achievement and opportunity.

Warmest regards,
Mrs Dunbavin
Headteacher



APRIL

A Brilliant last Half Term in Food Tech!

Our students finished the last half term with an amazing range of dishes — from Saag Aloo with Naan, Cheesy Twists and Rock Cakes, to Hamantaschen, Scone-Based Pizza, Golden Sugar Biscuits, Lemon Curd Biscuits, Easter Swiss Roll, and Lemon Shortbreads.

They've strengthened key skills such as accurate weighing, dough shaping, creaming, whisking and safe use of equipment, all while exploring new flavours and cultural dishes.





APRIL

A Great Start to the Half Term in Food Tech!

We've kicked things off this week with two fantastic dishes — a fresh Vegetable Couscous Salad and a beautifully made Lemon Meringue biscuit base. Students have already shown brilliant skills in preparing vegetables, seasoning couscous, and mastering biscuit bases and meringue work. Over the rest of the half term, students will be making a variety of dishes including:

Layered Pasta Salad, Quiche, Zucchini & Cheese Scones, KS3 Zucchini Tortillas, Tuna & Broccoli Pasta, Mushroom Risotto, Savoury Rice, Pizza Muffins, Herby Soda Bread Rolls, Maryland Biscuits, Lemon & Blueberry Muffins, Flapjack Bites, No-Bake Cheesecake & Cheese Toasties

They'll continue to build confidence in key skills such as dough making, rubbing-in, baking, pasta and rice cookery, seasoning, shaping, and presenting their dishes with care.

t





APRIL

We are incredibly proud of Miss Forrester's Year 7 Lifeskills class, who today demonstrated excellent progress in developing their independence skills during a community visit !

Pupils successfully practised key travel skills, including signalling for the bus, paying independently, using polite and respectful manners, and disembarking safely. They then enjoyed a short visit to the Concourse, purchasing items independently.



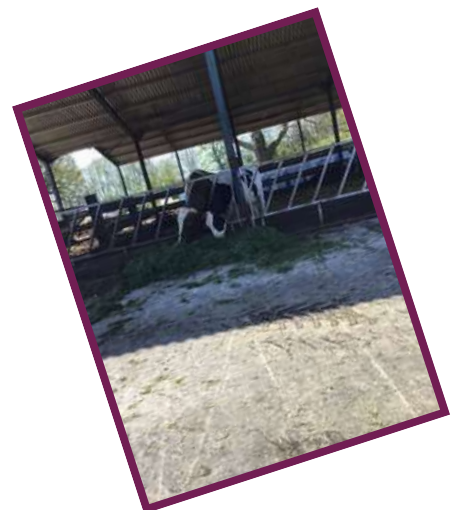
APRIL

Our Aspire Students Had an Amazing Day at Lancashire Education Farm!

What an incredible experience our Aspire group had today at the Lancashire Education Farm in Croston! From the moment they arrived, the students were fully engaged — meeting the animals, exploring the farm, and getting hands-on with real outdoor learning.

They absolutely loved it... so much so that they came back to school asking when they can go again!

The staff at the farm were fantastic, and our students showed brilliant curiosity, confidence, and teamwork throughout the visit. Days like this are exactly why we value learning outside the classroom — real experiences, real smiles, real memories. We're so proud of them all.



Our Year 10s Had an Incredible Day at Lancashire Education Farm, Croston!

What a brilliant experience our Year 10 students had today on a real, working dairy farm! They were amazed to learn just how much goes into caring for 180 dairy cows, each producing around 33 litres of milk a day. They even discovered that the farm has its own nutritionist, creating a carefully balanced feed mix including maize, soya hulls, rapeseed, barley, molasses, minerals and more!

Students were fascinated to learn how raw milk leaves the farm to be turned into cheese, yoghurt, butter, ice cream and dried milk powder, and how every part of the farm plays a role — even slurry, which is used as fertiliser, saving the farm around £48,000 a year. They explored renewable energy on site, the 165 acres of land, and even spotted wild garlic, blackberries, elderflower and baby dragonflies along the way.

One of the highlights was meeting the calves and seeing the vet technician carrying out disbudding — a rare chance to witness real-life animal care up close. Our students asked thoughtful questions, showed real maturity, and were fully engaged from start to finish.

Elaine was so proud of the year 10s today that we're now organising a work experience visit for them in July — an amazing opportunity for our students to return and learn even more.

They came back to school buzzing with excitement... and one student summed it up perfectly: "This is my perfect dream!"



APRIL

A massive thank you to Lee from the Department for Work and Pensions and Lynne from Skelmersdale Job Centre for delivering such an insightful and engaging session to our Year 10 and Year 11 students this morning. Both groups were fully involved — asking thoughtful questions, exploring future pathways, and showing real interest in the opportunities available to them beyond school.

Before they left, we were proud to give Lynne and Lee a tour of our school. They loved seeing the range of support, learning spaces and experiences we provide for our students throughout their day.

We truly appreciate their time, expertise and enthusiasm.
A brilliant morning for our learners.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

APRIL

Huge congratulations to our Year 7s who have completed their ripstop sled kites in DT! They've developed fantastic confidence on the sewing machines and shown real determination. We still have a few students finishing theirs off, and they'll be flying them with us as soon as they're ready. We're so proud of everyone — bring on kite-flying day!



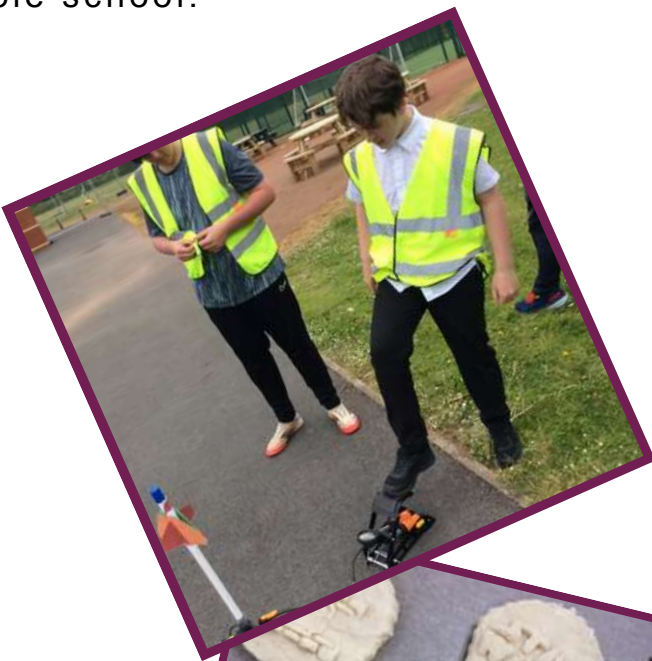
MAY

MAY THE SITH BE WITH YOU!

Yesterday our students enjoyed a full Star Wars-themed enrichment day, with every lesson across the timetable transformed into an intergalactic learning experience. From creative challenges and problem-solving tasks to hands-on making, space exploration and themed physical activities, pupils were fully immersed in a galaxy of learning.

Classes used the Star Wars universe as a springboard for creativity, STEM thinking, world-building, teamwork and imagination. Whether designing, investigating, baking, building or battling Ewok-style in the woods, students embraced the theme with enthusiasm and energy.

It was a fantastic day that blended curriculum learning with fun, curiosity and a sense of adventure — a brilliant way to celebrate May the Sith across the whole school.



MAY

YEAR 7 ROCKET DESIGNERS IN ACTION!

Some of our Year 7s took on a brilliant STEM challenge today as part of our May the Sith activities — designing, building and launching their own rockets.

They put real thought into their designs, tested out their ideas and then showcased them in a friendly competition to see whose rocket could fly the furthest. The enthusiasm, teamwork and creativity were fantastic to see.

Another great DT outcome and a big well done to our Year 7 rocket engineers — you absolutely smashed it



MAY

YEAR 7 TAKE OVER LANCASHIRE EDUCATION FARM!

Our Year 71 group had an unforgettable day at the Lancashire Education Farm, and what a brilliant experience it turned out to be. From feeding the animals to learning how the farm runs day-to-day, our students threw themselves into every activity with confidence, curiosity, and plenty of muddy boots.

A huge thank you to Elaine, who welcomed our students with open arms and gave them an opportunity they're still talking about. Her patience, encouragement, and passion for what she does made the whole visit something truly special.

The best part? They came back buzzing, smiling, and already asking, "When can we go again?"

Moments like this remind us how powerful hands-on learning can be — especially for students who thrive when they're out in the world, exploring, discovering, and getting stuck in.

Thank you again, Elaine, for giving our young people a day they won't forget.

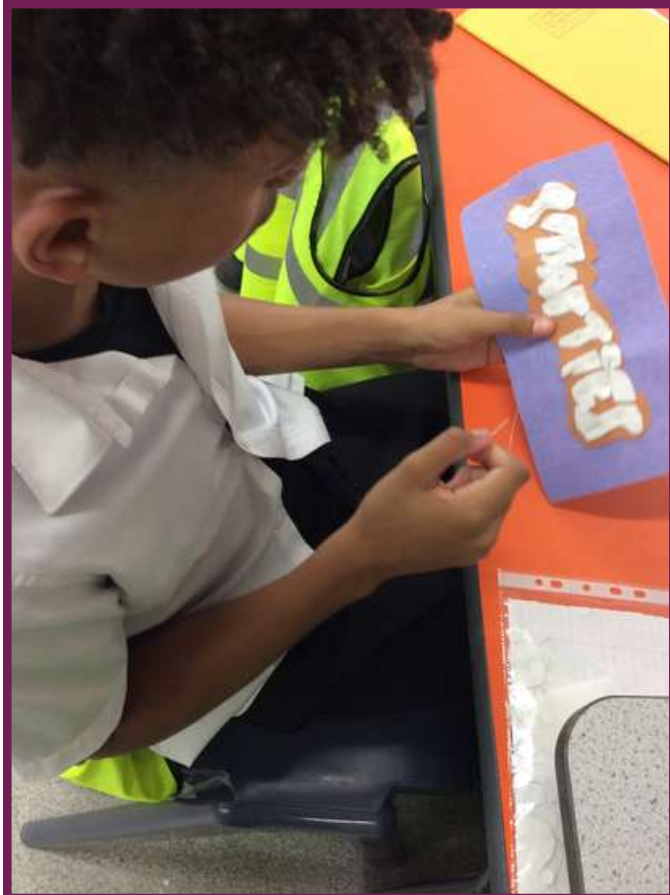


MAY

Aspire Students Smashing It Today!

Our Aspire students have had another brilliant session. Some of our students finished his Holly Levell / Lucy Sparrow-inspired cushion — a fantastic Cornflakes, Burger King and a Pepsi can design with a tie-dyed back. They have been so proud and couldn't wait to take them home. The rest of the group had their first go at using proper woodworking tools. They learned how to use a marking gauge, set square, wooden mallet, and our new saws and chisels. They measured their wood carefully and started cutting accurately using the right tools.

Great effort all round — and we can't wait to see their confidence grow even more.



MAY

YEAR 9 VISIT LANCASHIRE EDUCATION FARM!

Our Year 9s had a fantastic day today at the Lancashire Education Farm, learning all about how a modern dairy farm works and discovering some brilliant facts along the way. The farm started 125 years ago with just 10 cows and now produces an incredible 2 million litres of milk a year. Milk is collected every two days, and the top cow on the farm produces at least 60 litres a day.

Students were amazed to learn that cows drink the equivalent of a bathtub of water a day and eat the same as us 250 peanut-butter sandwiches. They also found out that cows' markings are all completely unique — just like our fingerprints — and that cows with white patches can get sunburn, which is why many cows in New Zealand are mostly black. We even saw a beautiful two-tone cow whose colouring made her stand out.

The farm collects rainwater to wash the milking robots, and students learned that cows produce the most milk shortly after calving. Out in the fields, we stopped to listen to a chiffchaff bird, and Elaine talked about the different types of honey being made at the moment — including blossom honey, chilli honey, and lavender honey from the same beekeeper who also keeps hives on top of Liverpool One.

The students were engaged from start to finish, full of questions, and really enjoyed the hands-on learning.

And the best sign of a good trip? On the way back, one of our students fell fast asleep — they must have enjoyed themselves so much.



MAY

FINAL DAY AT LANCASHIRE FARM – WHAT A WONDERFUL JOURNEY!

Today marked the last of our whole-school visits to Lancashire Farm, and what a fantastic experience it has been from start to finish. Our students have learned so much, asked brilliant questions, and thrown themselves into every moment.

This morning brought an extra special surprise — another calf delivery! The newborn from yesterday has been lovingly named Cathy, after our wonderful TA, in honour of her birthday. A perfect tribute on a perfect day.

The calves were full of energy and curiosity, happily coming over to be hand-fed by the students. Watching their confidence grow — both the students' and the calves' — has been a joy.

A delightful end to an unforgettable set of visits. Thank you to Lancashire Farm for welcoming us so warmly, and to our amazing staff and students for making these trips truly memorable



MAY

We've had a wonderful day rewarding some of our KS3 Art students by taking them to Yorkshire Sculpture park. It was lovely to see peers interacting with students from different years and having a fantastic time.



JUNE

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' DAY OUT AND PRESENTATION

It was another wonderful celebration for our Year 11 students as they marked the end of their time with us. They enjoyed a fantastic day of bowling in Southport, followed by a delicious Chinese meal. Both pupils and staff had an amazing time together.

As we looked back on their journey with us, we celebrated the incredible achievements, progress, and personal growth our students have made during their time at Hope High School. It was an emotional occasion, filled with laughter, tears, and an overwhelming sense of pride as we reflected on the memories we have shared.

We wish each and every one of them happiness and success as they take their next steps into the future. Our door will always be open, and we look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things they go on to achieve.

Once part of the Hope family, always part of the Hope family.





JUNE

YEAR 11 LEAVERS' DAY OUT AND PRESENTATION



Fourteen pupils and five staff enjoyed a fun-filled residential visit to Warner Bros. Studios London and Cadbury World. The trip began with a picnic stop before an exciting day exploring the Harry Potter studios, where pupils experienced broomstick photos, Butterbeer, Hogwarts models and film props, before ending the day with a meal at Harvester and an overnight stay in Milton Keynes. After a hearty breakfast, the group travelled to Cadbury World to learn about the history of chocolate-making while enjoying plenty of tasty samples. Despite a delayed journey home due to traffic, everyone returned with lots of chocolate, souvenirs and wonderful memories from an action-packed and enjoyable trip.





JULY

at Towerwood

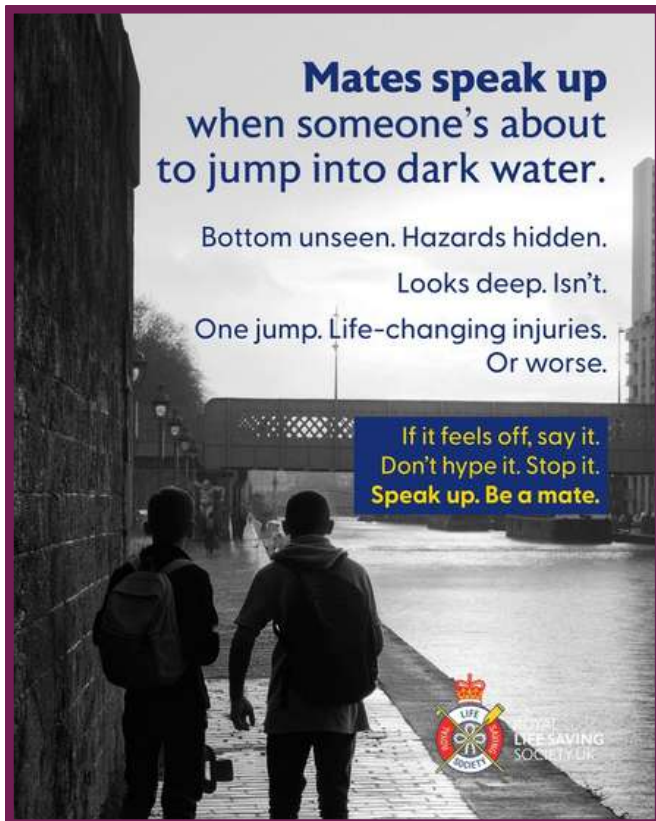
Our first day at Towerwood was packed with exciting activities, including the high ropes course, the Leap of Faith, and a refreshing swim in the lake. We rounded off the day with a walk through Bowness and some time playing in the park, making it a fantastic start to our trip.





JULY

WATER SAFETY FOR TEENAGERS



For further information on how to keep safe around water, please goto Royal Life Saving Society Uk website:

<https://www.rlss.org.uk>

Teenagers and young adults often take risks around rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, quarries and other inland and coastal waters, especially in groups. Most teenagers - especially males - don't fully recognise the risks they're taking.



Crisis and Resilience Fund

If your family is going through a hard time or facing an unexpected crisis, your local district council may be able to help.

From 1 April, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) introduced the **Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)** to support local welfare services.

The fund will run until 31 March 2029 and is paid for by the UK Government.

The CRF replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF), which ran from October 2021 until 31 March 2026. Because of this change, free school meal vouchers will no longer be available during school holidays.

How your district council can help

District councils can help with urgent needs such as food, essential household items and other practical support

You may want to contact your district council if you are dealing with things like:

- sudden money problems
- a family emergency that makes it hard to cover basic needs
- trouble getting food or essential household items
- a change at home that leaves you without immediate support
- extra pressure on your household budget, for example during the school holidays

Each district has a team that can talk to you about your situation and explain what help is available in your area. This support may come directly from the council or through local community organisations.

To get help, visit your district council's website or contact them by phone.

If you are not sure which district council covers your area, you can check by entering your postcode at www.lancashire.gov.uk/district-council.

If you are already getting support from a professional, for example through a Family Hub, school, health visitor or Early Years practitioner, then they can help you to contact your district council.

Up coming....

SEPTEMBER

School reopens: Thursday 3rd September 2026

OCTOBER

School Closes: Friday 23rd October 2026
School Reopens: Tuesday: 3rd November 2026

NOVEMBER

1st June 2026 - School Reopens

DECEMBER

School Closes: 18th December 2026

JANUARY

School reopens: 5th January 2027

breakfast

ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE **BREAKFAST/**
SNACK WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT
SCHOOL AND THROUGHOUT THE
MORNING.

snack



Scan here to explore PADLET Mental
Health Resources.



**A REMINDER FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO PLEASE ENSURE
THAT UNIFORM IS LABELLED. WE ARE REGULARLY BEING
ASKED ABOUT LOST UNIFORM BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT
CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FIND.**



Useful Numbers and Contacts

Lancashire Children's Social Care: 0300 123 6720

Police: Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Prevent team (Police) : For advice on preventing radicalisation or reporting concerns. Lancashire Police Prevent Officers can be contacted by:
telephone: 01282 472329/ 01282 472324.

Lancashire Children and Family Well-being Service:

West Lancashire: 01696 651350

Chorley: 01257 516466

Preston: 01772 539420

Mental Health Services:

NHS-Our Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 0800 953 0110

Samaritans: call on freephone 116 123. They're always open and are there to listen.

Mind: Mental Health Service- 03001233393- text - 86463

You can text shout to Crisis- You can text SHOUT to 85258

For free, anonymous mental health support/advice : Kooth.com

Lancashire CAMHS Services:

CAMHS West Lancs Helpline: 01695 684 262

CAMHS Leyland: 01772 644 644

CAMHS Preston: 01772 777 344

CAMHS East Lancashire: 01282 425 071

Other Useful Safeguarding Sites:

Child Action North West: <https://canw.org.uk/>

NEST Lancashire: <https://nestlancashire.org/>

NSPCC: 0808 8005 000

For any medical concerns please contact your GP