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DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

I hope this first newsletter of 2026 finds you well and that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

I want to start by thanking pupils, parents and staff for the resilience which was shown during the first few days of term, when there was a local weather warning in place. Ensuring that pupils were still able to get to school in a safe manner was a high priority for many of our families and this commitment has continued recently, factoring in the road works taking place on Higher Road.

With this in mind, I would like to draw your attention to the article regarding the importance of school attendance. At present we still have too many pupils missing out on learning as they have not attended school. Every day counts in your child's education's journey and we want to support all of our young people and their families to ensure any barriers to attendance can be overcome. Our **Attendance Team** will continue to be relentless on a daily basis to ensure pupils are in school and we need your support and co-operation to make this happen. Please speak to a member of our **Pastoral Team** should you have any questions about the school's attendance strategy.

To support punctuality to school during the ongoing roadworks on **Higher Road**, which are scheduled to continue until **Spring 2026**, the **Arriva 786** timetable has been temporarily amended; please see further details on Page 6.

We are only three weeks in to the new term, but there has already been a number of exciting activities in school for pupils to get involved with; Churro-Making for Year 11, Gas Testing for Year 7, a KS3 STEM Roadshow, Blue Monday Treats and Computer Science Week taking places across the whole school. You can read more about these on **Pages 9 -15**.

Finally I would like to highlight to all **Year 11 parents and carers** our **Achieve Together Evening**, taking place on **Wednesday 21st January (5pm – 7pm)**. At this event Year 11 pupils will receive their mock results from the exams they completed in December and you will be provided with an update on their predicted grades for the summer exam series. We are now on the countdown with only four months to go until GCSE examinations start. We have daily **Super-Curriculum** revision sessions taking place during lunchtime and after school. You will also be aware of the **Maths, English & Science** interventions that are taking place every morning. In order for every pupil to reach their full potential, I would encourage them to attend all of these opportunities as directed by their teachers. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of teaching or pastoral staff.

Kind regards,

Mr I Critchley
Executive Principal

KEY DATES 2025

Wednesday 21st January	YEAR 11 ACHIEVE TOGETHER EVENING
Thursday 5th February	YEAR 9 PARENTS / OPTIONS EVENING
Friday 13th February	END OF TERM



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF

STUDENT FRIENDLY SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

What is safeguarding?

- ✓ Keeping you safe and healthy at school and at home
- ✓ Making sure that you feel safe in your environment and are protected from harm from both adults and other young people
- ✓ Educating you to know how to keep yourself safe

Who is available to help?

At school you can talk to:

- Your Form Tutor/Progress Leader/ Assistant Progress Leader/Learning Mentor/Any trusted adult, e.g. Teacher, TA, Mid-day Assistant
- The Safeguarding Team
- The School Nurse

Outside of school you can talk to;

- Trusted family member, trusted adult such as sports coach or friends
- Your family doctor
- Kooth/CAMHS
- The police

Who can I go to?

In school you can go to:

- Pastoral Hub - F10
- Pupil Support - S01
- Progress Leader / Assistant Progress Leader
- A Classroom Teacher
- School Nurse drops ins
- Any member of staff

Outside of school;

- The School Website
- Online Support Websites
- Childline - 0800 1111

When can I speak to someone?

At school you can talk to;

You or a family member can talk to a member of staff at anytime about a worry or a concern that you may have about yourself or a friend.

Safeguarding

at Halewood Academy



Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Cross



Mrs Campbell



Mr Day



Mr Harrison



How will you keep me safe?

- We will educate you to ensure a strong culture of diversity and inclusivity where difference is celebrated positively;
- We will educate you to stay safe online and out in the community;
- All **Halewood Academy** staff are trained to spot the signs of abuse or neglect;
- Staff are trained to deal with incidents of abuse from adults to children and also abuse which can occur between young people;
- We will always listen and act upon your concerns. This may involve working with your parents or carers or getting help from other services outside of school;
- Your wishes and feelings will always be considered.

Why is it important?

From time to time, children can suffer abuse from adults and also young people. Abuse can be physically, sexually or emotionally harmful or neglectful and can happen in person or online, at home, within the community or in school.

We want to make sure that everyone at **Halewood Academy** is protected from abuse and harm.



MOMENTS MATTER ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Despite the cold weather we have seen a reasonable start to the new year for many of our students.

However, we have also seen **too many pupils missing out on learning** because they have not attended school. Days missed from school results in students having gaps in their knowledge and understanding and these gaps can be difficult to catch up.

We are sure you have noticed the **celebration of good attendance** and positive messages on our social media platforms. If you are not doing so already, I would urge you to follow the school accounts so that you can join in the celebrations and positivity.

Every day counts in your child's educational journey, and we greatly appreciate your role in ensuring their attendance. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment. Together, we can help them **reach their full potential!**

We are very much looking forwards to a strong period of attendance leading up to February half term break – there are only 4 weeks to go! Good attendance over the next 4 weeks will ensure we start the year off on a real high.

Your active involvement in **your child's attendance** is invaluable. Keep up the great work in prioritising their education. Thank you for all that you do to ensure their success.

As a reminder, I have included below the 6 aspects that underpin Working Together to Improve Attendance. In addition, I have also included the expectations of parents/carers and of school. By adhering to these concepts, we will improve attendance for all students.



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



Expect

Aspire to high standards of attendance from all pupils and parents and build a culture where all can, and want to, be in school and ready to learn by prioritising attendance.

Monitor

As a school we use attendance data to identify patterns of poor attendance as soon as possible so all parties can work together to resolve them before they become entrenched.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

MOMENTS MATTER ATTENDANCE COUNTS



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Listen and understand

When a pattern is spotted, discuss with pupils and parents to listen to and understand barriers to attendance and agree how all partners can work together to resolve them.

Facilitate support

Remove barriers in school and help pupils and parents to access the support they need to overcome the barriers outside of school. This might include an early help or whole family plan where absence is a symptom of wider issues.

Formalise support

Where absence persists and voluntary support is not working or not being engaged with, partners should work together to explain the consequences clearly and ensure support is also in place to enable families to respond. Depending on the circumstances this may include formalising support through an attendance contract or education supervision order.

Enforce

Where all other avenues have been exhausted and support is not working or not being engaged with, enforce attendance through statutory intervention: a penalty notice or prosecution to protect the pupil's right to an education.

Attendance expectations

Parents/carers MUST:

- Telephone or email school before 8.15am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters (remember these should be taken out of school hours wherever possible).

- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival and/or throughout the day.
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- Contact school if you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance. Talking to us is the first step to helping resolve it.

School MUST:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- Make a welfare home visit, if we cannot establish a reason for absence.
- Support you to remove barriers to good attendance

BUS TIMETABLE CHANGE



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

13th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Bus Timetable Change

I am writing to inform you of a forthcoming change to the Arriva 786 & 786A bus timetable, which drops off at Halewood Academy each morning. Many of you will be aware of the roadworks currently taking place on Higher Road and the surrounding areas, resulting in numerous temporary lights on the approach to Wood Road. This has been causing significant delays to the usual bus route during the morning. To ensure that pupils continue to arrive at school on time and that disruption to learning is kept to a minimum, the bus timetable will be adjusted. From **Monday 19th January**, the two services below will operate **10 minutes earlier** than the current schedule.

Collection Location	New Collection Time	
	786 (1 st Service)	786A (2 nd Service)
South Parkway Station	07:20	
Speke Road	07:26	
Business Park	07:28	
Western Avenue	07:35	
South Parade		07:55
Halewood Academy	07:45	08:13

The drop off time above at Halewood Academy is scheduled without any delays, however Arriva have monitored the routes last week and the 1st service should arrive close to 8am and the 2nd service close to 8.30am, taking into account the roadworks. School will continue to open at 8am.

This change is intended to be temporary and will remain in place for the duration of the roadworks. We will keep you informed and notify you as soon as the timetable returns to normal. Parents who drop off at school will also see the current impact of traffic, which is likely to last until April 2026. As such for pupils who can walk or cycle to school, please continue to encourage this as the most efficient means of transport.

Whilst the end of day services are not affected, please be reminded that we are currently trialling a later 786 service at 4.15pm to enable more pupils to attend extracurricular and super-curricular activities. We will monitor the usage of this over the next three weeks to make a longer-term decision, so please encourage pupils to use this service to support their studies and extra-curricular opportunities.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Ian Critchley
Executive Principal

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST



ACHIEVE TOGETHER EVENING INVITE

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Date

Dear Parents/Carers,

Achieve Together Evening – Wednesday 21st January 5.00pm – 7.00pm

As you will be aware, your child will be sitting their GCSE examinations later this academic year. In order to support them and give them the best possible chance of fulfilling their target, we invite you to attend the Achieve Together Evening being held on **Wednesday 21st January 2026**. The evening will begin at 5.00pm and finish at 7.00pm. **You will receive your child's mock results and latest grade card during the event.**

The evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet with senior leaders and leaders of all subject areas. You will be provided with valuable information in terms of all upcoming assessments, P2S dates including the next set of mock examinations and advice on how we can best work together to support your child's attainment and progress, whilst ensuring that we are taking care of their well-being.

Leaders within each subject area will provide you with advice pertinent to their subject area, including revision opportunities, and each faculty will have subject specific 'take away' materials to further support your child to reach their potential.

All students will be provided with a revision resource pack that will contain helpful hints, tips and techniques that they will be able to utilise to support their work both in and out of school.

Following the recent set of mocks, we will be reviewing data in order to set up bespoke meetings during the evening for the core subjects. Our English, science and maths specialists will deliver specific and targeted sessions to enable us to work together to support your child in reaching the next grade boundaries. A further letter will follow after Christmas detailing which meeting you should attend and a reply slip will be attached then.

The evening will also provide a chance for you to meet with representatives from a variety of local colleges, apprenticeship schemes and future career opportunities. This will ensure you and your child are well advised about progression beyond GCSEs.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be available to discuss with parents about our Academic Mentoring Programme whose aim will be to better support students through these often-anxious times.

It goes without saying that **attendance to this evening is vitally important**, so I would ask that you place the date in your diary and keep it free as this will be the **last opportunity to visit the school** prior to your child's GCSE examinations starting.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Thomson
Vice Principal

INCLUSION DROP-IN SESSION INVITATION

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Inclusion Drop-In Session Invitation

We would like to offer the opportunity for parents/carers to attend our first Inclusion Drop-In which will take place on Wednesday 4th February between 4pm and 6pm.

This is an informal drop in and will allow parents/carers the chance to meet key staff leading on Inclusion here at Halewood Academy and provide an opportunity to learn more about our SEND offer and support available. Refreshments will be available.

If you would like to attend the session, please reply via email to admin@halewoodacademy.co.uk no later than Friday 30th January. Please remember to state your child's name and year group in your reply.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Cross
Vice Principal.

**SAVE
the DATE**

WE SEEK THE BEST

YEAR 11 CHURRO-MAKING ADVENTURE



Creating churros is no small feat, and Year 11 students have risen to the challenge with flair and expertise. This culinary endeavour required mastering the art of choux pastry, skillfully piping the dough, and safely deep-frying it to perfection.

Choux pastry is a versatile dough that forms the basis for many delightful treats, including churros. The process of making choux pastry is intricate and requires precision and high complex skills were used.

Deep-frying is a technique that requires both skill and safety awareness were the students showed great enthusiasm and displayed excellence in their results.

Year 11's churro-making project is an excellent example of how high-level cooking skills can be developed and applied in a classroom setting. By mastering choux pastry, perfecting piping techniques, and safely executing deep-frying, the students have not only created a delicious treat but also honed valuable culinary skills.



HALEWOOD ACADEMY LIFTS SPIRITS

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Beating the Blues: Halewood Academy Lifts Spirits on Blue Monday

This year, **Halewood Academy** showed that even the gloomiest day of the year can be transformed with a little kindness and a lot of community spirit.

Blue Monday, often referred to as the most depressing day of the year, falls on the third Monday in January. The term was originally coined to describe a day when cold weather, dark mornings, post-holiday fatigue and the pressures of a new term can combine to affect people's mood and motivation. While the science behind Blue Monday is debated, many recognise that this time of year can feel particularly challenging.

At Halewood Academy, however, the day was anything but gloomy.

Thanks to an uplifting initiative led by Georgia and the team of prefects, staff and students were greeted with a special treat designed to brighten the day and remind everyone that small gestures can make a big difference. With smiles, positivity and a clear sense of purpose, the prefect team worked together to organise and distribute treats across the school, creating a buzz of excitement from the very start of the morning.

Georgia's leadership was central to the success of the initiative. She coordinated the prefects with enthusiasm and care, ensuring that everyone felt included and appreciated. The result was a warm, uplifting atmosphere that spread quickly through classrooms and corridors alike.

Teachers and students alike commented on how the simple act of receiving a treat lifted their spirits and helped set a positive tone for the rest of the day. It was a powerful reminder that wellbeing is not just about grand gestures, but about everyday acts of kindness and consideration.

Halewood Academy's response to Blue Monday perfectly reflected the school's core values of **Respect, Aspire, Collaborate, Excellence and Resilience**. By turning a potentially difficult day into a celebration of positivity, Georgia and the prefect team showed respect for the wellbeing of others, worked collaboratively to deliver excellence, and demonstrated the resilience needed to lift spirits during a challenging time.

Sometimes, all it takes to beat the blues is a thoughtful idea, a motivated team, and the willingness to spread a little joy.



YEAR 7 METAL REACTIVITY AND HYDROGEN GAS TESTING

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

Last week, Year 7 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of chemistry, focusing on the reactivity of alkali metals and testing for hydrogen gas. This lesson was designed to introduce students to some fundamental concepts in chemistry while providing them with hands-on experience in a laboratory setting. They thoroughly enjoyed the practical experience and showed great resilience in testing for different results.

This lesson provided Year 7 students with a dynamic and engaging way to understand the reactivity of alkali metals and the properties of hydrogen gas. Through careful observation and experimentation, students developed a deeper appreciation for chemical reactions and the importance of safety.

By integrating their theoretical knowledge with practical application, the lesson reinforced key scientific principles and ignited curiosity about the wonders of chemistry.



YEAR 8 STEM VISIT DESCRIBING ATOMS

HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

This week Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the **National Education Roadshow**, an engaging and high-energy STEM performance designed to inspire curiosity, ambition and future career aspirations.

Now in its 21st year, the **Education Roadshow** visits schools across Great Britain, using live theatre to bring STEM subjects to life. This year's production, ***Material World – Engineering the Future***, explored the exciting field of materials science, helping students understand how the materials we use every day are shaping the technologies of tomorrow.

Delivered by hi-impact in partnership with **Altru Drama**, the performance blended live acting, science, and storytelling to create an interactive and memorable learning experience. Students discovered how materials are used across industries such as engineering, manufacturing, technology and aerospace, and how creativity and problem-solving sit at the heart of innovation.

The session was particularly valuable in showing students how school subjects link directly to the future world of work. It highlighted real STEM career pathways, helping students understand how studying science, technology, engineering and maths can lead to a wide range of exciting and rewarding jobs, while also raising aspirations about what they can achieve in the future.

We were extremely proud of the excellent behaviour, focus and engagement shown by our **Year 7 and 8 students** throughout the event. They listened attentively, responded positively to the interactive elements and represented the school brilliantly.

Events like this play an important role in helping students see the relevance of their learning, broaden their horizons and inspire them to think ambitiously about their futures.



YEAR 7, 8 AND YEAR 9 TEAM BUILDING TRIP



HALEWOOD ACADEMY



In December, a small group of enthusiastic students from Year 7 and Year 9 embarked on an exciting adventure at the Merseyside Youth Association Outdoor Activity Centre. This visit was designed to foster teamwork and camaraderie among students through a series of exhilarating activities showing collaboration in their teams.

Throughout the day, the Year 7 and Year 9 demonstrated outstanding team spirit and resilience. They supported one another in every challenge, ensuring that everyone felt included and motivated. The camaraderie developed during these activities not only enhanced their teamwork skills but also created memorable experiences that the students cherished.

The visit to the Merseyside Youth Association Outdoor Activity Centre was a resounding success, leaving the students eager for more adventures and opportunities to work together as a cohesive unit.

NUMERACY CHALLENGE



HALEWOOD ACADEMY

CALCULATOR

Calculator Skill of the month

Calculator Questions

You have two GCSE Maths calculator papers. It is very important you can use your Casio Fx-991CW calculator correctly. An example of a calculator question is below:



12 Find the value of $\frac{\sqrt{13.4 - 1.5}}{(6.8 + 0.06)^2}$

Write down all the figures on your calculator display.

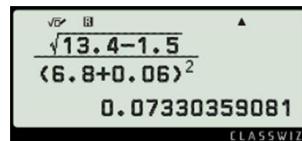
Home – calculate – EXE   

If the question is a fraction, press the fraction button first. 

Type the top of the fraction in  1 3 . 4 - 1 5

Use arrow to go down and type the bottom  6 . 8 + 0 . 0 6) 

Press EXE, Press Format Scroll to Decimal, Press EXE    



Maths Challenge

Using the examples above can you answer the following questions using your calculator:

Work out

$$\sqrt{\frac{25.1 - 3.87}{5.23 + 2.04}}$$

Use your calculator to work out

$$\frac{\sqrt{12.36 - 5.12}}{2.97^2}$$



STRATEGY

COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

💻 ⚡ Computer Science Week at
Halewood Academy ⚡ 💻

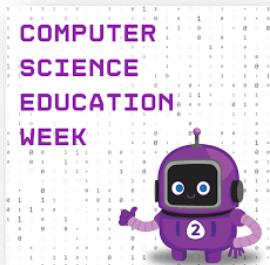
A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF



This week, students loved celebrating Computer Science Week by taking part in exciting activities, including the *Hour of AI*.



They explored how artificial intelligence works, developed problem-solving skills, and discovered how computing shapes the world around us. A fun and inspiring week for all! 🚀 🤖



Hour
ofAI

MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST

WE SEEK THE BEST

END OF TERM LOST PROPERTY



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

School has an increasing number of items in Lost Property such as coats, bags, shoes, trainers, folders etc. If your child has lost an item, please encourage them to view the lost property to return the item to them.

Any items remaining in lost property after the end of term will be donated to a local charity.

Regards
Halewood Academy



SUNDAY

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for and why

SATURDAY

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help brighten their day

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

1 Find three things to look forward to this year

WEDNESDAY

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

7 Learn something new and share it with others

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

MONDAY

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

TUESDAY

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

FRIDAY

9 Get moving. Do something active (ideally outdoors)

16 Contribute positively to your local community

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

18 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

Happier January 2026



Happier • Kinder • Together

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

