

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the July issue of our monthly newsletter. As usual there is lots going on in school and our students are involved in a wide variety of exciting and interesting activities. Thank you to all the staff and students who have contributed with their thoughts and experiences.



Question Time

On Monday 3rd July as part of the schools ever-developing programme of 'Gifted and Talented' events, ninety students took part in a 'Question Time' forum in the school hall. The expert panel



was made up of councillors and politicians representing the Conservatives, Labour, LibDems and the Green party who answered questions on a vast number of topics including the situation in Iraq, 'global warming', the role of women in political life, university tuition fees, police presence on local streets and even the potential consequences of a hydrogen engine. The panel comprised Councillors Dave Topping and Chris Nield, Sam Corocoran, Leader of the Sandbach Labour Party, Tim Newbould representing the Green Party and Simon Davey representing the LibDems.

The audience was made up from students aged from Year 6 through to Y12 and students attended the event from across Cheshire, including groups from Middlewich High School, Sandbach High School, Sandbach Boys School, Henbury High School, Scholar Green Primary and Black Firs Primary. The event was chaired by Mr Hermit 'a la David Dimbleby' to ensure that no questions were sidestepped by the expert panel.

The session was extremely well received and students said that they found it really stimulating and interesting. The panel enjoyed themselves immensely too and plans are already underway for next year's event.

School Hosts visit of Chief Executive Officer from Cheshire County Council

On the 19th July we were extremely pleased to extend a warm welcome to Mr Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive Officer at Cheshire County Council.

Mr Taylor spent a morning with us, touring the school, visiting classrooms and talking to students. In particular, he spent time with members of the Student Council to hear about how they are involved in the life of the school. They raised their own questions about how the County Council can make things better at the school and Mr Taylor was able to confirm a continued commitment to working with the students so that their voice can be heard and their views taken into account as part of decision making. The students explained how they have been getting more involved in the selection of new staff by forming their own interview panel.

Mr Taylor was also able to meet with representatives taking part in the International Engineering Exchange.

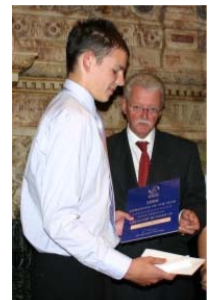
Following his return to County Hall Mr Taylor sent a message to say how much he had enjoyed his visit and was hugely impressed by the quality of the school overall

Individual Successes

We are delighted that some of our students have attained success in Engineering-related activities. Kate Snelgrove (Y11), who was one of our first cohort of Young Apprentices, passed a challenging exam and interview earlier this year to be awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. As an Arkwright Scholar, Kate will be sponsored during her AS/A2 studies and will receive valuable support from an engineer from a local company.



Adam Barnes (Y10) came second in the Total People 'Young Apprentice of the Year', winning £75 at a special celebratory evening at Crewe Hall.



Jenna Pearce (Y10), one of our 2nd cohort of Young Apprentices, has achieved level 2 Autocad with distinction and level 3 with merit. Jenna must be one of the few students in the country to achieve level 3 in Year 10.

Congratulations to Kate, Adam and Jenna on

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sarah Coppack the Head's PA on the arrival of Emma Olivia who was born on the 16 June at 12.45pm weighing in at 6lbs 13ozs. Mother and baby are both doing well.

Bentley cars invited Mr Hermitt to visit their state of the art factory in Crewe

Bentley is one of our Engineering College sponsors. The visit included presentations from two successful apprentices. One was part of the engineering apprenticeship scheme and is working his way through all the types of work that is available on the huge site. The other was completing a business studies apprenticeship. This served to underline the wide range of job opportunities that exists within a large organisation Focused on engineering.



Bentley is one of the largest employers in the area with over 4000 employees with a range of different work opportunities ranging from design, Marketing and public relations through to manufacturing where they are specialists in hand crafted luxury additions. They are part of the VW group and therefore they have access to all the specialists within the group. They have concentrated on the luxury car market with some of the most expensive cars in the world manufactured to exacting standards.

Mr Hermitt was treated to a tour of the factory which included visits to the coach building, Leather works, wood veneer works, Assembly lines, quality assurance as well as the design section where the cars are customised to suit almost any requirement. Many famous people have their cars designed to suit themselves and one of the most notable Bentley owners is HRM Queen Elizabeth who has two custom made cars.

The most expensive car that they have on site is not available for sale. It is a vintage racing car worth about £5 million pounds.

Borneo Trip

The Borneo trip leave on the 15th July to represent the school on an Expedition. We are all looking forward to hearing about their adventures when they return. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards their successful fundraising.

MFL Events

Spanish Exchange 2006

Ten Spanish students from our partner school in Madrid, San Viator, are currently in Congleton, staying with their Spanish partners. Their itinerary is packed with visits to Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and The Lakes, as well as time spent with their host families. The students are all very happy with the warm welcome they have received and in particular the hot weather we have provided.

Letters for next year's Spanish Exchange are available now from Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Bartley and Mrs Newns. Lets see if we can take a bigger group than last year!

Langtech Visit – June 30th 2006

On June 30th, forty Gifted and Talented students from Years 7, 8 and 9 went on a modern languages visit to Langtech, at Standish Community School. Longtech is an international languages centre which caters for language learning at all levels.

Whilst at the centre the students visited the "European Street" where they had the opportunity to shop in French. They were all given a shopping list and a travellers cheque which they had to exchange for Euros at the bank, all in French. The aim was to spend the money and buy everything on the list. The shoppers were of course allowed a rest at the café where they wrote their postcards and ate a well-earned ice-cream! The students also spent time in the centre's multimedia suite where they worked on Interactive French activities on the computer.

The day was very successful and the students gained great linguistic benefits from it as well as a boost to their confidence.

LRC Resource Centre



As another school year comes to a close I am keen to get all outstanding resources returned to the LRC. Please would all students ensure that all items are returned to me before the end of this term. I would also like to take this opportunity to notify all students that overdue charges will be increased to 10p per day for books and 15p per day for other resources as from September.

Thank you

Denise Parker - LRC Manager

Engineering Update



Engineering Week

From Tues 18 – Thurs 20 July, all Engineering staff and students will be taking part in the second annual whole school Engineering Event. Over the 3 days, students will take part in a wide range of exciting activities. These include:
 Y7: (Zoo) a visit from Zoo Labs, designing and building animal enclosures, mask making, building a sculpture, visit to Chester Zoo
 Y8: (Water for Life) water purification, global warming, building motor boats, visit to Magna Science adventure park
 Y9:(Flight) kite making, trebuchet building, rockets, maths and flight, visit to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and Old Trafford
 Y10: (Media) team challenges, creating a news programme, (guest speaker: Kevin Bouquet), visit to Alton Towers
 Y12: (Engineering and Enterprise Project) designing and marketing t-shirt for European Athletics Championships, team challenge. Y12 will also support lower year groups on a rota basis.

The aims of this event are not only to build a stronger community spirit but to provide opportunities for students to improve generic skills such as problem-solving, communication, team work and initiative in a Science or Engineering context. We also hope that everyone will have a good deal of fun!

Please note that students are not required to wear school uniform for these 3 days.

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Visit to Keele University

CHS has been a partnership school with Keele University's Education Department for a number of years. On Monday 3rd July fifteen Year 10 students were invited to participate in a number of activities organised by the Chemistry PGCE Coordinator and Keele's team of Chemistry Enhancement Students. The students had a full day carrying out a variety of experiments and investigations into the comparable properties of different Cola brands. The activities were challenging and allowed the students access to advanced chemical analysis equipment. This is the second event that our students have participated in this year due to the excellent relationship between Keele and our Science Curriculum area. For the second year running four Year 8 students represented the school at the Salters' festival of Chemistry in April.



Year 10 students were invited to participate in a number of activities organised by the Chemistry PGCE Coordinator and Keele's team of Chemistry Enhancement Students. The students had a full day carrying out a variety of experiments and investigations into the comparable properties of different Cola brands. The activities were challenging and allowed the students access to advanced chemical analysis equipment. This is the second event that our students have participated in this year due to the excellent relationship between Keele and our Science Curriculum area. For the second year running four Year 8 students represented the school at the Salters' festival of Chemistry in April.

Engineering Study Visit to CHS

Our German partners from the Süderelbe Gymnasium returned to CHS in June, taking part in a range of Engineering and Science – related activities and visits. In school, they built and launched rockets, built bridges and designed medals on the Versalaser. Visits included Jodrell Bank, Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, the Anderton Boat Lift and Chester. The German staff and students were delighted with the visit and all parties are keen for our schools to continue to work together.

Curricular developments

The additional funding Engineering Specialist Status brings has enabled us to widen the variety of courses we offer to students. In Sept 2004, GCSE Engineering, GCSE Applied Science and the Young Apprentices programme were introduced. This year, through 'Option K' we have further extended this to include engineering – related courses such as Silver Crest Awards, CISCO (computer networking), Autocad and AS Music Technology (as well as a variety of non-engineering related courses). Next year, we aim to offer Aeronautical Engineering (in collaboration with Macclesfield College) and AS Critical Thinking.

Young Apprentices in Engineering

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to join the Young Apprentices programme from September, following aptitude tests and an interview.

Bradley	Armitt	ACD
Daniel	Band	TW
Thomas	Briars	ACD
Jessika	Camm	RB
Matthew	Gray	ACD
Joe	Oliver	DWN
Jack	Punn	AD
Jack	Sargeant	AD
Michael	Sutton	AD
Mark	Swindells	DWN

Young Engineers club

Throughout the year, Mr Andrew Watkins has worked with students from Scholar Green, Astbury and Smallwood at our weekly after school Young Engineers club. From September the club will undertake a new and exciting project, supported by AstraZeneca engineers – the building (and racing) of a 'Greenpower' racing car. We look forward to following the progress of the project.

Engineering Update cont'd....

BAYS Awards (primary)

At the beginning of July, Mr Ed Tyrell and Miss Jane Loring worked on investigative science for 2 days with over 30 primary school gifted and talented students to enable them to achieve the BAYS (British Association of Young Scientists) Award.

Primary Engineering Challenge

Primary students will also be joining us for a morning on 6 July for a competition in which they will prepare and deliver presentations on a DT project they have completed and design and make a medal on the Versalaser.

Rotary Young Chef and Young Designer competitions

We were pleased to be able to host these competitions at Congleton High this year. Students from CHS and Eaton Bank competed to cook a range of delicious dishes and to present their GCSE DT and Engineering projects to a panel of judges including the Town and Borough Mayors. All students were complemented on the high standard of their work and we had 2 winners from Congleton High: Alan Jones (Y11) came second in the Young Designer competition and Angus McCormick (Y9) third in the Young Chef competition. Both students were presented with a cheque and certificate and went on to the Regional Finals of the competition where they were, again, complimented on the standard of their work. Congratulations to Alan who won the Engineering category of the Regional Final.

Parents In Partnership



Parent Forum

We would like to thank our PIP team, led by Chair Steve Archer, once again, for their tremendous support for the school throughout the year. As always, we are extremely grateful for the valuable work they do. The new PIP Parent Forums have been very successful and have improved communication between school and parents on a number of issues. We hope to continue with these next year.

If you are interested in joining the PIP committee or would like to support some of the work we do, please contact Mrs Irene Bartley at school.

Summer Workshops

Teach UK are running a workshop in school from the 24th to 28th July the theme being "Crime Scene Investigator Drama". Flyers have been sent home. Anybody interested in booking a place can contact Teach UK on 0161 945 5515 or access them via their website at www.teach-uk.co.uk.

Wise Moves Dance Ltd are holding a Drama Music and Dance workshop from 31st July to 2nd August. To book a place please telephone 0845 121 3380 or contact on-line at www.wisemovesdance.co.uk

Vouchers

Tesco Computers for Schools



Thank you to everyone who has sent in Tesco 'Computers for Schools' vouchers. We have collected a total of 21,183 and have placed an order for a Qwizdom IR Voting System (19,370 vouchers). The remaining 1,813 vouchers have been banked for use next year. Any remaining Tesco vouchers can still be sent into school as we have until September to bank these for use next year.

Sainsbury's "Active Kids" Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who has sent in Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers. We have collected a total of 1,330 vouchers and have placed an order for 14 pairs of Blind-fold Goggles to be used in the PE curriculum area.



School Uniform

All students have now been fully briefed about our uniform expectations for next term. We firmly believe that smart dress contributes to smart approach to work, behaviour and attitude. Please look out for the letter about uniform which will be sent home just before the end of term. For those parents who are anxious to start purchasing new uniform, please remember there will be a new upper and lower school tie for September, all shirts must be capable of being tucked in and the top button must be done up. Trainers are



School Profile

As we have mentioned in a previous newsletter, an outcome of the Education Act 2005 is that governing bodies are no longer required to produce a Governors' Annual Report to Parents. This has been replaced by the School Profile, which is completed by schools and published online. The Profile is a mechanism for schools to communicate with parents about the school's progress, priorities and performance on the previous academic year (so our first Profile reports on 2004-2005). It is a short document which must contain:

- Statistics, to be provided and updated by the DfES on an annual basis
- Narrative sections to be written by the school, updated at least annually

We are required to publish the Profile online by the end of the summer term and have been waiting for the DfES to insert its data. This has now been completed.

There is a strict word limit on each section so information is limited. This was explained to parents at the last Parent Forum where we pointed out that much more, up to date, information about the school is published monthly in our newsletter. The Profile will be accessible by the end of term on <http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/schoolprofile>

'Walk 1000 miles for Sport Relief' Friday 14 July

The whole school community will be joining in a healthy 1 mile walk on the afternoon of Friday 14 July, in order to clock up about 1000 miles overall, to raise funds for Sport Relief. This charity works hard to improve the life chances of poverty-stricken young people all over the world. We are collecting donations on the day so please do what you can to support our efforts and send in any small change/donations with your child. Those students who are keen runners and wish to run the mile instead will have the opportunity to race and win medals too, cheered on by the rest of the school. 'Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568, in association with BBC Sport.'



Are you interested in acquiring new skills in Autocad or CISCO?

If so, we are pleased to invite parents or adult friends of the school to join our students on Tuesday afternoons (1pm – 3pm) for these 1 year courses. Places are limited so you will need to register an interest as soon as possible. Write to Mrs Irene Bartley at school, giving your address, tel.no & email address before the end of term (21 July) to secure a place.

Food for the Brain



It is generally accepted that there is a strong link between what children eat and drink and their behaviour, attention span and concentration. Food for the Brain Schools Campaign is a new initiative offering amongst other things, an online Child Questionnaire that parents can complete to get a free report on the actions most likely to maximise a child's potential. The link is www.foodforthebrain.org if you wish to take part.

Messages for Students

Can we please take this opportunity to remind parents to please only contact the school with messages for your children if they are of an urgent nature and cannot wait until your child arrives home from school.

When we do receive an urgent message for your child we will do our best to see that the message is delivered promptly.

Reading Week

From Tuesday 4 July to Thursday 6 July the

whole school took part in reading sessions during Period 1. Groups were made up of students from all year groups and students took part in a range of activities including



thirty minutes of silent private reading of either a fiction book, biography or autobiography. The whole experience allowed students and staff to discuss their ideas about reading and their favourite books. Thanks to Amy Williams for all her hard work in organising the event.

Staff Leavers

We shall be saying farewell to the following members of our teaching staff at the end of this term - Celeste Newns, Becky Steel, John Kennedy, David Valentine, Vall Hall and Amy Williams. We wish them all well for their future.

Pastoral Care

We were delighted to receive compliments from Mr and Mrs Bilski on the pastoral care shown to their daughter during her recent illness. Mr and Mrs Bilski wrote *"Many schools these days claim to have good pastoral care but sadly these are all too often "empty words". This is certainly not the case with Congleton High where actions speak louder than words. Your school can be proud of its pastoral care."* We hope that all our parents share the same belief.

Sporting Achievements

Athletics

Congratulations to Josh Barard in Year 10 who has been selected to represent Cheshire at the English Schools Athletics Championships to be held at Gateshead on 7th and 8th July 2006. This event could be compared to a mini Olympics. Well done Josh and good luck. Results will be published in the next Newsletter.

We are the Champions

Since the last newsletter the Athletics Teams have been very busy. Following qualification for the English Schools Cup Northwest Championships, the Year 9/10 boys team finished **4th**, beating teams from as far away as Carlisle and involving schools from Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. In this competition, results count, not positions. Luke Edgar was first in both his events amassing a grand total of 52 points from the 100m and Long Jump. The team result is terrific as it involved schools from both the state and the private sector. The Girls 9/10 team finished **14th**. This is the best ever results in the last 20 years (Mrs Arnold's time at 'Box Lane'). The teams have to be in the top ten in the country to qualify for the National Championships. We are waiting to hear from the organisers but don't think we have done quite enough in the boys event to go through.



South Cheshire ChampionshipsTop School

Ninety six of our students competed at Crewe in the South Cheshire Schools championships last Wednesday. It was a cold, windy and sometimes wet afternoon, but this did not stop Congleton from becoming worthy winners.

We took three of the trophies we had won last year, to the Championships and brought **four** back! Our Year 10 boys and Girls team were always going to be hard to beat and they proved it by winning with good margins from

In the Junior Age groups, Year 8/9, we knew we would have to perform well... and we did. The Girls were easy winners But the boys were pushed into second place behind.....

In the Year 7, the boys competition was so close it ended up a draw between us and Holmes chapel. Congratulations to all who took part. Four out of



Hockey

Congratulations to Peter Jackson in Year 10 who has been selected to play European Hockey on the 10 July 2006. Peter will be part of a team who will take part in competition

South Cheshire Rounders Tournament

The Year 7 Rounders Team were crowned Champions on Wednesday after a 2 ½ hour competition which Congleton hosted. Right from the start the team showed excellent fielding skills, keeping all their opponents on low scores.

They beat Brineleas, St Thomas Moore, Middlewich, Sandbach and Eaton Bank to reach the semi-finals. The semi-finals against Holmes Chapel was their hardest game but the team play in both fielding and batting made sure they got through to the final by 1 rounder. They met Brineleas again in the final which was a close game but the fielding by Congleton won the day. A great way to finish the season.

ESAA Sainsbury's Track & Field Schools Cup

Our Y9/10 Boys team competed in the Regional Final at Sports City, Manchester on the 12 June finishing in 4th place with 417 points out of a competitive field of 10 NW Schools. Congratulations boys and in particular to Luke Edgar who came away with 29 points with his fastest time at 100m being 11.4s, 23pts for a height of 5,86m at High Jump and also to Pete Jackson who received 18pts for his 800m finish of 2m15.1s.

Tennis

The Year 7 Girls team coThe Year 7 Girls team competed in the South Cheshire Tennis Tournament at Holmes Chapel. On a very blustery night the team settled down to play some good tennis. It was a closely fought competition and went to the very last game, which resulted in Congleton missing out on becoming champions by one game, having played sixty!

Sports Profile

Oliver Booth, Year 10 —Trials Biker

Oliver has won 14 trophies since 2003 including Cheshire Youth Championships and Frodsham Club Championships. He is currently in the lead in the lead in both the above competitions this season.

Sam Copeland, Year 10—Biathlete

National Biathlon Championships at Manchester City 13th June 2006. Same ran 2000m and swam 200m to be placed 4th overall.

Cricket



The Year 10 team has made good progress in the County KO Cup competition. In the game v Alsager some 260 runs were scored from just 31 overs. Alsager scoring 131 for 5 from 20 overs and there was an emphatic reply from the school. Peter Jackson hit 92 runs and Nick Tabbinor an unbeaten 31 as Alsager's total was passed from only 11 overs. In the quarter final game the team travelled to Poynton HS and recorded a 4 wicket victory. Poynton scored 110 for 8 and Congleton's reply was 113 for 6. Notable performances from Iain Wolfenden taking 3 wickets for 22 runs, Nick Tabbinor 30 runs and Graeme Wolfenden an unbeaten 36 runs.

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership

A number of our Year 9 students have completed an Outdoor & Adventurous Activities course in which they took



part in a variety of activities. They had the opportunity to develop their skills orienteering, climbing, kayaking and windsurfing at Astbury Mere. Two further sessions

saw the group work together on some very testing teamwork activities. It was an excellent programme in which the students learnt a lot about themselves when faced by challenging conditions.

Sports Day—Friday 7 July

Hot off the press—photographs of today's events.



More Sports Day



42nd Street

Don't miss out on our Upper School Production showing from on Wednesday 12th July to Saturday 15th July. Tickets selling fast—book early to avoid disappointment.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – JULY	
7 July	Sports Day
12 – 15 July	Upper School Production "42 nd Street"
17 July 7.00pm	Y7 Celebration Evening
18 July 7.00pm	Y10 Celebration Evening
20 July 7.00pm	Y9 Celebration Evening
18 – 20 July	Engineering Week
21 July 1.10pm	School Closes
24 - 28 July	"Crime Scene Investigation Drama Workshop"
31 July – 2 August	Drama, Music & Dance Workshop
SEPTEMBER	
4 September	INSET day
5 September	INSET day
6 September	School re-opens for students

Finally may I take the opportunity to thank you all for the support I have received during my first year at Congleton High School. I have enjoyed myself enormously and look forward to a new and challenging year ahead. Wishing you all a happy and restful summer break.

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**

Head: Mr D Hermitt BEng, PGCE, MEd, NPQH
Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire
CW12 4NS