

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 2 of our monthly newsletter. This will be produced the first week of each month to provide information about achievements as well as notices about up and coming events.

Parents' Questionnaire

With Issue 1 of our Newsletter, we sent out a Parents' Questionnaire. Thank you to all those parents who took the time to complete and return this. We have drawn up an action plan to address all the issues raised. The results show that communicating with parents is a concern that you share. This newsletter, we hope, will be a positive step to improving this. We will also aim to provide you with more information about your individual child and to keep you up-to-date with activities going on in school. You will find within this newsletter a list of all the clubs available for students to take part in during and after school.

Some statistics from the questionnaire:

- 94% parents/carers agree that staff expect students to work hard
- 92% agree that their child is making good progress
- 88% agree that their child likes school
- 87% feel that the settling arrangements are good

Sir William Siemens Award Winner

Congratulations to **Andrew Ellis** in Year 12.



Andrew has won this year's **Sir William Siemens Award** and will receive a medal, £50-worth of vouchers and a certificate. Andrew won the award for his GCSE Systems and Control Project where he designed a keyless door-locking system. Sir Williams Siemens awards are presented to top-performing students from 10 schools and 14 universities throughout the UK.



Hamburg Study Tour

Mrs Pamela Taylor and Mr Richard Hinckley (our Chairman and Vice Chair of Governors) visited Hamburg in September as part of a Study Tour organised by the Specialist Schools Trust. The aims of the project were to share ideas on raising achievement, to enhance education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in both countries, to introduce Engineering thinking into school activities, to create a new international network of schools and raise the profile of Engineering within schools and communities. Their programme included a visit to the Süderelbe Gymnasium, whose staff and students came to CHS in March on the Engineering Youth Conference. We are hoping to take a group of students to Hamburg in the Spring, to explore the city's many interesting engineering features as well as to pay a return visit to the Süderelbe Gymnasium.



German Exchange

Next week sees the arrival of our annual exchange visit from the Friedrich Spee Gymnasium in Trier, Germany. 29 German students and 2 teachers will be spending a week as our guests at CHS and will be taking part in a wide range of activities. On the programme this year are visits to the Monkey Forest, The Falstaff Experience in Stratford-upon-Avon and a felt-making workshop at the Hatworks in Stockport. CHS students from Years 8-10 are looking forward to hosting their German partners and to making a return visit to Trier later this year.

Thinking Skills

As part of our work as a Specialist School, we are teaching 'thinking skills' to our students. Once a fortnight, Year 7 and 8 students are taught 'Cognitive Acceleration' skills in Maths, Science and DT. Students obviously also learn specific skills in these subjects which, in DT, include Resistant Materials, Graphics, Food and Textiles.

IMPORTANT—Staff Training Day

Please note that **MONDAY 31st OCTOBER** is a Staff Training Day. The school will not be open to students on this day. School re-opens for students on Tuesday 1st November 2005.

Parents in Partnership



Year 7 Parents' Social—
We were delighted to see so many Year 7 parents taking the opportunity to chat with

tutors, senior staff and PIP members at our recent social evening, which took place alongside the first PIP Disco of the year for Year 7 students.

We would like to thank PIP for supporting our recent Open Evening for Year 6 students and parents by providing refreshments during the evening. PIP are also organising refreshments at the Lions Half-Marathon, which takes place at CHS on Sunday 9th October.

Forthcoming Events:

Year 9—11 Disco
Wednesday 12th October
7pm—9:45pm (£2)

Annual General Meeting

We warmly invite you to our Parents in Partnership **AGM on Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm** in the Innovation Studio

Houghton Weavers Christmas Show
Saturday 19th November at 8pm

Tickets £11, including hot supper
Last year's show was a sell-out so make sure you get your tickets early!

Healthy Eating at CHS

There has been a lot of interest in the press recently, courtesy of Jamie Oliver, about the food consumed in schools. CHS has for a long time now prided itself on the quality of food students are given and so feel that we are already doing what many schools are now being encouraged to do. For example:

- No carbonated drinks, sweets or chocolate are sold in the refectory
- The still, flavoured drinks are low in sugar and fruit juice is also available
- Chilled drinking water is freely available
- Fresh fruit and yoghurts are available at all service points
- Virtually all food is oven baked and freshly cooked
- There is an emphasis on meals that are low in salt, sugars and fats
- Chips are offered on average only three days per week and on those days there has been a 66% decline in the amount bought
- The sale of jacket potatoes with a range of fillings has increased by 50%
- The school does have vending machines but none of these sell carbonated drinks, sweets or chocolate

The School Refectory is a good place to eat, between 500 and 600 students eat here every day!

Tesco Sport for Schools & Clubs Scheme

We are taking part in this scheme, which is similar to the



Computers for Schools scheme that Tesco have run in the past. We would be grateful for any vouchers you collect as we can exchange them for sports equipment or professional coaching sessions. The scheme is running from 12th September until 6th November 2005 and we would ask that students drop vouchers off at Student Reception. Thank you—we really appreciate your help.

New Activities at Sports Centre

Gymnastics Club: Sat 3:30—4:30pm for boys and girls aged 4-16

Basketball—Monday evenings:
6—7:30pm: Yrs 5 & 6 7—8:30pm: Yr 7
7:30—9pm: Yrs 8 & 9

Ladies Keep Fit: Wed 8—9pm

Junior Netball Club: Thurs 6—7pm Yrs 4, 5, 6

Phone **01260 282470** or see our website www.congleton.cheshire.sch.uk for further information about these and all our other Community Sports activities.

Engineering News

Maths Circus—The Maths Circus visited CHS on Friday 30th September and throughout the day students from Years 7 and 8 were able to take part in an exciting range of 'hands-on' activities designed to improve their understanding of mathematical concepts. Miss Davies, who organised the day, was pleased with the very enthusiastic response of students who were involved in the event.

Young Engineers—Last year, Gifted and Talented students from two of our feeder primaries, Quinta and Blackfirs, joined with our own students at our weekly after-school Young Engineers Club, supported by engineers from AstraZeneca. This term we are pleased to welcome students from Scholar Green Primary School.

Year 9 Engineering at Macclesfield College—a small number of lucky Year 9 students are to have the opportunity to attend a 10-week Saturday morning Engineering Club at Macclesfield College starting in November. Macclesfield is a European Centre for Aerospace Engineering and our students are going to be involved in a large scale design and building project. The course will finish with a visit to the airport for students and parents.

Careers Fair—Arrangements for our first Careers Fair have begun with many local companies and organisations having been invited to stage exhibits. The Fair is to take place at CHS on **Wednesday 8th March 2006**. More details to follow.

Sports Fixtures / Results

FOOTBALL RESULTS

A new season begins with CHS placed in Division 1 of the South Cheshire Football League.

CHS v St Thomas More RC High School

- Yr 7—Won
- Yr 8—Won
- Yr 9—Lost
- Yr 10—Won
- Yr 11—Draw



CHS v Brine Leas School

- Yr 7—Lost
- Yr 8—Won
- Yr 9—Lost
- Yr 10—Won
- Yr 11—Won

RUGBY RESULTS

CHS v Alsager

- Yr 9—Won



CHS v Brine Leas

- Yr 7—Lost
- Yr 8—Lost

HOCKEY

Good luck to all those involved in the Year 10/11 South Cheshire Hockey Tournament on Wednesday 12/10/05.



Charities

Operation Christmas Child—Once again we will be supporting Samaritans Purse in the Operation Christmas Child Appeal in school. All our students will be given the opportunity to bring joy to children who are in desperate situations this Christmas. Students will be encouraged to donate gift filled shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Details will be provided in year group assemblies although further information can be found at www.samaritanspurse.org. Please start collecting shoeboxes.

Fones 4 Schools—CHS is currently taking part in the Fones4Schools mobile phone collection and recycling programme. By recycling mobile phones we reduce the toxic waste dumped into landfill sites and help to raise money for the school. However, better still, for every mobile phone collected, students can claim a gift/ prize for themselves. The more they collect the better the gift. So please expect to be asked to help in the collection as soon as your son or daughter sees the gifts on offer! More details can be found at www.fones4schools.co.uk.

Horn of Africa Learning Trust (HALT)—CHS students have recently donated £90 to HALT to purchase desks for a secondary school that the Trust has just finished building in Burao, Somaliland, in North East Africa. The money was raised from last year's Summer Market, organised by Year 10 Students. The desks will be made in Burao by local craftsmen and will be mounted with plaques bearing the name of our school.

Diary Dates

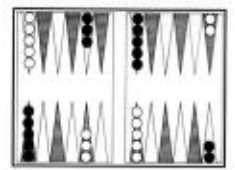
THIS MONTH – OCTOBER	
Tues 11 th	Year 7 Tutors' Evening
Wed 12 th	PIP Year 9-11 Disco 7 – 9:45pm in the Hall
Thur 13 th	Afternoon performance for Year 7 students by French Theatre Company Le Château de Dan Roro
Tue 18 th	Year 10 Coursework Evening
Thur 20 th	PIP AGM 7:30pm in the Innovation Studio
Fri 21 st	School Closes for Autumn Half Term
Mon 31 st	INSET Day – school closed to students
NEXT MONTH - NOVEMBER	
Tues 1 st	School re-opens to students
Tues 8 th	Post-16 Opportunities Evening for Year 11 students and their parents 6:30 – 8:45pm
Tues 15 th	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6:30pm
Wed 16 th	Borneo Expedition Fashion Show 7pm in the Hall
Sat 19 th	Houghton Weavers Christmas Show 8:00pm Tickets £11, including hot supper
Mon 28 th	Year 13 Devised Drama Evening 7:30pm in the Drama Studio
Tues 29 th	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6:30pm
Wed 30 th	Lower School Disco organised by the Borneo Expedition Team

Primary Liaison Week

We are very much looking forward to inviting over 200 Year 6 students from our partner primary schools to take part in our Multi-Cultural activities week. Students from different schools will be working together in a range of subjects. We hope to display some of the work around the school for people to see after half term.

Old Board Games Wanted

Do you have any old board games that you no longer use lying around in a cupboard or attic? The Extra Learning (XL) department are looking for board games, in good condition and with all the pieces, that they can use for their Games Club on Wednesdays after school. So, if you have any spare games that you would like to donate, please bring them to the XL area (located next to the LRC). Thank You.



Clubs and Societies

Name of Club	Day & Time	Where	Who for	Staff Contact
Book Club (Year 7)	Alternate Wednesdays (Week 2) 12:20–12:55pm	LRC	Year 7	Mrs Steel / Mrs Parker
Creative Writing Club	Thursdays 12:20–12:55pm	Room 233	All years	Mrs Williams
Dance Club (Year 7)	Mondays 3:10–4:10pm	Gym	Year 7	Miss Lomas
Dance Club (Years 8-10)	Wednesdays 3:10–4:10pm	Gym	Years 8-10	Miss Lomas
Film Club	Wednesdays 3:15–5pm	Room 242	Years 12 & 13	Mr O'Neill
Games Club (Warhammer etc, Collectable Card Games)	Thursdays 3-5pm	Room 102	All years	Mr Thomas
Science GCSE Course-work & Revision catch-up Club	Tuesdays 3:15 – 5pm	Room 102	Years 10 & 11	Mr Tyrrell
Sports Clubs	See separate list			
XL (Extra Learning) Games Club	Wednesdays 3-4pm	XL Area (nr LRC)		Mrs Bennett
In addition, the LRC is open after school at the following times for homework, study, reading etc.	Monday to Thursday 3-4pm Friday 3-3:30pm	LRC	All years	Mrs Parker

Borneo Expedition Update

As you may already know, in the Summer of 2006, thirteen Sixth Form students and Miss Boulton are taking part in an exciting expedition to Borneo to complete some community and conservation work. In order to raise the £39,000 needed for the trip the Expedition Team have several fundraisers during this term. Back by popular demand, on 16 November there is a fashion show to be held in the school hall. Brands on sale include Criminal, Bench and Hooch and the company, Labels Fashion Shows, are offering a discount of up to 50-60%. Refreshments will be available. While guests can pay on the door at a cost of £1.50 we do advise that you obtain your ticket before the show as last year the event proved to be very popular.



The Team are organizing a Lower School Disco, which will take place on 30th November. Tickets available soon (£2). Then in December there will be a Seventies Night, so if you feel like boogying on down to a bit of Abba and Saturday Night Fever put Friday 16 December in your diary and dig out your platform shoes and flares.

Finally, the Expedition Team would like to thank everyone who has supported them in whatever way for helping them on their way to the experience of a lifetime.

Drama

Our Day Out

Auditions have just taken place for the lower school production 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell. This is a comic tale of a school trip to Conway Castle. Rehearsals will begin next week and all cast members are asked to keep their eyes on the drama noticeboard for the rehearsal schedule. The performance will take place on 18th, 19th and 20th January 2006.



Dance Workshop

The Henri Ougike Dance Company conducted a very exciting and exhilarating workshop with the GCSE Dance Group on Wed 5th October. The students were enthralled by the experience and were very excited at being able to see the company perform live on Thursday 6th October at Chester Gateway Theatre.

Any Comments

Finally, if there is any other information that you would like to see in future Newsletters or you have comments about any aspect of the life of the school, please contact me at head@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk.

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**

Extra-curricular Sports Activities – this half term (i.e. 7/9/05 to 21/10/05)

Day & Time	Club	Where	Who for
Monday 3 – 4:15pm	Badminton	Sports Hall	Years 8-11
Monday 3:15 – 4:45pm	Trampolining	Gym	Years 9, 10 & 11
Tuesday 3 – 4:15pm	Rugby	Field	Years 7, 8 & 9
	Girls Hockey	Astroturf	Years 7 & 8
Wednesday 3 – 4:15pm	Netball	Sports Hall	Years 8 – 11
	Football	Field	Years 7 – 10
Thursday 3 – 4:15pm	Netball	Sports Hall	Year 7
	Football Fixtures	Field	All years
	Girls Hockey	Astroturf	Years 9, 10 & 11
Friday 3 – 4:15pm	Multi-Skills Academy (starts 7/10/05)	Sports Hall	Gifted & Talented students from Years 6 & 7

Extra-curricular Sports Activities – next half term (i.e. 1/11/05 to 20/12/05)

Day & Time	Club	Where	Who for
Monday 3 – 4:15pm	Badminton	Sports Hall	Years 8-11
Monday 3:15 – 4:45pm	Trampolining	Gym	Years 9, 10 & 11
Tuesday 3 – 4:15pm	Rugby	Field	Years 7, 8 & 9
	Girls Hockey	Astroturf	Years 7 & 8
Wednesday 3 – 4:15pm	Netball	Sports Hall	Years 8 – 11
	Boys Hockey	Astroturf	Years 9, 10 & 11
Thursday 3 – 4:15pm	Netball	Sports Hall	Year 7
	Girls Hockey	Astroturf	Years 9, 10 & 11
	Boys Hockey	Astroturf	Years 7 & 8
Friday 3 – 4:15pm	Multi-Skills Academy	Sports Hall	Gifted & Talented students from Years 6 & 7