

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 3 of our monthly newsletter. The school continues to increase the amount of praise given to students for their achievements and in this newsletter you will read of many achievements that we are very proud of. If you have any suggestions or comments about the newsletter or any aspect of the life of the school, please contact me at head@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk

Post-16 Opportunities Evening

Our Post-16 Opportunities Evening is to be held on **Tuesday 8th November** at school. This is a chance for all Year 11 students and their parents to find out about the full range of opportunities available after GCSE examinations, including the Sixth Form provision that we will be offering to students who wish to join Year 12 at Congleton High School in September 2006. Representatives from local Further Education Colleges and work-based learning providers will also be available on the night to tell you about their provision for students and to answer any questions you might have.

The evening will begin at 6:30pm, with an introductory talk in the School Hall. You will then have the opportunity to visit those Curriculum Areas that may be of particular interest to your son/daughter. Subject teachers will be available in each area to answer any questions. Refreshments will be available in the Refectory and in the Sixth Form Common Room all evening, until the event ends at 8:45pm.

Work Experience Week

In the week prior to half term, Year 11 students took a break from the classroom to experience life in the workplace. Nine students became Army recruits for the week when they attended a week long residential course at Swynnerton Army Camp. The team 'passed out' with flying colours bringing home certificates of achievement for Best Section, team building tasks, assault course, field craft and fitness. Placements were also organised locally in Congleton and surrounding areas to as far as Manchester in a wide variety of job roles including landscape gardener with the National Trust at Biddulph Grange Gardens, nursing at Macclesfield District General Hospital, shop assistants, restaurant staff, garage mechanics, working in primary schools and a veterinary assistant.



Nine students attended a week long training course organised by Cheshire Fire Service at Congleton Fire Station and were highly praised by the course organiser Sue Cleaver of Cheshire



Fire Service Headquarters for their outstanding performance during the week and in their role as student representatives of Congleton High School. She said 'During their stay with us they were a delight to be with, they were courteous, polite and showed respect for the station personnel and any visitors that they met.....they were a credit to their families, to their school but mainly to themselves and on behalf of Cheshire Fire Service I would like to thank them for a very enjoyable week.'



Parents In Partnership

Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to report that at the Annual General Meeting on 20th October, the following officers were re-elected:

Chairman:	Steve Archer
Vice Chair:	Alex McCormick
Treasurers:	Paul & Delyth Crean
Secretary:	Anne Barber

We are very grateful to our Parents in Partnership team for the tremendous efforts they made last year to support Congleton High School students and staff and we look forward to another successful year in which we work together in partnership for the benefit of our school.

Next PIP committee meeting

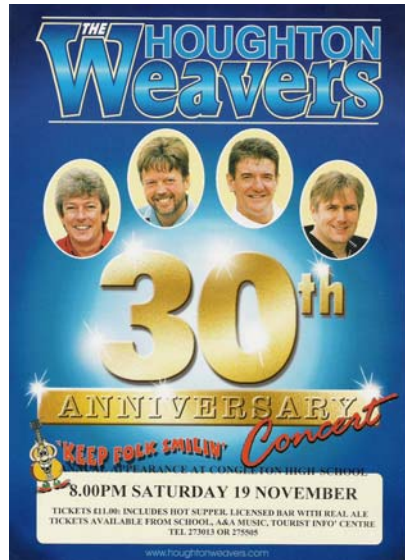
This will be held on **Thursday 10th November** at **7.30pm** in the Innovation Studio. All parents are welcome to attend

An appeal for help

We are running a raffle at the Houghton Weavers concert on 19th November and would be very grateful for any contributions of prizes. If you feel you could help in this, please send items in to Mrs Bartley at school.

Houghton Weavers

The Houghton Weavers are making their annual appearance at Congleton High School this month, Tickets on sale now!



Saturday 19th November at 8pm

Tickets £11: includes hot supper
Licensed bar with real ale

Tickets available from school, A&A Music and the
Congleton Tourist Information Centre

We suggest you get your tickets early as last
year's show was a sell out!

Charities

Jeans for Genes Day - 7th October 2005

Following a very successful non-uniform day, we were able to send a cheque for £829.95 to help support research into genetic illnesses in children. The national total is currently standing at £1,809,339.92, and we are proud that Congleton High School contributed towards this total. Well done and thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Operation Christmas Child – reminder



We are currently collecting shoeboxes full of presents for children around the world who may never have had a Christmas present before. All students are aware of Operation Christmas Child and many have taken leaflets to help them assemble their gift.

We have to have all the boxes ready for collection by the 21st November, so students do need to get their boxes into school by the 18th November. If there are any questions please contact Mrs Taylor in school.

Children in Need - 18th November 2005

We will be supporting Children in Need Day again this year. We hope to raise money through a non-uniform day and other fund raising activities. Further details will follow in a letter to all parents.



SAM Learning

We are pleased to tell you that CHS has recently subscribed for SAM Learning, a top quality online learning service that can be used at home and at school. The Self Assessment Method (SAM) encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning whilst promoting a competitive edge to studying, as students can track their progress and find out which subject areas need the most attention.

- Independently proven to boost exam results
- Online revision boosts confidence and motivation
- Students like the online, anytime option
- Students work at their own pace

Subjects covered:

AS/A2

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, ICT, Geography, Business Studies, Mathematics

GCSE

Mathematics, English, ICT, Science, PE, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, German, Spanish, Geography, History, Business Studies, Design & Technology, RE

SATs

Key stage 3, Maths, English, Science, ICT, Design & Technology, RE

All students will be shown how to login during their ICT lessons, but if you would like to have a look yourself, go to www.samlearning.com and click on the green login button at the top left hand side of the homepage. You will then need the following details to login:

Centre ID CW12CH

User ID Date of birth followed by two initials; first name then last name
eg. 010890DJ for David Jones born 1st Aug 1990

Password Initially the same as User ID – you should change your password as soon as you login

Rotary Young Artist Competition

Congratulations to Year 9 students Jamie Stroud, India Boon and Sarah Marsh who are all finalists in the Rotary Young Artist Competition 2005. The Town Mayor, Mrs J Whitehurst and her consort, Mr A Smart, will present prizes to the winners of each age category and all finalists will receive personal certificates. The presentation ceremony will take place at the Town Hall in Congleton on Saturday 5th November at 11am. The paintings will then be on display in Congleton Library for 2 weeks from the evening of 8th November.

VGCSE ICT—Important Information

If your son/daughter takes VGCSE ICT in Y11, this is advance notice that they will have an external exam sometime during the week beginning 9th January 2006. So please don't book your skiing holiday for this week! This exam makes up 33% of their final grade so it is vital that they achieve the best result possible.

Youth Matters at Congleton High School

Year 9 students at CHS have been having their say and letting the Government know what they think about new proposals affecting services for young people. 24 students discussed issues raised in the Green Paper 'Youth Matters', which sets out new Government proposals for services for young people. Students discussed local facilities for young people and how they would like to be involved in improving things for teenagers in their local area. They covered topics including volunteering and spent time discussing the Government's proposal for an Opportunity Card for young people which could be used to access leisure facilities and other services.

The session was organized by Connexions adviser, Alison Trick, as part of a Citizenship lesson. Ms Trick said that the response of the students had been enthusiastic, thoughtful and insightful. She was impressed with their interest and willingness to share their views. Afterwards, the questionnaires completed by the students were sent to the Government for consideration.



Engineering

Engineering News

Engineering Education Scheme

Our 6th form team visited AstraZeneca this week for a site tour and the setting of their problem solving project which is the sensing of bore-hole data. The team are now preparing for their residential workshop at Manchester University in December.

Young Apprentices

In February, our Y11 Young Apprentices will be travelling to Hamburg, along with YAs from Great Sankey High and Coppenhall, to explore the many interesting Engineering features of that beautiful city. The Süderelbe Gymnasium, whose staff and students visited Congleton High in March, are kindly assisting us in organising a programme of activities. Our German colleagues and students are hoping to make a return visit to Congleton High for a second Engineering Youth Conference in June.

Our 2nd cohort of Young Apprentices have made a very good start to their vocational training with Total People. The Launch of the Y10 Programme is to take place at 'Enginuity' in Ironbridge, where students will participate in a variety of teambuilding and problem solving activities.

Silver Crest

As part of our new extended curriculum, a number of Y10 – Y12 students are undertaking various exciting investigational science projects, which will eventually gain them the Silver Crest Award. Projects include designing and building hovercrafts, gyroscopes and rockets, looking at the effects of caffeine on the body and developing more effective aspirin.

Young Engineers at Macclesfield College

This weekend, four Year 9 students, Jessika Camm, Joanna Baylay, Luke Brown and Oliver Hamilton, will begin a 10-week Saturday morning Engineering course at Macclesfield College. Organised by Manchester University, in conjunction with AimHigher, the course promises to be very interesting and challenging with our Young Engineers designing, building and, if all goes well, flying a large model aircraft! The course culminates with a visit to the airport for students and their parents. Our team of students is going to be in competition against students from 2 other schools so we wish them well.

Careers Fair - a request for parents

We have invited a large number of local companies and organisations to our Careers Fair on 8th March. If you work for a company that you think may be interested in staging an exhibit at the Fair, please let Mrs Bartley know and we will contact the company if we have not already done so.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH - NOVEMBER	
Tues 8 th	Post-16 Opportunities Evening for Year 11 students and their parents 6:30 – 8:45pm
Thurs 10 th	PIP Committee Meeting 7:30pm
Tues 15 th	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening 4pm – 6:30pm
Wed 16 th	Borneo Expedition Fashion Show 7:00pm
Fri 18 th	BBC Children in Need – non-uniform day & fundraising activities in school
Sat 19 th	Houghton Weavers Christmas Show 8:00pm
Mon 21 st – Fri 25 th	Anti-Bullying Week – cross-curricular activities taking place
Tues 22 nd	Year 11 'Stop' Day - RE SATs Revision Evening 7:00pm
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 7-9:30pm
NEXT MONTH – DECEMBER	
Wed 7 th	Year 11 Mock Exams start
Mon 12 th	Year 8 Theatre trip (afternoon only) to see A Christmas Carol at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme
Mon 12 th	Start of Year 7 Conway Trip
Fri 16 th	Borneo Expedition 70's Night 7:30pm
Tues 20 th	Christmas Concert 7:30pm
Tues 20 th	Former Y13 Social and Certificates
Wed 21 st	Last day of term

Sporting Achievements

Cheshire Representatives

We would like to congratulate all our students who are continuing to represent the County in various sports. Peter Jackson Yr 10 has been selected for the U16 North West Hockey Squad and is a year younger than most of the group. Kate Campbell Yr 10 is training with the U16 Cheshire Netball team. Jessica Myatt Yr 11 has played football for Cheshire, Martin Leese Yr 10 is receiving coaching with the U18 Cheshire golfers and Tom Mullins Yr 8 is playing Badminton for Cheshire U13s. Tom Whalley has once again been selected to represent Cheshire Rugby at U16 level and Rob Crookes has made it through to the final trial for the county U14s squad.

Netball

Our Netball Teams have completed their first batch of league games, with the rest to be played in the spring when the light nights return. The Year 7 A team is the only unbeaten team including a friendly against Holmes Chapel, although all year teams have won some of their games. The Year 11 Squad reached the semi finals of the South Cheshire Tournament, beaten by Sandbach, the eventual winners.



Football

Our Football Teams completed the league season with both Year 8 and Year 10 winning their respective leagues, the Year 10 team having a 100% winning record. The last half term of the year sees all the years involved in the South Cheshire Schools 7-a-side competitions held at Shavington High School



Rugby

The Rugby season has continued with Year 7 recording impressive wins against Holmes Chapel and Alsager. The Year 8 team comprehensively beat Coppenhall in preparation for their RFU Emerging Schools Competition next term. Finally, the Year 9 team narrowly lost to Holmes Chapel but recorded an excellent victory against local rivals Alsager.



Hockey

The year 9 & 10/11 hockey teams have made a good start to the season; year 9 have won both their league games so far and have adapted to playing 11-a-side extremely well. The year 10/11 team are unbeaten in the league to date, and recently finished runners up in their group on the South Cheshire tournament, missing out on the final only by goal difference.



Congratulations to all our teams and good luck in future competitions!

Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs

We are still collecting Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs vouchers and would like to thank everyone who has sent in vouchers already. The scheme is running until Sunday 6th November 2005, so please keep sending your vouchers in to Student Reception.



Year 8 Theatre Trip

On 12th December 2005, 85 students and staff will be visiting the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme to watch a stage production of Charles Dickens' classic festive morality tale, 'A Christmas Carol'. It promises to be an excellent afternoon. The performance begins at 2:00pm and students are likely to be back at school by 5:00pm. Lessons 1-3 and lunch arrangements will be as normal. The party will depart from school at 1:00pm.

Creative Writing Club

Congleton High School's Creative Writing Club continues to go from strength to strength. It is open to all year groups and takes place every Thursday lunchtime in Room 233. The Club meets to write stories, enter poetry competitions, play word games and to have fun. This year we have launched the Creative Writing Club web page, which can be accessed through the school website or by typing <http://chswritingclub.blogspot.com>. Here you can read work by some of the club members or contribute your own piece of writing. There is already a lot of writing on the web page, demonstrating the talents of the group members. Why don't you come along – see Mrs Williams, Mrs Dearnaley or Mr Convey for more information.

Year 11 History Revision Classes

From October half term for the rest of the school year, Mr Hickton will be running Year 11 History revision classes every Tuesday in room 3.55 from 3pm – 4pm. All welcome.

Finally, have an enjoyable bonfire night celebration this weekend and we pray that it will be a safe evening for you.

Mr D Hermitt, Head

Head: Mr D Hermitt BEng, PGCE, MEd, NPQH

Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NS

t: 01260 273013 f: 01260 274580 e: enquiries@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk w: www.congleton.cheshire.sch.uk