

Dear Parent / Carer

This is our last monthly newsletter before the Christmas holidays and as you will see there are lots of exciting things happening in school and some excellent achievements to celebrate. Y11 Students are about to start their GCSE Mock Examinations and we wish them every success in those.

### Important information about the last day of term – Wed 21<sup>st</sup> December

You should recently have received a letter about the arrangements for the last day of term, which we hope to make a special day for all students. The day will start with an Assembly for lower school students, followed by a similar gathering for upper school, where students will be given the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and celebrate the close of a successful Autumn term. Then after an early break, all students will have the opportunity to watch a special screening of a film currently showing in cinemas (there will be private study arrangements available for those students who do not wish to see the film). All students will then have lunch as normal and will return for an afternoon registration with their tutors before being dismissed.

**Please note that students will be released from school at 1:10pm.** The school bus companies have been notified and will be available to transport students.

Students will not be required to wear school uniform, but we are asking for a donation of £1 for the privilege. The money collected will be used to pay for the film company and we will put the remainder towards our donation to this year's Children in Need appeal.

### Christmas Concert

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our Christmas Concert which takes place on **Monday 19th December** (please note this date has changed from 20th December). The concert starts at 7:30pm and will feature students performing Music, Dance and Drama. We will write to you very soon to give you more details and information on how to obtain tickets.



### Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People

We would like to congratulate Y13 students **Rachel Sullivan** and **Fiona Johnson** who have been awarded the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Service to the School Community.



Rachel and Fiona are always selfless in giving up their time to support the school and other students and on this occasion they have received the award

because they helped younger children in lessons and on the Reading Challenge.

### Rotary Young Artist Competition Winners

Congratulations to Year 9 student **Sarah Marsh** who was the overall winner of her age group in the Rotary Young Artist Competition 2005, organised by the Rotary Club of Congleton Dane. Sarah was presented with a certificate and a variety of art materials by Town Mayor, Mrs J Whitehurst and her consort, Mr A Smart at a ceremony at the Town Hall in Congleton. Congratulations also to **Jamie Stroud** and **India Boon** who both reached the final of the competition.



### Anti-Bullying Week

From 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November CHS took part in the second national Anti-Bullying Week, a huge national event that aims to teach young people that all forms of bullying are wrong and teach them active ways in which to show no tolerance to it. The week included the following activities:

- Our own 'Thrown Together Theatre Group' performed their drama production "All I Said Was" to all year groups
- Every student was invited to pledge their commitment to anti-bullying by wearing a sticker designed by their year group
- Students challenged to reassess their views on Bullying with a variety of activities across the whole curriculum
- Students completed an Anti-Bullying Questionnaire and mapping exercise, which looked at charting "safe" and less safe places within the school
- Staff introduced to the new Anti-Bullying Policy and provided with a Policy into Practice Booklet to guide their approaches to bullying



## RE 'Stop' Day

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Y11 students took part in an RE 'Stop' Day organised by Miss Hall, Assistant Co-ordinator of Humanities. The theme of the day was 'Making Sense of Life' and the aim was to supplement students' religious education.

Speakers from local churches and Christian organisations led the sessions, which were on the themes of science



and religion, relationships, identity/belonging and the work of Christian charities and all of which form part of the GCSE RE Short Course. Students had an opportunity to reflect on life issues and on their own values and beliefs and to consider these in the context of faith. The highly popular and successful day closed with a performance from a Christian theatre company called 'In Yer Face'.

## Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations

Year 11 Mock GCSE examinations take place from Wed 7<sup>th</sup> until Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December. Language Speaking examinations take place on Mon 19<sup>th</sup> and Tues 20<sup>th</sup> December. Students have been issued with an examination timetable and a sheet of examination regulations. Although the mock examinations are run internally by school, we believe that it is good practice for all our examinations to be run according to the guidelines issued by the Awarding Bodies. Therefore we welcome parental support in ensuring that students take note of some key points:

- If a student is going to be absent from any exam or is going to be late, please telephone school to let us know as soon as possible.
- Students must wear full school uniform for all exams.
- No unauthorised material may be taken into the exam room. This ESPECIALLY means: **no mobile phones / iPods / MP3 players**. It also includes the back cover of calculators as these include mathematical formulae. **These should all be left at home**. If they are brought into school, students should label them with their name and hand them into Student Reception before their exam.
- Pencil cases must be see-through. A clear plastic bag is the ideal way to carry any equipment needed for the exam.
- Students may not eat or chew in exams. If they bring water, they must completely remove any labels from the bottle.
- Students may not leave any exam early. They must wait until they are dismissed at the end, by the invigilator.

Good luck to all students taking exams this month!

## School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership

CHS is now into its third year of this Partnership, which has recently received excellent results in our DfES PESSCL (PE, School Sport and Club Links) survey, achieving above the set targets. Since September, the following activities have taken place:



- 25 Y6 & 7 students attend a weekly Multi-Skills Academy and will compete in a Festival of Sport on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at Sandbach High School
- A successful afternoon of sport was organised at CHS for over 60 Y3 primary students. The event also gave 20 of our JSLA (Junior Sports Leader Award) students an opportunity to practice their leadership skills
- A group of girls from Y9 & 10 have begun a Health Related Activities Programme that in-

## Engineering

**Y10 Young Apprentices (YAs)** - The official launch of the Y10 Young Apprentices Programme took place on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov at 'Enginuity' in Ironbridge, where students from the 3 schools involved in the programme worked in teams to design, build and test bridges. We are delighted to have secured extended placements with **Airbags International** for 4 of our YAs. The placements start in the Spring term and will last for 2 years.



**Young Engineers at Macclesfield College** Y9 Young Engineers, **Joanna Baylay, Jessika Camm, Luke Brown** and **Oliver Hamilton** are nearing completion of their 10-week Engineering project at Macclesfield College. The project is organised by Manchester University, in conjunction with AimHigher and Macclesfield College, and the students have designed and built a large model aircraft (see below). The students are hoping to be able to fly their plane on 10<sup>th</sup> December.



**Crest Bronze Award** - A number of gifted & talented Y8 students from Park Middle in Biddulph will be spending 2 days at CHS in December to carry out investigational science activities which will lead to the Crest Bronze Award.

**Pro Desktop INSET** - Staff from Holmes Chapel Comprehensive will receive Pro Desktop training alongside our own staff at CHS on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Barry McGregor, Specialist Schools Trust National Specialism Coordinator for Engineering will be providing the training.

**Aim Higher Event : Chemistry – The Next Generation** - Y12 Chemistry students are to be looking at the Synthesis, Isolation and Analysis of Aspirin at Liverpool John Moores University on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Parents In Partnership**

**Houghton Weavers 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show**

This is always the biggest event of the PIP calendar and, on 19<sup>th</sup> November, approximately 200 spectators enjoyed entertainment provided by the 'Weavers', along with a pie and peas supper and bar provided by PIP. This really is an event for the whole community with many elderly, and several disabled, citizens coming along to enjoy the fun. We are very grateful to our PIP team and families for their hard work in making the evening so enjoyable. Our particular thanks go to Richard Deem, who organised us all so well in the kitchen and, of course, our Chair, Steve Archer, who continues to work tirelessly for the school. We are pleased to report that over £500 was raised on this occasion.



**Parent Forums**

The format of PIP Seminars will be changing in future to allow you submit questions for the Head and staff to answer, in addition to a presentation on some item of interest to parents (eg the use of new technologies in lessons). Questions will be invited in advance via this monthly newsletter. This is another opportunity for you to find out more about how we work in school and to feel you have a voice. The first Forum will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2006.

**Borneo Expedition Update**

The Borneo Expedition Team held a fashion show on 16th November to help raise money towards their trip to the island in summer 2006 where they will do conservation and community work. Students modelled clothing by, amongst others, Criminal, Bench and Hooch and everyone was able to get 50-60% discount on the clothing on sale. The evening was a sell-out and a huge success, managing to raise another £300 towards their expedition total of £39,000.



Other fund-raising

events planned include:

**70s Night**

16th December at 7:30pm  
 Tickets £3.50, available from reception  
 Games, competitions, raffle, 70s DJ  
 Wine, beer, soft drinks & nibbles available  
 Why not get on your dancing shoes and 70s gear and join them?

**Bag Pack in Morrisons, Congleton**

23rd & 24th December

**Auction of Promises -March 2006**

Anyone interested in participating in the Auction of Promises or helping the team in any way with their fundraising, please contact Miss Boulton.

**Sporting Achievements**

**Football**

In the final match of the South Cheshire League competition, our Y11 boys team won 4-1 against Shavington School. We now await the final league tables. Y10 & 11 boys competed in the South Cheshire 7-a-side tournament and finished 4<sup>th</sup> and runners-up respectively. The Y7/8 girls team recently took part in the BT Challenge Trophy, organised by Port Vale in the community group. The squad played some excellent football with 4 wins and 2 draws, the last game being played in the dark! The final is on 7th December and a win would see them into the NW finals held at Manchester City Training Ground in March. In games against Sandbach, the girls Y7/8 squad won 3-2 and the Y9/10/11 squad won 5-1.



**Rugby**

The Y7 team won 14-10 against Holmes Chapel in a very keenly contested game. Y8 played host to Fallibroome with over 45 boys from the two schools taking part. The visitors won by 35 pts to 21. Unfortunately the Y7 & 9 games against Fallibroome were lost to the weather.



**Netball**

In league fixtures away at Tytherington, Y7A team won 15-10, 7B lost 4-6 and the senior team won 20-3. The teams have also played friendly games against Sandbach (Y7A 7-3, 7B 2-10), Brineleas (Y7A 7-0, 7B 0-5, Y8 2-10) and Alsager (Y7A 5-10, 7B 1-4, Y8 9-5)



**Hockey**

In matches against Sandbach, both Y8 & 9 girls hockey teams were beaten, despite playing well. Y9 were also beaten by a very strong Brineleas team. However, they rediscovered their fighting spirit against Alsager, played with a much better attitude and drew 1-1, despite having only 9 players. The Y10/11 team have only played once since the last newsletter, drawing 0-0 with Alsager. Despite the goalless draw, they played some superb hockey—definitely their best performance. Well done girls—you should be proud of yourselves.



In boys hockey, Peter Jackson (Y10) recently played for the NW U-16 team in the National Tournament. Peter was one of eight members of the team invited to attend England Trials last weekend at the National Hockey Centre in Milton Keynes and will know shortly if he has been successful.

**Sailing**

Congratulations to Adam Millington in Y7 who has been selected for the West Zone Squad of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Youth Sailing Programme. Adam sails a topper, which is a small single-handed dinghy. He will be taking part in training over the winter with an RYA Topper coach and will receive coaching support at various racing competitions next year.

**Charities**

**Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to all students who put together shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This is an annual project that sends Christmas gifts to children in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps,



homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods in 14 countries around the world. In total, staff and students from CHS put together 117 shoe boxes filled with small toys, school supplies, sweets and other gifts. The shoe boxes were collected earlier this month to start their journey overseas.

**Children in Need**

This is always a day that students are keen to get involved in and this year was no exception. The day was a non-uniform day and lots of other fundraising activities also took place at lunchtime in the hall. These included sponsored head shaving and leg waxing, face painting, juggling, selling



sweets and a dance competition. Some of the more unusual activities included a group of students who volunteered to be chained together, a student who decided to dress and talk like an Australian for the day, several volunteers for a sponsored silence and one student who determined to speak only foreign languages all day!

Everyone had a lot of fun and we managed to raise £1,233.49 towards the appeal.

**Diary Dates**

THIS MONTH – DECEMBER	
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Year 11 Mock Exams start</b>
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 Theatre trip (pm) to see <b>A Christmas Carol</b> -New Vic Theatre
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Year 7 <b>Conway Trip</b>
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Borneo Expedition 70's Night</b> 7:30pm
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Concert</b> 7:30pm
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Former Y13 Social and Certificates
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term. <b>School closes at 1:10pm.</b>
NEXT MONTH – JANUARY	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-6:30pm
Thur 19 <sup>th</sup>	PIP Meeting 7:30pm Innovation Studio
Thur 19 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lower School Production of <b>'Our Day Out'</b> 7:30pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Evening

**Film Club**

Film Club meets on Wednesdays at 3:15pm in Room 242 to watch thought-provoking films of calibre and merit. The club is for 6<sup>th</sup> Form students and staff. Films watched so far this year include *'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'*, *'Deliverance'*, *'Schindler's List'* and *'The Shawshank Redemption'*. Each viewing is followed by a short discussion of the production, its merits, power and qualities.



**Young Engineers Club**

The Young Engineers Club enables Gifted and Talented students from all years to get together and produce work that would be impossible to attempt in normal classroom time. Projects have included producing model planes, wind buggies and laser cutting. The club is run by Mr Watkins (D&T) and supported by Engineers from AstraZeneca, a link that has produced a rich learning environment for our students. The club is on Wednesdays at 3:15pm in Room 110.

**Happy Christmas**

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to such a successful term.



Have a peaceful Christmas.

**Mr D Hermitt  
Head**

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