

Dear Parent / Carer

Thank you for your input into the life of the school. We have had a very positive response to our parental questionnaires this term with 100% agreement that "teaching is good", that the school is approachable, students are treated fairly and that they are encouraged to work independently.

We know that some of you have concerns about the completion of homework and we are making this a priority for this term.

Parents in Partnership

Parents' Forum

Our first Parents' Forum, supported by Parents in Partnership, was held

this week with over 30 parents in attendance. The aim of the Forum is to improve communications between parents and school and parents were invited to send in questions for the Head, Mr Hermitt, and staff to answer. Over a glass of wine, parents watched Mr Hickton, Co-ordinator of History, give a lively demonstration of ways in which new technologies are now used in lessons, as a result of having data projectors, graphics tablets DVD drives and sound systems installed in all classrooms.

This was followed by questions for the Head and staff. Topics dealt with included the Gifted and Talented programme, the school's position on CRB checks, lunchtime seating arrangements, toilets, ICT, Specialist status and its impact on curricular choice, the Circle of Friends and Homework: resources and use of computers.

Parents found the evening helpful and one commented "I have learned a lot about the school." We are hoping to hold a second Forum next term (date to be announced) and welcome your input.

Careers Fair

Parents in Partnership are also kindly sponsoring our Careers Fair. They are providing funding for T-shirts which 6th form guides will wear at the Fair.

Forthcoming PIP events:

- Upper School Disco**
8th February 7pm – 9.45pm
- Revision skills evening (Y10 and Y11)**
15th March 7pm



Engineering Update

Engineering Enterprise Challenge



On 27th January, 64 Y8 students from CHS and Holmes Chapel Comprehensive spent a day at CHS running their own company in an Engineering Enterprise Challenge. The aim of the Challenge, organised by the AXIS Engineering Team, was to give students an

insight into the many different aspects of an Engineering company. Students competed in teams to market their company, build trucks on a production line and design ways to improve performance, deal with day to day problems such as staff absence and perform a presentation. We were delighted to welcome engineers from Airbags International, Siemens plc and Total People, who joined CHS staff Mr Spink and Mr O'Neill and Y12 engineers, Alex Dale, Edward Dale, Martin Smith and Adrian Young, in assisting and advising the Y8 teams. Our students enjoyed the day and particularly appreciated the opportunity to work with students from Holmes Chapel. (See one student's thoughts on the day on page 3 of this newsletter)

ASIMO, the Honda robot

10 lucky Year 7 students are going to be visiting the Jaguar Car plant in Liverpool on 8th February, to see a demonstration by Honda's brilliant humanoid robot, ASIMO. As a Specialist Engineering School, we were fortunate to be offered these places for the demonstration and are taking students who were nominated by Curriculum Co-ordinators for outstanding work and effort last half term. ASIMO can walk along with you, holding your hand if you wish, and features advanced mobility, to the extent that he can now move carts and other objects around at will, can run at 6km/h, autonomously act as a receptionist, or even deliver drinks on a tray.



Primary Young Engineers

This term, we are delighted to welcome students from Astbury Primary school to our weekly Young Engineers club, run by Mr Watkins. At the club, the younger students work alongside our own students on various design and make projects.

Revision Conference

A number of Holmes Chapel students will be accompanying our students and staff to a Science Revision Conference at Salford University later this term. This visit is another part of our work with community partners.

Engineering Update continued

Young Apprentices' visit to Hamburg

Our Year 11 Young Apprentices are looking forward to their Engineering study visit to Hamburg on 16th February. Accompanied by Mrs Bartley and Mrs Hilditch, the students will spend 5 days in this wonderful city along with staff and Young Apprentices from Coppenhall and Great Sankey High Schools. The trip will include a tour of Airbus, funded by the Technical University of Hamburg (TUHH), a visit to the University's 'School Labs' to conduct a variety of Science/Engineering experiments, a visit to Hamburg city centre and a boat tour of the Harbour. Our students will also visit our partner school, the Gymnasium Süderelbe, whose Headteacher Herr Fritsche has kindly organised the programme of activities for the day.

Y9 Young Engineers

Y9 students, Joanna Baylay, Luke Brown, Jessika Camm and Oliver Hamilton have come to the end of their Saturday morning Engineering course at Macclesfield College but still have challenges to face. They have to add the final finishing touches to the large remote controlled aircraft



they have built and prepare a presentation to perform for airport staff at 'My Travel',



Manchester Airport on 7th February, when they will also have a guided tour of the airport. The most exciting event to come will be later in the term when the team will fly their plane in competition with 4 other local schools.

Mrs Bartley has it on good authority that our team is tipped to win. We wish them good luck.

Internet Use

We encourage all our students to make use of our school computers as part of their studies. Our Easylink facility on the school website is now back up and running after a temporary problem earlier in the year. Please see enclosed an additional letter to remind parents about good advice for internet use outside of school.

Cheshire Policy on penalty notices

Can I draw your attention to the enclosed letter concerning the change in Cheshire County Council's policy on issuing penalty notices. This will apply where students have missed several days of school. Any student who has an absence authorised in advance eg. a medical appointment, does not fall into this category. If you have any concerns that this letter might apply to you, please contact your child's form tutor.

Y9/10 Options Evening

Our Year 9 Options Evening is to be held on **Wednesday 15th February**. This is a chance for all Year 9 students and their parents to find out about the full range of options available to them in year 10.

The evening will begin at 7pm, with an introductory talk in the School Hall. You will then have the opportunity to visit Curriculum Areas to find out further details of courses that interest your son/daughter. Refreshments will be available all evening until the event ends at 8:30pm.

Year 9 parents will also have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress at their Parents Evening on Tuesday 28th February. A letter inviting you to make appointments with your child's teachers will soon be sent to you via your child.

GCSE Awards Evening

Students, staff, governors, friends and families all came together on 24th January to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of students who took their GCSE examinations last summer. Guest speaker on the evening was Professor Jonathan Cooper from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace & Civil Engineering (MACE) at the University of Manchester. As well as speaking about the range of exciting careers that can be had within Engineering, Professor Cooper presented all the students with their GCSE certificates and congratulated and awarded students who had excelled in either attainment or effort in each subject area. There were also awards for Outstanding Attendance, Work Experience, Community Involvement, Charity Work, Extra-Curricular Sport, Drama & Music and student achieving their Gold PASS award were celebrated.

The following special awards were also given:

- Sir William Siemens Award—**Andrew Ellis**
- South Cheshire College Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement—**David Tindall**
- Macclesfield College Award for Effort and Determination—**Hannah Byrne**
- Stoke-on-Trent College Award for Most Improved Student—**Adam Cope**

Laura Edwards won the Parents in Partnership Inspiration Award and **Oliver Bailey** (pictured) was the winner of the prestigious CHS Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life.

The celebrations continued after the presentations when everyone joined together for drinks in the refectory. Our thanks go to PIP for organising and serving these refreshments.



(Photograph by David Tindall Year 12)

Careers Fair – 8th March 2006

We are staging our first Careers Fair in the Sports Hall on **8th March (10am -6pm)** and are welcoming over 35 representatives from local companies and organisations, who will be available throughout the day to give information and advice to students from Y9 -13. We also welcome parents who wish to accompany their children to the Fair, either after school or during the day. When we have finalised the timetable for the day, we will let you know so that you can make arrangements to come along if you wish. We are also inviting students from other local schools to attend. (See attached flyer for more information)

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from 9th to 16th February and will take place in the LRC during break, lunchtime and after school. Every student will have the opportunity to come to the fair and browse the book titles that are available. There promises to be a great selection of titles at excellent prices (cash only please). The Book Fair has always been well supported by parents and students in the past and because of this we can earn up to 60% in free books for the library, so it is well worth doing!

Our Day Out

The lower school production of 'Our Day Out' was a resounding success. The students had rehearsed for over 4 months and their hard work certainly paid off. Once again we have found a whole host of talent in the lower school. Jenny Bozon was absolutely amazing as Mrs Kay. She breathed life into every scene and made you believe she really was a teacher. Her wonderful facial expressions and quirky mannerisms were perfect proving that she is a very instinctive performer. Josh Barard was also a big surprise as Reilly. He gave a very convincing performance and seemed very comfortable on stage. Tim Bartley was hilarious as Mr Briggs and created a great foil to Mrs Kay. Ella Davis and Anna Kemball were also fabulous as Carol and Miss Duncan. Both giving very moving performances complimented by some fantastic singing. Kirsty Sexton and Sarah Rathbone were perfect as Linda and Jackie. All cast members were very impressive and managed to create a magical experience for all their audiences. I thoroughly enjoyed working on the show and the last night tears were proof of a rewarding time for all of us. *by Mrs Davis, Curriculum Co-ordinator for Drama*



(Photograph by David Tindall Year 12)

The Lower School Production of 'Our Day Out' was performed on the 19th and 20th January and was a great success. Many students went to see their fellow class mates perform and become Mrs Kay's Progress Class from Liverpool. The cast and backstage crew enjoyed an after-show party on the 24th. Thank you to everyone involved for all your hard work over the past few months, especially all the staff that helped make the show a success. *by Anna Kemball (9JH)*

Keyboard Club

Do you play or would like to play the keyboard? Keyboard Club is held every Thursday afternoon from 3 – 4pm in the keyboard room in the music area. Everyone welcome. If you are interested in coming along, please see Mrs Sadat-Shafai or Mrs Goodchild in Learning Support.

Axis Engineering Enterprise Challenge

The day began with a general knowledge quiz on which every team scored the same! That was followed by a briefing of what would happen throughout the day. We were told that each team was to have an adult to help guide us through the day and these included representatives from Airbags International, Siemens and Total People. We had several challenges throughout the day. The first was to build 4 lego forklift trucks in a certain time. Then in the afternoon we had to do a business plan and to advertise and present our fork lift companies to the rest of the groups. We were awarded points for everything we achieved. At the end of the day the best engineer from each group was awarded a prize and the overall winning team "Easy Lift" were also given a voucher and a gift from Siemens. We would like to thank all of the people for making this event come together as it was an enjoyable day for adults and students alike.

by Katie Southerton (8DS)

Extra-curricular Sports Activities – this half term (i.e. until 17/2/06)

Day & Time	Club	Where	Who for
Monday 3 – 4:15pm	Badminton	Sports Hall	Years 8-11
Monday 3:15 – 4:45pm	Trampolining	Sports Hall	Year 8
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 – 13
	Boys basketball	Gym	Years 7 & 8
Thursday 3 – 4:15pm	Netball	Sports Hall	Year 7
	Football Fixtures	Field	All years
	Boys Hockey	Astroturf	Years 7 & 8
Friday 3 – 4:15pm	Multi-Skills Academy	Sports Hall	Gifted & Talented students Years 6 & 7

Sports News and Fixtures

Badminton

CHS celebrated success in the Crewe and District Badminton Championship last Saturday. Rachel Vickers (Y7) won both the U12 singles and doubles competition. Rachel is a member of the U13 Cheshire Team and recently came runner up in the U14 Stockport League doubles. In the U16 boys competition at Crewe, Oliver Darmon won the doubles with Jack Bell and Gareth Ball the runners up. Jack also came runner up in the singles competition. Congratulations to all the students who took part.



Cross Country

The Cheshire Schools Cross Country Championships took place last Saturday at Victoria Park, Warrington. Congleton High School students Jessica Myatt (Y11), Alistair Coutts (Y10), Oliver Gates, Dan Roney and Liam Joyce (all Y8) represented South Cheshire and all the athletes achieved good results. Jessica Myatt will now represent Cheshire at Leicester on February 4th. We wish her every success in attempting to reach the English Schools Championships.

Rugby

A return fixture v Brine Leas school saw the Year 7 team avenge the earlier defeat by 39 – 22 pts. It was a much improved performance and the victory was thoroughly deserved. The Year 8 team did not fare so well but played extremely hard.



Football

Years 7, 8 & 9 will be playing in the South Cheshire 7 Aside Tournament for boys during this month and we wish them well.



Hockey

In matches against Sandbach, both Y8 & 9 hockey teams were beaten, despite playing well. Y9 also lost to a very strong Brineleas team, but rediscovered their fighting spirit against Alsager and drew 1-1, even though they only had 9 players! The Y10/11 team played some superb hockey against Alsager—definitely their best ever performance. The final score was 0-0. Well done girls!



Congleton High School Sports Centre

A very busy winter programme has seen the sports facilities fully utilised out of school hours by many different sports and clubs. There are several new and some well established activities available:

Mon	Congleton Basketball Club	7-10pm
	Circuit Training	8-9pm
Tues	Tai Kwon Do	6-7pm
	Boxing	7-8:30pm
Wed	Yoga	5-6:30pm
	Karate	6:30-8pm
	Ladies Keep Fit	8-9pm
Thurs	Junior Hockey	5:45-6:45pm
	Junior Netball	6-7pm
Fri	Tai Chi	7-9pm
Sun	Tai Kwon Do	6-7:30pm

The Centre also has spaces on its trampoline courses on Sundays and Mondays. During the February half term, Port Vale community scheme will be holding a multi-sports course for 5-14 year olds. Students can take part in 5 days of a variety of sports under the supervision of Port Vale coaches and Sports Centre staff. Single days are also available.

For club details or booking for the holiday course, please phone the sports hall on 01260 282470.

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership

A group of Year 9 & 10 girls have taken the opportunity to improve their levels of fitness by completing a programme of activity including aerobics, pilates, self defence, kick boxing and circuit training. We have worked with a number of qualified coaches to bring these sports into school and made visits to Total Fitness Health Club in Crewe.



Gifted & Talented Maths and Science trip to Conway

Mr Tyrrell, Mr O'Neill and Mrs Hindle recently organised an enhancement programme for students with the potential to achieve the highest grades in Maths and Science. The programme began with a 3-day trip to The Conway Centre, which involved a series of advanced lessons and tutorials.



The trip was a great opportunity to spend time with fellow classmates, participating in fun team bonding activities and games as well as a chance to learn in a more relaxed environment. The teachers made certain that we were encouraged to work to our full potential. They provided us with a range of knowledge on how to revise and make learning fun. At this crucial stage in our education this was extremely helpful for those of us who struggle to revise. I achieved more than I could have hoped to on this trip, including a greater confidence in the two subjects, a closer relationship with many of my classmates, an experience where I could learn in a relaxed environment, challenge my thinking and work with others as well as having a great deal of fun in the process! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Tyrrell, Mr O'Neill and Mrs Hindle for making this trip the best it could be and for putting in a lot of effort to make it enjoyable, educational and useful all at the same time.

by Kirsty Simpkins (11FWJ)

Visit to John Moores University, Liverpool

A group of A level Chemistry students recently went on a trip to John Moores University in Liverpool. They spent the morning preparing aspirin in one of the university's laboratories and then after lunch some students were able to have the purity of their samples analysed on very expensive spectrographic equipment, giving them an insight into techniques and equipment they had come across only theoretically at school. The day was organised and funded as part of the Aimhigher scheme, which hopes to encourage more 6th Form students to study at university.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – FEBRUARY

Wed 1 st	Parents' Forum - 7pm Innovation Studio
Wed 8 th	Year 9 Languages Conference
Wed 8 th	PIP Upper School Disco 7-9:45pm
9 th – 16 th	Scholastic Book Fair
Wed 15 th	Year 9/10 Options Evening 7-8:30pm
Thurs 16 th	Young Apprentices' Visit to Hamburg
Mon 20 th – Fri 24 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Mon 27 th	School re-opens
Tues 28 th	Year 9 Parents' Evening

NEXT MONTH – MARCH

Wed 8 th	Careers Fair
Wed 15 th	PIP Revision Skills Evening - 7pm

Please note: It has been brought to our attention that there is an error in the holiday dates issued in the Student Planner. School closes for summer half term on **Friday 26th May** and NOT on Thursday 25th May as specified in the planner. We apologise for this mistake and would be grateful if you could update your diary.

History Revision Classes

For Y11 students taking History GCSE this year, Mr Hickton is running revision classes every Tuesday 3-4pm in Room 3.55. Please just turn up if you are interested.

Newsletter Online

This monthly newsletter is now available online and you can download a copy from our website at www.congleton.cheshire.sch.uk. If you have missed previous issues, these are also available to download.

It has been a very busy month. Thank you to all those who have played a part in the huge range of activities that have been going on in and around the school. Thanks also to the students and staff who have contributed to this newsletter with their thoughts and experiences.

Mr D Hermitt
Head

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

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