

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the March issue of our monthly newsletter, from which you will see that 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.



### HMI Inspection of D&T

A HMI Ofsted inspector visited the school on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February to look at our provision of Design & Technology. The outcome of this visit was very positive for the school. He commented that coursework was "of outstanding quality, combining creativity, intellectual rigour and technologically advanced making skills" and was complimentary about the progress that the department has made since the last inspection. He thought the provision was good overall.

He was pleased with the impact of Engineering on the life of the school and he was able to give advice about how we could become outstanding in the future by addressing issues to do with the long-term staffing, higher exam outcomes and enriching D&T as part of our Engineering status. Congratulations must go to the D&T team for their work under the leadership of Mrs Stanier.

### Student Conference

Mr Warren recently took myself and Laura Monk (10LW) to a Student Conference in Bolton organised by the Specialist Schools Trust. Approximately 400 students and teachers attended and it was a fun day that included workshops (from tai chi to a game called Millionaire), seminars by guest speakers and a short address by Ruth Kelly, Minister for Education (pictured).



There was also an interactive voting session about your school, in which we learned knowledge that we can, and will, apply to our own school, such as 'learning walks' and 'student governors'. Both Laura and I are very grateful to Mr Warren for such an enjoyable experience.  
*by Jonathan Bond (10LA)*

### Careers Fair – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Our first Careers Fair takes place in the Sports Hall on **8<sup>th</sup> March (10am -6pm)**. 35 representatives from local companies and organisations will be available throughout the day to give information and advice to students from Y9 -13 as well as their parents and those members of the community who are seeking information about careers. We warmly invite you to join us. For those parents who would like to accompany their child to the Careers Fair, students will be attending at the times below. Please note that you will need to meet your child at the entrance to the Sports Hall approximately 15 minutes after the beginning of the lesson as students will be doing some preparatory work in the lesson prior to coming down to the Fair. Alternatively, you are welcome to come along at any time between 3pm – 6pm.

For security reasons, please do not come into the main school. Thank you.

Period 2: 10am 9B/Dr GJ, 9E/Ar HV, 9L/It BT and Year 12

Period 3: 11am Year 10 and Year 13

Lunchtime: Fair closed to all except 6th Form and parents

Period 4: 1pm Year 11

Period 5: 2pm 9b/DtB SK, 9b/DtG AD, 9b/DtR AWT and 9bDtY KS

### Parents in Partnership

#### Revision Skills Evening 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm



Parents of Year 10 and 11

students are warmly invited to attend this evening, which is aimed at providing useful tips on how to support children who are revising for KS4 public examinations. Students may attend too, of course, although they will be given these tips in school. PIP members will be supporting the evening with refreshments.

#### Second Parents' Forum

Following our first successful Parent Forum, we would like to invite you, once again, to come along to find out more about the school. Our second Forum will be held on

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
at 7pm in the Innovation Studio**

The first part of the Forum will focus on information about the new School Profile, which replaces the former Governors' Annual Report to Parents and will be published in the summer term. In the second part, Mr Hermitt will address questions you have sent in. If you have any questions you would like to be raised in the second part of the meeting, please mark them 'Parent Forum – question' and send them into school by Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May. Refreshments will be available on the night and we do hope you will be able to join us.

**Next PIP committee meeting:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Innovation Studio.

## Important—INSET Days

Please note, there are two INSET days coming up in this half term and the school will be closed to students on both days:

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006**  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

## Snow Closure

With the recent cold weather and forecasts of snow, we thought it would be timely to remind parents of the procedure we will adopt if we need to close the school due to the bad weather. In such circumstances we will communicate this information to you via two local radio stations—Century FM and Silk FM. They will announce the details on air and also display them on their websites.

### Century FM

Frequency: 105.4

Website: [www.1054centuryfm.com](http://www.1054centuryfm.com)

### Silk FM

Frequency: 106.9

Website: [www.silkfm.com](http://www.silkfm.com)

## Revision Guides

The LRC is now selling revision guides from across the curriculum to support the forthcoming GCSE examinations. The guides are available at excellent prices and are cheaper than those bought in any high street shop. Prices start from as little as £2.25 and rise to £3.50. For student purposes, a guide and price list is posted on the notice board outside the LRC. To assist the finance office cash would be preferred please. If you have any queries regarding the revision guides and availability then do not hesitate to Mrs Parker, T & L Resources Co-ordinator, in the LRC.

## Year 9 Options Evening

Year 9 students and their parents were invited to school on 15<sup>th</sup> February to find out about the range of options available to them as they enter year 10. Guests were first invited to a talk in the Hall where Mr Hermitt underlined the importance to Year 9 students of thinking carefully about how they made their choices, as it is so important that they keep their options open at this stage. He encouraged them to seek and take advice, to talk to their teachers and to prepare thoroughly for their visit to the forthcoming Careers Fair. Miss Mardlin then outlined the range of opportunities on offer to students in Year 10 this September, whilst Mrs Taylor highlighted the differences that students (and parents!) would encounter as they enter Key Stage 4.

Students and parents then had the opportunity to visit Curriculum Areas to talk to teachers about the courses on offer to them. It was evident that students had taken on board all that Mr Hermitt had said as they asked teachers some interesting and challenging questions about the subjects that they may choose to study in September. Students now have until Monday 6 March to make their choices and return their Option Forms.

## 12JK Adopt an Orang-utang

12JK are doing their bit for wildlife conservation and have just adopted an orang-utang called Etin. Etin lives in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Reserve in eastern Sabah, Malaysia. He is one of less than 63,000 orang-utans estimated to survive in the wild today. Orang-utans are now found only on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Habitat destruction and fragmentation - caused by commercial logging and clearance for oil palm plantations and agriculture - are by far the greatest threats that these amazing creatures face. If the current rate of deforestation continues, Borneo could lose most of its lowland forests in less than ten years. 12JK are doing their best to help the situation by donating a small amount of money each month to help Etin and the wildlife reserves where he lives. We're hoping he'll come and visit sometime in the future when he's older!



*Etin—the orang-utang adopted by 12JK*

## Mosaic Art Workshop

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February the Art Department was delighted to welcome Mr Phillip Hardacre into the department to talk to students taking the fortnightly "Art Workshop". Mr Hardacre is a successful local artist who is best known for his ceramic and mosaic work. He gave a very informative slide show, telling students how he has created his work for various galleries and commissions for a variety of sources from private houses to schools and public spaces. He went on to help students create their own group mosaic pieces, celebrating Valentines Day, the results of which are on display in school. The department hopes that this is the first of many opportunities where students will be able to meet and work with practising artists and designers.



In addition, ten talented artists from CHS have been selected to take part in a weekend of art activities working alongside artists at the Conway Education Centre and organised by the County's Education Advisor. This is the second year that students from CHS have been selected and we are confident that students will benefit greatly from the experience. In addition, this year Mr Valentine has been invited to deliver one of the workshops.

**Much Ado About Nothing**



On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, the English Department took a group of Y9 students to see Shakespeare's romantic comedy, 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Library Theatre in Manchester. The play was excellent and the actors delivered engaging performances, which enabled students to really understand the language and action in more depth. Students are studying the play in preparation for the SATs examination in May and the performance provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their knowledge of the text. All the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school.

**Young Apprentices in Engineering visit to Hamburg**

Congleton High School broke new ground in February with the organisation of the first International visit of a Young Apprentices group. CHS Y11 Young Apprentices in Engineering visited Hamburg on an Engineering Study Tour. The students were accompanied by Mrs Hilditch and Mrs Bartley and were joined by students and staff from our partner schools in the programme, Great Sankey (Warrington) and Coppenhall High (Crewe). The project was an ambitious one, as it also involved 3 German schools and the TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg). It was ably co-ordinated by Mrs Hilditch and Herr Fritsche, the Head teacher of our partner school, the Süderelbe Gymnasium. The trip included a tour of Airbus, a visit to the University, visits to Hamburg itself, the Hamburg Dungeon and a boat tour of the huge working harbour and canals. In addition, each school group was able to spend a day in its partner school where various engineering-related activities were organised for them. Our own students had a tour of the Süderelbe Gymnasium and then worked with German students on writing up the experiments they had conducted at the University for a shared webpage. We were pleased to be able to link Coppenhall High with the Friedrich-Ebert Gymnasium, whose Physics teacher visited us at CHS earlier in the year. The schools were so delighted with the visit that they intend to maintain links in future. Great Sankey students visited the Grootmoor Gymnasium where they established links last September.



We stayed in a field study centre outside Hamburg and mostly used public transport to travel to our various destinations – quite an operation in itself!

**UNICEF Change your Clothes Day**

Many thanks to all who took part in the Change your Clothes Day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. You helped to raise **£781.45** towards establishing vaccination programmes for children in Niger and Madagascar.

**Work Experience 16-20 October 2006**

Parents of all current Year 10 students are invited to a meeting next **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm** in the Hall where information will be provided about the work experience programme which will be taking place in the autumn term. A letter to parents giving further information about the meeting has been given to all Year 10 students to take home.

Leisure activities included traditional German bowling and playing hilarious team-building and problem-solving games in mixed school teams. One very positive outcome of the visit was the way in which the students from the three schools integrated so well. We were very proud of the way our students conducted themselves throughout the visit. They were positive in everything they did, from tackling difficult experiments at the University and impressing the staff with their interest and enthusiasm, to communicating with German partners and tackling the various tasks we set them. The focus of the visit was, of course, Engineering and all students felt that they had learned a good deal more about Engineering by the end of the trip.

*by Mrs Bartley, Senior Teacher*

One student's account of the trip:  
 The different schools all quickly formed one big group thanks to the team challenges set up by our teachers. The first trip was to take the CHS students to the Technical University of Hamburg, where they met students from their German partner school. All students were involved in different experiments using light, water and wind, which were set up by the university students. On Saturday all the schools were taken to the Airbus factory and the tour was brilliant. It finished with the students witnessing a finished Airbus aircraft being tested on the site's runway. For the 8 early risers who attended the fish market (at 6:30am!) the market was a real treat with many of Hamburg's traditional dishes on offer, however the other 22 students had a well deserved lie-in. Sunday lunchtime was a boat trip around Hamburg's harbour and a close up of all the mechanical structures that keep the harbour running, followed by a visit to the Hamburg dungeons. On the Monday, CHS students visited their German partner school. After a full tour of the school, English and German students were asked to work together to write up the experiments they had done at the University. A big thank you to all the teachers who gave up 6 days of their own holidays to take the students. Thank you to the Total People team and a huge thanks to the other students for really making the trip enjoyable.  
*by Kate Snelgrove (11CM)*

**Extra-curricular Sports Activities – this half term (i.e. until 06/04/06)**

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

**Sports News and Fixtures**

**Hockey**

Since Christmas, many of the hockey teams have been busy. The Y7 team have played their first matches, and have played some good hockey. In their first match against Sandbach, despite dominating for the entire game, they were unable to score and the match finished 0-0. In their next league match against Alsager, the score was 1-1. The A and B teams have also taken part in a VERY cold South Cheshire tournament. The A team drew most of their games and finished fourth, but the B team had a brilliant evening and have qualified for the final in April. Congratulations to all those girls involved!



Y8 have had some good results since Christmas – they have beaten St Thomas Moore 7-0, Knutsford 2-1 and Alsager 14-0 (yes really!) but were beaten once again by Sandbach. However, the highlight so far has been their performance at the South Cheshire Tournament. They won their group and semi-final and so have qualified for the final in April, where once again they will play Sandbach – must be our turn to beat them!

Y9 have also improved their results since Christmas. They beat St Thomas Moore, with Rachel Smith scoring all 4 goals, and Knutsford 4-2, where Jo Bayley scored all the goals. They finished second in their group in the South Cheshire Tournament, and so missed out on qualifying for the final.

Y10/11 have only played one game recently; unfortunately they were beaten 4-1 by a very good Knutsford team.

**Rugby**

The Y7 team continued their winning ways by defeating Malbank school 29 – 7 recently. Years 7 & 8 will now play in the regional Emerging Schools Rugby Tournament at Northwich. If they are successful they will represent Cheshire at the North West competition.



**Netball**

The Macclesfield and District Leagues begin again this term. As a warm up, the netball teams have recently played Holmes Chapel and Alsager. All the teams won their respective games.



**Boys' Football**

Three teams represented CHS in the South Cheshire 7-a-side tournament at Shavington recently. The Y9 team performed well but were eliminated after the league stage. Y8 completed the competition and finished fourth. The Y7 team were the most successful and were the tournament winners making them the South Cheshire Champions! Congratulations to all our teams.



In the 11-a-side Cup against Brine Leas school all years disappointingly went out of the competition in the first round. Thanks go to Mr Anders, Dr Wood, Mr Hough, Mr Margolan, Mr Fitzsimmons and Mr Naylor for their commitment and support given to the school teams.

**Girls' Football—BT Challenge Trophy Northwest Competition**

The Y7/8 Girls Football team recently enjoyed a day at the Stockport FC training ground. It began at school when Port Vale Football club collected the girls and gave them club kit to wear. The competition was of a high standard this year and most of the opposition were twice the size of the Congleton girls! We played four games against Tranmere Rovers, Stoke City, Bradford City and Carlisle United (Mrs Arnold's school where she taught many years ago). Unfortunately all the teams were too strong for us but in the final match, Lauren Carsberg scored a great goal and so the team went to McDonalds on the way home to celebrate! Blackpool were the eventual winners and go through to the National finals. The CHS squad were Lauren Carsberg, Sian Dalgleish, Rachel Graham, Emily Heades, Joanna Lau, Sarah Robson, Natalie Titley and Rachel Vickers.

**Crewe & Sandbach Schools Year 7 Sporthall Athletics Association**

Congratulations to our team of 18 Y7 athletes who competed at Sandbach against four schools from the region. There was a great atmosphere as the boys and girls competed in sprints and distance events, individually and in relays, as well as various jumps and throws and power events. Points were awarded for finishing places. CHS finished second in the competition and now go through to the South Cheshire final on 7<sup>th</sup> March at Shavington. Spectators are welcome.

**Sports News Continued**

**Badminton**

Congratulations to Rachel Vickers (Yr 7) repeated her winning success in the Under-12 Crewe League Badminton tournament with a win in the next age group up. Rachel won the Under-14 doubles and mixed competitions and was runner-up in the singles. It looks like Rachel is keeping the family tradition going—both her parents are successful players. Her mother, Kay Vickers, who is our Lead ICT Technician, is currently ranked No.1 in the country in the over-40's ladies and mixed doubles and is hoping to be selected to represent England in the European Seniors Championships in Holland in May.



**Cross Country**

Congratulations also to Jessica Myatt on being selected to represent Cheshire at the English Schools Championships on 11th March. Next week she will be running for Cheshire in an Inter-County competition at Leicester. The run is being televised, so look out for her on Saturday afternoon on BBC TV!

**Asimo**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7 students and Mr Warren went to Liverpool to the Jaguar car plant to see Asimo, a robot that the Japanese invented. It can walk like a human, walk up and down stairs and can also dance. When we got there, we had a look at the cars and models inside while all the other schools arrived. We then watched a video of



Asimo and then he came in and he was waving at us all. A man did a talk about him and told us what he could do. He shook hands with the man and we all thought it was really cute! Then Asimo walked up and down stairs for us and then danced out. Finally, we got a chance to ask questions. It was a brilliant day! *by Fiona Hand 7AW*

**School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership**

As a result of attending the Community Volunteers Conference at MMU in Alsager, Andrew Mead (13BT) will be taking up the opportunity to attend a four day residential conference at Loughborough University. He will work with tutors and students from across the UK with the aim of developing their leadership skills. We wish him well.



Twenty Junior and Community Sports Leaders have taken up placements at our Cluster Primary schools, assisting with after-school sports activities.

**Diary Dates**

THIS MONTH – MARCH	
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Careers Fair 10am – 6pm in Sports Hall
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE Science Module Tests
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y10 Work Experience Meeting 7pm Hall
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	PIP Revision Skills Evening - 7pm (Hall)
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day – school closed to students
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	Y11 Citizenship 'Stop' Day
NEXT MONTH – APRIL	
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Y7 Languages Day
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Y12/13 Drama Evening
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Concert
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day – school closed to students
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	EASTER HOLIDAY
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	School re-opens to students
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-6:30pm
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	PIP Meeting 7:30pm

**Year 9 Languages Conference**

Year 9 students were encouraged to think about the value of languages recently at a special Languages Conference. They were given a presentation by Sandrine Eglizeaud, European Marketing Manager from Flowcrete and a native French speaker, about how languages could help them in business. They also met Vesta Coulson and Rob Lee from Siemens, both of whom use languages in the course of their work. The day was a great success. Here's what some of the students who took part said about it:

- "We were given activities to do including a quiz, word searches and questions to get us thinking about taking a language as an option" Joe Oliver 9DWN*
- "It was a great experience for all of us and helped us to choose whether to do a language at GCSE" Jayde Gill-Brown 9ACD & Emily Hawkins 9AD*
- "Thanks to the languages conference I have decided to take Spanish next year!" Melissa Casewell 9DWN*
- "It was a fun afternoon which everyone enjoyed" Charles Wright 9JL*
- "We thought the day was a big help in making our choices for GCSE. On behalf of all the Year 9's we would like to say thanks to the people from Flowcrete and Siemens for coming in, and thanks to all the teachers who organised the activities!" Josh Cornes 9AD, Anbus McCormick 9ACD, Taryn Hopper 9DWN and Chloe Knowles 9DWN*

Finally, as usual, 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](mailto:head@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk)

**Mr D Hermitt  
Head**

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