

Dear Parent /
Carer

Welcome to
the April
issue of our
newsletter,
from which

you will see that there are lots of exciting and interesting activities going on both in and out of school. Thank you to all the staff and students who have contributed with their thoughts and experiences.



CHS Students at prestigious national science fair

On 27th February, a group of four Sixth Form students (Mathieu Allen, Edward Buckley-Johnstone, Peter Deem and Stephanie Jarvis) travelled down to London to participate in the BA Crest Fair.

The team won a place at this prestigious event by winning the Gold Award at the North West Regional final of the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) Crest Awards.



The Fair was held at the Royal Society in London, and the CHS team were one of many teams and individuals from around the UK who were all competing for various prizes. The team had to set up a stand to display their project (developed as part of the Engineering Education Scheme and supported by AstraZeneca) and then participated in two question and answer sessions with two different groups of judges. Their brief had been to design a system to provide protection for a chemist or operator when changing a filter element. The team's industry mentor, Leo Pickford, a plant engineer from AstraZeneca, described their project as "a real breath of fresh air, with a novel and different approach to solving the problem". Teacher Mike Warren said "It is fantastic to see how the students have developed, both as individuals and also as a team".

They did not ultimately win the final, but Mathieu and Edward commented "It was a memorable experience and was enjoyed by everyone involved. The team would like to thank Mr Warren for his continued help and support throughout the project and for the donation of his time, which allowed us to attend the event". Congratulations to the team on their achievement.

Parents in Partnership

Parent Forum

We warmly invite you to attend our second Parent Forum, which will take place on



Thursday 11th May at 7pm
in the **Innovation Studio**

In the first part of the Forum, we will be explaining the new School Profile, which replaces the Governors Annual Report to Parents. In the second part, the Head will address questions raised by you. If you would like to ask a question please send it in an envelope addressed 'Mrs Bartley - PIP Parent Forum' by Thursday 4th May and we will do our best to make sure that it is raised on the evening. Refreshments will be available so please do join us for a glass of wine. We do hope you will be able to come along to this evening as we are keen to work more closely with parents in ensuring that our children get the best possible education at Congleton High School.

Revision Skills evening

Thanks to parents who attended our Revision Skills evening, led by Mr Warren. This informative evening focussed on tips on how to support Y10 and Y11 students in their preparation for public examinations. We are grateful to PIP members who provided refreshments.

Next PIP committee meeting:

Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm
in the **Innovation Studio**

UCAS help for parents

Entry into higher education is an exciting and somewhat challenging journey for the majority of young people. But it is also just as challenging for parents, who play a key role in supporting and encouraging their children on this journey. To help make life easier for parents as well as students, UCAS have developed a new section on their website, www.ucas.com/parents where parents can access information on a range of topics from the university application process to financial guidance. Parents can register their details on the website and receive quarterly e-mail bulletins full of useful information and advice. Parents of Y12 & 13 students will also soon receive, via school, a copy of the 2007 UCAS Parent Guide. These will be sent out to parents as soon as they arrive.

Year 11 Roll of Honour



Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have achieved at least one grade A or A* in their mock exams as well as 5 A*-C. There is still time for others to add their name to the final roll of honour in August!!

ATKINSON Jennifer	HULME Jenna
BAILEY Adam	JACOB Catherine
BAILEY Sophie	KETTLE Brittany
BALL Adam	MCGLYNN Will
BAND Sarah	MCNEIL Alex
BANKS Kate	MIDDLEING Douglas
BARNES Adam	MORLEY Rebecca
BELLAMY Catherine	MYATT Jessica
BILSKI Rachel	PARKER Thomas
BOWERS Vicky	PATTERSON Richard
BOZON Roger	POOLE Louise
BRADBURY Ruth	POSNETT Jessica
BRIDGETT Roxanne	POTT Daniel
BROWN Adam	POTTS Kimberley
BROWN Stephanie	PRATT Rebecca
CARROLL Jack	ROWLEY Owen
CHALLINOR Rachel	SARGEANT Emily
CHAPPEL Naomi	SCARRATT Matthew
CRENNELL Adam	SELLERS Jodie
DARMON Oliver	SIMPKINS Kirsty
ECKERSLEY Callum	SMITH Jennifer
EVANS Robin	SNELGROVE Kate
FACER William	STAFFORD Laura
FOSTER Samuel	STAGG Emily
GIDMAN Tom	STEVENSON Joe
GRANGE Alexandra	STEWART Catherine
GREGORY Elizabeth	STONELEY Robert
GWILT Katie	THOMPSON Jack
HACKNEY Joshua	TWIGG Zoe
HACKNEY Lydia	WALTON Alexander
HEATHCOTE Eleanor	WHALLEY Tom
HOWARD Matthew	WHITING Laura
HUDSON Nick	WILSON Thomas

Vouchers

We are now collecting Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers, which are available in stores



until 14th May. We are also collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, which are available in stores until 31st May 2006. There are boxes in student reception for both these vouchers and would be very happy to receive any that you collect. Thank you.

Careers Fair

Our first Careers Fair, held on 8th March, was a great success. This event, which was an important



part of our Specialist School Development Plan, aimed to raise aspirations and improve the quality of information available to students regarding career choices. A large number of companies and organisations such as AstraZeneca, Siemens, Airbags International, Bentley, Flowcrete, the Police and the RAF as well as local universities and colleges came along to advise Year 9-13 students,



parents and visitors from other schools about the opportunities for careers and training they are able to

offer. The Sports Hall buzzed all day with excited voices as students quizzed representatives and collected information to help them with their choices. An able team of Y12 students assisted organisers, Mrs Bartley and Mrs Parker, and company reps and they were complimented on their efficiency and superb attitude which was "excellent and a good advertisement for the school" (Exhibitor). Feedback from students attending the Fair was extremely positive with questionnaires indicating that 92% found it useful. Company representatives were also very complimentary: "Students were brilliant, well behaved and informed" (Salford University); "Excellent organising - worth attending to have the opportunity to talk to young people about careers. Very happy to attend future events." (AstraZeneca) and "Great event. Invite us again." (Stoke on Trent College)

CHS goes Green with Blue Bins

After a successful environmental survey by Cheshire County Council, we are trying to become 'greener' and do what we can to reduce our impact on the environment. As part of this, Year 7 have set up a team of 'Eco-Warriors' to collect waste paper throughout the school. Every room now has a blue bin and each week a team of students collect the paper, which is then sent away for recycling.



Engineering Update

Engineering Taster Day – 27th March

Students from Alsager and Holmes Chapel schools joined some of our own Y10 students for this special event, the aim of which was to improve students' problem solving, communication and team building skills and increase their knowledge of career opportunities and pathways into Engineering. Angela Lupton from 'Aimhigher', an organisation which supports and encourages students who may wish to follow a Higher Education course, gave a brief talk on career opportunities and routes into Engineering.



Students then worked in teams on an Engineering Enterprise Challenge, organised by AXIS. Supported by engineers from AstraZeneca, Airbags International, South Cheshire College and Macclesfield College, they formed their own companies and worked to improve production and market their products.

The day finished with a talk by Daniel Robinson, a former CHS student who is undertaking a 'Year in Industry' at AstraZeneca. Dan spoke about the opportunities he had benefited from whilst at CHS and the valuable experience he is now gaining at AstraZeneca prior to going to Durham University next year. Everyone found the day very enjoyable and worthwhile and several representatives from the companies involved have expressed an interest in returning to CHS to work with our students in other events. At the start of the day, student questionnaires indicated that 15% of participants would consider a career in Engineering; this figure had risen to an amazing 47% by the end of the day!

Y10 Young Apprentices in Engineering

Our Y10 Young Apprentices start their work placements this coming week at Airbags, Siemens, Hans Lingl and Graham Vacuum Technology. This is part of a DfES programme in which students do vocational training in addition to their GCSE courses. Our students are fortunate to have the opportunity to do this as there are very few Young Apprenticeship in Engineering programmes in operation throughout the country.

Engineering Education Scheme

The Year 12 team is busily finishing work on their project for AstraZeneca in preparation for their presentation to teams of engineers at Manchester University later on this month. We wish them well for this important event.

KS2 'ICT in Science' Primary teacher Forum

This twilight event was led by Ed Tyrell and aimed to support our primary colleagues in their delivery of the KS2 curriculum. Staff shared IT resources and discussed methods of delivery as well as looking at new material available on the Internet.

GCSE Revision conference—As part of our work with our community partners, we were able to invite a number of Y11 Holmes Chapel students to join our own students on their visit to Salford University for a very informative GCSE Science Revision conference

Borneo Expedition Update

The Borneo team have been very busy organising fund-raising events to help fly them away to Malaysia. This has enabled them to meet their second payment of £750 per person (£9,750 overall) towards the trip. Over the last month or so they have helped busy shoppers by packing bags at Morrisons, sold red roses to young romantics on Valentines Day, held a designer fashion show, helped out at local discos and hosted a cheese and wine evening at St James' Church. The team also run a keep fit class at school every Thursday from 6-7pm to help raise funds. Everyone welcome. Future events planned by the team include an **Auction of Promises/Race Night on 19th May** when they hope to auction off many valuable services and items and a **set meal at Portofinos on 24th April**. For more information about either of these events, please contact Miss Boulton. The Borneo team would like to thank all the people who have very kindly donated money or helped them out in any way.

Science Conference

On 16th March, 30 Year 11 students went to a Science conference held at Salford University. The day involved 5 different lectures on aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and started with a demonstration of lots of explosions and different chemical reactions. This was followed by a lecture from the chief examiner on the areas of Biology that students need to improve on or where they make common mistakes. We also had a closer look at light and sound through a slick presentation and after lunch we were wowed by birds of prey flying around the auditorium catching mice as they were thrown into the air. The owl, hawk and falcon were the stars of the show! Two mad scientists from Sunderland rounded off the event as they proceeded to cause large explosions and shower us in liquid nitrogen. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and got a lot out of this event. We hope to organise something similar next year.

by Mr Tyrrell, Curriculum Co-ordinator for Science

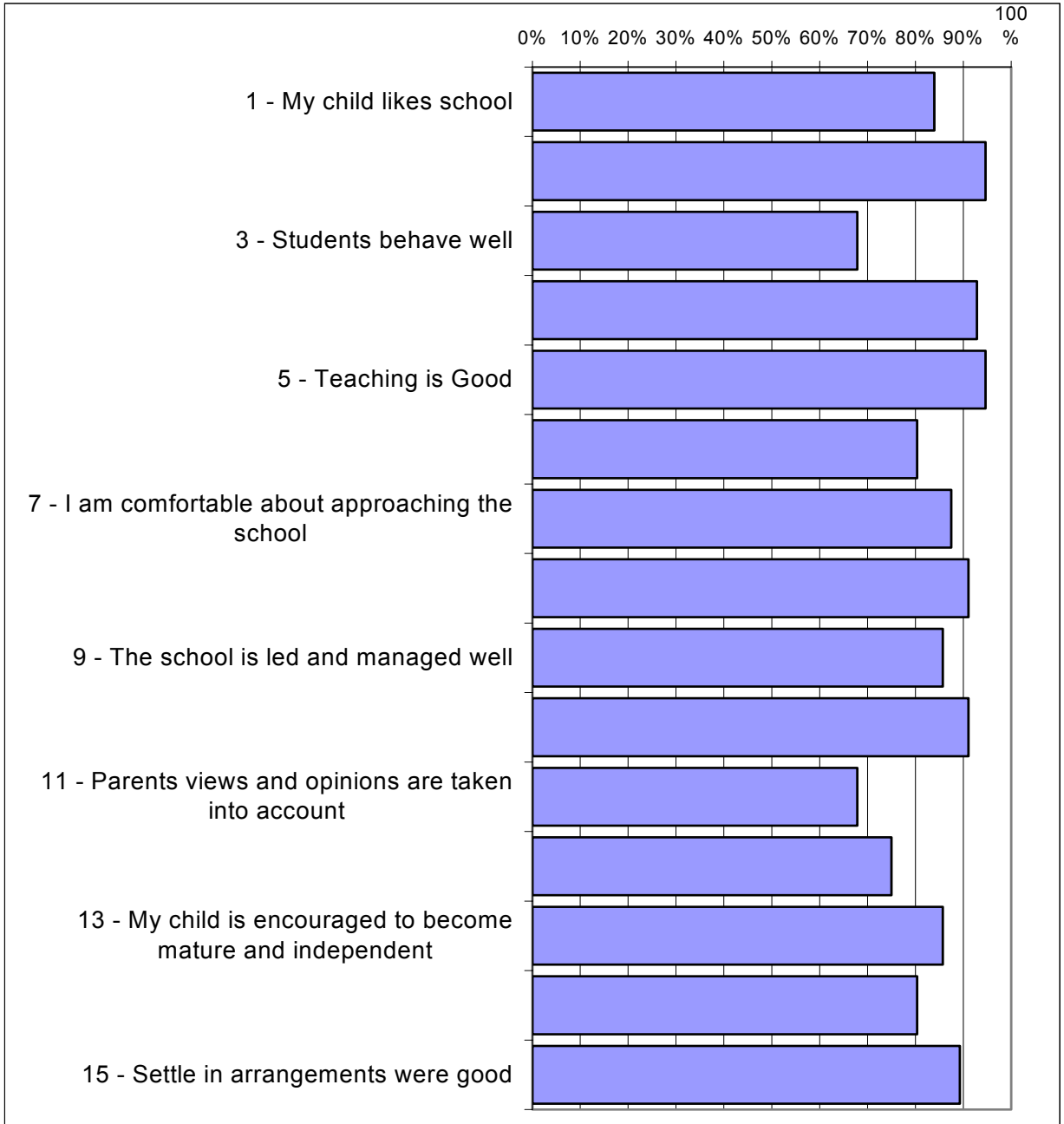
School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership

CHS recently hosted a Partnership football tournament for girls from all Primary schools. Over 120 students took part and as many parents and relatives supported the event. The eventual winners were Elworth who defeated Mossley in the final. It was also an opportunity for some Y10 JSLA (Junior Sports Leader Award) students to act as officials for the competition. In addition, Four Y10 JSLA students attended a TOP LINK conference at Sandbach HS as part of their preparation to organise a competition for our Year 7 students this summer. They received an inspirational talk from a Sporting Champion Mr Phil Brown who has won Olympic silver and Commonwealth gold medals for GB. Finally, 30 primary school students are currently taking part in a Multi Skills club at CHS with a number of our CSLA students gaining leadership experience.



Parents' and Carers' Views of CHS

Parents from Y9, Y10 and Y11 have returned questionnaires as part of parents' evenings this year. There has been universal agreement amongst parents that 'students are making good progress', 'teaching is good', 'my child is not bullied or harassed', 'staff expect my child to work hard' and 'staff treat my child fairly'. These have over 90% agreement with other factors close behind (see graph below). The areas for development are that the school needs to provide appropriate homework; parents' views and opinions are taken into account and the behaviour of some of our students. We have put into place systems to try to improve these areas and we would welcome further comments from parents about the relative success.



Student-run E-Newspaper to be launched—Prizes to be won!

David Tindall, Laura Edwards and Will Grisedale in Y12 are to launch a School Newspaper written by students for students. In the spirit of the modern age however, the newspaper will be published via the web, giving the opportunity for stories and information to be not only up to date but interactive as well. The Editor in Chief, David Tindall, was quoted as saying, "We want this to be a useful forum for all students at Congleton High School that keeps people informed about everything that's going on in our school. We're very excited about the project"

The only thing the newspaper hasn't got yet is a name and before the official launch date, there will be a competition to name the new site. If you have a suggestion then email it to chsjk12@yahoo.co.uk before the beginning of the summer term. The person with the winning entry will get a giant Easter egg. You can also send articles or suggestions for the paper to the same address.

Sports News and Fixtures

Boys Rugby

In the Emerging Schools Rugby Tournament held at Northwich, both the Y7 & Y8 squads were extremely successful and went on to represent Cheshire at the North West Regional competition at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC.



The Y8 team won all games in their pool, defeated Winsford Verdin at the semi-final stage by 3 tries – 2 and played in an absorbingly tense final against Cardinal Newman school and recorded a 1 try – 0 victory. The Year 7 team qualified for Preston, without having to play a final, by winning their Pool competition.

Girls Rugby

Jenna Hulme (Y11) played Rugby for the North West against the Midlands last Saturday, and although on the losing side and having sustained a few knocks, enjoyed the experience.

Hockey

Since the last newsletter there have been very few girls' matches, as the focus has been on netball. However, the Y7 B-team and the Y8 team played in the South Cheshire Finals. Unfortunately both teams were beaten, Y7 by Holmes Chapel and Y8 by Sandbach, who have improved tremendously since our last meeting in December.



Several students have pursued their interest in hockey by representing teams outside school. Notable achievements have come from Alex French, Liam Joyce, Jack Stephenson (all Y8) and Simon Rathbone (Y7) who are members of the U13 South Cheshire Hockey Club; they were part of a team who were runners-up to Deeside in the county finals. Both teams will be going on to represent Cheshire in the North Of England finals later this month. Congratulations and good luck!

Cross Country

Jessica Myatt (Y11) represented Cheshire at the English Schools Cross Country Championships recently at Mansfield. With over 400 competitors, Jessica finished 120. The team came fourth overall.

Tae Kwon-Do

Congratulations to Beckie Stuart in Y7. Beckie recently took part in a National Tae Kwon-Do Competition where she received the bronze medal. Well done Beckie!



Badminton

Congratulations also go to Mrs Vickers, our Lead ICT Technician, who will be representing England in the European Seniors Badminton Championships in Holland in May. Selection for the championships was based on national ranking and Mrs Vickers and her doubles partner Kathy Isherwood are ranked 1st in the country! We wish them luck in Holland.

Golf

Martin Leese (Y10) has been invited to compete in the Nick Faldo U18 National Golf Competition at Cardon park Chester in May. He is a member of the U18 Cheshire Golf Squad.



Netball

The Y7A squad, captained by Rachel Vickers, remain unbeaten in the League with 8 wins

and 1 draw. With a good goal average we have got our fingers crossed for the trophy! After a slow start to the South Cheshire tournament, they went on to reach the final with 6 wins only to lose 2-6 to Alsager.



The Y7B squad, captained by Bethany Fletcher, managed 2 wins in the League and finished a creditable 3rd in the South Cheshire tournament.

Y8 found the League competition too strong this season but saved their best play for their tournament. Having reached the semi-finals they lost 5-6 to Sandbach but beat St Thomas Moore in the play-offs.

Y9 started the season well with an 18-6 win against Fallibroome but narrowly lost the remainder. Then prior to their tournament, the squad lost their GD Joanna Baylay due to an ankle injury and although the team played well, they failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Y10, captained by Cheshire player Kate Campbell, played some quality Netball throughout the season. The standard of their League was exceptionally high and during the season, Congleton won 4 and lost 4. In the tournament, Alsager won with Sandbach 2nd and Congleton 3rd, but these teams outshone all the other schools.

The Senior team, mainly Year 11, played against Y12/13 in their league and they won 3, lost 5. The team played their best Netball of the season in their last few games, winning 14-4 against Poynton and 26-18 against Henbury.

At the end of the season, Mrs Arnold commented, *"with 63 matches and 6 tournaments played, the CHS teams showed excellent commitment and fair play. They were a pleasure to take to the various schools in East and South Cheshire."*

Athletics

A mixed team of Y7 students took part in the inaugural South Cheshire indoor Athletics Final at Shavington HS recently. All the students performed well in a number of different events, and they finished a respectable 5th position.

Mrs Arnold is organising a trip to Manchester Arena on 16th July to see our top athletes compete for a place at the European Championships. A letter will be available soon.

Congratulations to all our teams and competitors on their achievements this half term!

MFL Events

It has been a busy month in the MFL Curriculum Area with an exchange trip and lots of events designed to help prepare students for their forthcoming examinations.

Spanish Exchange

A group of Y9 and Y10 students recently visited Madrid as part of a Spanish Exchange, accompanied by Mrs Wilkinson. They stayed with students and their families from the San Viator High School and took part in a whole host of activities from ice skating, visiting a theme park and bowling to shopping in Madrid, visiting art galleries and even taking part in lessons. They also visited famous Spanish towns such as Segovia and Toledo. Student Tim Bartley, said *"We also got to look around the school, which is larger than CHS but doesn't have a lot of the facilities that we have here, such as new computers, modern sports facilities and specialist classrooms."* He added *"It was hard work speaking Spanish (or at least attempting to) all the time, but I would recommend future exchanges for those of you learning Spanish."* Two other students, Jenny Bozon and Lucy Moores, said *"We had the opportunity to experience living the typical Spanish life, including eating Spanish food and living with a Spanish family for 9 days!"* They added *"All the students are now looking forward to July when their Spanish friends come over to England, but the trip to Spain will be an experience that will last a lifetime."*

Un après-midi Français à Alsager

Year 13 French students participated in a fun French afternoon at Alsager School on 23rd March. The session was also attended by 6th Form students from three other Cheshire schools. The students enjoyed some delicious home-made biscuits and got the opportunity to chatter in French to the French assistants and to each other and to sell a house in French. *En tout – une bonne journée!* by Michael Bartley (13BT)



La France en Direct

Y10 & 11 students studying French for GCSE enjoyed a day's conference entitled 'A French Experience' on 30th March in Coventry. The presentations, sketches, quizzes and interactive activities helped prepare them for their forthcoming exams. They also had the opportunity to act as interpreters for situations in a hotel booking a room and in the street asking for directions. Some of the students who took part commented *"listening to them speaking fluent French really inspired me"*, *"I enjoyed the day and feel that I have improved my French"* and *"We gained a lot from this experience."*

Y12 Languages Conference

Our Y12 French AS students enjoyed a similar day at Salford University on 23rd March. Presentations, sketches, activities and quizzes on family relationships, education, recycling and the dangers of smoking were amongst the topics covered. The aim of the day was to help students prepare for their forthcoming exams.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – APRIL	
Tues 4 th	Y7 Languages Day
Wed 5 th	Y12/13 Drama Evening Spring Concert - POSTPONED
Fri 7 th	INSET DAY – school closed to students
Mon 10 th – Fri 21 st	EASTER HOLIDAY
Mon 24 th	School re-opens to students
Tues 25 th	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-6:30pm
Thurs 27 th	Junior Maths Challenge PIP Meeting 7:30pm Performing Arts Celebration Eve 7:30pm
NEXT MONTH – MAY	
Mon 1 st	BANK HOLIDAY
Tues 2 nd – Fri 5 th	SATs
Mon 8 th – Fri 12 th	Year 10 Exams
Mon 8 th	Year 11 Drama Evening
Fri 12 th	Year 9 Outdoor Education Weekend
Mon 15 th	Main AS Level Exams start
Mon 22 nd	Main GCSE Exams start

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 contact Mrs Parker, T& L Resources Co-ordinator, in the LRC.

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

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**