

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the New Academic Year. We are pleased to be celebrating the best ever GCSE exam results. Thank you to all the staff and students and parents for such a successful year.

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a questionnaire for parents to let us know their views on the school. Please could you return this via your child's form Tutor by the 21st September.

School Exam Results

A levels



The exam results are again excellent. The students have produced some great results at the end of a very productive year. In all, 71 students took A levels or their equivalent vocational qualifications this summer at the school. The students obtained some of the highest grades with 43.75% gaining A or B, this is an improvement of 6% on the previous year. The overall pass rate was 98.4%, which is an improvement of 3% on the previous year.

Congratulations to Michael Bartley

Michael achieved four grade A's at A-level to secure his place at Cambridge to study languages.



GCSE

We have achieved the best ever exam results in Congleton. The 190 students (94 girls and 96 boys) in Year 11 all contributed to achieving successful exam outcomes.



68.4% gained at least 5 A* - C grades in GCSE/GNVQs.



60 boys (62.5%) and 70 girls (74.5%).



54.7% gained 5 A*-C including both English and Maths

	% A*-C All students
2006	68.4%
2005	59.7%
2004	58.3%
2003	61.6%
2002	62.9%
2001	54.8%

A full list of all the examination results is attached on a separate sheet.

Congratulations from Cheshire County

The school is delighted to have received a congratulatory letter from the Head of Children's Services in Cheshire, Joan Feenan, on the excellent improvement in our examination results. She is quoted as saying

"I am writing to celebrate the success of your pupils and the hard work of your staff in achieving the level of your performance and improvements this year."

Welcome to all New Students and Staff

A warm welcome to the pupils and families in Year 7. We hope that your first week in school has been a happy and successful one and you now feel a part of our school.

Welcome also to the following new members of staff

Jacque Banks	Teacher of Humanities
Neil Baxendale	Teacher of Art
Anne Breeze	Teacher of Food Technology
Jean Davies	Teacher of ICT, Citizenship, Business Studies & Enterprise
Suzanne Dobson	Part-Time Teacher of MFL
Caroline Eckersley	Teacher of Humanities
Elliott Fleming	Teacher of Maths
Joanne Hephherd	Teacher of English
Gordon Hollings	Teaching Assistant
Amy Jardine	Teaching Assistant
Klara Rowland	Teacher of English
Katrina Smith	Teacher of English
Sarah Sansome	Teaching Assistant
Nikki Wiggins	Deputy Curriculum Team Leader of ICT & Business Studies
Samuel Woodward	Teaching Assistant

Parents in Partnership



**Thursday 21 September
Y7 Parents social and student disco**

We are pleased to welcome new parents to Congleton High, to meet the Year 7 tutor team, Senior staff and members of PIP for a chat over a glass of wine whilst Year 7 students have fun in the disco. We look forward to working with our new parents over the coming years.

As always we welcome new members to Parents in Partnership. We have a very active team who support the work of the school in a variety of ways, for example, fundraising, organising student discos, supporting our Parent Forums and serving refreshments at school events. Most importantly however, we value the input of our members when discussing the life of the school and formulating new school policies. If you feel you would like to work with the team, either on an adhoc basis or by being on the committee, please let us know by contacting Irene Bartley at school or coming along to the next PIP AGM on Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm in the Learning Resource Centre.

**Parent Forum 7– 8pm Thursday 5 October
Innovation Studio**

All parents are cordially invited to our next Parent Forum. This is your opportunity to ask questions about the school, which the Head and other staff will be happy to answer. In the first part, Mr Mike Warren, Assistant Head, will be presenting plans for our proposed 6th form centre. 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 'PIP Parent Forum' by Wed 27 September and we will do our best to make sure that it is raised at the Forum. Refreshments will be available so please do join us for a glass of wine.

Parent volunteers

At our last Parent Forum, parents asked if they could support staff by helping at sports clubs and other extra-curricular activities. We would very much welcome expertise parents have to offer and encourage you to contact us if you would like to work with a club or team. If your input involves one to one contact with students, you would have to undergo a CRB check. If working with groups alongside a member of staff, this may not be necessarily needed but is usually desirable.

Lions Half Marathon Sun 8 Oct

PIP members will be supporting Lions and the community once again in October, by serving refreshments for Marathon participants and their families

Houghton Weavers Sat 25 November

Don't forget to get your tickets for the Annual Houghton Weavers show! These will be on sale in a few weeks time.

Vacancy for Parent Governor

We shall shortly be seeking nominations for two parent governors. If you are interested in becoming a Governor the school would like to hear from you.

Engineering

As usual, we have a busy schedule of events in and out of school and you will read about these in later newsletters. This term, these include:

- Young Engineers club: this year involving an exciting new project – building and racing a 'Greenpower' car
- Maths Circus (Year 7) 25 September
- 'Math a Magic' Visit to the Catalyst Museum 19 October
- Senior Maths Challenge
- Engineering Day (Y8) 1 December
- Engineering Education Scheme: the selection of our new 6th form team
- Various courses linked to Engineering including CREST awards, Autocad and, in collaboration with Macclesfield College, Aerospace Engineering
- A cross-curricular theme of robots Vocational training for our 3rd cohort of Young Apprentices in Engineering

Our community work will continue to develop and expand, both with our partner schools and other organisations. This term, for example, we will be providing Maths/numeracy support for Airbags employees. We are also hoping to work more closely with our German partners, the TUHH and the Süderelbe Gimnasium over the coming year.

Exciting Expedition – Students have a ball in Borneo

On July 16th 2006 thirteen sixth formers and Miss Boulton finally departed from London Heathrow embarking on the expedition of a lifetime to the island of Borneo in the South China Sea.

After a short stop in Brunei where they explored a magnificent mosque and the local river village built on stilts, the Expedition Team headed off to the busy capital city of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu.

Later expedition activities included a visit to a jungle survival camp where the team learned to set traps to catch food such as frogs and squirrels, were taught to hunt using blowpipes and to carve utensils from bamboo. The students had to live with very basic facilities: food was cooked on a campfire, the shower was the river and beds were bamboo floors.



The most demanding part of the expedition for many of the Team was the long and challenging trek to the Maliau Falls, through pristine rainforest that has only relatively recently been explored, battling with the elements and coping with leeches. The trek was so tough that only four members of the team actually got to the final destination point but all thought that the hard work was worth it.

A different and most enjoyable phase of the expedition was spending time living with local Muslim families, where the group went on a river safari coming face to face with wild gibbons, monitor lizards, eagles and wild boar. In helping the local community they created jungle trails with machetes, cleared the local pond (which was used for showering, washing clothes/dishes and drinking water!) of weed and building bridges. To mark the end of the stay with the wonderful and welcoming community, the locals provided a cultural show where the Expedition Team dressed in local attire and took part in the traditional dancing of the village. This was the part of the trip that they really didn't want to end.

To wind down and relax the team visited the world famous Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre where we came in very close proximity to

semi-wild orang utans. One cheeky chappy even tried to break into the lockers where their bags were stowed. They went white water rafting down the Padas River which was very exciting as was the journey to the rafting venue on Sabah's only train line during which the team managed to get the whole of the travellers on the old-fashioned steam train singing songs that they had learned from leaders during the trip.

The penultimate night of the expedition was spent on a remote desert island with nothing but tents for shelter. During the night a storm hit the island with 40 mph winds and torrential rain. Many of the team were so tired that they slept through this – some had foolishly decided on that evening, to sleep under the stars!

Due to the team's clever and creative accountants they managed to save enough money to enable a stay in a 4 star luxury hotel on the last night also enjoying a big night out in Kota Kinabalu, celebrating what they had achieved on this expedition of a lifetime. All the team faced and overcame personal challenges, they worked fantastically as a team even presented with some difficult conditions and situations.

Miss Boulton would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to a remarkable group of students who took an opportunity, rose to massive challenges and achieved great success. The Team were complimented by the Expedition Leaders as being one of the best groups that they have ever worked with. The Borneo Expedition Team would also like to thank anyone who helped them achieve their goals in whatever way, because without the support of the school, the students in it, parents and the local community their task would have been so much harder.

Premises and Accommodation

During the summer break there have been a number of improvements and changes made to our premises and accommodation.

Accommodation

- Created a new Engineering office.
- Student Reception has been moved and students need to be aware of its new location (still within the Admin office).
- Mr Barlow has moved to a new office
- The Finance Office has been enlarged
- New Every Child Matters office.
- New Meeting Room.

Security and Fire Safety

Upgraded CCTV cameras and alarm system have been installed in the school to give added security both during and outside school hours. This also allows Senior staff to view the school at any time required.

As part of the alarm system we have instant response from the Fire Services and evacuation chairs have been installed on all floors with staff trained in their use.

Sporting achievements

Golf

During the summer Martin Leese was joint first in the North West and North Wales 'Nick Faldo' series after several rounds of competition played at prestigious golf courses around the region including this year's 'Open' golf course on the Wirral. Martin will now play in the National Finals at Celtic Park in South Wales at the beginning of October. Good luck from all at CHS to Martin.

Athletics

The school Athletics teams finished the season with another win this time in the South Cheshire Relay Championships, Individual team winners were Junior Girls, Junior Boys and Inter Girls but overall the school came 1st ahead of Brineleas and Alsager. Well done.

Yr 11 Trip to "Romeo & Juliet" in Stratford

On Thursday 14th September 36 Year 11 students and three members of staff will be travelling to Stratford-upon-Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's much-acclaimed production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. The students are studying the play as part of their GCSE English/English Literature coursework and will be able to use their experience of the production to enhance their chances of achieving success in their final grades. A review of the performance will be published in the next newsletter.

Vouchers



The school will be collecting vouchers for the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs 2006 scheme. Vouchers are available in store from **11th September to 5th November** and one voucher can be collected for each £10 you spend. These vouchers will be exchanged for sports equipment or professional coaching sessions. A box will be available in Student Reception and we would be very happy to receive any that you collect. Thank you.

Dress for Success

We are very pleased that our students have responded to our new emphasis on dressing for success. In the first week the vast majority of students have worn their uniform correctly and the few that have not we have already contacted their parents. Thank you for your cooperation and support. If you have any comments please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH— SEPTEMBER	
19 September	Y13 UCAS Parent's Evening
21 September	Y7 PIP Disco/Parents' Social Evening
26 September	Y6 Open Evening
28 September	Y12 Parents' Information Evening
21 – 28 September	Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair (LRC)



The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from **22nd September to 27th September 2006**. This book fair is usually a great success and something that the students enjoy having the chance to peruse during their break-times and after school. All students will have the opportunity to browse the latest fiction and non-fiction titles all at excellent prices. The more books we sell the more commission we earn which in turn will put more books on the shelves in the LRC. So your full support is greatly appreciated. To assist our finance department cash is the preferred form of payment please.

Keyboard & Guitar Club

Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Mr Hollins will be running the keyboard and guitar club from Thursday 21 September in Room 122 for anybody interested. No keyboard necessary.

School holiday dates—2006-07

	Date of closing	Date of re-opening
Autumn Half Term	Fri 20 October	Mon 30 October
Christmas 2006/07	Thurs 21 December	Mon 8 January
Spring Half Term 2007	Fri 9 February	Mon 19 February
Easter 2007	Thurs 29 March	Mon 16 April
May Day 2007	Fri 4 May	Tues 8 May
Summer Half Term	Fri 25 May	Mon 4 June
Summer 2007	Fri 20 July	

**Mr D Hermitt
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