

Dear Parent / Carer



Welcome to Issue 10 of our monthly newsletter. I hope you all had an enjoyable Bank Holiday. We have now said goodbye to our Y13 students and some of our Y11 students. They will be taking the next steps in their journey of life following their GCSE and A level exams. We wish them well in their future.



Parents in Partnership

Parent Forum

At our last Forum on 24 May, parents enjoyed sampling the new range of food available in our newly refurbished dining facilities. Mary Butler, who has responsibility for CBS Catering for High Schools, explained how CBS had not only invested heavily in our new facilities but had embraced the Healthy Schools initiative and was providing a full range of healthy options and food prepared on the premises. She talked, too, about parental responsibility in promoting healthy food options by encouraging children to buy food available in the refectory. Parents were particularly interested to see a sample of menus available.



As always, the second part of the Forum provided the opportunity for healthy discussion of issues of interest to us all. Questions were raised and discussed on a number of issues: home-school communication, parents' evenings, 'fast-tracking', protective clothing for DT and Art, the curriculum (alcohol, drugs, smoking, sex education), lunch-time eating arrangements during exams and wet breaks and the school's stance on the nationwide ban on smoking from July 1.

PIP Family Quiz Evening Friday 6 July

Don't forget to book your team into our annual quiz night. Send your team name into Mrs Bartley before the day and you save £1 on the night.

Like to Bike

Ben Barber, Jack Siddall, Frank Smith, Jake Smith, Nick Taylor and Sean Whitehurst—all students at CHS, took part in the Like to Bike project run by the Community Safety Department at Congleton Borough Council recently. The youngsters spent a week in classroom learning about motor-bikes, road safety and first aid. The course culminated in them roaring their way around an off road track in Chester known as the BIGX. A great time was had by all and the cycling team were so impressed with Sean Whitehurst that they have offered him the opportunity to train as a mechanic with their team. Good luck Sean.



Engineering News

Greenpower car

Our Greenpower car is on the road (as it were)! Mr Watkins and Mr Boon took excited students along to Birmingham in May for the first real test for the car. The students raced against other schools and, although they didn't win, they came back full of ideas on how to 'fine tune' the design of the car to improve its performance. Staff and students alike are determined to have the fastest, sleekest, safest vehicle in the Greenpower races! Well done to the team for their achievements to date!



Young Apprenticeships in Engineering

Selection for our 4th cohort of Young Apprentices in Engineering is now underway. Engineering aptitude tests will be taken by candidates on Wednesday 13 June and interviews held on 19 June.

Rotary Young Chefs and Young Designers competition

The annual round of Young Chefs and Young Designers competitions begins on 13 June, this year at Eaton Bank. As usual, the best GCSE DT projects will be entered for the Young Designers competition. Year 9 students will take part in the Young Chef competition. We are pleased that this year, Congleton High will be hosting the Regional Finals for both competitions on **28 June**.

On the **27 June** Y11, 12 and 13 students and parents are invited to the Design & Technology Department where a celebration and exhibition of the 'A' level, GCSE and Btec courses will be held.

Work with partner schools

We were pleased to welcome staff from our partner primary schools and Park Middle to a DT twilight training session in May. Our Engineering Liaison teacher, Mrs Garbett, led this session, based on the KS2 unit 'Fairgrounds' and our primary colleagues enjoyed designing and making their own moving fairground rides prior to teaching the unit in their own schools. We look forward to welcoming more of our primary staff and students to an Engineering Challenge event at CHS in June.



Primary students will also be spending 2 days at Congleton High in June to work towards achieving an investigative science award (BAYS). Congleton High will be hosting a Science club for students from our partner primary schools on 20 June. This event is supported by AstraZeneca.

International Engineering Visit

Congleton High became a centre for International Engineering once more on 4 June when we welcomed staff and students from our partner German and Spanish schools for an Engineering Study Visit.

The first day of the visit was spent at CHS where students built bridges, engraved glasses and built and launched rockets. Other activities during the week include visits to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, the Anderton Boat Lift and a tour of Concorde.



Tour of Concorde



Bridge building

Siemens Award

On Friday 18th May Paul Winterburn from Siemens came in to give a presentation to the Engineering Year 10 groups about the history of Siemens and to discuss the Sir William \ Siemens award. Whilst he was here he judged this current Year 11's work. Joshua Pear was the winner (Medal, certificate, £50 voucher) and for the first time in the country Paul has agreed to award a second prize as the standard was so high. This was won by Jenna Pearce who received a £50 voucher. Congratulations to them both and they will be presented with their awards at the awards evening in January.

LITERACY NEWS

This edition's top tip is **Reading for Pleasure**



- Next month sees the return of Reading Week at Congleton High School. It will be happening from Monday 9th July to Friday 13th July and all staff and students will be taking part.
- Our aim is to get the whole school reading for pleasure in order to raise the profile of reading and reinforce its importance across the curriculum.

Why Read?

- Most of us learn to read during our first years at school. We need to read for all kinds of reasons; to understand instructions, to be able to find out about things as well as for entertainment- to escape, to relax, to scare ourselves, to make ourselves laugh! The list is endless.

- Students all need to be thinking about what they want to read during our reading week so that they are ready to bring their books into school. They will be hearing lots about it over the next few weeks. It would be great if parents/guardians could start sharing their favourite books with students in the run up to July and encourage them to spend more time reading. Book lists are available from Mrs Wilson in English or Mrs Parker in the LRC for those students who are unsure of what to read.

Y7 Visit to the New Sixth Form Centre

On the 22nd of May 2007, Year 7 pupils, Laura Higgins and Carmen Evans had an exclusive tour around the new Sixth form block. They both described it as 'Unique and exciting'. The new block is due to be completed on 24th of August 2007. They explored the new building with Mr Warren and asked him a variety of questions, including, 'How is the building progressing?' He answered, 'I can't wait until this building is finished and it's all going well!' The new block was designed and approved by students and a special architect company called *Jay Ashells*. Carmen and Laura discovered that the block would be used for lessons including: Media Studies, I.T and Health and Social Studies. Another thing they both said was: 'Personally this has changed our views and expectations of sixth form. The common room is huge and is a fantastic facility for sixth formers to relax in. We can't wait until we are able to use it. The overall cost of the building will be just under a million pounds but it's all worth it!'

Report by Carmen Evans and Laura Higgins TAMB

Sporting Achievements

South Cheshire Representatives.

The following students attended trials at the Cumberland track on one of the very wet days in May, and were successful

Junior girls

Rachel Barlow 100m and relay; Grace Robinson High Jump; Charlotte Berkeley 800m.

Intermediate Girls

Sarah Wilkinson 100m and relay; Cara Grisedale 300m; Lauren Wilson Javelin.

Senior Girls

Jessica Myatt 400m, 800m.

Junior boys

Greg Kershaw 100m and relay; Duncan.Houston Javelin; Jack Stephenson Discus.

Intermediate Boys

Luke Edgar 100m and Relay; Luke Smith 200m and Relay; Josh Barrard Long Jump; Ryan Maddock Javelin.

The Cheshire Schools Championships take place on June 9th at Macclesfield

English Schools Cup

Fifty two students from year 7 to 10 competed against other schools from Cheshire. The day was the worst in living memory according to Mrs. Arnold, six hours of continual rain with only a gazebo and minibus for shelter! The students were brilliant though, with no complaints about the weather. Lauren Wilson even managed a personal best in the javelin with a throw of 26m.04. The athletes each had to compete in two events and gained points for their performances. Over two days twenty schools took part in two age groups. The year 9/10 boys and girls teams finished a creditable 7th and 9th.

Girls Cricket

The Year 7/8 Girls Cricket team have spent the last four weeks working towards the Congleton Borough tournament, being coached by parent Dave Atkinson. Their efforts proved successful. They beat Sandbach, Alsager 1, Alsager 2 and Congleton 2. Following the presentation of medals, the girls have now got three weeks to polish up their skills before representing the Borough at the Cheshire Youth Games in Ellesmere Port. The team is made up as follows, team captain Sam Morgan, Bethany Fletcher, Sarah Robson, Lauren Mellor, Alice Dean, Grace Henderson, Leah McGlynn, Harriett Ben-Accom, Paige Bailey, Hannah Carmen and Eloise Toft.

Girls Netball

Following the Macclesfield and District Schools Netball League which ran from last September through to March, two Congleton Teams did very well. The Year 10 team won all their games and were awarded the trophy and medals. The Year 8 team came a very close second to All Hallows who got their revenge over Congleton when last seasons results were reversed.

Rounders Leagues

The Year 9 and Year 10 teams have finished their competitions after rain affected play over the last fortnight. Year 10 were doing well until they met Victoria who scored more rounders and put us out of the final, resulting in third position. The Year 9s played well but unfortunately the lack of rounders being scored in each game hampered their progress.

Tennis

Tennis Coaching is now available as part of the Extra-curricular activities, beginning on Monday June 4th. The Year 10 Sports Leaders have attended a coaching course and are now running Tennis every night except Friday. Students need to see the PE Dept to book a night.

Cricket

Our Year 9 & 10 teams reached the Finals of the South Cheshire 8 Aside competition held at Alsager. The Year 10's, with a much changed team, reached the final after defeating Malbank in the semis. However they were unable to overcome a strong Alsager team and finished runners-up. The Year 9 team went one better, defeating Shavington in the semis and Brine Leas in the final to become Champions. This was a new competition which proved very popular and successful. The Year 7 & 8 teams compete after half term.

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership



Five Year 12 Sports leaders took the opportunity to gain canoeing leadership qualifications when they attended a two day kayaking course held at Astbury Sailsport at Astbury Mere.



Twelve Year 9 boys have been involved in an Outdoor & Adventurous Activities programme. They have been developing their team building skills before completing the climbing, windsurfing, canoeing & orienteering components.



Gifted and Talented

On the 17th May a group of Y8 and Y9 Gifted and Talented students were taken to Astbury Mere for the day in order to sample wind surfing and kayaking activities. After being provided with wet-suits and life jackets, those students sampling wind surfing were split into pairs and given boards to get used to in the water. Once they were confident on the boards they then received tuition on boards with sails.



The other group sampled kayaking around the Mere. They then had to get in line and hold on to each others kayaks and were told by their instructors that they were going to do raft running. Although most were able to make it halfway across the water, some capsized which they found quite amusing. The students found the whole days events most enjoyable and once out of their wet suits went home exhausted with aching arms.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Julie Boulton, Head of Sixth Form on the arrival of Thomas Samuel who was born on the 17th May weighing in at 7lbs 3ozs. Mother and baby are both doing well.



Vouchers

Thank you to everybody who has sent in Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers. Sainsbury's vouchers are available in store until 29 May. The last date for giving out Tesco vouchers has now passed and we are at the moment in the process of counting out vouchers received. At the present time our total stands at 14,000. Can we ask that if you have any Tesco Vouchers you send these in to Student Reception as soon as possible. Once the order has been submitted we will inform you of what we have been able to acquire.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – JUNE	
4 June	School Re-opens
4-7 June	Engineering Study Visit— Spanish & German students
11-26 June	A2 Exams
11 June	Y12 mentoring day / Year Council Meeting Week
12 June	Y12 lessons resume
18 June	Student Council
26 June – 5 July	German Exchange
28 June – 6 July	Spanish Visitors
28 June	Intake Day / evening
28 June	Regional Finals Young Chefs / Young Designers
NEXT MONTH—JULY	
9-13 July	Reading Week
11 July	Sports Day
14, 15 July	Y19 Outdoor Education Weekend
17-19 July	Engineering Event
Friday 20 July	School closes for Summer holidays.

If anybody would like to view the Newsletter in colour, please contact the school by sending an email to headspa@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk and a copy will be forwarded to you.

**Mr D Hermitt
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