

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 2 of our monthly newsletter. Thank you for completing the recent questionnaires to find out your views about the school. I have now analysed the results which show a massive improvement compared to last year.



School Exam Results

Since reporting our excellent results in September's Newsletter we are pleased to announce that the percentage figure for students gaining at least 5 A*—C grades in GCSE has risen to **70%**. This figure could even rise higher as a number of papers have been returned for remarking.

KS3 Results

	% at Level 5+		% at Level 6+	
	School	National	School	National
English	77	72	39	nyp
Maths	80	77	59	nyp
Science	80	72	46	nyp

nyp = not yet published.

Engineering

Young Engineers club

CHS students have been joined by a number of primary school students at our after school Young Engineers club to start work on building a 'Greenpower' car. The club is organised by Mr Watkins and supported by AstraZeneca engineers. If all goes well, the plan is to be able to race the car when it is completed!

Robotics

During the course of this year, each Curriculum Area will be working on the theme of robotics with various year groups. In Music, for example, students have started composing music to accompany video footage of ASIMO, the amazing Honda humanoid robot. More details of work going on around the school to follow.

Y8 Industrial visits

We are keen to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to visit an Engineering company at least once during their school career to give them an understanding of how a company functions. We are, once again, grateful to Siemens, Congleton, for facilitating visits for all our Year 8s (approx 180 students!) over the coming year.

Results from Questionnaire

Top Strengths (2006)

Staff expect students to work hard (96% agree)
Settling arrangements are good (91% agree)
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent (90% agree)
My child likes school (90% agree)
My child is making good progress (89% agree)
Approachable school (89%)

Most improved responses compared to 2005

The school is led and managed well (up 27%)
The school seeks the views of parents (up 25%)
Transition arrangements (up 14%)
My child helped to be independent (up 12%)
Students behave well (up 12%)
Kept well informed about progress (up 11%)
Appropriate homework is provided (up 9%)

Siemens' sponsorship

Siemens have also offered to sponsor the study of German at CHS via a 'Youthbridge' project. This will mean sponsorship of approximately £5000 for German over the next 3 years.

Afri-Twin

We are delighted to now be part of the Afritwin programme, which will enable us to work with 2 South African schools on Engineering and Citizenship projects. As part of our community plan, Blackfirs Primary is also joining this programme.

Maths Circus

On Monday 25th September we saw the return of the Magic Mathworks Travelling Circus to Congleton High School. The Circus was set up in the hall and involved over 30 mathematical puzzles and activities for students to take part in. Students in year 7 were invited in tutor groups throughout the day during which they spent an hour and a half exploring the physical side of maths. The Maths Circus is linked to the engineering development plan which meant that students did not have to pay to take advantage of the fantastic resources. All Year 7's seemed to enjoy the experience and look forward to more hands on maths in future. Students can take further advantage of the wonderful resources by logging on to the website www.magicmathworks.org.uk and using the password and username 'Versa'. We look forward to seeing the Maths Circus again next year with more activities for students to try.



Engineering Education Scheme

The Engineering Education Scheme Sixth Form Team has now been selected. Naomi Chappel, Adam Bailey, Adam Crennell and Samuel Benson. The team went to Liverpool University with Mr Warren for the launch of the programme on Wednesday 4 October where they received more details about the real life problem set for them by Astra Zeneca

Parents in Partnership



Parent Forum

On Thursday 5 October we were pleased to welcome parents to our 3rd Parent Forum. In the first part of this, Mr Mike Warren, Assistant Head, outlined plans for the new 6th Form Centre, which we are hoping will be completed by next September. In the second half Mr Hermitt answered questions which parents had sent in. As usual, we were also able to have a chat over a glass of wine. If you have not yet managed to get to a Parent Forum, please do come along to the next one. It is an excellent way to get first hand feedback on questions of concern from the Head and staff.

Forthcoming Events

PIP AGM 19 October 7.30pm Learning Resources Centre

Would you like to play a valuable part in school life? Why not join our active and friendly Parents in Partnership team? If you are interested in joining our committee, please do come along to our Annual General Meeting on 19 October. As a committee member, you will not only be involved in school events but will also be consulted on various school policies..

Lions Half Marathon Sun 8 Oct

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

Y7- Y9 Disco 12 October 7- 9.30pm

Entrance £2. Refreshments will be on sale as usual.

Raffle

We are collecting prizes for the raffle held at the Houghton Weavers Show. If you feel you could donate a prize for this please send it in to Mrs Irene Barley. Thank you.

LRC Resources

A reminder to all students that the LRC remains open after school until 4,00pm Monday to Thursday and 3.30pm Friday for any students who wish to make use of the computers or would like to use the quiet time for homework.

Charities

Operation Christmas Child



We shall be collecting shoeboxes full of presents to send to children around the world who are victims of war, poverty, famine and disease. Leaflets are available to help in assembling the gifts.

We are required to have all boxes ready for collection by the 15th November therefore students need to get their boxes into school by the 13th November. If there are any questions please contact Mrs Taylor in school.

Development of Women and Children

During the coming weeks, the Humanities Department is planning to set up a committee with representatives from each year group to take part in the organization of charitable events that support the work of DCWC in Nepal. The long term aim of the project is to raise enough money (around £2500) to build a school in Nepal. Many villages are at present without a school and struggle to provide facilities to give children a basic education - we have been considering the impact of this during our assemblies and the work carried out in relation to the project will support the RE scheme of work in particular.

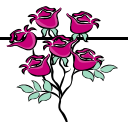
Houghton Weavers Show 25 November 2006

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Houghton Weavers Show

**Saturday 25 November 2006
at 8.00pm**

Tickets £11: includes a pie and peas supper.
Licensed bar with real ale
Tickets available in school from 11 October

Cities in Bloom Award



Congleton Town Council have asked students in Yr 9 to submit an advertisement, produced by use of ICT, meant to encourage people to reduce, recycle and reuse waste. The local Council will judge the entries and a prize awarded to the winner. The winning entry will then be used as an advert locally and possibly nationally when Congleton enters the national Cities in Bloom competition next year. Congleton have already won the regional Cities in Bloom award not only for their floral displays but also for the local environment.

All those entering can discuss their ideas with Mrs Wilson Jones and handed in to her when completed.

Year 11 Theatre Trip



On Thursday 14th September 36 Year 11 students and three members of staff travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's much-acclaimed production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Their initial hopes of having lunch sitting by the banks of the River Avon were dashed by the wet weather but this didn't manage to spoil their enjoyment of the day. The RSC production was fantastic, using innovative methods to convey the bitter feud between Capulets and Montagues. Everyone that travelled enjoyed the performance and found it be an excellent way to enhance knowledge of the play. The coach journeys to and from Stratford were quite long but all students were exemplary in their behaviour and conduct throughout the entire day. Many thanks to Mr O'Neil for organising and Mrs Wilson and Mrs Dearnaley for supporting the trip.

Gifted and Talented

On Tuesday 10th October, Gifted and Talented English students will meet with author Jan Dean who is visiting our school to run a workshop with students from Key Stage 3 covering narrative work, including character, location and situation and generating plot and characters. 30 students will be involved, as well as selected 6th formers.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Lower School Chess Club (Mrs Sadat-Shafai)	Library – Monday lunchtime
Band rehearsals	Tuesday - 3.15—4.15pm
Yr 7 & 8 Book Club (Miss Smith)	LRC—Wednesday Week 2 lunchtime
Music Theory Classes (Mr Spink and Miss Blundred)	Wednesday – 3.15—4.15pm
After School Games Club – Miss Goodchild / Miss Sansome	Wednesday 3.15—4.00pm
Young Engineers Club	Room 111 Wednesday 3.15pm—4.15pm
Creative Writing Club	Thursday Week 1 lunchtime—Innovation Suite (led by 6th Form)
Creative Writing Club	Thursday Week 2 lunchtime—Room 235 (Miss Dearnaley)
Dance Club (Miss Lomas)	Gym—Thursday 3.15—4.15pm
Science Club (Miss Smith)	Room 105 Thursday 3.15—4.15pm
Keyboard and Guitar Club (Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Mr Hollins)	Room 122 - Thursday 3.00—4.00pm
'New Level' Club (Mrs Myatt)	Innovation Suite – Friday lunchtime

Tesco Sport and Schools for Clubs 2006

Please keep sending your Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs Vouchers. A box is available in Student Reception to receive any that you collect.



Sporting Achievements

Tennis

At the end of the summer term four Year 10 Junior Sport Leaders, who had attended a TOPLINK training course organised a Year 7 Inter Form tennis competition. The students, Jack Bell, Adam Cheetham, Adele Larose & James Wilson successfully planned & ran all aspects of the competition. The standard of tennis played by the 24



Year 7 players was of a high standard & the competition was closely contested. All players received certificates & the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd pairs received gold, silver & bronze medals.

Results

Girls 1st—MH, 2nd—VH, 3rd—HV, 4th—AW, 5th—CR, 6th—BS
Boys 1st—HV, 2nd—MH, 3rd—VH, 4th—BS, 5th—CR, 6th—AW

Rugby

It has been the start of the new season & Years 7, 8 & 9 have been training regularly. The Year 8 team recorded an excellent win away to Holmes Chapel by 27 points to nil. After a hesitant start the players began to work as a team and produced some enterprising rugby. In their second game they faced Saint Ambrose College in the Cheshire Schools Cup Competition. This was a big step up for the boys and one where they showed character & determination as the opposition were stronger in most areas. The final score was 5 -36, with George Whalley showing determined leadership & scoring our try. The Year 9 team also met a very well drilled Bramhall HS in the County Cup & after taking an initial lead went down by 12 – 56.

Jenna Hulme (Yr 12) has been invited to attend England Rugby Trials following her games for the North West. Good luck Jenna.

Football

Hannah Crookes was successful at the recently held County Football Trials. She played her first game for Cheshire last Tuesday.

So far this year our football teams have won 7 of their 10 games. Keep up the good work.

Brine Leas

Y7 won 5-1
Y8 won 4-2
Y9 lost 1-3
Y10 lost 0-2
Y11 won 4-1

Kingsgrove School

Y7 won 6-0
Y8 won 8-0
Y9 won 6-3
Y10 lost 1-3
Y11 won 1-0

Sailing

Congratulations to Catherine Bellamy (Yr 12) who took part in the Comet Dinghy National Championships in August. The event attracted 43 entries. The racing took place over three days with 7 races in total. Catherine completed all races which was better than many adults with strong gusty winds on the Monday. She finished as third junior, third lady and 31st overall. National Champion Ian Coppenthal, paid tribute to her sailing in his speech at the prize giving, "*She was very difficult to pass*" he complained!



Adam Millington (Yr 8) was invited to compete at the Topper National Championships at Weymouth Sailing Club during the summer holidays. He raced for 3 days against 130 sailors and his best result was a creditable 9th. He recently came 20th out of 51 sailors and thinks this is enough to become part of the West Zone Topper Squad. Well done Adam.

Golf

Martin Leese has been invited by Nick Faldo to play in the National Golf Championships at Celtic Manor, South Wales against other top U16 area champions. Martin was joint 1st in the North West having played a series of competitions on top golf courses through the North.



Attendance / Holidays

The school should be informed by telephone on the first day of any absence. Students who have been absent from school must bring a letter from their parents explaining the reason for their absence on their first day back.

If you wish to request leave of absence for your child to attend a family holiday please contact the school reception for the relevant holiday form. The school has the discretion to authorise limited leave of absence, **it is not granted automatically**. Please try to avoid taking family holidays during school time as it obviously hinders the academic progress of students.

Vacancy for Parent Governor

We are seeking nominations for three parent governors. Attached to this Newsletter is an information sheet on becoming a School Governor at Congleton High School, Notice of Election and Nomination Paper. Please note that all nomination forms should be returned to main reception at school by **no later than 12 noon on Friday 20th October 2006**.

Work Experience 16-20 OCTOBER 2006 – Year11

All Year 11 students have been given a Placement Agreement form for their work experience. This should be signed by the student, parent and employer and returned to school by **no later than Friday 13 October 2006**.

Car Parking

It has been pointed out that some parents have been using Box Lane to drop off and collect children. Could we please request that all students are dropped off and collected within the school grounds to prevent congestion on Box Lane. Thank you for your assistance in this.

THIS MONTH – OCTOBER	
5 October	Parents' Forum
9 October	Y10 Coursework Evening
10 October	Y7 Tutor Evening
12 October	PIP Y7-9 Disco
17 October	Parents' Workshop – Taking Time Out for Teenagers
19 October	PIP AGM
20 October	Break Up for Half Term
30 October	School re-opens

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**

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