

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 3 of our monthly newsletter. We have had a busy month and we are pleased that students have responded well to the new initiatives for this year. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of the events that we have published.



### National Music Week 16-20 October 2006

As part of National Music week we celebrated each morning, as students came into school with live performances by Year 10 GCSE Music students and, throughout the day, teachers were invited to have a musical 'moment' in their lessons.



Music of all types ranging from David Bowie to Vivaldi and from Ricky Martin to Rachmaninov could be heard coming from classrooms around the school.

We were pleased to receive a visit from "Hail Carta" a band specialising in progressive rock styles who gave a band workshop to some of our guitarists, drum kit players and singers. The band are undergraduates at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and one of the members is a former student at CHS. Our musicians gained a great deal from the event.



### A New Vision Statement

Since September the school has been consulting with representatives of students, staff, parents, Governors and the Local Authority on modifying our Vision Statement. As a result of these consultations we have recommended that we change our statement from "Engineering the Future" to "Achieving Success Together".

### Dress For Success

Thank you to all parents for their support as we have tried to encourage our students to take pride in their appearance. If you are one of the few parents who have received a letter from us regarding uniform please could you re-emphasise that dressing appropriately is an important aim for life. By dressing smartly our students are already setting high standards for themselves, which makes them more employable in the future.

A large number of students also took part in Latin American Percussion workshops which were led by Laszlo Palko, a professional percussionist who specialises in world percussion. He has a special interest in the music of Brazil. During the day, he led workshops on Samba and on an original composition which had a funky groove. A group of Year 6 children, from our partner Primary Schools also had an opportunity to play Samba. They had a wonderful time.

Thanks to everyone who joined in this celebration of music in the first national event of it's kind.



**2006 VCE Advanced Level: ICT and Art (Double Award)**

The following students have passed the 2006 VCE Advanced Level: ICT and Art (Double Award) in addition to their A level passes—apologies to all for having not produced these results along with the A level results.

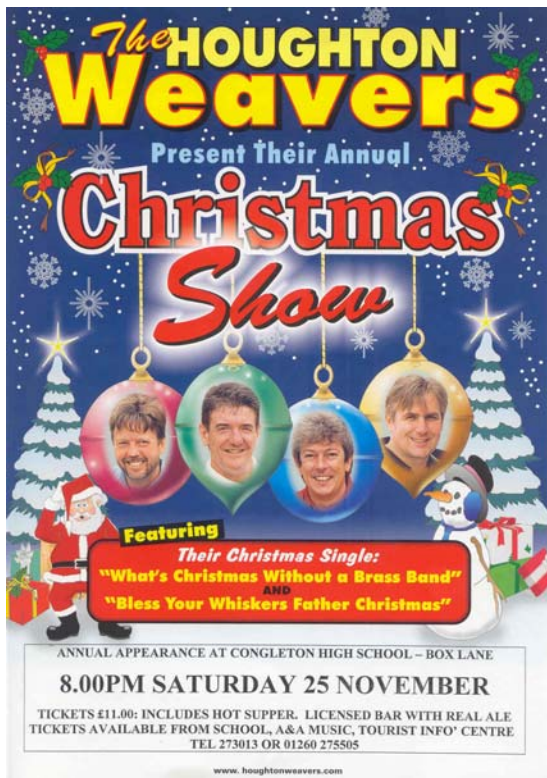
**IT (VOC)**

Black Gareth (2); Calder Lauren (2); Facer Thomas (2); Fern James (2); Foster Martin (2); Hallam Mark (2); Heades Laura (2); Hunt Jennifer (2); Keyte Alex (2); Kirkham Greg (2); McGregor Christopher (2); Mead Andrew (2); Pear Thomas (2); Ratcliffe Daniel (2); Sadat-Shafai Anthony (2); Shaw Kayla (2); Stanway Annette (2); Whalley Charlotte (2); Wright Stephen (2)

**Art & Design (VOC)**

Ahern Kerry (1); Clarke Amy (2); Hartshorn Kirsty (2); Myatt Emily (2); Pickering Samantha (2)

**Parents in Partnership**



**Houghton Weavers show 25 November 8pm**  
 Don't forget to get your tickets for the Annual Houghton Weavers show. These are available from school, the Tourist Information Centre and A&A Music. Tickets £11 include a pie and pea supper. Real ale on sale. Please note: As there is a bar available, spectators are requested **not** to bring their own drinks.

**Parent Forums**

We would like to encourage all parents to come along to our Parent Forums. These really are an excellent means of learning more about the school and having the opportunity to chat informally, over a glass of wine, to the Head and Senior Staff.



At the last Forum, we were able to see plans for the project Sixth Form Centre and long-term improvement to the school and were given information about changes in the way student work is assessed, recorded and used for target setting. Mr Hermit and Senior staff also answered questions about the Healthy Schools Initiative, communication regarding after schools clubs, rewards for wearing school uniform correctly, lunches and homework. **Our next Forum is 27 February 2007. Do put the date in your diary and come along.**

**Annual General Meeting-19th Oct**

Our sincere thanks go to our PIP committee for their hard work over the past year and in particular, to Steve Archer and Anne Barber who have had to step down as Chair and Secretary respectively because of increased work commitments. Over the past 2 years both have worked tirelessly for the school and we are most grateful for their efforts.

The following officers were elected at the AGM:

Chair	Alex McCormick
Vice Chair	Steve Archer
Treasurers	Paul and Delyth Crean
Secretary	Rachel Hodges

We look forward to continuing to work closely with our PIP committee.

**Engineering**



Kate Snelgrove (Y12) travelled to London over half term to attend the prestigious Arkwright Scholarships Awards ceremony at the Institute of Engineering and Technology. At the ceremony, Kate was awarded a Scholarship, which will mean £250 a year for her in sponsorship for Y12 and Y13 as well as support from sponsors, the Royal Navy and the Arkwright Scholarship Trust. There were over 800 applicants for scholarships but only 173 awarded following an aptitude exam and interview. Our congratulations, once again, to Kate for this achievement.

Year 11 students who are predicted a high GCSE grade in Maths and intend to study AS Maths next year may be eligible to apply for a Scholarship. Interested students should discuss this as soon as possible with their Maths teacher or Mrs Bartley.

## Operation Christmas Child



Every year we encourage our students to take part in this project. We have had assemblies in school to reinforce the important messages about how we can all support the project by completing a shoebox as a gift. Last year in school we collected over 100 shoeboxes and this year we would love to collect even more.

If you are able to contribute to this worthwhile project please do so.

## RE Stop Day

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October year 11 students were offered the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities relating to RE. Their usual timetable was suspended for the day whilst a number of visitors and staff facilitated a range of activities designed to provoke thinking and develop understanding around four main themes.

- Relationships
- fair trade
- identity and belonging
- the environment

Visitors from 'Churches Together in Congleton', Christian Aid and The 'In Yer Face' theatre company worked alongside staff in delivering a series of workshops throughout the day. The workshops not only encouraged inter-group working but also required the students to listen to opinions and refine their own based on what they learned. All in all the day was heralded as a great success.

## LITERACY NEWS

This is a new slot to give parents/carers tips and advice for supporting students with reading and writing, particularly when completing homework. This edition's tip is about paragraphing:



### TipTop paragraphing

- This is a quick and easy way to help students to decide when to use paragraphs and is useful for a number of different types of writing.
- **TiPToP** is a handy acronym which acts as a prompt to start a new paragraph. The idea is that a new paragraph starts whenever you change any of the following:

■ **Time; Person; Topic; Place**

## 'Blast from the Past'



We have recently received an email from Patrick Wilson, a former student of Box Lane. He contacted us to tell us that he had taken a look at our school website and was totally amazed at the transformation at the school since he graduated in 1971! His memory of school in those days was not the greatest although he did remember projects such as the "School Car" and the "Land Yacht" which influenced the path for his future career. He now works for the Canadian Nuclear Industry. He also finds time for his hobby restoring old English cars. If any parents (or grandparents) remember Patrick and would like to make contact with him please let us know and we will pass your details on to him.

## New Sixth Form Centre

We continue to make progress towards constructing our new sixth form centre. Y11 students have taken part in a workshop with the Architects, Student Council have discussed the plans and parents have been able to ask questions at the Parent Forum.

The next steps include awarding the contract in December with a view to starting the construction work in January. We will be providing more information as part of our Post 16 opportunities open evening on Thursday 9th November.

## Open Evening 9th November 2006

**Post-16 Opportunities Evening  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
6:30pm – 8:45pm**

We would like to invite Year 11 students and their parents to our Open Evening to find out about the range of opportunities available after GCSE exams. There will be a presentation in the hall at 6:30pm.

**Presentation – Visit Subject Areas –**

## Vouchers



Last chance to collect vouchers for the Tesco Sport for Schools and Clubs 2006 scheme. Vouchers are available in store until the **5th November** and one voucher can be collected for each £10 you spend. A box is available in Student Reception and we would be very happy to receive any that you collect.

# SIEMENS

## Siemens Sponsor new Hockey kit

We are grateful to Siemens for sponsoring our Year 10 and 11 Hockey Team's new Kit. The team took part in the South Cheshire Tournament where they finished second. Don't they all look fantastic? Let us hope that their new kit keeps their performance first class!



## Sports News and Fixtures

### Rugby

Saturday fixtures away to Brine Leas School, Nantwich for Years 8 & 9 turned out to be enthralling matches. Year 8 eventually won 41 – 17, but mid way through the second half the score stood at 17 – 17. It was an entertaining game with players combining to score exciting tries and this was evidence of the progress the team has made in twelve months. The year 9 game was no less entertaining with the score finishing at 42 – 45 in favour of the Brine Leas team. Early in the first half the school team trailed by three tries but fought back, however the opposition extended their lead to 45 – 22 with 10 minutes remaining. The team, excellently lead by Sean Whitehurst, scored four tries but ran out of time to get the winner. Forthcoming fixtures include Alsager, Malbank & Fallibroome schools. Training is on Tuesday 3 – 4.30 pm & all boys are welcome.

### Primary School Netball

This year Congleton Schools Sports Association is playing their High 5 Netball competition at Congleton HS over three nights. This format enables the nine teams to play each other on a league basis at a central venue. The first round of games saw over 60 players representing their schools in what turned out to be very competitive matches. The second round of games takes place later this school year.

### School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership



### Multi Skills Academy

Over thirty pupils from our school and our cluster primary schools are taking part in a Multi Skills programme aimed at developing their teamwork and acquiring a range of skills that are fundamental to a variety of team and individual sports. The programme will continue for seven weeks after which our Partnership of Schools will take part in a Festival at Sandbach High School.

## Parent Governors

**We have received nominations for the 3 vacancies. You will shortly be receiving by separate letter your voting papers with further details.**

## Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – NOVEMBER	
3–7 November	<b>Art Trip to New York</b> Y11, 12 & 13 Students Art Galleries/site seeing visit to New York with Mrs Vale
9–12 November	<b>Battlefields Trip</b> Y10/11 History Students visit Battlefields with Mr Hickton
9 November	<b>Post 16 Opportunities Evening</b> Y11 students and their parents 6:30 – 8:45pm
14 November	<b>Y7 Performance Evening</b>
16 November	<b>Y12/13 Parents' Evening 3:30 -</b>
23 November	<b>PIP Y7-9 Disco 7:30 – 9:30pm</b>
25 November	<b>Houghton Weavers Christmas Show 8:00pm</b>
NEXT MONTH – DECEMBER	
13 December	<b>Christmas Concert</b>
19 December	Former Y13 Certificate Ceremony
21 December	Last day of term <b>School Closes at 1:10pm</b>

**Mr D Hermitt**  
Head

Head: Mr D Hermitt BEng, PGCE, MEd, NPQH

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