

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 4 of our monthly newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks at the many events organised for celebrating Christmas.



OFSTED INSPECTION

We were able to welcome an Ofsted inspection team to the school on Wednesday the 29th November and Thursday the 30th November. They have visited classrooms, met with senior staff and are now in the process of writing their report. This will be sent to parents as soon as it is available.

They have already indicated that they agree with us that we must stretch our students even more in their SATS exams at the end of Y9. Strategies to do this were put into place last summer and these should provide an increase for next year.

The inspectors have highlighted a number of good features in the school such as the quality of the teaching, the curriculum offered and how well learners are cared for and supported.

Road Safety

We have had a number of reports from members of the public expressing concerns for the safety of students from Congleton High School. If you collect your child from school please review where and at what time you pick them up. Any cars that park a little away from school will ease the pressure on Box Lane. If your child walks home from school please talk to them about their route. They need to use the crossings provided on Holmes Chapel Road and Sandbach Road, wait for the crossing signal and be aware of other road users.

Parent Governors

We are pleased to announce that Jill Cust, Keith Vickers and Ian Wilton have been elected as parent governors

Christmas Concert

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our Christmas Concert which takes place on **Monday 18th December**. The concert starts at 7:30pm and will feature students performing Music, Dance and Drama. We will write to you very soon to give you more details and information on how to obtain tickets.



Results from Sixth Form Questionnaire

Top Strengths (2006)

- Have good relationships with teacher (96% agree)
- Are treated fairly, with respect and as a young adult by the 6th Form team (96% agree)
- Staff are expert in their subject (94% agree)
- Encouraged to attend regularly and on time (93% agree)
- The school is well run (93% agree)

Most improved responses compared to 2005

- The school seeks and responds to the views of students (up 29%)
- The students have well informed advice from school and / or careers advisors on what they should do after they leave school (up 21%)
- They are treated fairly and as a young adult by the 6th Form Team (up 17%)
- The school offers a range of activities additional to their main subjects to help them develop their personal skills and interests (up 15%)

Financial Management

At the beginning of last week the school was audited for its financial procedures by Cheshire County Council. I am delighted to inform you that as a result the school has become the first in Cheshire to achieve the Financial Management Standard. Congratulations to our Finance team for their hard work.

LITERACY NEWS

This month's tip is about **Connectives**



- Connectives** are the words or phrases that link ideas, indicate a change of direction in writing or balance points of view. Connectives can really help to structure writing.
- There are lots of different types of connectives. In this edition we'll focus on connectives for comparing and contrasting.
- Comparing:** equally, in the same way, similarly, likewise.
- Contrasting:** whereas, instead of, alternatively, otherwise, on the other hand.
- TOP TIP:** Get students to list examples of connectives that they might want to use at the head of any piece of writing.

STUDENTS IN COURT!!

An account of a 'day in Court' by
Emily Sargeant 12GM



Year 12 law students recently visited South Cheshire Magistrates Court in Crewe to see "law in action". There were four Courts in action that day and we moved between them to observe different cases.

The custodial Courtroom was the most interesting as it contained an intimidating glass security cell, which was used by the more serious offenders during their trials to ensure they didn't escape.

We were able to see how the Magistrates deal with offenders and the sentences they hand out. Whilst we didn't see anyone being given a prison sentence, it was a very interesting and fascinating visit. We are now looking forward to visiting the Crown Court in the near future.

BATTLEFIELD TRIP

On November the 9th a group of 42 Year 10 and 11 GCSE history students went on a trip to the First World War Battlefield in France and Belgium.

We visited the town of Ypres in Belgium, which has the Menin gate, a memorial to thousands of First World War soldiers who died in the area but have no known grave. There we toured the 'In Flanders Field' museum and also saw the 'last post' ceremony which is held every evening to remember the dead. The same day we had the chance to visit Tyne Cot which is the largest British War cemetery in the world and contains 25,000 war graves.

The following day we visited the Somme region in France, and had an interesting guided tour of Newfoundland Park, which is a piece of preserved First World War battlefield. There was also time for some shopping before we returned home late on Sunday night, just in time for school the next morning.

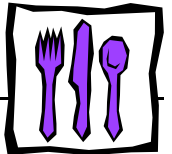
By Rose McCulloch 10AWT



A2 LANGUAGES CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

Year 13 French students took part in a Language Conference organised by Phillip Alan Updates, in Manchester on 22nd November. The day was extremely useful as they were able to pick up lots of new phrases and vocabulary to help them with their forthcoming examinations. They had presentations and listened to debates on the environment, globalisation, the third world, information technology in France, the eating habits of the French, French television and French teenagers

CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL 'RESTAURANTERS'



On Tuesday 14th November a restaurant was opened in school for one night only. Some talented and enthusiastic Yr 9 students prepared a selection of three course meals which were served to guests seated in a thoroughly transformed Room 113!

The students had worked on a restaurant theme for several weeks, practising professional looking menus, fantastic napkin folds and polished customer service skills. All the hard work paid off. On the night we had 16 guests seated at beautifully decorated tables with candles, music playing softly in the background (High School musical actually!) and the students expertly prepared food from Greek, Italian and English repertoires.



It was a great success. Many congratulations to all the students involved. We shall certainly be holding more of these evenings in the New Year.
Mrs Breeze (Food technology)

Students involved:

Nicole Byram (SK), Hollie Bailey (JCB), Hayley Barber (DS), Josie Copeland (LM)
Jessica Evans (KSM), Emily Heades (JD), Olivia Jackson (LM), Rachael McCusker (JD), Katharine Rodrigues (JCB), Katie Southerton (KSM)

Visit to Spain

As a result of my visit to Spain early in November the school has now established a link with a Spanish Engineering School in Baza, Granada. We look forward to welcoming the students from Spain when they visit us next year as part of the scheme.

Charities

Children in Need

This was a non uniform day and students took part in many fund-raising activities. Everyone had of fun and we raised £1,259.11 send to the appeal.



Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to all families who put together shoe boxes for this appeal. In total we were able to send 130 boxes which have now begun their journey overseas.

Engineering



GETSET Day Liverpool 14 November

10 Year 9 girls took part in a range of challenging Engineering problem-solving activities at Anfield Stadium on 14 November. Organised by SETPOINT, this day aimed to promote Engineering, Science, Technology and Maths to girls.



ENGINEERING DAY Congleton High School 1 December

24 of our Year 8 Gifted and Talented students were joined by students from Eaton Bank, Holmes Chapel, Alsager and Woodhouse Middle last Friday for an Engineering Enterprise Event, organized by AXIS, in which students formed their own companies and worked in teams to improve production and market their products. Students were supported by engineers from Siemens, AstraZeneca, Airbags, Busch and the Royal Engineers, who were able to share their expertise for the day. Engineers from Siemens also delivered a presentation on Siemens and pathways into Engineering. The day was a great success, with positive evaluations from students and staff.

DT Primary Teacher INSET 'Pneumatics – Moving Monsters' 23 November



We were delighted to welcome a number of our partner primary staff to CHS again for another twilight INSET session on 23 November. Organised by Mrs Marjorie Garbett and Mrs Kathy Stanier, this was another practical workshop in which staff enjoyed themselves learning more about the teaching of pneumatics and working on practical projects themselves.



Thanks to everyone who has sent in Tesco Sport Vouchers. We have collected a total of 13,300 vouchers so far. You can still send in any remaining vouchers to Student Reception as we have some time yet before the order has to be posted off. Once we complete the order we will let you know what we have selected.

Parents in Partnership



Thanks to all members of Parents in Partnership who organised and helped at the recent Houghton Weavers Annual Show. The evening was, once more, a great community event with the 'Weavers' playing to a full house made up of all ages.



MATHS CLUB (Tuesdays after school)

A homework and games club has been set up for all students who want extra help with homework or to increase their understanding of matters. Anyone who is interested please come along to Room 349 with Mr Fleming.

Also students who have been identified as Gifted and Talented in Maths have been invited to attend the club where they will have the opportunity to complete maths investigations, puzzles and games.

Evening Classes



EVENING CLASSES STARTING WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2007 FOR TEN WEEKS

Classes start at 7pm and run till 9pm (except where stated)

- Drawing and Painting Workshop
- Digital Photography for Absolute beginners
- Digital Photography – the Next Step
- Mediterranean Cookery
- Email, Internet and eBay
- Get By in Polish
- Get By in Italian
- Tai Chi (runs from 8pm to 9.30pm)

For further details and enrolment by telephone, please contact Customer Services on 01625-410002

Sporting Achievements

Netball

The Y11 Netball Squad played their final South Cheshire tournament last week at Sandbach High School. Twelve teams took part from the area. Congleton displayed some excellent form to qualify for the Semi-finals as group winners. Their excellent defence, efficient court play and good shooting resulted in very one-sided scores. The team only conceded one goal in each of their first 4 games, the cream of the results being against their usual rivals Sandbach which they won 7-1. To get to the finals Congleton beat St Thomas Moore 5-0. Alsager, the other finalist has always proved difficult, ever since Congleton beat them by one goal in the Y7 final. The opponents had strength in depth, with several county players to our one and that proved the difference, the resulting score 7-4 to Alsager.

Team

K.Campbell Capt. H.Crookes, E.Bennett, C Stringer, L. Critchlow, S.Green, E.Goode, J.Machin

Y8 team travelled to Fallibroome H S for the Macclesfield and District Schools Tournament. Six schools took part. After a slow start when the team lost to the eventual winners All Hallows, they improved with every game. Unfortunately, they could not make up for the early loss, even though they beat, Wilmslow, Alderley Edge and Henbury

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership



Rugby & Netball Coaching

Fifty students from Yrs 9 & 10 took the opportunity of receiving rugby & netball coaching at a



clinic held at Sandbach High School. Four Cheshire RFU coaches put the players through their paces working on continuity skills & the Cheshire



Netball Development Officers helped players develop their team skills. The morning session finished with all students completing a number of team building activities lead by the Army Community liaison team.



Tae Kwon-Do

On the 26 November Jessica Rae in 7ET travelled to Coventry to take part in the Tae Kwon Do British Championships. Jessica is a member of the Kidsgrove Tae Kwon Do school and this is only the second time that she has been at the Championships, last time she did not make the final. This time she reached the final of her grade (green belt) where she faced an older opponent. Jessica came through the final and won the contest. Congratulations Jessica. Congratulations also go to Beckie Stuart in 8MH who recently took part in the same Championships. Beckie did really well and won a silver medal in the Tag Team event. This is a paired event where contestants work together as a team, to try to win each contest.



SPORTS CENTRE

The Centre has spaces on its trampoline courses on Sundays and Mondays. The courses are run on a pre-booked six week cycle at a cost of £16.50 per course payable in advance. All levels are catered for so ring the centre on **01260 282470** for more details

For those interested in keeping fit there is circuit training on Mondays at 8.00pm, a £3 charge is payable on the night.

The Centre also runs a girls netball coaching session on Thursday evening from 6.00pm-7.00pm. Ages 8-14 are welcome, £3 per child payable at the start of each session.

On Saturday mornings junior football is available all year round for ages 4-13 from 10.00am-12.00pm. Coaching is run by Port Vale FC. Again the cost is £3 per session payable on the day.

For details or booking for these or any of the Centres other activities please ring the Sports Hall on 01260 282740

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH – DECEMBER	
6-19 December	Y11 Mock Exams
11 December	Start of Y7 Conway trip
18 December	Christmas Concert
19 December	Former Y13 Certificate Ceremony
21 December	Last day of term School Closes at 1:10 pm
NEXT MONTH – JANUARY	
8 January	School re-opens

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**

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

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