

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 5 of our monthly newsletter. I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead. As usual there are lots of exciting things happening in school with much to celebrate. I look forward to seeing you at some of the events which will be taking place during this term.



Councillor Price Cuts First Turf for the new Sixth Form Centre build

I am delighted to report that work on the new Sixth Form Centre has now begun with the turf cutting ceremony taking place on Tuesday 9th January. Termax Construction, a local building contractor, were successful in their bid to build the state of the art facility and with the assistance of our Architects, Jay Ashall Associates, we shall be working closely with the builders to ensure the Sixth Form Centre is completed in readiness for the new academic year in September 2007.



Councillor Price takes the first cut

Successful Ofsted Report

The Inspectors agree that the quality of provision is good and the report highlights a number of very strong features, including Teaching and Learning, the quality of the Curriculum and the Care and Guidance given to students. The report celebrates the outstanding improvements made at GCSE last Summer and also praises the new Leadership of the school.

The report and covering letter is being sent home to parents along with this Newsletter and will shortly be available for downloading from the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

A Level Awards Evening

In December, we were delighted to be able to invite our former students back to school to receive their A Level certificates. The evening began with a DVD of students receiving their A Level results in summer. It was lovely to remember how students' nervousness before they got their results turned into happiness and excitement when they saw how well they had done. Mrs Taylor, Chair of Governors then presented students with their examination certificates and a range of other awards for achievement or effort in each subject and for their contributions to school life. Miss Boulton and Mrs March then spoke about their fond memories of 'The Class of 2006'.



[Congratulations go to Michael Bartley who received the Award for Outstanding Achievement](#)

After the Award Ceremony, students enjoyed the opportunity to catch up on all that they have been doing since leaving school last summer and telling each other all about their experiences in new jobs, on Gap Years or at university. The many teachers, parents and friends who attended the event really enjoyed celebrating the students' success with them.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A further vacancy has arisen for a parent governor and we are seeking nominations for that role. Attached to this Newsletter is a Notice of Election and Nomination Paper. All parents were sent an information sheet about becoming a Governor at Congleton High School in November 2006. If anybody wishes to receive a further copy, please contact Stephenie Juszczuk, Head's PA at school. Please note that all nomination forms should be returned to main reception at school by **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 31st January 2007.**

**Art Department Trip
New York New York – So Good!**

On November 5th 2006 thirty students and staff met up very early at Manchester airport, ready for a trip of a lifetime. Several hours later we touched down at Newark airport and straight off into the heart of New York City. First stop was the site of the Twin Towers disaster with its thought provoking and moving tributes to the many lives lost. The group then refuelled at a typical New York Deli following which we took the long climb up the Empire State Building for the breath taking night-time views of the city and its famous landmarks, well worth conquering any feelings of vertigo.



The following day we met up with our tour guide who took us on an extensive tour including Central Park, Little Italy, Soho Noho, Wall Street, and 5th Avenue, the Statue of Liberty, Broadway and Times Square. After lunch at Grand Central Station we spent the afternoon being inspired by the wonderful collection of artworks in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Then back to Times Square for Tea at “Bubba Gumps” a themed restaurant based on the film Forest Gump. Yes, shrimps were on the menu- as was a birthday cake for one of the sixth formers.

Our third day consisted of more artistic inspiration starting at the eye catching Guggenheim Museum and continuing onto the MOMMA with its jaw dropping collection of renowned paintings. Our final evening began with a meal in Little Italy followed by a ride on the Staton Island Ferry, allowing a close up look at the Statue of Liberty.

The final day was spent Ice Skating at the Rockerfeller Centre, visiting one of the Fire Stations where a number of fire-fighter’s were lost in the Twin Towers tragedy.

Thanks to all the staff and students who made this a most memorable trip!

Look out for the next overseas Art trip – November 2007 Barcelona.

H Vale

Workshop with an Artist

Last term students across years 10,11, 12 and 13 had the opportunity to work alongside artist and sculptor Jeff Teasdale. A well-known local artist and educator Jeff worked over two afternoons leading pupils to explore their theme of flight and helping them to produce individual and very large-scale sculptures. Pupils responded by producing some imaginative and eye-catching pieces working in wity canes.



We look forward to welcoming Jeff Teasdale back into school on the 22nd March when he will be running a workshop for Gifted and Talented Year 9 Artists.

Rotary Club Art Competition

Congratulations to Ben Twentyman, Emily Dean and Amy Lowe who were finalists in the annual Rotary Club Art Competition. This year’s theme was “Congleton In Bloom” . Prizes were won by all three students with Anna Kemball being selected as overall winner for her age group. and Well Done - to all those who entered.

LITERACY NEWS



This month’s tip is about **Improving Spelling**

- To begin 2007 we are focusing on spelling tips to help students improve their writing and learn new vocabulary.
- Students have each been issued with a Spelling and Vocabulary book that they can use in all subjects to record key words and difficult spellings. Here are some handy strategies for remembering spellings:
- 1. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check. Students can select 5 key words a week to practise spelling using this strategy.
- 2. Identify the hotspot areas in words that make them difficult. E.g. Beautiful, Sentence, Embarrassment.
- 3. Mnemonics are a handy way to remember difficult words. E.g. Because = **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an’t **A**lways **U**se

Engineering



Engineering

International Links

Visit to Hamburg 8 – 13 February Year 11 Young Apprentices will be joining students from Great Sankey High in Warrington and Coppenhall High School on an Engineering Study Visit to Hamburg. This will be our second Engineering visit to Hamburg and, whilst there, we will be spending time in our partner school, the Süderelbe Gymnasium and also taking part in experiments at the TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg) School Lab.

German Robotics competition in Hamburg

We are delighted to have been invited to take part in a robotics competition organised by the TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg) in Hamburg in the summer term. We have just received robotics kits from Hamburg and are planning for 3 groups of our students to be involved. More details to follow!

South Africa

We mentioned in the October newsletter that we were now part of the Afri-Twin programme and are now partnered with the Muizenberg High School in Capetown for Engineering and Citizenship projects. To raise student awareness of African culture, we are planning an 'African Day' on 15 March when we have a Zulu dance team coming along to work with Year 8.

Baza, Spain

Following Mr Hermitt's visit to Granada in the Autumn term, we now also have an Engineering link with a Spanish school, the IES Pedro Jimenez Montoya in Baza near Granada. Staff and students from the school are hoping to join our German colleagues and students from the Süderelbe Gymnasium for an Engineering Study visit here in June. We will, obviously, be hoping to pay a return visit to Granada too.

Young Engineers

I am delighted to say that our Young Engineers club is going from strength to strength. We now have 2 groups of students (a secondary and a primary group) working with Mr Watkins, Mrs Vickers, Mrs Sykes and AstraZeneca engineers on projects on Wednesdays after school. Our own students and students from Park Middle are making very good progress on the Greenpower Racing Car and are hoping to race this in a competition in April.

Links with Siemens

Year 8 visits to Siemens, Congleton, are continuing throughout this month and are scheduled for 16 and 30 January. Students who have visited the company so far have been very positive about the experience. We are grateful to our partners at Siemens who continue to lend fantastic support to CHS. The Managing Director, Joachim Blunch and PA to the MD, Vesta Coulson, will be running workshops on 'Languages in the workplace' as part of our forthcoming **Languages Conference** on 29 January.



Y8 students in the Boardroom at Siemens

International School Award

We are pleased to say that, because of the many International activities we are now involved in, from links with Hamburg, to Nepal and South Africa, we have had our initial application for consideration for the prestigious International School Award accepted by the British Council. Mrs Hilditch is our International Links Co-ordinator and she will now be working with staff and students over the next few months to compile a portfolio of evidence of our International based activities in preparation for assessment later in the summer.

Parents in Partnership



Parent Forum

We cordially invite you to attend our next Parent Forum on 27 February at 7pm in the Innovation Studio. The first part of the Forum will focus on information about our recent Ofsted inspection and, in the second part, you will, once more, have the opportunity to find out answers to questions about the school, raised in advance by you.

Please put this date in your diary and come along to find out more about what's going on in school and enjoy a glass of wine and chat with staff. If you have a question you would like to be answered by the Head please send it into school by Tuesday 20, addressed to Mrs Bartley – Parent Forum.

Teaching Awards 2007

If anybody would like to nominate a teacher for the Teaching Awards 2007 they can do so by visiting www.teachingawards.com and make their nominations. Closing date for all nominations is 1 March 2007.



Multi Skills Academy

During the last half term a programme of “multi skill activities training” was arranged for over 30 Year 6 pupils from our Cluster primary schools & 7 Year 7 students from CHS. This culminated in a Festival at Sandbach HS where the athletes demonstrated their skills in a variety of activities including target throwing, speed / agility / balance, jumping and running with a ball. All pupils received certificates and the opportunity to question a Sporting Champion - Courtney Fry, a light heavyweight boxer who won a Gold medal in the Commonwealth Games.

Year 3 Festival of Sport

Some 60 Year 3 pupils from our Cluster primary schools spent an afternoon taking part in a variety of sporting activities. It was an opportunity to mix together and make new friends whilst running, jumping, throwing, dribbling & batting for their teams. It also gave our Year 12/13 CSLA students the chance to demonstrate their leadership skills as adopted the roles of event & team managers. It was a very successful Festival with primary teachers reporting how much their pupils enjoyed the visit.

New Parent Governors

As a result of the elections which took place in November we are delighted to announce that **Mrs Jill Crust**, **Mr Keith Vickers** and **Mr Ian Walton** have been appointed as Parent Governors. The Governing Body and the school welcome them for a 4 year term of office. Thanks to all the parents who took the time to complete and return their voting slips.



Thanks to everyone who has sent in Tesco Vouchers. We received a total of 15,863 vouchers and have sent off an order for the following equipment:

- 20 Mitre Tactic Footballs
- 20 Slazenger Pro Tennis Rackets
- 10 Carlton Junior Badminton Rackets
- 20 Slazenger Astra Hockey Sticks
- 1 Pack of whistles
- 10 Clipboards.

If you still have any Tesco Vouchers, you can continue to send these into Student Reception as we can bank any further vouchers up until March 2007

Evening Classes



EVENING CLASSES
STARTING WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2007
FOR TEN WEEKS
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

PE Clothing

The Black Fleecees are available from the department in XS and SM. All other sizes can be ordered along with school black V neck Sweatshirts, Tracksuits and the Reversible Waterproof/fleece and games skirts(team players). Order forms are available from the PE Dept.

History Revision classes

Just a reminder from Mr Hickton that Year 11 GCSE history revision classes are held in room 3.55 every Tuesday 3.00 til 4.00 pm. All students are welcome.

THIS MONTH – JANUARY	
10 January	AS/A2 Exams begin
11 January	PIP Meeting
15,16,17 January	Y9 Mock Exams
18 January	Yr10 Parents Evening
25 January	Y10 Art Trip to the Tate Liverpool and Walker Art Gallery
25 January	Awards Evening
29 January	Y9 Languages Conference
30 January	Yr11 Parents Evening
NEXT MONTH – FEBRUARY	
1 February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
5 – 8 February	French Study Visit Y9-Y11
6–9 February	School Show, Little Shop of Horrors
8 – 13 February	Hamburg Engineering visit
20 February	Y9 Options Evening
21 February	Y11 Study Skills Day
22 February	PIP Y7-9 Disco
27 February	Parents' Forum

Mr D Hermitt

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