

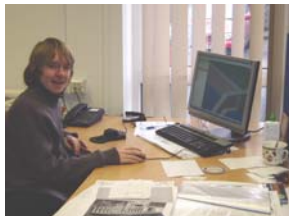
Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Issue 7 of our monthly newsletter. We have had three school trips overseas already this year involving 10% of our students. Each trip was a huge success and the students were a credit to the school. Articles regarding each trip can be found within this Newsletter. The school achieved the National Health School Award due to our work promoting healthy lifestyles. Congratulations to Mrs Taylor who has led the school in this initiative. Finally, this half-term is an important one as our students prepared themselves for taking exams (SATs, GCSE and 'A' levels). We anticipate that with support, our students will do well.



Young Engineers Work Experience.

Our Y10 Young Apprentices in Engineering have just completed their second work placement in local Engineering companies, which include Siemens, Airbags, Busch and SMS Mevac. We are delighted to say that all companies have been very complimentary about the positive attitude and excellent behaviour of our students. SMS Mevac is the newest addition to the companies which support our Young Apprentices Programme and Bradley Armit and Mark Swindells have spent 2 worthwhile weeks there.



Mark Swindells at SMS Mevac

In his first week, Bradley used 3D Design software to design a bridge linking 2 buildings. This has now been constructed. Last week, Mark spent some time designing a Fire Escape staircase, which will also be constructed. As part of their experience, the boys were also lucky enough to be able to visit the Corus Steelworks in Scunthorpe. At Airbags, students finished their placement with a short presentation on the tasks they had covered and were complimented on their work and attitude.

We are grateful to all the companies we work with, for the time and effort they continue to invest in supporting our Young Apprentices Programme.

Child Protection Training

As part of our wider community work, we were pleased to be able to provide training on Child Protection issues for staff at Airbags. This training is to support the work Airbags does in providing work placements for the young people of CHS and other schools.

Ski Trip to Folgaria, Italy

On the 11th February a group of 91 students along with 10 staff took part in the first ski course for many years. The course is part of the excellent programme of extra curricular activities run by the school and provided new challenges for all who took part.

Although there was not much snow on the peaks there were good snow conditions on the slopes. The ski instructors brought the best out of students who made rapid progress. Those who were nervous overcame their fears and many pushed back personal boundaries. 22 students took the opportunity to complete GCSE coursework during the trip.



Mr Anders is extremely proud of all students who behaved impeccably—even when they didn't want to come down off the mountain each day!!



Thanks go to Mr Anders for organising such a successful trip, to all staff who gave up their time to accompany the students and special thanks go to Mr Morris and Mr Newton who also joined the party—their contribution was much appreciated.

For all those interested in the next trip—**February 2008** news will appear soon.

French Study Visit to Brittany

During the week of Monday 5th February to Friday 9th February, 33 Y9, 10 and 11 students, accompanied by Mr B Thomas, Mrs J Davis and Mrs G McNulty, took part in a wide variety of activities and excursions in Brittany, France. They had the opportunity to spend a day at a local French High School, take part in lessons and sample a school dinner. They enjoyed finding their way around a French market, visited a Museum of the French Resistance, went to the fishing port of Concarneau where they took part in a Fish Auction and had a guided tour of a rather smelly fish canning factory! For the last evening the party sampled a tasty variety of French pancakes and learned about traditional Breton culture. On the last morning they enjoyed exploring the picturesque City of Dinan where they had a last chance to try out their French and spend their remaining Euros! The whole experience was "C'était super!"



Y12 Visit to the Higher Education Convention

53 Y12 students visited the Higher Education Convention at the GMEX Centre in Manchester recently. They have already had talks from visiting speakers about choosing whether to apply to University and how to select their course and institution. The trip enabled them to gather prospectuses for the Universities that interest them and gave them the opportunity to talk to advisers from the Universities.

In addition to this visit, a smaller group of students will be attending an Oxbridge Conference at the end of March, so that they can find out more about applying to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Y12 students will very soon be focusing on their AS examinations but are encouraged to continue to do their research throughout the Summer term so that they are ready to apply to University as soon as we return to school in September.

Mrs March

Engineering



Engineering

Young Apprentices visit to Hamburg - Feb 2007

Our second Engineering Study visit to Hamburg from 8th to 13th February was a great success. The visit involved our own Year 11 Young Apprentices



(accompanied by Mrs Hilditch and Mrs Bartley) and Young Apprentices and staff from Great Sankey and Coppenhall High Schools, along with Total People staff.

The programme, organised by Mrs Hilditch and Herr Thomas Fritsche, the Head of our German partner school, the Süderelbe Gymnasium, was a busy one. Each school spent a day doing various activities with German students in their own partner schools. CHS students and staff were taken on a tour of the Süderelbe Gymnasium and then conducted experiments in cutting edge Fuel Cell Technology, which is used to power 9 public buses in Hamburg.



Students from Coppenhall and Great Sankey also spent a day at the TUHH School Lab, conducting experiments related to flight. This was courtesy of Professor Wolfgang Mackens, Head of Engineering at the TUHH, who is a keen supporter of our work as a Specialist Engineering School. CHS students and staff spent a fascinating day at the Quanten Sprung Research Centre (interestingly based on the site where Alfred Nobel developed dynamite) continuing work, along with German students from the Süderelbe, on experiments involving the generation of electricity with Fuel Cell Technology.

We were also able to tour the immense Airbus plant, where the A380 series is being developed, take a tour by boat of the huge working port (bigger than the city of Cologne), have fun in the Hamburg Dungeon and, of course, fit in some shopping in Hamburg's lovely city centre. The visit also provided us with opportunities to discuss with our German colleagues plans for their Engineering Study visit to CHS in June. Evenings were spent on various team building activities and games, ranging from an Engineering quiz to 'Create a Mummy'!



One unexpected feature of the visit was heavy snow, which not only provided fun in the shape of snowballing but, amazingly, did not prevent us from getting to our various destinations on time, despite the fact that we were staying in a hostel in the middle of the country, about 30 minutes drive from Hamburg. What a tribute to German organisation and efficiency!

Students and staff had a wonderful time and felt that they had not only had a great deal of fun but had also learned a lot about Engineering and German culture. We are now looking forward to renewing our friendship with the Süderelbe Gymnasium when staff and students visit us in the Summer term.

Sports News and Fixtures

Rugby

A return fixture v Brine Leas school saw the year 8 team defeat their opposition by 42 – 15 pts. A close 17 – 10 half time score represented a fair indication of the even play. However, after the interval Congleton took a firm control of the game and some expansive play earned the team this excellent victory. A number of new players managed to get on the score sheet for the first time. It was also the first game for our year 7 team. Faced by a more experienced opposition it took the boys a little while to “find their feet”. This was an opportunity to put into practice some of their skills and there were many encouraging signs as the game progressed. Unfortunately they were unable to convert pressure on the opposition into points.



Year 7 Rugby Team

School Sports Co-ordinator Partnership

A group of Year 10 girls have taken the opportunity to improve their levels of fitness by completing a programme of activities including yoga, pilates, boxercise, self defence and circuit training. We have worked with a number of qualified coaches to bring these activities into school and made visits to the fitness suite at Congleton Leisure Centre.



Competition Managers Launch

Twenty one Year 7 students took part in the first event organised by the Partnership’s new competition managers. This was an opportunity for the students to try new activities and after receiving training they competed against other secondary schools in the area. It was a first time for all the performers as they tackled water polo, tri-golf, dance and boccia (sitting down bowls). It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with some students expressing keen interest in a new sport.

Football

Well done to Jordan Stafford 9KSM who has had his signing with Wigan Athletic U14 team extended until the end of the season. Jordan scored in his first game against Blackpool and has played Oldham, Burnley, Rochdale, Preston, Port Vale and Tranmere Rovers.

Swimming

Congleton High School Sharks took part in their debut swim for charity at Rotary’s Swimathon on the 3rd March. They set the pace with a cracking 174 lengths in 55 minutes. CHS Sharks, Amy Lowe, Scott Rayner, Abigail Hull-Steward, Matthew Gwilt and Katie Longshaw were joined on the day by ‘apprentice’ shark Jake Rayner who will be joining Congleton High School in September in Year 7. All monies raised go to Macmillan Cancer Support, Alzheimer’s Society and the Intensive Care Unit at Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Parents in Partnership



Revision Skills Evening

Parents wishing to attend the Revision Skills evening which offers advice to parents on how best to support their children in preparation for GCSE Exams in the Summer should note that this will take place at **6.30 pm on Thursday 15th March in the Learning Resource Centre.**

Parent Forum

Our 4th Parent Forum took place on 27 February and was, once again, a pleasant and informative evening. In the first half, Mr Hermitt spoke to parents and answered questions about our recent Ofsted Inspection, clarifying the meaning of much of the Ofsted terminology that so often leaves us puzzled. In the second half, questions about communication issues (emails and phone calls) were answered and Mrs Bartley demonstrated some of the developments on our Virtual Learning Environment, Uniservity. Parents and staff were then able to enjoy a glass of wine and chat together.

You are cordially invited to our next Parent Forum **in the Refectory on 24th April** when staff from CBS Catering will be exhibiting new dining facilities and demonstrating and providing tasters of their new menus. Do note the date in your diary and, of course, send us any questions, beforehand, which you would like Mr Hermitt and Senior staff to answer. We hope to see you there.

PIP Disco 22 Feb

Lower school students danced, chatted and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Y7-9 Disco, organised by the PIP team. Our thanks, once again, to the team for their support and also to 6th form students who helped staff to supervise the

National Healthy Schools Award



Healthy School

The school is delighted to have received the National Healthy Schools Award. We were visited by two members of the quality assurance team on Friday the 9th February who interviewed staff, students and governors. They also toured the school and refectory and were very impressed by the pride and community spirit displayed by everyone they spoke to. The school will be presented with a plaque in due course which will take pride of place in the school.

Vouchers

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are now in store until 29 May 2007. One voucher will be given for every £10 you spend on groceries and also at petrol stations. Bonus vouchers are also available for every £10 spent on fresh fruit and vegetables and all products with the healthy apple symbol.

Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers will be available in Tesco Stores from Monday 5 March until Sunday 13 May. Can we please ask for your help again in collecting these.



Collection boxes are available in Student Reception.

THIS MONTH - MARCH	
7-10 March (inc)	School Show – Little Shop of Horrors
13 March	Y9 Parents Evening
15 March	AS/A2 Results
15 March	Y8 Africa Day
15 March	PIP Revision Skills Evening
15 March	Full Governors meeting
15-23 March	Spanish Exchange
16 March	Red Nose Day
27 March	Y7 Parents' Evening
28 March	Y7 Languages Day
28 March	A Level Drama Evening
29 March	Work Experience Evening
30 March	INSET DAY – school closed to students
NEXT MONTH – APRIL	
29 March – 13 April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
16 April	School re-opens to students
23-27 April	Y10 Exams
30 April – 4 May	MFL Oral Exams

SAMBA PERCUSSION WORKSHOPS

A Year 10 GCSE Music Group is currently working with Laszlo Palko. Laszlo is a professional percussionist and he specialises in the Music of South America and Africa. He is leading five workshops for the students. In the sessions, students are taught to perform complex rhythm patterns using authentic Brazilian Instruments. So far, things are going really well and all students are making excellent progress.



LITERACY NEWS



This edition's top tip is the next instalment on Proofreading

- This edition's focus is on **Proofreading**. It is so important to proofread work carefully to check for errors. Rather than just completing work and handing it in, take a few minutes to reread your work. It means you are taking pride in what you have done and therefore the quality of your work will improve.
- Things to check when proofreading:
 - Does your work contain full stops and capital letters?
 - Have you written a title?
 - Is your work paragraphed?
 - Have you checked your spellings carefully?
 - Reread the instructions given to you - have you followed them?
- Is your work neat and tidy with no wasted space in your book?



**EVENING CLASSES
AT CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL
STARTING WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2007
FOR FIVE WEEKS
Classes start at 7pm and run till 9pm**

Digital Photography for Absolute Beginners
Drawing and Painting Workshop
Introduction to Engineering Skills
(Ideal for Modellers or Metalwork Enthusiasts)
Introductory courses in IT (Email, Internet etc)
Don't Forget to Pack Your Language – Italian

All £30

(Free to those on benefits)

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

Apologies go to Alex Machin whose Robotics work was accredited to Jamie Kettle in Issue 6 of our newsletter. You may view all students work by visiting our VLE, Uniservity. [Http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupId=88556](http://www.school-portal.co.uk/GroupHomepage.asp?GroupId=88556)

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