

Dear Parent / Carer



Welcome to Issue 9 of our monthly newsletter. During the Easter break CBS Catering and staff in school have been busy making changes to the Refectory which are already proving to be a great success.

We are now approaching the busy examination season and we send all our students best wishes in their examinations. We will continue to support them in every way we can as we are sure all parents / carers will also be doing.

## Catering Facilities



Thanks to the hard work of CBS Catering and staff during the Easter holidays, students have returned to school to a newly refurbished Refectory selling healthier meals. New choices include a revamped salad bar, pasta bar, ready made sandwiches with a wider choice of fillings, food to go, paninis and granary breads – as well as main dishes of the day. Home-made cakes or biscuits replace crisps, chips, chocolate and doughnuts

Fizzy drinks are off the menu, instead the new milk shake bar is in big demand with pupils lapping up an estimated 400 a day.

Students are enjoying the new menus making the transformations a huge success.



## New Sixth Form Centre



As Head boy and Head girl Adam and I were invited by Mr. Warren to take a guided tour around our new sixth form centre, which many of you may have noticed is now taking shape with the building reaching second floor. The roof will start to go up soon and then the interior will have electricians, plumbers and plasterers all working hard on the fittings.

First impressions exceeded our expectations; well we were going to a building site! We learnt a lot about how it will look and could easily visualise it. The front of the centre and the entrance will be glass so the inside is light and airy. As you enter from the front entrance there is a meeting room and reception area on your left. Continuing further into the building we were shown where there will be automatic glass doors. To the left, a huge state-of-the-art media suite for practical work, with an exclusive sectioned off editing suite. On the other side there are the toilets and the common room, which is spacious and will have a high ceiling, full length windows and an outside door. Lastly there is the café area, which will have seating inside and outside; along the front of the centre for sitting in the sun in the summer!

Upstairs there are 3 classrooms suitably sized for an A level group. Then one larger classroom and an air conditioned study room with computers and views of the school grounds.

In terms of building, the sixth form centre is on schedule to be finished by 24<sup>th</sup> August. Overall we know it will be modern and as open plan as possible. We are very impressed and think it will be great!

Hannah Crookes and Adam Cheetham

**LITERACY NEWS**



This edition's top tip is **The importance of a Dictionary**

- We have just received brand new sets of dictionaries and thesauruses for use with students at school. They are invaluable resources for helping students develop their vocabulary as well as supporting students with spelling. Students can expect to be using them in their English lessons as well as in other subject areas.
- Top Tip: Have a dictionary and thesaurus available at home to support with homework. Students should use them to check work as well as to select alternative vocabulary choices that will help improve the quality of their writing.

**Year 9 'Fly High' English Day – Raising Achievement in English**

On Monday 26th March sixty Year 9 students attended the 'Fly High English' day run by Mrs Wilson and Mrs Newton. This whole-day event was focused on how to achieve a Level 7 in English and the students involved attended a series of workshops ranging from language analysis, examination technique and higher order reading skills.

The day was designed to support the students as they prepare for their forthcoming English SATs in May, targeting the key requirements for achieving the higher levels in the exams. We were lucky to have Fiona Burke- Jackson, Secondary English Advisor for the LEA as guest speaker who ran a fantastic workshop on key language techniques.

It was a really enjoyable and challenging day for the students who must be commended for their impeccable behaviour and their hard work in all of the sessions.

**Revision Guides**

The LRC is now selling revision guides from across the curriculum to support the forthcoming GCSE examinations. The guides are available at excellent prices and are cheaper than those bought in any high street shop. Prices start from as little as £2 and rise to £4.50. For student purposes a guide and price list is posted on the notice board outside the LRC. To assist the finance office, cash would be preferred please. If you have any queries regarding the revision guides and availability then do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parker, T & L Resources Co-ordinator in the LRC.

**UK Intermediate Maths Challenge for**

At the recent Intermediate Maths Challenge, Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 40% of students (6% gold; 13% silver; 21% bronze). **Congratulations** to the following students who achieved Certificates.

**Gold:**

Alexander Galgut(**best in school**); Eliot Flynn and Charles Wright

**Silver:**

Martin Leese; Jessica Millington; Max Wainwright; Richard Bell; Kirsty Bowker; Robert Crookes; Rachel Grundy; Rob Jones; Strachan Mc Cormick

**Bronze:**

Ryan Atkinson, Jonathan Bond, Kate Campbell, Laura Dawson, Johnathan Fallows, Joe Gosling, Lauren Hall, Shona Holmes, Adele Larose, Michael Line, Thomas Matthews, David Ratcliffe, Thomas Redfern, Drew Sherratt, James Wood, Joshua Andrews, Kevin Cameron, Emily Dean, Chloe Hartshorn, Shelley Loughran, Sarah Marsh, Angus McCormick, Nathan Rough, Mark Swindells, Holly Bailey, Samuel Meir, Hazel Rowley,

In addition two students **Alexander Galgut** and **Charles Wright** were invited to sit the 'Pink Kangaroo' since they were in the top 2000 students for their age group nationally. This was a fantastic achievement! Well done to everyone who took part.

**LANGUAGES**

**Spanish Exchange**

A group of Y9 students recently spent 8 days in Madrid where they stayed with the families of their partners at the Colegio San Viator. The had the opportunity to visit Segovia (where they froze!) and Toledo, as well as a tour of historical Madrid, a tour of Madrid's shops and a visit to the famous Prado art gallery.

The students were superb; integrating straight away into their Spanish families, trying all the new good and learning all about Spanish culture as well as language. Lots of new friendships were forged and we now look forward to welcoming our Spanish visitors back to Congleton on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Y7 Languages Day**

Just before Easter all our students in Y7 spent a full day with the language teachers experiencing new languages and thoroughly enjoying themselves. During the course of the day they took part in an orange eating contest, an opera singing contest and learned to do some German dancing. There were quizzes to test their knowledge on all aspects of Spain, Italy, German and France and each student also ate a French breakfast. The day ended with the students learning to say "Happy Easter" in a dozen different World languages and making Happy Easter cards for their families.

## Engineering News



Our Lower School Robotics teams are off to Germany in June! Led by Mrs A. Davies and Mrs Vickers, they have finished building and programming their Lego Robots and sent off Congleton High's entry for the Daniel Düsentrrieb Robotics competition organised by the TUHH (Technical University of Hamburg- Harburg). We are grateful to Herr Thomas Fritsche, Head of our partner German school, the Süderelbe Gymnasium, for their support in the first part of the competition. The second part of the competition takes place in June when our Y7, 8 and 9 participants\* will have to go to Germany to explain to judges how they built and programmed the robots. Students involved in the Robotics teams are:

\*(Y7) Chris Davies, Alicia Hawkins, Eleanor Roberts, Henry Williams, (Y8) Stephen Jones, Rachel Vickers, (Y9) Strachan McCormick, Amy Reeve.



### AstraZeneca Science Prizes

Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> form students who have won the newly established AstraZeneca prizes for gaining top marks in AS modules in Chemistry (Sarah Band), Physics (Adam Bailey and Tom Wilson) and Biology (Sarah Band). The students were presented with



certificates by Lorraine Hassall, our educational link at Astra Zeneca, and received cheques for £50 per prize. We are grateful to our colleagues at AstraZeneca for their continued support for Congleton High School.

### Rotary Young Chefs and Young Designers competition

The annual round of Young Chefs and Young Designers competitions begins on 13 June, this year at Eaton Bank. As usual, the best GCSE DT projects will be entered for the Young Designers competition. Year 9 students will take part in the Young Chef competition and as we are only allowed 8 entries for this, Mrs Breeze organised a 'Cook Off' to find the best chefs which took place on Thursday 26 April.

We are pleased that this year, Congleton High will be hosting the Regional Finals for both competitions on 28 June.

### Young Engineers Greenpower car

The latest on our Young Engineers Greenpower car is that our team are awaiting delivery of a battery for their car, which is now otherwise ready for the road. Once this has been delivered, the team will be going to a practice racing circuit in Birmingham in May to put the car through its paces before embarking on some serious racing!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Engineering Education Scheme

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April our Sixth Form team took part in the Celebration and Assessment Day of the Engineering Education Scheme at Manchester University. The four students were Adam Bailey, Sam Benson, Naomi Chappel and Adam Crennell. They were supported at the event by Mr Warren, their parents, Chair of Governors, Mrs Pam Taylor, Vice-Chair, Mr Richard Hinckley and Mr Hermitt.

The students had been working alongside an Engineer from Astra Zeneca, Katherine Arnott, on a real life issue facing the company. They had researched, produced and tested a viscometer to measure the viscosity of hazardous materials and produced an in-depth report about their project. This was presented to a panel of Chartered Engineers. The judges commented on the high quality of their work and the attention to detail the team had shown, scoring them in the highest bracket for aspects of the assessment. The team are now looking forward to competing in the North West Creativity in Science and Technology Awards later this year.



## Parents in Partnership



### Parent Forum 24 May – School Refectory 7pm

Don't forget to send in your questions for the next Forum on Thursday 24 May. In the first part of the Forum we will be looking at the new dining facilities at school and tasting some of the fantastic food now available to students and staff. The second part, as always, will focus on answers to the questions you send in about school life. Do come along and join us for another informative evening and please send in your questions by Tues 15 May.

### Quiz night – Friday 6 July

Here's another date for your diary. Why not come along for an entertaining evening at our annual PIP quiz.

### PIP: next committee meeting – Thursday 7 June 7.30pm Innovation Studio

Please feel free to come along to our next meeting if you are not part of the committee. All parents are welcome.

### Homework Developments

Parents at our last Forum were shown how we intend to have homework tasks put onto our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) 'Uniservity'. Staff are now working on this development and we hope to have KS3 tasks on by Christmas. Once up and running, this should enable you to see what homework has been set for your child, which resources are available and deadlines for completion, so that we can work together to ensure your child makes excellent progress.

## Sporting Achievements

### ATHLETICS

Peter Crean and Laura Higgins in year 7 recently took part in the finals of the North West Sportshall Athletics League in Wigan. Laura achieved an individual gold medal in the paarlauf event (eight lap relay) and Peter's team, the under 13 boys, came second overall. Peter and Laura train at Congleton Leisure Centre each Tuesday evening with professional athletics coach Geoff Barratt from Stockport. (Under 11s to under 15s). This is open to anyone interested in athletics. There will be some outdoor athletics events coming up in the summer term.

### TAE KWON DO

Congratulations go to Beckie Stuart of 8MH who competed in The British Tae Kwon Do Championships in Nottingham on 25th March. Beckie came second in Britain in the Group Girls Lightweight category which is a fantastic achievement.

On Sunday 22 April Beckie achieved Belt Black grade having completed 4 weeks intensive training in Derby and then travelling to Bristol for grading. Extremely well done Beckie.

### CRICKET

The Year 8 six a-side team playing in the next round of the County competition managed two wins from three games – defeating Brine Leas and Kings Grove but losing to Alsager and were unable to qualify for the finals. It was a good experience for all the players. We look forward in taking part in a new 8 aside competition played on Astro Turf for Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 beginning at the start of term & organised by the Competition Managers.

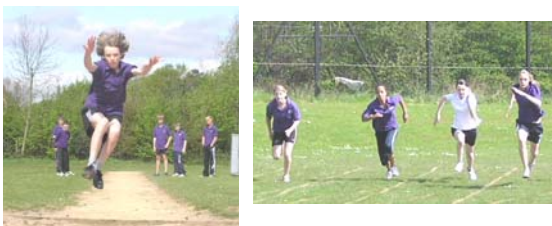
### SCHOOL SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Siemens Cup – our school hosted the football competition for over 140 pupils from 11 primary schools.



We organised the annual Year 3/4 Congleton primary school's football tournament with 150 pupils representing 12 schools. Year 12 Students from the CSLA course officiated at both events.

40 of our Gifted & Talented Athletes from Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 benefited from a days coaching in the three disciplines – Running, Jumping & Throwing.



This was led by Cheshire's Athletics Development Officer and was an excellent opportunity for the athletes to refine their techniques before a busy schedule of meetings.

The Partnerships Community Coach for Tennis delivered a days training for 12 JSLA students. All students passed the Nationally recognised Qualification enabling them to lead training sessions for junior players. 27 Year 9 students took part in the second event organised by the Partnership Competition Managers held at Sandbach HS. The students competed in Girls Football, Rugby, Boxercise, Dance & Badminton.

It was an enjoyable and successful evening with the girls winning the Football competition; both boys & girls winning the Badminton tournament; Lizzie Campbell being voted the Boxercise Champion; however the rugby players could not match the experience & strength of the Sandbach school team. Certificates were presented to all players and plaques went to the winning teams.



## Cycling Achievements

Since April 2006, Matthew Gray (10ACD) has taken part in six open district 10 mile time trials and seven local ones. He broke personal bests at each and his personal best currently stands at 26 mins 40 secs from his last time trial on 15th June 2006. During the summer months in 2006 he progressed to competing in the Newcastle under Lyme Cycle Track League where after only half a season of competing he attained fourth place in the Youth League.

As well as these two disciplines in cycling, Matthew has claimed 2 Juvenile Hill Climb awards (Macclesfield 7 mile and Audley 1 mile) at his Club, Lyme Racing Club.

In October 2006 Matthew and his brother took part in the Brian Rourke Cycles 55 mile Challenge for Cystic Fibrosis, riding with and meeting Tour de France legend Sean Kelly. Between them they raised over £100 in sponsorship for a very worthy cause.

During the winter months Matthew can regularly be seen out training at weekends with other club members preparing for the new season.

Well done Matthew and good luck in 2007.

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTING ACTIVITIES SUMMER 2007**

	ATHLETICS	CRICKET	ROUNDERS	TENNIS
MONDAY				
TUESDAY		YEAR 7 & 8 SH, CN	ALL YEARS LA, LM	YEAR 7
WEDNESDAY	ALL YEARS LA, CN, LM			YEAR 8
THURSDAY	ALL YEARS LA, DM	YEAR 9 & 10 CN		YEAR 8, 9 & 10 LM
FRIDAY				OPEN Own equipment



**ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK**

Arabic Dancing

An Introduction to Soft Furnishings and Working with Fabrics

**WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2007**  
From 7pm till 9pm

**FREE**  
**TASTER CLASSES**  
**AT CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL**

Free - Free - Free

Turn up on the night or for further details and advanced enrolment by telephone, please contact Customer Services on 01625-410002

**Parental Support**

If there are any parents interested in helping to coach Rounders on a Tuesday or run a girls Y7/8 Cricket team, preferably after school on a Monday, in preparation for the Cheshire Youth Games would they please contact **Linda Arnold** at school.

**Vouchers**

Thank you to everybody who has sent in Sainsbury's Active



Kids vouchers and Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers.

Sainsbury's vouchers are available in store until 29 May and

Tesco vouchers are available in store until the 13 May and are giving **double vouchers** in all stores from 7-13 May. Please keep collecting vouchers on behalf of the school, Collection boxes available in Student Reception.

**Diary Dates**

**THIS MONTH - MAY**

7 May	Bank Holiday
8-11 May	Y9 SATs
9-11 May	GCSE Drama & Performing Arts
9 May	GCSE Music
14 May – 8 June	AS Exams
17 May – 22 June	GCSE Exams
17 May	Governors Sub-Committees
23 May	RE Stop Day
24 May	Governors Sub-Committees
28 May – 1 June	Half Term Holiday

**NEXT MONTH – JUNE**

4 June	School Re-opens
11-26 June	A2 Exams
11 June	Y12 mentoring day / Year Council Meeting Week
12 June	Y12 lessons resume
18 June	Student Council
26 June – 5 July	German Exchange
28 June – 6 July	Spanish Visitors
28 June	Intake Day / evening

**Parents Questionnaire**

Thank you to those parents who have been providing feedback at recent parents evenings using the questionnaires provided. Whilst these are anonymous the school does pass on information about concerns to relevant form tutors and other senior staff.

The most frequent area for concern is regarding homework. The school is using every effort to provide students with a variety of homework tasks. If your child tells you that they do not have enough homework then you could direct him/her to the SAM learning as a means of extending their studies.

**Mr D Hermitt**  
Head

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