

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the New Academic Year. Yet again we are pleased to be celebrating the record breaking GCSE exam results. Thank you to all the staff and students and parents for such a successful year.

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a questionnaire for parents to let us know your views on the school. Please could you return this via your child's form Tutor by the 21st September.



RECORD BREAKING GCSE RESULTS

Once again we celebrate exceptional GCSE exam results. The new National benchmark which includes Mathematics and English amongst the 5+ A*-C, shows that we achieved 55.4%. This is the best in the history of the school. The students should be congratulated for this performance which they have achieved with the support of excellent teachers and committed parents. Two thirds of all students (66.3%) achieved the old benchmark which is the second highest behind last year's record of 71%.



	5+A*-C including English and Maths
2007	66.3%
2006	71.0%
2005	59.7%
2004	58.3%
2003	61.6%
2002	62.9%
2001	54.8%

The Gifted and Talented programme at the school continues to flourish with 22 students gaining at least one A* grade. Nearly half of the year group received grade A in at least one subject. Some students also collected A/S levels in critical thinking and general studies..

The girls performed particularly well with every girl gaining a qualification. Jenna Pearce gained A*s in Engineering amongst her crop of 9A*s. Another success was Max Wainwright who scored one of the top 5 marks in the country for Physical Education this summer. Several other students gained more than five A*S including Thomas Redfern (9), Shona Holmes (9), Hannah Crookes (7), Michael Phillips (5) and Bethan Foulkes (5).



Max Wainwright



Jenna Pearce

A LEVEL RESULTS

Students continue to achieve highly with over 95% pass rate. The talented artist Andrew Houston came away with 4 grade A's in Drama, Fine Art, Media Studies and English Literature.



Andrew Houston

David Hulse managed straight A's in Biology, Chemistry and English Literature. Emma Harris and Catie Mann all achieved at least two grade A's.

Target Setting Day

Advanced notification that Congleton High School's first Target Setting Day will take place on **Thursday 8th November 2007**. All students will be given an interview with their Tutor to discuss their learning and set targets. All lessons are suspended on that day. Please put this date into your diary, further details will follow.

Parents in Partnership



18 Sept Year 7 Disco and Parents (of Year 7) Social

Disco: 7pm – 9pm Entrance £2.
Y7 Parent Social in the Learning Resource Centre. We do hope that parents of Year 7 students will come along and meet Y7 tutors and Y7 Co-ordinator, Miss Blundred, over a glass of wine.

4 October 7pm Innovations Studio Parent Forum

In the first half of our next Forum we will take you on a tour of our new 6th Form Centre. The second half will be the Head's question time focusing, as usual, on answers to questions you have sent in to school. Do come along and find out more about school life over a glass of wine. If you have a question for us, please send it in to **Mrs Bartley by Friday 28 September**.

7 October (am) Lions Half Marathon and Fun Run

This year, the Fun Run will actually take place on the school fields so children taking part are safe. The Parents in Partnership team will be supporting the whole event with refreshments.

Houghton Weavers

There will be a meeting of the PIP in school at 7.00pm on 16 October to discuss the preparations for the Houghton Weavers concert on the 24 November. All support welcome.

30 October 7pm Innovations Suite—PIP AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 30 October. All parents are welcome to attend.

Free Books for all Y7 students

All Year 7 students have been given a letter explaining the opportunity to receive a free book through a programme known as 'Booked Up'. They are able to choose from a list of books and the form needs to be returned to their form tutor by no later than the **19th September**. Further information can be obtained by visiting the Booked Up website: www.bookedup.org.uk.

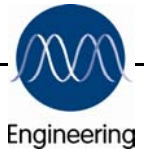
Welcome to all New Students and Staff

A warm welcome to the pupils and families in Year 7. We hope that your first week in school has been a happy and successful one and you now feel a part of our school.

Welcome also to the following new members of staff

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs Anne Barber | General Office Assistant |
| Miss Bethia Calvert | Teaching Assistant |
| Miss T Critchley | Teacher of Social Sciences |
| Miss Donna Frame | Teacher of Drama |
| Mrs Diane Harold | Teaching Assistant |
| Mrs C Hope | DCTL Maths |
| Miss Tracy Leese | Teaching Assistant |
| Miss T Paling | Teacher of DT |
| Mrs Jill Pargeter | Teacher of PE |
| Mr Steve Roberts | Teacher of Music |
| Miss Louise Salt | Team Leader for PE |

Engineering



Total People Young Apprentice of the Year

Congratulations to Jenna Pearce (Y12), who won the Total People Young Apprentice of the Year award at Crewe Hall in July. Jenna won a fantastic prize of £150 for her outstanding achievements and effort throughout the 2 years of the Young Apprenticeship programme.

Summer Engineering Event

The 3 day annual event was a great success, once again, with all students and staff involved in visits and a wide variety of activities created to promote skills such as teamwork, creativity and problem-solving. These included designing and making kites & masks, motorboats, t-shirt designs, kinetic art, clay models, movie-making and many, many more!



Various activities taking place during Engineering Week

International School Award

The school is delighted to have been successful in gaining the International Schools Award in recognition of the contributions the school has made in developing links with overseas schools. The school will be presented with a trophy at a national presentation ceremony to be held in London on the 10 October 2007.



South Africa

Thanks to parents and students who supported the non-uniform day to finance a project in our South African partner school at the end of term. Unfortunately, persistent poor weather meant that the 'Walk for Africa' couldn't go ahead but we still managed to raise £550.

Homework

We are aiming to place KS3 homework on to our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) 'Uniservity' by the Spring so that, if you have access to the Internet, you can see what homework your child has been set. (Mrs Bartley demonstrated the VLE to parents at a Parent Forum last year). Students will be told by subject staff when the homework tasks for their subject are available on Uniservity. There are instructions for easy access to this in the student planners.

Dress for Success

Our students have returned from the summer break with a very high standard of uniform and we would like to thank all parents for their support in ensuring their child dresses for success.

The challenge is now to ensure that our students continue to adhere to our 'Dress for Success' Policy by wearing their uniform appropriately. All staff will challenge students who are incorrectly dressed. There will continue to be consequences for those students who decide to break the uniform rules.

Please could all parents ensure that items of uniform are labelled so that we can return lost items quickly and if anyone has any out grown items of uniform we would be grateful if they could be donated to school for other students to use.

Sporting Achievements.

Congratulations to Catherine Bellamy in Y13 who won the Ladies Trophy and the Junior Trophy at the Comet Sailing Dinghy National Championships held over the weekend of 25-27th August. The event was organised by the prestigious Teign Corinthian Yacht Club and was held half a mile off the Teignmouth coast in Lyme Bay, Devon. The event attracted 29 entries from all over the UK. Catherine finished 12th overall in a race where most of the competitors were adults.



Catherine displays her trophies (Standing to the left of the Commodore of Teign Corinthian Yacht Club)

Hockey

Congratulations to Peter Jackson who has been selected to play for the England Under 21 Hockey Team.

New Sixth Form Centre

Work is now progressing at a rapid pace on site with large numbers of different trades completing finishing touches to their work. Construction issues along the way have caused a few delays, but as the glazing is completed the internal fixtures can now be put into place. A selection of the new sixth form tenants have taken guide tours and wait with excitement for what will be a fantastic asset to Congleton High School. They are looking forward to using their own catering facilities, a light and spacious common room, and well equipped classrooms and study room.



The windows are going in!!

After School Clubs

Y7 Science Club

Mrs Smith will be running an after school Science Club each Thursday 3.15 to 4.00pm in Room 345a. All Year 7 students welcome.

Keyboard & Guitar Club

Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Mr Hollins will be running the keyboard and guitar club between 3.00pm and 4.00pm each Thursday in Room 122 for anybody interested. No keyboard necessary.

Other Extra Curricular Activities

MONDAY	Trampoline Club Girls' Football practice / fixtures Boys' Basketball
TUESDAY	Netball fixtures Boys' Rugby Yr 7 – 9
WEDNESDAY	Netball practice Boys' Football fixtures Yr 7 Football practice / fixtures
THURSDAY	Girls' Hockey practice Gymnastics Club Boys' Football practice Badminton Club
FRIDAY	Yr 6/7 Multi-Skills Academy (selected students only) 4.00pm to 5.15pm

Sainsbury's Active Kids 07



Thanks to everyone who has sent in Active Kids Vouchers. We have collected a total of 2042 and have just submitted an order for various sport equipment, including skipping ropes, folding hurdles, foam javelins and supergrip netballs.

School holiday dates—2007-08

	Date of closing	Date of re-opening
Autumn Half Term	Fri 19 October	Mon 29 October
Christmas 2006/07	Fri 21 December	Mon 7 January
Spring Half Term 2007	Fri 8 February	Mon 18 February
Easter 2007	Thurs 20 March	Mon 7 April
May Day 2007	Fri 2 May	Tues 6 May
Summer Half Term	Fri 23 May	Mon 2 June
Summer 2007	Fri 18 July	

Holidays

Family holidays taken during term time disrupt the learning and ultimately the progress of your child. We therefore request that wherever possible all Family Holidays are taken within the thirteen weeks School Holidays. If this is not possible, it is essential that an absence request is made prior to the holiday on the appropriate form obtainable from the school office. The decision whether or not to authorise the absence request will then be taken. Holidays will not be authorised where no request is made or the request is made retrospectively.

Diary Dates

THIS MONTH— SEPTEMBER	
18 September	Y7 PIP Disco/Parents' Social Evening (7.00pm-9.00pm)
25 Sept—3 Oct	German Visitors
26 September	Y6 Open Evening
27 September	Y12 Study Skills Day
27 September	Full Governors Meeting
28—30 September	Y12 Conway

**Mr D Hermitt
Head**

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

Congleton High School, Box Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 4NS

t: 01260 273013 f: 01260 274580 e: enquiries@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk w: www.congleton.cheshire.sch.uk