



# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College



Issue: 130

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021



*Dear all,*

I'm writing this week's letter after having spent some time this week visiting classrooms and sitting in on lessons in years 7 and 8. I've focused on these year groups this week because I feel it's important to think about how these children are getting on as well as being mindful of the very immediate pressures facing our children in the final years of their exam specifications in years 11 and 13.

Spending some time with years 7 and 8 this week has left me with a massive smile and it's amazing to see how they have adjusted to being back in school and are for the very greatest part, engaged in lessons and enjoying being together. These children, the youngest in our school, are not quite into the hormone rush of the teenage years and not quite young children either. They're often a fun bunch to talk to and still have the capacity to ask the oddest questions imaginable! Their resilience and cheerful nature is infectious as is the way they seem to adjust so well to change and the way that they interact. This week I have seen them practicing pronunciation in Spanish, creating pieces of art, reading together in the LRC, doing some problem solving maths, making in D&T, learning about the coastline in geography and so much more. For anyone having a busy or challenging day, walking into any of these classes, and I would add, any of the classes in any of the other year groups is the perfect reminder of why this is such a special community, such a great place to live, work and learn and how amazing our children are. On Monday for instance, I happened to be walking through the Sixth Form College social area when a group of students invited me to sit with them and have a coffee. It was great. We had a chat and swapped some tales before we all went back to our day - lessons for them and the office for me but it was the way I was made to feel welcome that mattered.



As the adults who care for all of our children, we must always remember that whilst many are readjusting easily, some are struggling more than others. I'd like to personally thank colleagues in our welfare team for making time and space to nurture and offer additional care for our more vulnerable children. Furthermore, it's important to also thank the parents and carers of these children for reaching out to us so that we are able to help and support as best we can. Let's keep talking and focus on helping our children to be happy and healthy.

As the Headteacher of our school, it's a real privilege to be able to take the barometer of the school by spending time with our children. It's important to remember that although things have been extremely tough, we are beginning to see a clearer pathway to normal. National restrictions are expected to be eased on the 12th April. One of our moves back towards normal is that from the start of the summer term, 19th April 2021, all children in all years including year 11 will be expected to come to school in full formal uniform every day. From the 19th April, children will no longer be allowed to come to school in PE kit and will only wear PE kit in PE lessons. From the start of the summer term we will once again allow children to change into their PE kit before their PE lesson and change back into school uniform afterwards. We will write out to you at the end of this term with a fully detailed and updated 'return to school' document but for now I want to give you the next month to talk about this with the children and to make sure that they have the right uniform and the right expectations about how to wear it.



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



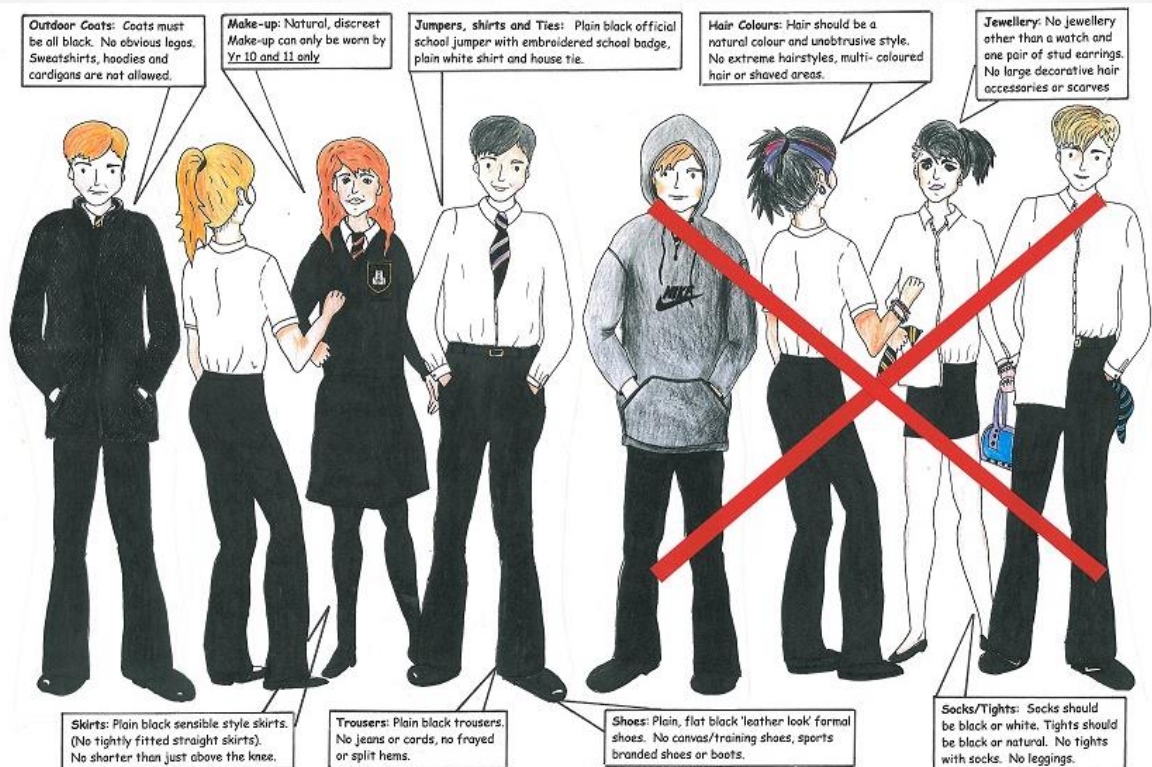


# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

## Preparing Learners for a Changing World

Getting our children back to school involves them relearning some important habits and behaviours. Uniform is one of the standards that I need your help and support to re-establish. For your convenience, here is the link to our [uniform standards](#). The policy is very clear on what we expect but some (not all) of the issues we face are around the way in which students supplement and modify their uniform. Skirts being rolled up very short and a bobble worn at the back of jumpers to make them a tighter fit are two examples as well as hoodies worn instead of a jumper and trainers instead of shoes. All of our uniform standards are easy to apply but hard to enforce without your backing so I am reaching out to you to help us achieve the highest standards of uniform so that our children are always smartly dressed for school.



This week, I have written out separately to the year 11 and 13 parents with more information about the assessments in April and May. This can also be viewed by following [this link to our website](#). There is a lot of information and misinformation out there in the media about the exam grades and the whole process around how schools are expected to act. I am sending out a weekly update at least up to the Easter holiday to tell families with children in years 11 and 13 where we are up to. Please refer to our website using the link above for information about the assessment model 2021 as well as a list of your frequently asked questions. I will be writing out again to years 11 and 13 at the end of next week with further updates.

As always, I appreciate your support, questions and feedback and I remain very proud of our children and community.

Have a great weekend

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



## The road map out of lockdown

We continue to review our plans every two weeks which is particularly important at the moment as the government has published an outline 'road map out of lockdown' to get us all back to normal over the course of the coming months. We recognise our responsibility to manage our school as safely as possible so we are constantly reviewing the information and guidance from the Department of Education, NHS and other organisations to inform our plans.

We will be publishing an update on the last day of term that will be aimed at coming back to school after the Easter holiday. However, we felt it would be helpful to let parents know early on that on return from the Easter holidays, providing the current plans to open up outdoor sports and gyms are implemented, we will move back to FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM for all students. This means that we will reopen the sports changing facilities and students will need to bring their PE kits with them and revert to getting changed for PE whilst in school.

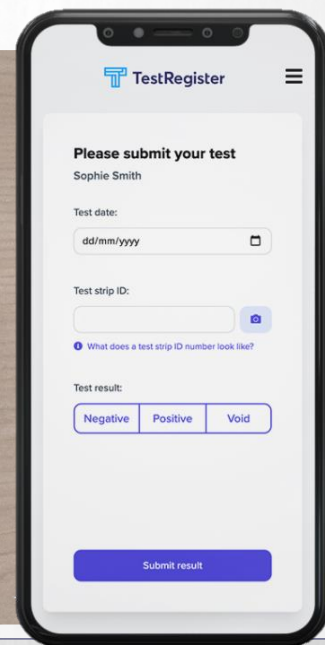
## Self testing over Easter

By Tuesday of next week, all students in every year group will have had the opportunity to have three covid-19 tests in school and will have moved over to home testing. We will be issuing further test kits next week. Over the Easter holidays, we are asking that all students are tested twice in the few days leading up to a return to school. So two tests between Wednesday 14th April and Sunday 19th April 2021. Remember to leave between two and five days between tests. We will not be issuing test kits for the first week of the Easter holidays.

Beginning on Monday 22nd March, the test registration system will start to send out twice weekly reminders about testing which we hope will help to keep the scheme in everyone's mind. You can register to take part in the scheme at any time by going to <https://testregister.co.uk/login>

We need to re-state that the rapid tests (LFTs) are for use in students who are well and displaying no symptoms of illness. If your child or a member of your family is unwell, please arrange a Covid-19 test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and choose the symptoms closest to the one being experienced.

If you have any questions or concerns or if a member of your household tests positive for Covid-19 please contact us at [nocv19@hccs.info](mailto:nocv19@hccs.info)



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



[hccs1978.co.uk](http://hccs1978.co.uk)

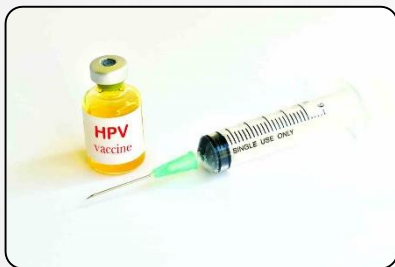




# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



## HPV Vaccination Dates for Year 8 & 9

Please see the attached documents for information and dates about the HPV Immunisations taking place in school in May 2021 for Year 8 and Year 9 students.



HPV Dates List.



Year 8 & 9 Letter

## Curriculum Enhancement, Thursday 18th March 2021

Yesterday (18th March) we conducted our latest instalment of Curriculum Enhancement.

Years 7 and 8 learnt about the Fair Trade organisation, and what we can do as global citizens to support farmers in developing countries around the world. One year 8 pupil commented 'I really didn't know how much we could help just by changing what we do a little bit'.

Years 9 and 10 looked at the work of Amnesty International and the work they do around the world. Pupils were able to link the work of Amnesty international to the issues of Human Rights, Freedom of speech, Poverty and in war zones.

Year 11 and 6th form examined 'kindness', random acts of kindness and how we can all do more on a daily basis to be more kind. It was an interesting and reflective session.

Mr Roberts and Mrs Thomas



01477  
410500



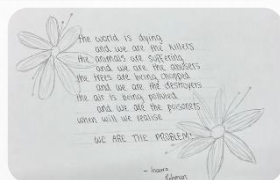
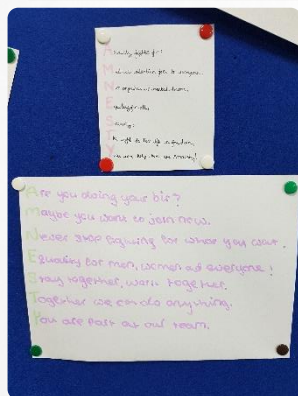
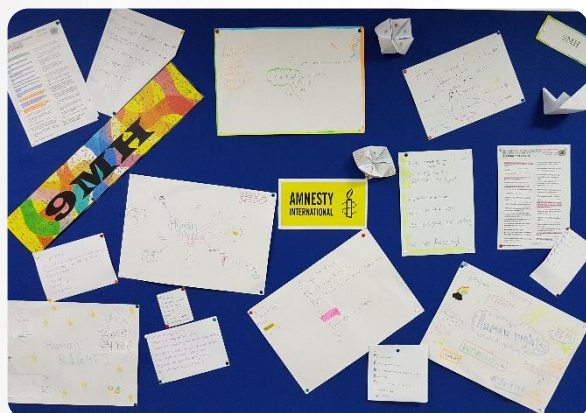
Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk







# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College



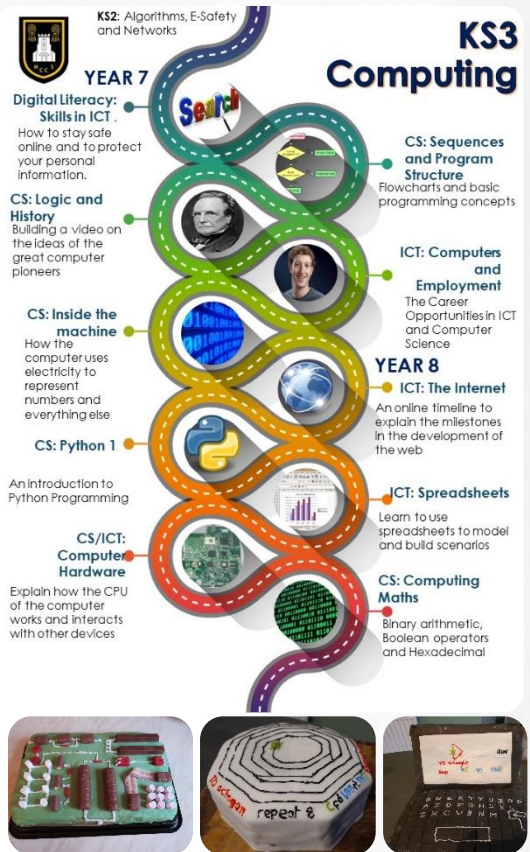
## Preparing Learners for a Changing World

### Computer Science gets tasty

Summer 2020 saw big changes in the Computer Science team: Ms Simm, who has served the school for many years, left to a well deserved retirement and we recruited two new teachers. Dr Middleton joined us as the Head of the subject and was joined by Mr Reeves who is also a very experienced A Level teacher.

The new team have taken the opportunity to reshape the curriculum at Key stage 3. The reshaping was designed to encourage digital creativity and to put programming at the centre of the teaching. We think it is crucial that every child should leave Key stage 3 with a solid understanding of how to write a computer program. In the words of the late, great, Steve Jobs, 'everyone should learn how to code because it teaches you how to think'. At the same time we recognise that a precise and highly mathematical skill, like programming, is not to everyone's taste. Therefore the structure of our work at Key stage 3 is also designed to regularly include aspects of the use of computers and to give an understanding of the world changing set of developments that sit at the heart of this subject.

[Click here](#) to read more



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

### Earth Day – Create A Poster Competition

Create a poster - no larger than A3 - promoting an action to help restore our planet.

A few ideas: recycling, picking up litter, planting a tree, reducing food miles by growing some of your own, walking or cycling rather than using a car.

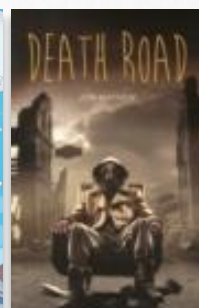
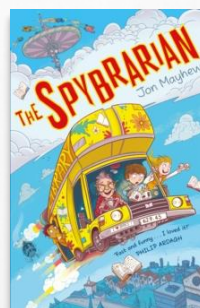
There will prizes for the winning entries. Please submit them to Mrs Wardle in the LRC by the end of Tuesday 20th April.

[Click here](#) for more information

### Book News

Jon Mayhew, a local author, who has written several popular books has recorded an author interview where he is talking about his new book 'The Spybrarian'. It will be available to borrow from the library soon.

[Click here](#) to view the video







# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



## Year 11 & 13 Parents' Online Consultation Evening Letters

[Click here to read the Year 11 letter](#) or [Click here to read the Year 13 letter](#)

### Remembering Nell Writing Competition

Over the next two weeks, our annual writing competition will be introduced to Year 9. This is in honour of Nell Jones, who tragically lost her life in the Manchester terrorist attack. All students will be asked to submit an entry and the winners will be chosen by teachers and Nell's close family and friends.



### Book Cover Competition

Lots of fun was had on World Book Day: quizzes, staff dressing up, reading, sharing books and Years 7, 8 and 9 were introduced to some Gothic writing. Well done to everyone who entered the recreate a book cover competition. We were astounded by the entries. [Click here](#) to see more.



Emily Edgar 7TC



India Harby 7MC



Jess Edgar 7TC

### Food Department - Pancake Competition Winners

Well done to our pancake competition winners and runners up. Pictured here receiving a certificate and an Amazon gift voucher each. You are all flipping amazing!!!



Pictured from  
left to right,  
Alfie Y7, Izzy Y7,  
Chloe Y7, Naomi  
Y8.



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk





# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



## Food Department

This week in our Food Department Y7 have been learning about carbohydrates and making carrot cupcakes. Y8 have been studying foods from around the world and making sausage and bean casserole for their practical lesson. Y9 have been making a dish from a country of their choice and evaluating their chosen dishes in their theory lesson.

Here are some delicious examples of their work -

### Y7 Carrot cakes



### Y8 Sausage Casserole



### Y9 NEA2 Cuisine of Choice



01477  
410500



Office  
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk





# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World

## Part-Time Vacancy: Education Support Officer

We currently have a part-time vacancy for an Education Support Officer to work with our Student Services team.

If you are interested in this role please contact [Pauline.challinor@hccs.info](mailto:Pauline.challinor@hccs.info) for more information

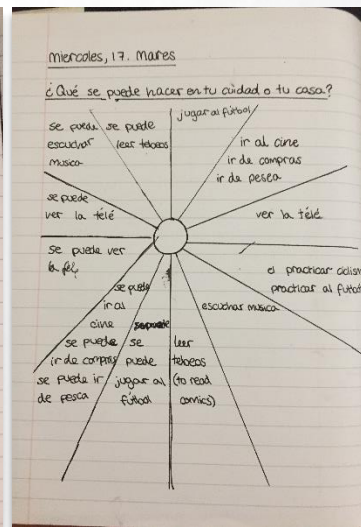
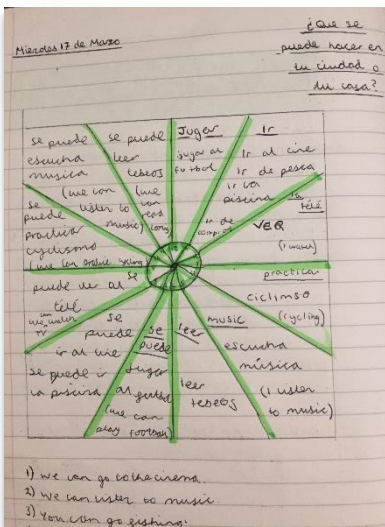
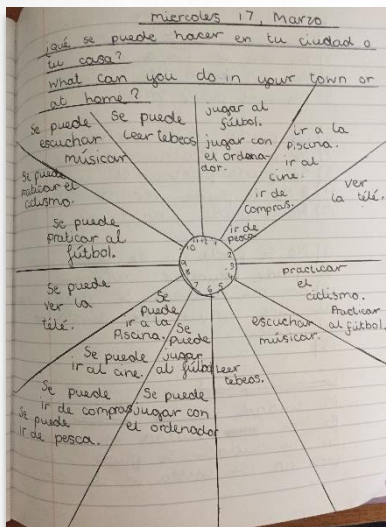
## Food Department

Isla Y7 made this Dobostorte cake. There are eight layers of sponge layered with a dark chocolate French buttercream. The fan on top was made with caramel which she found quite tricky to do. We all think this cake is outstanding Isla!!! Huge well done!!!



## MFL department

Well done year 7 for your hard work on retrieval practice tasks. It is amazing to see how much you can remember from your learning from previous lessons. ¡Fantástico!



01477 410500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F