



# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive  
School & 6th Form College

Issue Number: 119

Date: 13/03/20



Dear Parent/Carer

The report of the recent inspection of our school and college has now been published on the Ofsted website. The inspectors were keen to capture the feelings of students who they had spoken to who expressed such positive sentiments about their experience of life at HCCS and HC6F. In their report they describe life at the school through the eyes of students:

**"At Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School, pupils and students are delightful. They are courteous, respectful and full of praise for the quality of education that the school provides. The pupils and students we spoke to said that their teachers are ambitious for them. In key stages 4 and 5, pupils and students benefit from a well-planned curriculum. The curriculum is supplemented by a wide range of extra-curricular activities."**

*Ofsted 2020*



Along with all other schools judged to be Outstanding under the previous framework, HCCS was exempt from routine inspections until recently. We have now been awarded a rating of 'Good' across all aspects of the new inspection framework which is significantly different from previous versions. This judgement is in line with our current expectation as Ofsted's revised criteria are applied.

The educational landscape has shifted massively over the past few years in many areas but none more so than in the area of the requirements of the curriculum and the national examination systems at GCSE and A level. The new Ofsted framework and guidance on the curriculum for Key Stage 3, (ages 11 to 14), has changed to be much more focused on knowledge retention, in preparation for the new, linear style, final examinations later in school life.

We welcome this report as it broadly reflects our own self-evaluation. Prior to the inspection, we were already well underway with restructuring our Key Stage 3 curriculum. The Ofsted report adds impetus to this process and is effectively a mandate for accelerating the rate of curriculum development. Although the visit was intense and challenging, it was a real opportunity to celebrate life at our school.

While we are naturally disappointed not to have been judged outstanding under the new framework, the overwhelmingly positive comments used in the report are an excellent reflection of the strong position that we are in as a school. However we have to realise, that like the other schools, building a new curriculum, the framework on which all of our teaching and learning is based, takes time to implement and embed. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the students, parents, staff and governors who between them make our school the wonderful learning environment that it clearly is.

A copy of the full report can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Denis Oliver  
Executive Headteacher



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Preparing Learners for a Changing World

## Keeping our school community safe

### Looking ahead

We continue to monitor closely the guidance relating to the handling of the Coronavirus outbreak. This guidance changes daily as the situation unfolds. Looking forward, we have also been reviewing all current plans for students to travel away from school on group trips. Yesterday, we took the decision to cancel this year's overseas trips which we believe to have been a sensible decision but we realise that it will have been very disappointing for those involved.

We have today reviewed the strategy around Alternative Learning Week (ALW) in July and have decided to cancel all school trips now, rather than risk losing the majority of the costs should we delay this decision. We are now working with trip leaders to understand the impact on the school. This means that year groups 7,8 and 9 will be in school as normal during the week commencing Monday 6th July 2020. The majority of Year 10 students will be out of school on that week on work placements. We will continue to monitor the suitability of work placements in respect of the outbreak, on a case by case basis. We are really sorry to have to make this announcement as we realise that the normal activities associated with ALW are very popular and enjoyable, so this decision has not been taken lightly.

**Easter holidays:** Part of our forward planning in relation to handling the Coronavirus outbreak is to start to consider the potential impact of travel plans as we approach the Easter break. We are aware that many staff and students have plans to travel during the holiday. Guidance for travellers is changing quickly and it is impossible at this point to take a firm view about any potential impact of people's travel plans may have on our school community. We would, therefore, ask parents and staff to please let us know of your travel plans as soon as possible by emailing [healthyhands@hccs.info](mailto:healthyhands@hccs.info). In ALL cases, we will take advice about travellers returning from any country and we would not expect students or staff to attend school until these basic checks have been completed.

Please remember, as things stand, travellers now returning from any part of Italy are required to self isolate for fourteen days on return, regardless of having symptoms or not.

To contact the school re Coronavirus related questions please use the contact [healthyhands@hccs.info](mailto:healthyhands@hccs.info) and we will respond as soon as possible

Further information can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

### Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

The Department of Education Coronavirus helpline, providing information to and advice to Staff, parents and young people can be contacted at

0800 046 8687

Anytime Monday to Friday 8am till 6pm

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

HM Government



## DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

0800 046 8687

8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

[DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)



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## Keeping you up to date

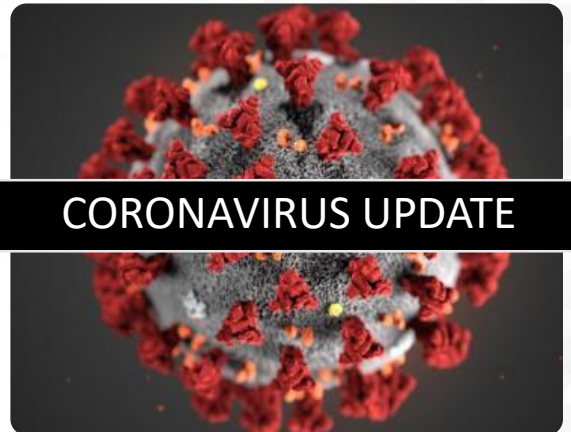
Most parents have been following our daily updates on the school website and have told us that they have found them very useful. We have now launched a blog which will be updated at least daily and which can be accessed from the website or by [clicking here](#), also included in the blog are a number of frequently asked questions with responses which will also be regularly updated as more information becomes available. [Click here to access it.](#)

## Contingency plans if we are required to close the school

Currently, the school is open and operating as normal. However, at some point which may or may not necessarily be imminent, we will be impacted as a school by either partial or total closure. We believe that we have the responsibility to ensure that our students continue to learn and progress during this time. We have, therefore, been working on plans to provide virtual lessons and tutorials in the event of closures. This is particularly the case for examination classes but the aim is to provide them for all students

Google provides a perfect vehicle for this through google-classrooms which all students have access to. By the end of this week, google-classrooms will be set up for all classes in all subjects. We would like you to work with your child(ren) to check that they can access them. The classrooms may not as yet have any content but nevertheless should be accessible. If they are not your child should email their teacher to let them know. This [link](#) will take you to a page showing how to access [google-classrooms](#).

If anyone has problems accessing their google-classrooms please contact us at [itsupport@hccs.info](mailto:itsupport@hccs.info) and we will resolve issues on a case by case basis.



HM Government

**NHS**



**CATCH IT.**



**BIN IT.**



**KILL IT.**



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## Maths Feast 2020

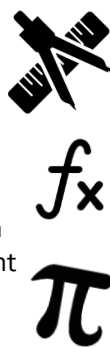


Ted Whitby, Lucas Ball, Isaac Chipperfield and Logan Taylor represented Holmes Chapel exceptionally well at the year 10 Maths Feast at Manchester University on Wednesday 4th March. The competition is organised by the Advanced Maths Support Programme and tests mathematical communication, problem solving and teamwork skills. They enjoyed the challenging nature of the tasks and were top scorers in 2 out of 4 rounds against 28 other teams. Well done.



## Further Maths off to a flying start

Our Year 10 students who have signed up for Further Maths have made a flying start with two sessions this week. Students will be able to solve more complex numeric, algebraic and geometric problems and gain a further qualification in Maths. Any student who has signed up for this course will need to bring a folder to keep notes safe.



## World Book Day Inspirations

Inspired by World Book Day - here are some book recommendations. All part of the Accelerated Reader Programme.



# WORLD BOOK DAY



On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day. Our thoughts for the full week were centred on this with tutor groups completing quizzes and video clips shared about the benefits of reading. Of course, our five minutes of reading at the start of each lesson continued and staff shared their favourite and current reads with students in the usual ways (posters and email sign-offs). This year, however, many of our staff showed off in a different way! It has been lovely to see staff talking about their choice of costume and students have loved talking to teachers about who they are. It's certainly made a lot of people smile too! Reed Recruitment were also impressed with the costumes and awarded the school a £50 prize in books, to be chosen by our students. This experience has sparked everybody's interest for growing the celebrations next year!



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## Sixth Form

On Wednesday 4th of March 2020, our Year 12 students attended a UCAS Higher Education Convention in Manchester. The exhibition gave our students an opportunity to meet with and discuss a whole range of possibilities with regards to Post 18 options. Present were an extensive selection of Universities, employers and apprenticeship opportunities. In addition, there were a number of seminars available for our students to attend including seminars on Oxbridge applications, medicine talks, personal statement writing and finance talks to name just a few.

This was a great chance to encourage our students to think ahead to their next destinations. All Year 12 students who attended were proactive and highly engaged. Overall, this was a highly successful and informative day.



## Gifted and Talented Vocal Day at Clonter Opera Theatre

On the 4th March nine talented HCCS musicians attended a vocal day at Clonter Opera Theatre. It was organised by the Love Music Trust and led by professional musicians Impromptu Opera. We enjoyed learning and recapping information about voice types, operatic styles and roles, participating in a masterclass and listening to professional opera singers showcase their talents.

Our students were a real credit to HCCS.

## Choral Celebration Concert at Clonter Opera Theatre

After the Vocal Day, we were joined by the rest of Senior Choir at Clonter Opera Theatre to participate in a Choral Celebration Concert. Again organised by the Love Music Trust, the concert featured wonderful performances from various Cheshire schools. Our students represented HCCS superbly with a great performance of Down to the River to Pray and Sound of Silence, as well as a massed rendition of Love my Life. Thank you to all the students involved for your enthusiasm and commitment, and also to the parents who came along to support us in the audience.

You can watch excerpts from the performances on the Love Music Trust twitter page or clicking on the play buttons to the right.



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## Curriculum Enhancement PSHE 12th March 2020

On Thursday 12th March was the next installment of our Curriculum Enhancement program. This was the 4th of 6 morning PSHE Sessions. We had an exciting and engaging array of activities on display this time around. See below for details.

**Year 7** – Team building, team working and interpersonal skills.

**Year 8** – Law/ and the issues surrounding gang activities.

**Year 9** – The Holocaust. We had a speaker who came in to discuss his family experiences.

**Year 10** – RE speaker conference, where we had 2 different faith speakers discussing life's key issues. Students had the opportunity to challenge them on their beliefs

**Year 11** – Sexual health with the school nurse.

**Year 12** - Career opportunities and review appointments with their tutors. Students were engaged in activities with a number of employers and explored career opportunities.

**Year 13** - Developing study skills and how to effectively revise.



## Holocaust study morning - Y9 with special guest speaker Freddy Naftel

Freddy spoke passionately about the experiences of his family during the persecution and Holocaust of the Nazis and how the attitudes of the 1930s still affect society in the Modern World.

Thank you to him and the Year 9s for insightful questions.



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## Remembering Nell Short Story Competition

Thank you to all those Year 9s who entered the competition. The standard was extremely high this year but a shortlist announced on Monday. Well done to everyone involved!

Winners will be announced during the Easter assembly.

**Gracie Wrigley, Oliver May, Isabelle Khan, Josh Johnson  
Eliza Barratt, Will Greatrex, Zach Bennett, Lucinda Columbine Corlett,  
Hannah Domeney, Sophie Graham**



Remembering Nell Foundation

## Sixth Form Charity Event February 2020

On Friday 28th February, our Year 12 students took part in a charity event. They chose to raise money, for this particular event, for Cancer Research. This was chosen by the students due to its pertinence to a number of students in the Sixth Form. Students decided to dress up in fancy dress. Students raised a considerable amount of money for this event. They look forward to selecting their next chosen charity and their event.



## A Litter Problem in Our Village Being Solved By One of Our Students.

One of our year 7 students, Eleanor Bowden, has been working on a personal project about elastic band litter in our community. Eleanor reminds us that the post office often use elastic bands to keep bundles of post together so that the letters are organised. If these are dropped around our village, animals like birds, foxes and hedgehogs mistake them for worms and either eat them themselves or carry them back to their homes to feed to their young. Clearly, elastic bands are not part of any animals' diet. Eleanor has been collecting elastic bands dropped on the pavement when she walks into school and when she is out and about around the village. She would like you to join in with this project to help keep our community clean, safe and tidy. If you would like to get involved, please make sure that you pick up any dropped elastic bands safely and that are on the pavement. Be aware at all times of traffic and make sure you wash your hands properly. There will be a box in school reception for you to drop your elastic band litter into. Eleanor will then take whatever is collected to the people responsible for this and try to persuade them to stop dropping the elastic bands. Eleanor hopes that by working together in our community, we can do something positive to solve the problem - **Eleanor Bowden. Year 7**



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## The Capture Crew

This week we have had Spencer from Inner Trust to take forward our 'Capture Crew' initiative supported by The Remembering Nell Foundation. A number of school students from years 7-13 have put their names forward to be part of this exciting initiative. The Capture Crew initiative is aimed at giving students of the village a voice via the medium of film. Over the course of the remainder of this academic year the pupils will be planning, filming and editing a range of projects to highlight various aspects of village life.



They are initially working on a film that will be put together looking at people's memories of VE/VJ day. The video will be shown in St Luke's Church Hall over the VE/VJ celebration in May, and Alison Wright is taking a lead in bringing it all together.

Later in the year we also aim to create a film project around Nell's garden, and in a wider sense Holmes Chapel Life. This is a very exciting opportunity for the young people in our village to show things from their perspective. The Youth Parish Council are also engaged in a Capture Crew project with Spencer also, detailing the work the Youth Parish Council is engaged in.

Mr Roberts and Alison Wright, on behalf of the Capture Crew.

## A Level and GCSE Certificates

We still have a number of GCSE and A Level certificates that have not been collected by students. If you know any students who have not yet collected their certificates, please could you remind them they are available for collection until the end of the academic year. We are not required to hold them for more than a year. If you have a sibling in school and you are happy for them to collect the certificates, please ask them to come to the Exam Office to collect them.



## HCCS Netball Match Report – Year 10

On Tuesday 3rd March HCCS Year 10 Netball team took on Sandbach, Congleton and Eaton Bank in the annual South Cheshire tournament.

It was always going to be a tough game against Sandbach but that didn't worry our girls. They worked really hard to try to break down the strong attack but that was not meant to be. In the second game the girls started to gain greater confidence and started to settle and gel together as a team after a long winter break against Congleton. There was much progress and we narrowly missed out on the win. However, the girls were not defeated going into their final game.

The final game against Eaton Bank they showed their flair, playing some lovely netball. Final score 15 -1 finishing on a high. A great afternoon, well done girls to finish 3rd at the end of the season



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## HCCS Netball Match Report – Year 7

On Saturday 7th March, our budding Year 7 netball team entered their first county tournament. It was always going to be a tough day coming up against teams like Christleton, The Grange, Knutsford, Wilmslow and Lymm but the girls did not disappoint.

In the first game they settled their nerves after going down against Wilmslow to fight back in the second half to take the win 5 - 4. Great first game.

In the second game they played a very strong opposition in The Grange, the girls let their nerves get the better of them in this game but we were not to be defeated, we re-grouped and applied our team talk to ensure we met the ball and drove into space. Game three winning Lymm High school 3 - 2 another close game.

Next the girls came up against Christleton and we were expecting a tough game. This was a fantastic game only losing by 6 and potentially could have won the game, proving the girls can compete with the best. The girls were ready to go into the final game with confidence working on teamwork and ensure we kept the ball safe. What a way to finish, great defensive work by all the girls winning Knutsford 5 - 0.

A great morning of very competitive netball and an experience the girls will not forget and take into next year. Well done a great achievement finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>, just missing out on a semi final place. Thank you to all the girls and their parents for supporting them throughout the day. *Mrs Mee*



## HCCS Netball Match Report – Year 9

On Tuesday 10th March HCCS Year 9 Netball team took on Sandbach, Congleton, Eaton Bank and Brine Leas in the annual South Cheshire tournament.

It was always going to be tough, as we are still building this year but the girls did not disappoint, narrowing the gap against teams we were once outplayed by many goals in the league.

All of the games were very close. We started off with a draw 4 - 4 against Brine Leas, a game we could have won. The girls continually improved every game, even with the next games ending in a loss. We made changes to improve our game throughout the afternoon. The final game we were up against Sandbach. The girls were very nervous as we had previously lost to them in the league by a large goal difference. However, the whole team worked so hard trying to break down their attack to only lose by 2 goals. This was a fantastic result and I know the girls were very proud of themselves, showing how far they have come this season.

Next year, with more practice the girls are well on their way to compete with the top teams. Well done girls, a great way to end the season. *Mrs Mee*



## Partner Primary School Sport

Despite the rainy weather forcing everyone indoor, our year 5/6 partner primary school pupils enjoyed a fantastic evening of Hi 5s Netball this week. Ten teams were competing, involving around 80 pupils giving it their all. Congratulations to Lower Peover and Peover Superior for being crowned overall champions.



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## Disability Sports Awareness

On Wednesday, 20 of our Sports Leaders and Captains from years 7 to 10 had the opportunity to take part in a Disability Sports Awareness session. The workshop, run by Sale Sharks, allowed them to experience the challenges and enjoyment of competing with a disability.

They tried out their skills at wheelchair rugby, which was great fun and provided a few tense moments as they bashed into each other to gain possession of the ball.

They also got to try their hand at Goalball, donning blindfolds to give them a visual impairment. They found this enjoyable but really challenging having to rely on just their hearing and touch.

A really fun afternoon from which our leaders and captains gained a new found respect for athletes competing with a disability.



## Junior Tennis Coaching Programme 2020

**Children wanting to begin at tennis, or looking to improve their playing skills, could take part in this year's Goostrey Junior Tennis Coaching at the Boothbed Lane courts in Goostrey, CW4 8NA.**

The 15-session programme by LTA Coach David Richardson runs from Friday April 24th to Saturday September 26th – excluding school holidays and Rose Day weekend. There's a choice of sessions on Fridays in the early evening or on Saturday mornings, and school-age children are grouped according to LTA junior coaching guidance for age and ability.

Junior coaching is open to children aged between 5 and 16, with sessions ranging from beginners and 'parent-and-child' classes, to more advanced coaching for older children. The programme is structured, with the emphasis on having fun whilst learning and developing tennis skills and ability.

Participation is open to children who live in Goostrey and its adjacent parishes, whose families are members of Goostrey Village Hall and Playing Fields Federation (VHPFF), which owns and runs the Boothbed Lane sports facilities. Non-members are required to pay a small additional fee per session.

**The cost for the junior coaching programme's 15 sessions is £67.50 for VHPFF members (cheques payable to 'Goostrey Tennis Club'). Booking forms are available by emailing coach David Richardson at [play.tennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:play.tennis@hotmail.co.uk) or by phoning Alison Richardson on 07885 804246.**

## Easter Camp

There will also be an Easter holiday camp for children, from Monday April 6th to Friday April 10th, with warm-up sessions, games, fun drills and competitions – before the weekend coaching programme begins. These will be held at the Boothbed Lane courts from 10am to 3.30pm each day. Booking is available by the day, or there is a special rate for all five days. To enquire about availability or to obtain a booking form, please contact David or Alison Richardson as above.



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Record of communications that have been sent out

Year Group	Format of Comms	from	details	date
13	E-mail	6th Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yr 13 Parents Evening</li></ul>	5th March 2020
9/10	E-mail	J Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>D of E online training sessions</li></ul>	6th March 2020
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>	
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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F



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