



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College



Issue: 139

Date: 1st October 2021

Dear all,

There's an amazing range of reading for you all to enjoy and reflect on in our latest newsletter so i'm going to keep my section brief. However, it's hard not to celebrate what our children are up to and I'm always pleased, proud even, that we have so much to share which keeps you in touch with the beating pulse of our school. Much of what you will read in this newsletter covers the broader experience of school and learning which is so important in terms of how our children grow and enjoy the privilege of a fulfilled and varied childhood which is rich with opportunities.

Chatting to the children at lunch and breaks this week, I have been astonished at the commitment that many have to clubs, teams and groups outside of school as well as school-led extra curricular activities. One of the children I talked to yesterday for instance is competing in a national level netball tournament in London this weekend, another is busy with football, yet another is taking an exam in dance, a significant number are involved in the cadets, guides and scouting. The list is huge and the range of activities enormous. I'd like to thank all of those parents and carers for encouraging this and for making it possible for children to be part of such enriching and fulfilling experiences that are as much a part of learning as lessons are. To further support this, over the next few weeks we will be publishing a full list of our extra curricular offer on the website and encouraging all students from all backgrounds to be more involved.



The only other point I'd like to make this week is about behaviour. Across our community we all care very much about the behaviour of our children and about how they grow to become the very best versions of themselves. As responsible adults we have a shared role in guiding our children to make positive behaviour

choices, helping them recognise when they have made poor choices and then giving them the space to reflect and learn about how to behave in a positive way. Establishing behavioural boundaries is something that works best when we all work together.

Over the last two weeks we have had a few isolated cases of particular behaviours which concern all of us across our community. Some examples are vandalism of toilets, inappropriate use of social media and theft. We also can't avoid the very visual issue of littering and hearing some of our children using some very sexist language. We've even seen one or two cases of high levels of defiance which is very unusual. I'm sure that none of us would want any of this type of thing to go unchallenged and I'd like to thank parents for letting us know about some of these issues so that we can work together in sorting things out. I also want to be very clear that these behaviours are very isolated, have been dealt with appropriately and with the full support of families and do not apply to the vast majority of our children. We all enjoy the fact that most of our children are always kind, polite and respectful and we all understand that as they grow and learn, children sometimes make mistakes in terms of their behaviour. However, I feel that it's important



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to recognise that as a community, we should feel we can talk openly and honestly about encouraging positive behaviours that make us all feel safe, welcome, included and part of something special as well as working through the negative behaviours that might threaten that.

Recently I have talked with a number of families about specific incidents which needed resolving. I'm grateful for the commitment, time and caring but robust approach that we have taken together. I'm very much of the view that our children benefit greatly from conversations about how to be a positive part of our community which is precious to all of us. Can I respectfully reach out to all families and ask them to talk to our children about how we can each make a positive contribution to help build a strong, safe, inclusive community and a healthy environment. Many thanks.

Enjoy reading our newsletter and I hope you are as inspired by our children as I am

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher

Lower School Update

We are at the end of week 4 now and our lower school students are well and truly settled in. There are fewer PE bags left on the lower tennis courts and students are beginning to get a real feel for their favourite lessons. In our lower school hub, we're on to our second jigsaw (thanks to the contributions of some of our students before school and at break time) and the quick reads are being devoured. Our CD collection of calming music is also growing. Thank you to all staff and students for their contributions to making this a welcoming and safe space for our young people. We are also delighted to announce growing numbers of students achieving behaviour scores of 1 (and reducing scores of the lower numbers) in their lessons. Students who achieved high numbers of 1s each week have been given postcards from the lower school hub. Our ethos of kindness to all and giving things our best shot is really growing and we feel very fortunate to work in the lower school hub with these wonderful young people. The following students are worthy of praise due to, not only their high lesson scores but, in some cases, additional house points (often for things like "Act of kindness"):



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Upper School Team:

Our students are amazing people and we are very proud of them. They are at the heart of everything we do. Listening to our young people ensures we continue to meet their needs and equip them with the skills, resourcefulness and resilience to succeed.

It is important to us that our students have a collective 'voice' and are given the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions. We are fortunate enough to have a team of Sixth Form leaders who are already working positively with our Upper School community as mentors, ambassadors and role models.

Next week, we will be launching our "High Council" through assemblies as an opportunity for students to engage in discussion to support developments within our school and wider community. This year, our High Council will work alongside the Parish Council through our community link; Youth Council. Previously, students from HCCS have worked to set up a cinema in the village and worked in partnership with the wider community to set up a skate park. We wish to continue to build on this collaborative work.

Please encourage your children to apply for a position on our High Council. It is great to have a diverse team of students and voices represented at our meetings. Any letters of application should be sent across to the following email: upperschool@hccs.info

We will be encouraging our Upper School team to be ambassadors for our school and wider community. Many of our students are very modest about their excellent achievements outside of school. Please share any updates with our Upper School Team so that we can share in these great achievements together. Well done to our Upper School students who have recently persevered to complete the expedition section for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Please let us know if we can celebrate any achievements and activities within our community. Please contact us via email: upperschool@hccs.info



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Singfest - Young Voices

Young Voices had a brilliant time last Friday morning at our Singfest workshop. We enjoyed singing and dancing together with Mrs Palethorpe from the Love Music Trust, and we were delighted to be joined by students from Brereton Primary School too.

Young Voices rehearses on a Monday lunchtime in the Music department, and is still welcoming new members from Year 7, 8 and 9. If you enjoy singing do come along - we'll be rehearsing for the Singfest concert with Cheshire schools, and the big Young Voices event at Birmingham Arena.

Thank you to all the students involved - it was great to be singing live together again.





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Curriculum Enrichment Day

Year 7

As our newest members of our community our year 7s will be doing PSHE related to developing interpersonal skills and how to be effective team workers. These are vital skills that will enable our students to really focus on working well together as they start their journey at HCCS.

Year 8

Year 8 will focus on the danger and issues around bullying. Students will explore a range of different scenarios to establish really clearly what constitutes bullying. We will then look at one of the most prevalent forms of bullying in the world today, online bullying, and online abuse. Its dangers, impacts and the sessions will highlight the importance of staying safe online.

Year 9

Year 9 will look at relationships in an array of contexts. We will move on to look at the importance of consent, generally, and in the context of relationships. It's really important as young adults that we understand the importance of consent and are able to apply this to everyday life, to become healthy and safe members of society.

Year 10

Year 10 will learn about the role the media can play in society. We look at the positive and negative impacts of the media and being able to identify fake news measured against facts. We will then go on to look at sex and sexuality, and how this is portrayed in the media.

Year 11

Year 11 will explore various career options available to us once our GCSE's are complete. It is vital that we fully equip our students to make well informed decisions about the next steps they will take, whether that is staying on at college post 16, looking into apprenticeships, or what is available in the world of work.

Based on 2 hour sessions	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	CE5	CE6
FORM 8/9	Relationships	Living in the wider world	Relationships	Living in the wider world	Relationships	Living in the wider world
Unit 1	Monday 19th October	Tuesday 20th October	Wednesday 21st Oct	Thursday 22nd Oct	Friday 23rd Oct	Monday 27th Nov
Unit 2	PSLE	PSLE	PSLE	PSLE	PSLE	PSLE
Unit 3	Interpersonal skills	Interpersonal skills	Personal Hygiene	Healthy relationships	Human rights	Sex Education (SRE)
Unit 4	Team working	Enterprise Activity (CEC)	Personal Hygiene	Relationships and Feelings	Fair trade	Sex Education (SRE)
Unit 5	What causes bullying	Global Citizenship (Journey)	Working, Drugs and Alcohol	Careers (CEC)	The law and weapons	Positive and negative personality traits
Unit 6	How to deal with bullying	Global Citizenship (Journey)	Working, Drugs and Alcohol	The dangers of Gambling	The law and gangs	How we learn
Unit 7	Consent in sexual relationships	Diversity	Personal Finance (CEC)	Types of interdependence etc	Addiction	Sexual Health (SRE)
Unit 8	Consent in sexual relationships	Human and Exclusion	Personal Finance (CEC)	LABET Rights	Adoption	Sexual Health (SRE)
Unit 9	The impact of the media	Mental Health	Mental Health	Types of Work	Local Health services	Local Health services
Unit 10	Sex and sexuality and the media	Sex and sexuality and the media	Mental Health and Resilience	Jobs and Rights	Eating disorders	Eating disorders
Unit 11	Careers (CEC)	Finance and Moral issues	Sex and sexuality and the media	Sexual Health (SRE)	Sexual Health (SRE)	Sexual Health (SRE)

[Click here to see the timetabled layout of the upcoming Curriculum Enrichment Day](#)

Current Covid infection rates Cheshire East

We continue to monitor the local infection rates for school age children in Cheshire East which we use to inform our school Covid response plans. The number of positive Covid infections in the local community are continuing to grow rapidly within the school age groups.

- **4 to 11** year olds have increased from 922 last week to **1225** per 100,000
- **12 to 16** year olds have increased from 1376 last week to **2046** per 100,000



Clearly, with high rates in primary schools and neighbouring secondary schools, we need to monitor the situation closely to keep our school community safe. Just for context, in October last year Cheshire East moved up to Tier 2 'High' restrictions with an infection rate of 158 per 100,000.

In response to the current high levels of infections we are asking **ALL students and staff to wear face coverings** whilst in school buildings from **Monday 4th October 2021** as we did very successfully for the whole of last year. We are asking all families to help us to actively promote the use of face coverings whilst in school.



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Covid Vaccinations for children aged 12 to 15 years

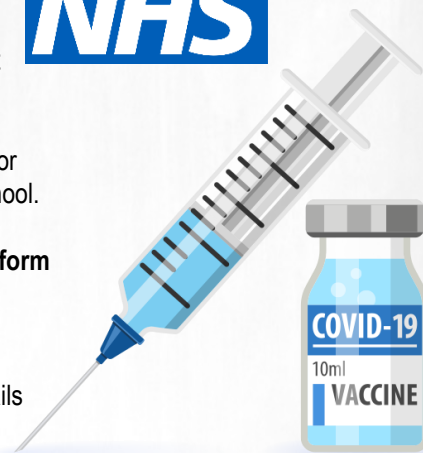
We are sharing a letter to all parents today on behalf of the NHS Immunisation Team. We have been informed that the online consent portal has now closed for next week's vaccinations.

The portal will reopen shortly and there will be a further opportunity for children between the ages of 12 and 15 to receive the vaccine at school.

Only the children whose parents completed the online consent form will be offered the vaccine at school.

Our school team cannot answer questions about the national immunisation programme or consent to vaccination. The contact details for the Immunisation Team are in the letter we have shared.

For issues relating to COVID-19 and safety measures in our school, including advice and information please contact us by email at: nocv19@hccs.info.



Holmes Chapel Sixth Form

We are well and truly in the thick of term!

Year 12s have settled in brilliantly. The atmosphere in the study areas has been excellent. Key assessments for Year 12 have been overwhelmingly positive.

Year 13 have their mock exams coming up in the week beginning **18th October**. Those exams will form a crucial part of their progress towards the summer exams. They provide a snapshot of where students are in Oct/ Nov and will inform our intervention and support strategies for the rest of the term.



Open Evening for our prospective Year 12 students and current Year 11 students is coming up on **Thursday 14th October**. Unfortunately that evening will be switched to a Live Video talk instead of a Live Event in the College but it will contain all the key information prospective 6th formers require, plus an insight into student life from members of the Head Girl/ Boy team and a timeline of the application process from Oct 2021 - Sept 2022. We will be holding the same virtual talks twice at 5:00 pm and 6:00pm to allow parents and students more flexibility of a start time. Video links for those talks will be emailed to parents and if anybody is interested from outside the HCCS community, you can email sixthform@hccs.info for those video links.

I look forward to meeting our potential new 6th formers that evening and outlining the vision we have for your child and their future at HC6F..



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Trial Examinations 2021

The school trial/mock examinations for year 11 and year 13 will take place from **Friday 15th October to Friday 22nd October**. Individual timetables will shortly be available via MCAS, but students should familiarise themselves with the dates and times of the subjects they study from the outline timetable. Please note the equipment list below.

Equipment required for examinations

- Black pens
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pair of compasses
- Protractor
- Calculator



Candidates should also make themselves familiar with the 'Warning to Candidates' and 'Unauthorised Items' notices.

Please note that clear bottles of water (only) will be allowed into the examination room and that pencil cases must also be clear.



Examination
Timetable



Unauthorised
Items Poster



Warning to
Candidates



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Food Preparation and Nutrition

It has been so lovely to have our students back in our kitchens!

Last week Y7 started learning about kitchen safety.

They have been learning how to chop food safely using the bridge and claw technique ahead of their very first practical lesson. Over the next week Y7 will be designing and making their own fruit salad.



Y11 students have been learning how to fillet a whole fish. They then made trout with lemon and garlic butter and Potatoes au Gratin.



Y10 students this week have learned how to portion a whole chicken. They then made Jerk Chicken with coconut rice with the chicken portions.



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Maths News – Letter to Year 7 Parents from Talent-ed

You are probably receiving this note because your child's teacher thinks your child is a strong mathematician with huge potential.

We are Talent-Ed, a charity that is dedicated to helping students reach their potential, and we are excited to invite your child to a maths webinar that they will find enjoyable and stimulating. It will be hosted by best-selling author Simon Singh and Countdown champion Junaid Mubeen. Attending one of these webinars may lead to your child being offered a free place on one of our programmes for students in Year 7, either:

Maths Masterclass Tutorials, a 5-year programme of weekly online tutorials, in which experienced tutors work with six students to deepen their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Challenge Programme, a year of free monthly webinars focussed on problem-solving skills, presented by high-profile instructors.

TalentEd
Tailored tuition to help students grow



Click here
to read
the
full letter

Alvin Ailey Dance Repertoire Day

Well done to our Btec Dance students who took part in a successful day of dance last week. They learnt repertoire from Alvin Ailey's famous piece 'Revelations'. It was a great day, where they had to demonstrate resilience, perseverance and self motivation.



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YEAR 7&8 DANCE CLUB - TERM 1



Lower School Dance Club

Lowerschool Dance Club - is back up and running on **Monday afterschool 3.15-4.15pm**. Come along and join in the 'Matilda the Musical' fun.

UPPERSCHOOL DANCE CLUB

Wednesday Afterschool – 3.15pm – 4.15pm



Upper School Dance Club

Upper school Dance Club - is up and running on **Wednesday afterschool 3.15-4.15** we are working on a musical medley of dances. Come along to find out more.



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Cross Country

The first South Cheshire cross country meet took place at Sandbach Boys School. Some outstanding performances from our HCCS students; Sofia Preece (1st Junior Girls) Izzy Ashcroft (1st Senior Girls) Olivia Bageley (3rd Inter Girls) and in the Minor (yr7) Boys race Chris Houghton (2nd) George Bageley 4th, Oliver Profit 5th. Well done everyone who took part. If anyone else is interested in taking part in the next event please see Mr Capewell.

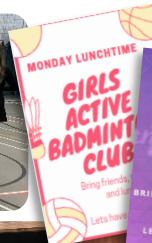


Cross Country

This term we have restarted our HCCS Girls Active programme! This includes; Y8 girls active tutor sessions, as well as lunchtime and afterschool clubs.

Girls Active is an initiative from the Youth Sport Trust to engage more girls in more physically activity. The initiative is to empower Girls Active leaders to organise and lead physical activity sessions that are fun and encourage participation with friends.

For more information, scan the qr code.



Art News

Practicing illustrative methods of drawing and painting for our recipe book in Art Club:



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Toby Hurtsfield

On Friday we went to Llandegla North Wales to shoot The 86th DTL Home Countries International Tournament and British Open .

Five countries were represented Wales, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland

England won the senior, veteran, super veteran, ladies and junior on Friday and Saturday of which Toby was on the junior team, on Friday he was also the high gun of the team and junior runner up of the event.



CHESHIRE EAST SCITT

Two Day Taster Event
12th & 13th October 2021
7th & 8th December 2021
8th & 9th February 2022
26th & 27th April 2022
14th & 15th June 2022

To book on this event email:
annabel.bush@hccs.info

'BACK TO SCHOOL'

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School

Are you interested in training to teach but maybe not sure?
Then come along to our two day taster event and experience
what it's like to come 'back to school'.

Cost: £20 including lunch and refreshments
Location: Training & Conference Centre, HCCS, Selkirk
Drive, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7DX

CHESHIRE EAST SCITT

Virtual information evenings –
all 5pm – 6pm
28th September 2021
3rd November 2021
13th January 2022
7th March 2022
4th May 2022

'TRAIN TO TEACH'

With the Cheshire east SCITT

Are you interested in training to teach but maybe not sure?
Then come and join one of our virtual information evenings
on Zoom to find out more.

You will have the opportunity to meet some of our current
trainees and ECTs, find out what the course entails and
how to apply.

To book on any of these events email:
annabel.bush@hccs.info



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STEM holiday clubs in Sandbach and Northwich this half term

We can't believe it is nearly October already and we are looking towards the half term!

Our holiday clubs nearly sold out this Summer which was fantastic, especially after a difficult 18 months of not being able to run. We know many of you shared our leaflet with your pupils, as we had a great mix of children from different schools attending, so thank you for your support.

We are running again for two weeks over half term (18th - 22nd October in Northwich and 25th - 29th October in Sandbach) and would be really grateful if you could share the attached flyer with your pupils.

If you would like more information or just a no obligation chat about our after school clubs or workshops, drop me or Dominic a line at contact@skillsupply.co.uk or call on the numbers below.



OCTOBER HALF TERM SKILL CLUBS

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHS
FUN FOR 8 TO 13 YEAR-OLDS.

18th - 22nd October at the Grange School Sports
Centre Hartford CW8 1LU
25th - 29th October at Sandbach (boys) School
Sandbach CW11 3NS

9 am - 4 pm, from £30 per day, early drop and late pick up also available

Following full Covid-19 guidelines, all staff are experienced,
DBS-checked and first-aid trained.
OFSTED registered and accepting childcare vouchers

[Booking and full info at www.skillclubs.co.uk](http://www.skillclubs.co.uk)



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FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY TEAM



PARENT WORKSHOPS

Helping children manage worries and anxiety.

Visyon's Family and Community Wellbeing Team are pleased to offer an 8-week Parent Workshop Programme which will provide information, advice and strategies to empower parents to effectively support their children, with their worries and anxieties.

The Programme is available for Families in Cheshire East and will be held at Visyon in Congleton. If you would like to book a place on the Programme, please contact lynnne.fitton@visyon.org.uk, who will contact you with further details.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.



Parent Workshops - Helping children manage anxiety.

- 22/09/2021 Parenting problems and difficult behaviors.
- 29/09/2021 Securing the parent/child bond.
- 06/10/2021 Understanding your child's anxiety.
- 13/10/2021 Using praise and rewards to build confidence.
- 20/10/2021 Setting limits on anxious children's behavior.
- 03/11/2021 Managing children's worry.
- 10/11/2021 Managing difficult behavior.
- 17/11/2021 Review and celebration.

Each session will start at 5 pm and finish at 6.15 pm.

Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F