



Dear all,

Thank you!

It is now two full school weeks since we opened our doors and welcomed all children back on the 7th September. Everything we did in order to reopen was driven by two overriding aims. The first was to do everything we could to keep our school community safe and the second, to make sure that all of our students get back on track with their learning as quickly as possible.

The first two weeks have been truly amazing and as I write this personal reflection, I need to start by offering some thanks. Thank you to our staff who have returned to school and enabled all year groups to hit the ground running. We have the full curriculum operating with the right teachers in the right facilities which is key to getting all students back on track.

Thank you to our parents and families for having the confidence to send your children back to school and for supporting us as we take each step on the way to a new normal. During lockdown, one of the most impressive features was the overall increase in the way parents got even more engaged with their children's learning. Going forward, this engagement will help enormously in getting all of our students back on track. Over the first two weeks back our attendance is running just above 97% The same pattern goes for late arrivals in the morning where we have seen fewer students arriving after the morning bell and parents ensuring that children are at school in good time. Individually, you have each contributed to this success and as a community we should feel positive about this and celebrate it.



Nigel Bielby
Head Teacher

HM Government **NHS**

- HANDS** (Icon: hands being washed)
- FACE** (Icon: face mask)
- SPACE** (Icon: two people with an arrow between them)

Keeping our school community safe

When we published our coming back to school plans all the way back in July, we said that we would review those plans every two weeks as a matter of routine, or sooner if it was felt necessary to do so. With two school weeks completed it seems right to report back to you now about how we need to modify those plans going forward. On the whole, compliance with the changes we made has been high. The sense of calm is incredible and the responsibility that our children and staff for keeping themselves safe and keeping each other safe has been widely embraced. We are continuing to reinforce these behaviors with everyone.

If we start with the issue of face coverings. Obviously the mood of the nation has changed considerably since July in relation to wearing face coverings. At our last review, we stepped down the compulsory wearing of face coverings in classrooms. At the moment, compliance in corridors is improving day by day which is good. We are aware that local infection rates are rising and we may therefore at our next review, change back to wearing face coverings in all indoor spaces. A growing number of parents have been asking us to consider this. For now, we need to focus on reminding children to put their face coverings on around school and to keep them on during the trip to and from school. Your help with reinforcing this message would be gratefully appreciated.

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The second feature of our latest review is the confidence we now have in our internal trace and track procedures. We have a register of all staff and students who are absent from school with Covid like symptoms and a robust system of tracing those who have been in close contact or have been in the same classroom as someone with possible symptoms. We are running this process in the background so that we are always in a position to act quickly should we get a positive case. If that were to happen, we would always take the best advice and contact parents and students directly if they are at risk. If any student or member of their family displays any symptoms of covid, high temperature, sudden and persistent cough or change to sense of taste or smell, please stay home and email us on Nocv19@hccs.info

Back on track

All of our classes, including those in examination years and children new to the school, have settled in quickly. Home learning and revisiting work regularly at home is important and I know that you will be with me in encouraging our children in this critical year to engage in a positive and proactive way without increasing their levels of anxiety. The language we use when we talk to our children needs to be positive, to be focused on planning for success and on recognising what needs to be done. Our children will need us to help them take small steps forward so that they are making progress but it really is amazing to see how resilient they are, how well they adapt to change and how they support each other.

One area I want to talk to you about is 'retrieval practice'. This is about establishing the ways in which we all think and learn, how we process information so that it is useful and can be recalled and used. Getting better at understanding and remembering new information. During lockdown one of the very positive observations was the depth and quality of whole family engagement with learning. Your children benefited enormously from the time and effort you put into their learning and helping us to do a good job. Getting all of our students back on track with their learning is something we can all contribute to.

Please [click on this link](#) and have a look at the website **The Learning Scientists**. I'm also recommending that parents just have a listen to a couple of short podcasts. You don't need to worry about the jargon or become experts and all of the resources are free of cost. The links to the podcasts can be accessed by clicking the links:



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Apr 4 Episode 16 - For Parents Interested in Student Learning Part 1



Apr 18 Episode 17 - For Parents Interested in Student Learning Part 2

After a review of the way we deliver our science curriculum and timetable, we have been able to improve the way we deliver science lessons across the school. Classes in years 10 and 11 will, on the whole, have one teacher for each of the three sciences and years 7, 8 and 9 classes now have 2 main teachers. This will help us to have a more consistent approach to understanding where students are in relation to getting everyone back on track.

None of us know how the situation will unfold as the year progresses. What we do need to do is to have a plan in place so that we can continue to deliver learning, under several different scenarios. We are continuing to develop the use of Google Classroom as the vehicle for students to carry on learning from home if for any reason they are unable to come to school. Classes across the school are being given access codes to their Google Classrooms so that there will be minimal delay in any child being able to access lesson resources.

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We are always proud of what our students achieve but I just wanted to mention one incredibly talented young athlete. During lockdown, Jake Wilson worked on an intensive training plan set for him by his coach. At the start of September Jake became the UK's fastest under 15 runner of all time over 5km. Jake completed the Kingsley 5km race in a remarkable time of 15:02 to beat the previous record set 15 years ago by 24 seconds.

His record breaking run followed his success earlier in the same week where he completed a 3000m race in 8:45.77. This pace is equivalent to running at well under 5 minutes a mile. Jake is now number one in the country in 2020 for his age group at the 3000m distance. Two incredible achievements from this athlete. His success is a lesson for all of us in being focused, resilient and determined as well as recognising the hard work it takes to be the best version of ourselves. One to watch out for in future Olympic games!

Looking ahead

The year ahead is going to be an interesting one and the challenges are yet to be fully understood but we need to be really clear that getting our students learning back on track and keeping them safe in the process will be our driving force. We will be sharing our thoughts in the weeks ahead about how we will approach keeping in touch with you and keeping you up to date with individual student's progress given that we won't be able to run a normal programme of year group parents evenings. It's a new school year and the opportunity to refocus how we do things.

Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Head Teacher



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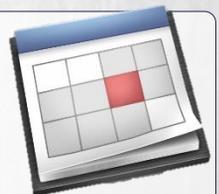


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Changes in Science



We are excited to be able to inform you of some upcoming changes to the Science timetable at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School.

Since the original timetable was created, extra capacity has been added to the department. This means that we can now offer a timetable for our learners where the specialist teaching in the 3 subjects areas: Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be evenly split. At Key Stage 3, teacher splits have been minimised allowing for more consistency for all students.

With the exception of a small number of Sixth Form lessons, none of the lesson times will change. However, staffing and rooming will be adjusted for all students from 21st September.

In students' first science lesson of the week commencing 21st September, students will be given all information about who their teachers will be and where lessons will take place. I would appreciate it if students could bring all science books to their first science lesson of the week where staff will ensure students are aware of staffing and location of lessons. Their updated timetables will also be available electronically following this important first update to the students in their first science lesson next week.

We are confident that the long term benefits of this change will far outweigh any temporary disruption this may cause and we thank you for your support in this.

Dr Tony Johnson, Director of Science.



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Face Mask Reminder

Please remember, all students must wear a face mask whilst transitioning around school. These can be purchased from our uniform providers, or elsewhere provided they are made from a plain blue fabric. If a student forgets or loses their mask, HCCS can provide a disposable mask which will be charged at £1.00 per mask..

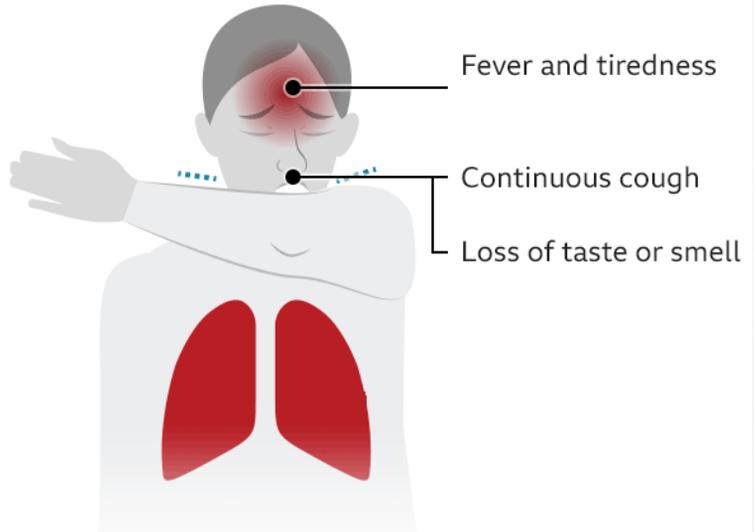


Masks are reusable and need simple cleaning each day. Staff will be proactive in ensuring that all students wear a face covering whilst moving inside the school buildings. Advice about the safe wearing of masks can be found by [clicking here](#). Please also view [this video](#) from the UK Government regarding **Hands. Face. Space**.

Should I Send My Child to School?

Over the past two weeks we have had a high number of parents contact us for advice about sending their child to school when feeling unwell. Thank you to all those parents who kept their child at home whilst considering what to do next.

If your child or any member of your household has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:



- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Keep them at home and contact school by email to Novc19@hccs.info and seek further advice from NHS 119

If your child doesn't have any of these symptoms please check the advice of the NHS by following this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If in doubt please contact us on Novc19@hccs.info



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Key Stage 3 Computing

Over the past fortnight Year 7 have been learning about some of the online platforms we use at school, this includes the main apps in Google Suite for Education including: *Gmail, Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Drive*, all of which can be accessed once logged into Google by clicking on the 9 dots (Google Waffle) in the top right hand corner.



Over the next few weeks students will be getting 'Class Codes' so they can add themselves into subject classrooms.



My Child At School & Student Portal Issues?

Are you having issues with My Child At School or the Student Portal App displaying information?

The most common issue fix that we are finding when things aren't displaying properly are to uninstall and then reinstall the app.

HCCS Lunch Menu

21st September 2020

We are currently providing a reduced menu and all items will be served in disposable packaging.

Items are now available to purchase individually with a full range of drinks / fruit / cakes or £3 meal deals can still be purchased - 1 main / 1 carton water / 1 cookie

Food at break time is available to Y7-11 and 1 other year group each day. (p.10/77/WB/7H/9/71/10)

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Hot Pasta Pot Fusilli pasta in a homemade tomato & basil sauce | Hot Pasta Pot Fusilli pasta in a homemade tomato & basil sauce | Hot Pasta Pot Fusilli pasta in a homemade tomato & basil sauce | Hot Pasta Pot Fusilli pasta in a homemade tomato & basil sauce | Hot Pasta Pot Fusilli pasta in a homemade tomato & basil sauce |
| Macaroni cheese pot | Chilli & rice pot | Chicken Jalfrezi with naan bread | Pasta Bolognese pot | Pepperoni Pizza slice |
| Garlic bread | | | Garlic bread | |
| Ham & Cheese or Cheese & tomato Panini | Meatball sub | Chicken Burger Or Quorn burger served in a flouried bun | Jumbo Sausage served in a Sub roll | Jumbo fish finger served in soft bread roll |

A choice of sandwiches, baguettes, wraps, salad boxes, pasta pots, cheese and biscuits and fruit pots are also available daily.

Gluten free and special diets can be catered for or request. Please see the catering manager if you have any food allergies or intolerances.

independents by sodexo

HCCS Lunch Menu

Click the image to see this weeks lunch menu or [click here](#) to view weekly updates via the website.

[Click here](#) for information regarding issues that we have had with Scopay at the beginning of term and information on the steps that have been taken to resolve these issues.

Lisa Gordon
Catering Manager




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Year 7 Bookbuzz

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School believes reading is a vital part of our students' continued development.

To promote this, the school gives each year 7 student a book for them to own and enjoy. They can choose from one of 17 titles with something available for everyone.

Below is a link to a video where authors talk briefly about their book which forms part of this selection. We will be going through the books in a library lesson. However, it would be really helpful if you could take some time to discuss the books with your child and help them to make their choice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqiQSlgyrE&feature=youtu.be>

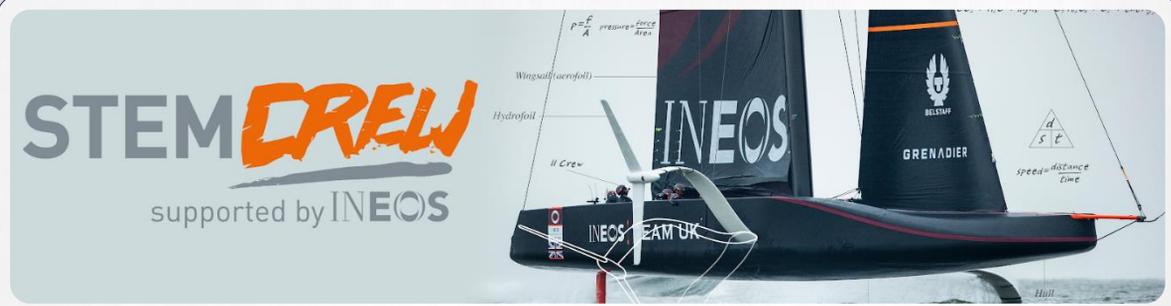




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STEM CREW Competition Results

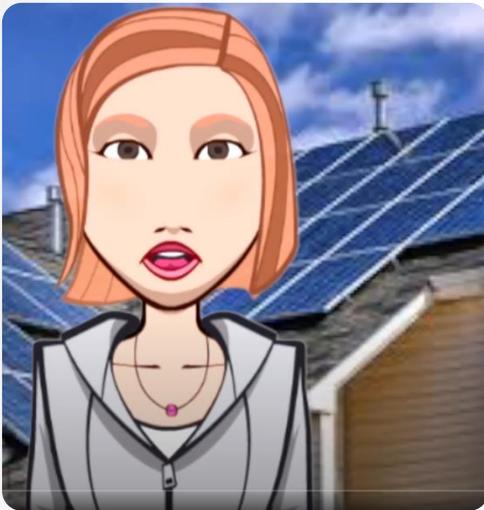
Most Creative Presentation

Heath from Bay House School for his hand written and hand-drawn information and images of Britannia. Heath's enthusiasm clearly showed through in his work and we were impressed with his historical knowledge of the America's Cup.

Best Technical Knowledge

George, Merchant Taylors School.

We were very impressed with how George had applied the knowledge he learned from STEM Crew to the F1 sporting context to produce an informative and engaging Prezi presentation.



Best use of INEOS TEAM UK examples

Ameila and Sophia from Monmouth School for Girls.

A very informative presentation, with the added bonus of an interview with Freddie Carr. Well done girls, we commend your initiative in securing an interview with one of the INEOS TEAM UK sailors.

Best in Year Group (Overall)

The standout entry of the whole competition was delivered by Finley, Maddie, Milly and Tabitha of Holmes Chapel Comprehensive school. Their entry, a video using avatars to impart information, was not only very creative and beautifully produced, but it was also highly informative and they had an excellent level of knowledge and had clearly used STEM Crew as a learning tool.

Brooklands Hockey Club Trials

This weekend saw both Max Harrison and George Clewlow attend trials at Brooklands Hockey Club, to attempt to be selected for the North of England Squad. 2 or only 8 Cheshire Hockey players chosen, both have to undergo 6 hours of rigorous trials in order to try to secure their place. Final trials are 20th September. Good luck to both boys.



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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F