



Congleton High School
Together in the Pursuit of Excellence

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Dear Families

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the end of an incredibly busy and productive half term. It really has been a privilege getting to know the school community. I have very much enjoyed meeting families at each of our information evenings. It was also wonderful to host over 1300 visitors at our recent Open Evenings for Year 6 & Year 11. Through the term I have observed a calm, purposeful and happy community really embrace their opportunity to develop as scholars. The half term has finished with some lovely recognition assemblies; 'Breakfast with the Head' is my favourite time of the week as I have the honour of spending time with fantastic curious, courageous and ambitious students. It has also been incredibly rewarding to work with students who have overcome challenges, who are actively making better choices, who are polite, well-mannered and focused on making a positive difference. I really do believe we are building something really special at Congleton High School and I must thank families, students and staff for all your hard work and support of the school.

This term has seen the implementation of our new Humanities teaching block and most recently the new canteen. Both these areas have really enhanced the provision at Congleton High School. Next half term I will be consulting on the school day for Sept 2024 as we seek to come in line with the DfE requirement for schools to be open 32.5 hours per week by Sept 2024. We are currently 10 minutes per day away from this expectation so a small tweak to our day is required for next academic year.

Our students have benefited from trips off site including a fantastic Year 8 trip to Jodrell Bank. Year 11 engaged in mock interviews recently which was a fantastic experience for them as we prepare them for life beyond the classroom. Our sports team have been heroic on the playing fields with netball and football teams enjoying fantastic success not least the hat-trick of titles at the Manchester Cup two weeks ago. It has also been wonderful to see so many students immersing themselves in the enrichment opportunities at the school – over 100 students per week are engaging in our performing arts events. There really is something for everyone at CHS – if your child has not yet got involved in something please encourage them to do so.

I must acknowledge the fantastic charity work that has begun with our Sixth Form team raising over £350 in support of mental health awareness. We have tried to capture the key events and achievements of the half term in our new look digital newsletter. Please click the link to enjoy reading about our amazing community: <https://sway.office.com/78PGHVFcQQNzgku4>

It has also been a busy start to the year working with our Governing Body with some key policies updated and ratified. I have summarised the main changes to these policies below:

Policy amendments ratified by Governors:

1. **Uniform and presentation policy**- changes to hair styles and colours, piercings, make up, eyebrows, clarification on the Halo Code and finally the internal process when expectations are not met.
2. **RBFL policy (Recognition and behaviour for learning)** - changes to reflect new Achievement Points system, use of our RESET room and disposal of confiscated vapes.

3. **Attendance policy** - There is a significant drive from The Government on attendance of children in schools. We have updated our policy to reflect the latest guidance which includes: supportive welfare visits from our own Family Support Worker (Mrs Roach) even when reason for absence is known, strategies to improve attendance, involvement of the attendance team at Cheshire East (our key worker is Elisha Wollaston), fines for holidays during term time, our 'Lates' procedure and also support that can be offered by the school to work in partnership with families. Our new attendance officer is Natalie Johnson who will be starting at CHS on 30.10.23.

A reminder that we return on **Monday October the 30th** to all students. Our school day begins at 8.40am – huge thanks to families who are dropping students off at school in a timely fashion. This supports us with a sharp start and maximises learning time.

I would also like to give you an early 'heads up' on a key event at school on the 10th November. As part of our respect for the fallen on remembrance day we are allowing students to wear their service uniform to school e.g cadets, scouts, guides etc on Friday the 10th November.

Next term will bring many exciting opportunities, not least for our Year 11 Year 13 students who will undertake their first set of practice exams. On the 2nd November we are running a workshop session to demonstrate effective revision session for Year 11 and Year 13, I do hope you can attend. Our Year 9 students will start to think about the options process as we continue our journey to excellence together.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that as part of our work to strengthen our school community after half term we will be working directly with students and staff to bring together our thinking around the House system. We see this as an exciting way to strengthen relationships, to recognise and value student and staff contribution and to live and breathe our vision and values.

It really has been a fantastic start to the year, my thanks once again for all the hard work of students, staff and families. I hope you can enjoy a restful, safe and happy break and we look forward to seeing you on the 30th October. If you need any support through the half term, please use the contact numbers at the end of this letter.

Kind regards



Heidi Thurland
Headteacher