

Wishing all our families a warm welcome to Congleton High School

'Together in the Pursuit of Excellence'



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Welcome letter from the Head

Dear families and students,

I would like to extend to you a warm welcome to Congleton High School. As the new Headteacher, I am incredibly excited to start Congleton High School at the same time as you! I know you may be a little nervous at such a big step, but I hope you are also curious and excited about the fantastic and empowering journey ahead of you. I, and all the brilliant staff at Congleton High School, will do everything we can to settle those butterflies, quickly develop your confidence, build relationships and create amazing memories and achievements that last a lifetime.

At Congleton High School, we are a community that is 'together in the pursuit of excellence' in conduct, learning and leadership. Our promise to families is that students are supported and encouraged to be scholars who are ambitious, curious and courageous in their determination to excel. They are polite, respectful, kind, well presented citizens who are ready to learn and who contribute positively to our community.

Excellence in learning is at the heart of everything we do. There is an unwavering, uncompromising focus and determination from staff, governors, trustees and our families, that all students leave Congleton High School equipped for our rapidly changing, highly competitive and exciting world.

We work closely with our community to ensure students attend school fully, embrace opportunities and overcome challenges. We listen actively and we learn together, ensuring our students have access to a rich and varied set of opportunities and experiences, to develop their character and prepare them for future success and happiness as young adults who excel in making a positive difference to their community.

Congleton High School offers a seven-year journey in pursuit of excellence, as many of our students choose to stay with us into our successful and dynamic Sixth Form, and we are delighted that you have chosen to begin that journey with us. We are privileged with the unique opportunity of shaping the next generation of entrepreneurs, innovators, artists, athletes, actors, authors, politicians, doctors, teachers, scientists – brilliant young minds and brilliant young people.

We hope you enjoy meeting staff and students tonight and that, by the time you leave, you already feel part of the Congleton High School family.

Looking forward to learning with you!

Warmest regards,

Heidi Thurland
Headteacher

"We feel safe in school"

"The food is really good,
with lots of variety!"

"If you ever forget
something the people at
Student Reception will
help. They're really kind,
and always happy if you're
nice to them."

"I play for the football
team and love to play
against other schools"

"I love the school
trips"

"My form tutor really
helped me when I was
upset about getting
lost"

Quote from Year 7 and Year 12 students

"There's always
someone you can call to
ask for help"

"Some people can be
unkind, but teachers
always sort it out"

"I got lost on the first
day but after that I
was fine"

"The Sixth Form
staff really helped me
with my university
application"

"The teachers are
great and want me to
do well"

"I love the guest
speakers we have for
assemblies"

"I used to be really
forgetful but my 6th
Form buddy helped me
to get better"

"I love seeing my friends
at break and lunch"

Meet the Staff

Key Staff Contacts		
Deputy Headteacher/Safeguarding Lead	Mrs L Darling ldarling@congletonhigh.com	
Student Services Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Linda Franks lfranks@congletonhigh.com	
Assistant Headteacher Guidance Y7-11	Mr E Tyrrell etyrrell@congletonhigh.com	
Year 7 Guidance Leader	Mr J Davis jdavis@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7AB	Mr A Barrass abarrass@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7ALA	Miss A Laverne alaverne@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7CMJ	Mrs C Mortimer-Jones cmortimerjones@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7HV	Mrs H Vale hvale@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7JBR	Mr J Brassington jbrassington@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7KJM	Mrs K Jackson-Moss kjm@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7KCH	Miss K Chetta kchetta@congletonhigh.com	
Tutor 7TOB	Mr T O'Brien tobrien@congletonhigh.com	

Preparing for a successful start at CHS

Moving from primary to secondary school is an exciting and significant event in the life of your child. When a child starts at secondary school, they are expected to cope with a whole variety of new experiences and changes, many of which demand skills and abilities that they have not had to use before. These skills do not spontaneously develop before they begin secondary school; like reading and writing, they have to be taught and children need support to learn them.

So, what is going to be different about secondary school?

Students will be part of a much bigger community. Students will have to be more independent and take responsibility for themselves and their belongings

- Students often have to travel further – some making their own way to and from school and some travelling by school bus
- They will have to wear a full school uniform and learn a new set of rules
- Students will often be taught by twelve different teachers and they will have to get to know a whole range of adults in different roles within the school
- The school site is much bigger and students will have to learn how to find their way round and get used to moving from one classroom to another each hour
- Students follow a two-week timetable and students are responsible for ensuring they have correct books and equipment for each lesson

How can you help as a parent/carer. Some practical tips...

- Agree a routine for the mornings and after school. For example, decide whether they are going to pack their bag the night before or in the morning
- Work out what time they will need to get up in the mornings so they have time for breakfast and will leave enough time to get to school
- Ensure your child leaves for school dressed smartly in the correct uniform (please make sure all items of uniform and PE kit are labelled). Ties get lost most frequently so please make sure they are clearly named
- It is a good idea to have your child's timetable displayed somewhere in the house and to colour-code certain lessons such as PE when kit will be required
- Be sure your child is clear about what time they are expected to be home and what to do if they are held up for any reason

Being prepared for school is crucial for academic success. It allows students to stay organised, manage time efficiently, and reduce stress. Preparedness enables students to actively engage in class, participate in discussions and complete assignments on time. It fosters a positive learning environment and sets the foundation for future accomplishments.

In order to help our incoming students with their own preparation, we will be providing an initial set of equipment for each of them. At the start of September, all new Year 7 students will receive their own pencil case, containing a black pen, green pen, pencil, eraser, and a clear 30cm ruler.

Keeping you informed – Communication

Getting the balance right

Parents are often concerned about getting the balance right between becoming the 'over-anxious' parent who is always on the phone to school and letting things go on too long because they don't want to interfere. We feel this situation is made much easier if you keep talking to your child about how things are going at school.

You know your child best, and if any aspect of school life is persistently concerning them it is probably best to make contact with school, even if in the first instance this is just to alert their Tutor to the situation.

If there is a need to contact school, we recommend that you initially contact your child's Tutor, ideally via e-mail. You'll receive an answer within 72 hours, and we expect all communication to be respectful. If they are unable to resolve the situation, they will refer it to the Year 7 Guidance Team Leader.

We will be inviting you to a Year 7 Information Evening and Meet the Tutor Evening in October.

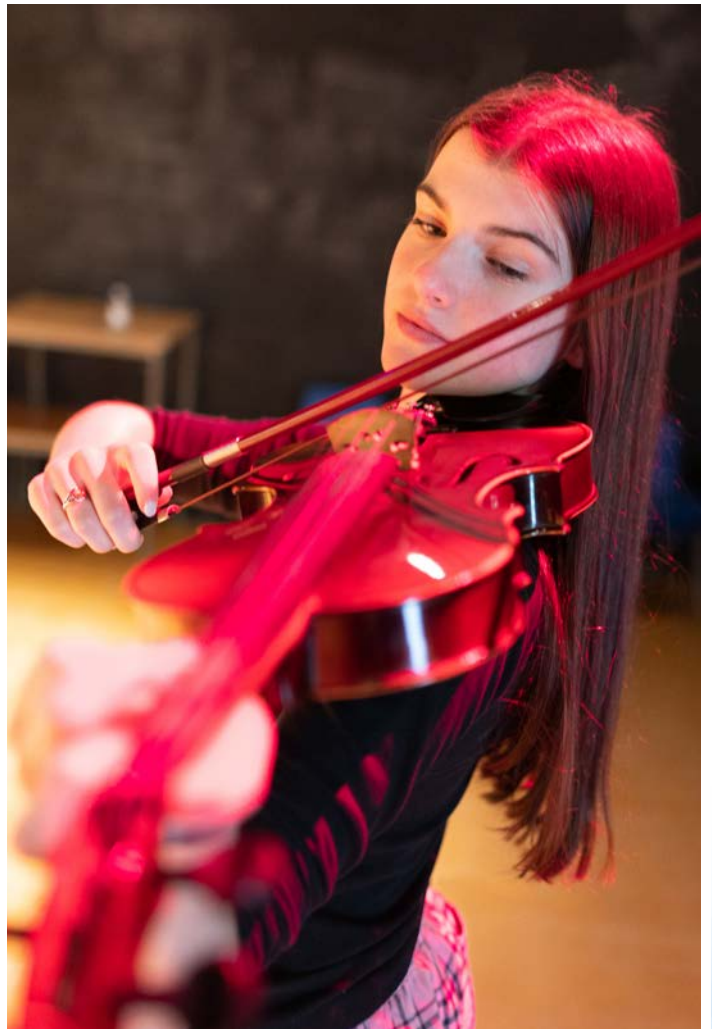
We appreciate that there may be many other questions you have throughout the year and other information that you need to know. With this in mind, we have set aside a 'Parents and Carers Area' on our website, which you can access via the link at the top of the homepage at www.congletonhigh.com. This area is the focal point for all of the information and resources we think you might need during your child's time at CHS. From here you can make online payments and find out about extracurricular clubs. You will also find information such as term dates, timings of the school day and resources to help you support your child's learning.

We hope that you can find the information you are looking for. If not, please contact the school and we will do our best to help.

As you can imagine, there is a great deal going on in a school the size of CHS – drama productions, sports events, concerts, educational visits, Progress Evenings and much more besides. There are many events to which we would like to invite you and numerous activities which may interest your child. You can make sure you are kept up-to-date with forthcoming events and activities in the following ways:

- The calendar on our website (www.congletonhigh.com) will give you the dates of Progress Evenings, school events, holiday dates etc. You can also subscribe to this calendar so that the dates will all appear in your own electronic diary.
- Our half-termly newsletter has a wealth of information about what is happening in school, student achievements and announcements. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please ensure we have your up-to-date e-mail address or alternatively you can download the newsletter from our website (www.congletonhigh.com).
- If you have a Twitter account, you can follow us @congletonHS for news, information and events.
- Our Facebook account can be accessed at: <https://tinyurl.com/45ffarmt>
- Finally, you can find us on Instagram at [congletonhs](https://www.instagram.com/congletonhs).
- In the rare event of school closure due to severe weather conditions, or for other urgent announcements, parents will be informed via an announcement on the front page of the school website.

We love to celebrate the amazing achievements of our students in their lives outside of CHS. Please email photos and details to kkenyon@congletonhigh.com. If your child has raised money for charity, does voluntary work, is a national clay pigeon shooter, plays football for England or has helped someone in your community, LET US KNOW!



School Transport

One of the concerns of families with children who live in outlying areas and are unable to walk to school is the issue of transport and whether there will be a bus service from near their home to school. Cheshire East Council operates five services bringing children to and from CHS and there are also a number of commercial bus routes providing services from Congleton and surrounding areas. Full details can be found by downloading the bus services and timetables information below.

Free transport to the school is provided by Cheshire East Council Transport Coordination for all students up to the age of 16 who live in the catchment area and are more than three miles away from school. Bus passes are issued by the Local Authority. Please visit Cheshire East Council Transport Coordination for more information.

You can access information about school buses via our website by clicking on:



Catering

Congleton High School operates an online payment system which enables parents to pay for school meals, visits and other activities using the Internet. Families are provided with login details and a unique online link code when students start at the school.

The school refectory operates a cashless catering system and all students can top up their available funds as required. Alternatively, families can top up their accounts electronically.

If you have any queries about online payments, please contact Mrs Triner in the Finance Office by email: kttriner@congletonhigh.com or via the School Office telephone number: 01260 730123.

Menus and price lists for our school refectory can be accessed here:



Allergy awareness

CHS recognises that although most food intolerances produce symptoms that are uncomfortable, some people can suffer a severe food allergy with more serious consequences and in some instances these may even be life threatening. CHS is committed to pupil safety and has implemented procedures to reduce the risk of children having allergy related events while in our care. We follow Natasha's Law regarding food allergen labelling and can provide detailed ingredients upon request.

Congleton High School Promise: 'Together in the Pursuit of Excellence'



Congleton High School Students Are Scholars Who:	Congleton High School Staff:	Congleton High School Families:
Curious		
Ask lots of questions & thirst for knowledge. They recognise learning is continuous and there is always more to learn! They are highly motivated to increase their knowledge	Know their students really well - this allows them to provide excellent learning opportunities and pastoral care	Engage with key information shared by the school to support their child's learning
Ponder 'The Big Ideas' and are prepared to take risks – not afraid to make mistakes!	Listen actively, communicate effectively, capturing their students' attention and interest	
Are active listeners - focused on learning opportunities, acting on constructive feedback in order to improve knowledge and skills	Read widely, engage in professional learning, seek to improve and to grow as lifelong learners	Seek to understand learning approaches and expectations through constructive discussion
Read fluently and widely broadening views, vocabulary and perspectives		
Ambitious		
Have high standards and expectations for self – they strive for excellence in conduct and learning	Have high standards and expectations for self and others, striving for excellence in learning at all times	Share the high expectations of the school for appearance, attendance, conduct and learning
Are immaculately dressed – take pride in their appearance	Seek to be inspirational role models	
Are prepared and well organised – have fantastic habits that ensure they are punctual, equipped and ready to learn	Plan carefully, ensuring that students are challenged, that they think hard. Staff have an uncompromising belief in their students' ability to excel	
Courageous		
Think hard and do not give up! Embrace challenge, make mistakes, find solutions. Demonstrate the ability to work independently.	Plan and implement a rich and broad curriculum offer that develops character, knowledge and skills through a diverse range of opportunities	Work with the school positively, recognising we all want the very best for the children in our care. Promote kindness and respect within our community
Set goals & strive for excellence. Expect and strive to work hard and be resilient – keep coming back to a problem until it is solved		
Listen and act kindly, safely and respectfully, taking responsibility for their choices and actions.	Ensure that students are encouraged to think deeply about their learning. Allow them to 'fail well' using mistakes within the process of learning, building student independence and resilience.	Support their child in relation to creating an effective learning environment at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking an interest in homework, encourage good study habits• Encourage reading at home• Take care with screen time/ mobile phone use• Provide structure and routine e.g. bed time, habits for organisation, time keeping
Recognise and value the impact they have on the community and the importance of making a positive contribution		
Offer views appropriately; we take account of and listen to the views of others; we are respectful and tolerant of difference; we build good relationships with each other and seek support to overcome difficult situations if they arise.		
Value being part of our ambitious school community – we are proud to excel!		

Staying safe@CHS

Please take a few moments to read this information so we can keep our school community safe:

1. We expect everyone to behave in a calm, safe and kind way. This includes written communication.
2. Cars – please drive slowly through the school gates, drop off in the marked area and then continue to follow the one-way system.
3. Please report to main reception if you need to collect your child or meet with a member of staff.
4. Please be considerate to our neighbours and do not park on the main road (Box Lane) as this encourages children to run across a very busy road without using the crossing.

There is a great deal of information on e-safety, safeguarding and student welfare support on our school website. Scan the following QR codes for more information:

Parents - e-safety	Student Welfare
	

CHS Learning Culture

Learning Behaviour

Our vision is to inspire scholarly excellence in all students.

We work as a community to provide support, care and guidance that enables students to excel. Our values of curiosity, courage, and ambition shape confident, happy learners who make a valuable contribution to society.




We expect our students to ask lots of questions and demonstrate a thirst for knowledge, to recognise learning is continuous and there is always more to learn! CHS students should be highly motivated and have high standards and expectations for themselves; they strive for excellence in conduct and learning.

CHS students are prepared and well organised, have fantastic habits that ensure they are punctual, equipped and ready to learn. They are expected to be immaculately dressed and take pride in their appearance.

All of our scholars are expected to listen and act kindly, safely and respectfully, taking responsibility for their choices and actions. We want all students to think hard and not give up, embrace challenge, make mistakes, find solutions and demonstrate the ability to work independently.

There is a clear process of Recognition and Sanctions in order to promote scholarly excellence. Our rules are clear to everyone in our community, and it is vital that students and families understand and accept where our boundaries lie. We are unapologetic about our high expectations and know that this is one of the reasons you have selected CHS for your child. The Recognition and Behaviour for Learning (RBFL) policy promotes and recognises excellent learning behaviour and deals with unacceptable behaviour in a series of graduated steps. The policy reflects the fact that our community is diverse and that some children face a tapestry of needs and challenges. As a result, our policy and systems are based on inclusion, common sense and mutual respect.

The following QR codes provide more information, and include the RBFL policy:

Attendance and Absence	Attendance and Punctuality A CHS Guide for Parents
	
Recognition and Behaviour for Learning Policy (RBFL)	
	

Homework

CHS uses Satchel:one to set all homework tasks. Satchel:one is a simple online homework calendar showing details of homework that is set by class teachers, deadlines and attachments to help support students with their work. It can be accessed via an app that students and parents can download onto an electronic device, such as a smartphone or tablet, or via the school homework calendar which can be found on the school website. You will receive log-in details in September and an information booklet for Satchel:one will be available on the 'Transition' section of the school website.

Homework and other ways to help...

- Help your child to organise their living space so that they have a place for everything to do with school. It is helpful if children have access to a table or desk with good light in order to complete their extended learning tasks.
- Encourage children to empty their bag each night and get them to glue any loose sheets into their books. Emptying bags each night should ensure that you see any letters from the school.
- Agree a routine for completing extended learning tasks. A good time for completing work is after a short break when children come home from school.
- In Year 7, students are expected to have two or three tasks to do each night which should last between 20 and 30 minutes each.
- Take an interest in your child's work. Look in their books and praise them when positive comments have been made by teachers. Check they have started extended learning tasks with a date and title.

School Uniform

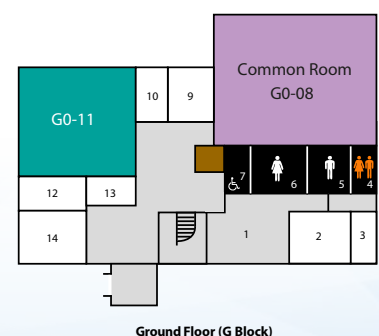
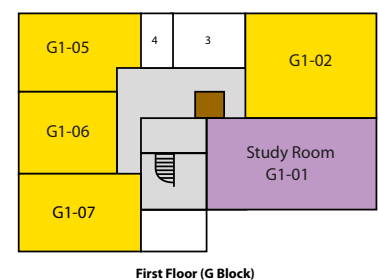
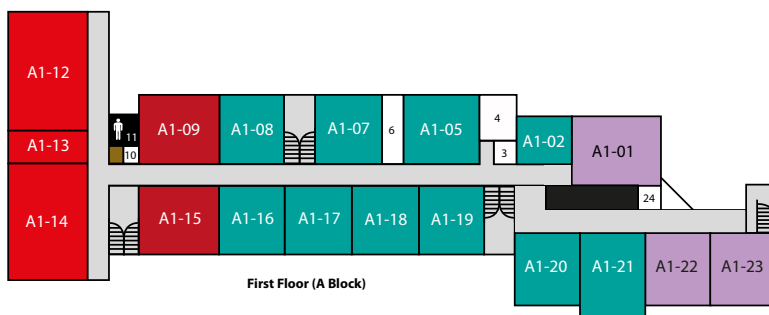
School uniforms play a significant role in the educational environment. They promote equality among students, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds. Uniforms foster a sense of belonging, create a positive learning atmosphere and minimize distractions related to fashion or appearance. Moreover, they instil discipline, enhance school pride, and prepare students for future professional dress codes.

The uniform policy for CHS can be downloaded from the following QR code:



Map of the Main School Buildings

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Design & Technology | Physical Education | General |
| ICT | First Aid Room | Lift |
| Modern Foreign Languages | Male/Boys Changing/Toilets | Female/Girls Changing/Toilets |
| XL | Disabled Toilets | Admin / Office / Storeroom |
| Social Sciences | Meeting Room | |
| Performing Arts | | |
| Art | | |
| English | | |
| Mathematics | | |
| Humanities | | |
| Science | | |



- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Design & Technology | Performing Arts | |
| Physical Education | Art | General |
| ICT | English | |
| Modern Foreign Languages | Mathematics | |
| XL | Humanities | |
| Social Sciences | Science | |

Enrichment examples – getting involved at CHS

We are incredibly proud that our staff go ‘above and beyond’ to provide amazing opportunities for all students in addition to our rich curriculum offer.

Full details can be found on our website:



At CHS we pride ourselves on the diversity of activities and extra-curricular support for our students. The following is a taste of what we have to offer:

Trampolining • Basketball • Rounders Club and Tournaments • Rugby • Cricket
Creative Writing Club • English Workshop • All Years Media Club
Engineering Coursework Support • Cooking Club
Manufacturing Club • Design and Technology Coursework Catch Up
Young Fashion Designer UK Competition • Food Coursework Support
Technology Coursework Support • Guitar Club • Lower School Dance Troupe • Ukulele Club
Drums Ensemble • Band/Orchestra Session



And finally...

We are delighted that you have chosen Congleton High School for this important stage in your child's education and we look forward to helping them to thrive as they embark on their exciting, seven-year journey towards adulthood.



'Our vision is to inspire *scholarly excellence* in all students.

We work as a community to provide support, care and guidance that enables students to excel.
Our values of *curiosity*, *courage* and *ambition* shape confident, happy learners who make a valuable contribution to society.'