

# Newsletter



Issue 31: January to February 2022

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**Spreading positivity across the Trust** *turn to page 8*

That I have  
orange hair ~~and~~  
~~and~~ and I like  
my Singing Voice



I like my eyes  
and my friends



# Welcome

to our February Newsletter. The last seven weeks seem to have gone remarkably quickly again despite the ongoing frustrations associated with Covid. With the added optimism of spring just around the corner, we have remained determined to find ways around all the obstacles to ensure that we can continue to deliver the CHS Promise, adding to purposeful classroom learning with a whole variety of valuable enrichment opportunities.

I want to congratulate our students for continuing to successfully navigate this strange new world, effortlessly and with very little complaint, adapting to the constantly changing circumstances. I would also like to thank my colleagues for working so hard to provide the best possible teaching and support for students and ensuring that school looks and feels as normal as possible.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached their recent mock exams with a positive and determined attitude and are now working towards their summer exams knowing a little bit more about what help and support the exams boards have confirmed will be given to them.

Once again you will see in this newsletter many examples of how students are enjoying and engaging with the learning opportunities offered both in the classroom and beyond. With so much missing over the last few years, it is great to see things returning to normal and students again able to enjoy the rich tapestry of CHS life.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent and Carer survey recently. I really value your constructive feedback and appreciate the many positive comments about the work we are doing at the school as well as the suggested improvements, which will help us to identify further areas to develop as we move forward.

Our school motto, Achieving Success Together, has been referred to many times this term and I am very proud of the teamwork I see every day. Whether that is students working with their peers, staff supporting students, or parents and carers sharing their constructive feedback with us, it is this strong, supportive community that makes our school so special and something of which we can all be rightfully proud.

I hope that all of our families are able to spend some quality time together next week and recharge the batteries ready for our next half term.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in to school on Monday 28th February.

**Mr Barlow**  
Headteacher



## Wellbeing matters at CHS

It was Children's Mental Health Week in February, an important week in any year but one that has grown considerably in significance as a result of Covid. We are continuing to work with students and their families, finding ways to support them, not just during Children's Mental Health Week, but all year round.

Many of the following pages are dedicated to the work that we do within our school community to keep the mental health and wellbeing of students and staff as a top priority. We offer a range of group and one-to-one support, activities and clubs within school and also liaise with external professional providers to enable us to offer the most appropriate level of support.

Our Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy has been updated and can be found in the School Policy Documents page in the About Us section of our website:

[https://www.congletonhigh.com/uploads/document/2\\_166\\_semh-policy-jan-22.pdf](https://www.congletonhigh.com/uploads/document/2_166_semh-policy-jan-22.pdf)



# A group effort

Our Wellbeing Group has met regularly since December and is making a real difference to the extensive support that is already offered at CHS.

As a result of their work, we have already doubled our SWaNS CIC counselling appointments, planned intervention specifically around boys and also introduced SWaNS drop-in sessions.

We have also increased the amount of information available to support parents and carers on our Student Welfare page in the parent/ carer area of our website <https://www.congletonhigh.com/205/student-welfare>

The Wellbeing Group has big plans to further improve support offered at CHS and also on how we can develop the resilience of students and help everyone to better manage their wellbeing.

If you would like further information about SWaNS counselling, please speak with Mrs Darling



## My CWA opportunity

We have an opportunity for our students to receive support from My CWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) around Healthy Relationships. We will provide further information on this opportunity in early March.

The intervention will be delivered at year group level initially and then via a series of bespoke intervention groups.



## Self harm support

We are working closely with Papyrus, a charity working to help prevent young suicide, to provide further training for our staff and also to support students around the area of self-harm.

We plan to deliver sessions for parents and carers after the half-term break so that we are able to work together more effectively to support students with their mental health.

For more information on the charity, visit their website here: [www.papyrus-uk.org/](http://www.papyrus-uk.org/)



## Drawing and talking

We have introduced group 'Drawing and Talking' sessions for a selection of Key Stage 3 and 4 students. Drawing and Talking is a therapeutic intervention designed to support students and young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

The purpose of this approach is to help the students:

- become more aware of the feeling states within them.
- develop some understanding of, and how to handle, their feelings.
- share their feelings with other students and recognise that other young people feel similarly.
- communicate their feelings and concerns with an adult.
- express their feelings symbolically through drawing or painting.



**Drawing  
and  
Talking**

Students are able to work in groups as well as in one-to-one sessions. The drawing process is guided in group work but students have free rein to draw whatever they feel like in their one-to-one sessions

We are trialling a 6-week course initially and hope that this will enable us to offer more students the opportunity to take part in further courses of up to 8 weeks in the future.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Drawing and Talking therapy can visit their website here: <https://drawingandtalking.com/>

## Great start

So many factors can affect our mental health, including the amount of sleep we get and what we eat.

Whilst we can only advise students on sleep, we are able to offer practical help with a free breakfast in our refectory for all students each morning before school.





# Achieve your own Everest

We were delighted to welcome Alex Staniforth in to school in January to speak with students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. Alex is a 26 year-old record-breaking adventurer, ultra-endurance athlete, international motivational speaker, author and mental health activist.

He was able to use his own experiences to talk with our students about overcoming adversity, something to which he is no stranger! Alex has suffered with mental health challenges since his teens, and has also endured bullying, a stammer and bulimia over the years.

His love of the outdoors has sent its fair share of adversity his way too, not least in the shape of the two biggest consecutive disasters in Mount Everest history, including the 2015 Nepal earthquake which trapped him on the mountain for two days!

Not one to let anything beat him, in July 2017 Alex became the fastest person ever to climb all 100 UK county tops and won the Pride of Britain Granada Reports Fundraiser of the Year 2017. In 2020 he also ran the National Three Peaks Challenge, covering 452 miles in just 9 days 12 hours!

Now Alex is committed to keep challenging his barriers whilst inspiring others to "achieve their own Everest". He co-founded 'Mind Over Mountains', a mental health charity, to help others restore mental well-being naturally through outdoor experiences.

During his presentation he used his stories of endurance to encourage students to recognise and draw on their own self-reliance and bounce-back ability. He reminded them that they oversee their own happiness and should not let others determine what they can and cannot do. "Overcoming setbacks is normal and part of life."

We would like to thank Alex for spending time with us and we hope that more students in the future will be able to be similarly inspired and motivated by his words.



## Healthy relationships

Our focus for Children's Mental Health Week in February was 'Healthy Relationships' and we used this theme throughout assemblies and our STOP Morning that week.

We had some great visiting speakers for our STOP Morning sessions with students in Years 7 to 11.



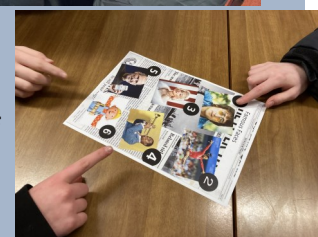
Emma, Adam, Lauren and Lily from Respect ME presented a number of different sessions for students, looking at relationships, consent and self esteem. Students were able to ask lots of questions about the issues of concern to them.



Jonathan Hughes from Cheshire East Adoption and Fostering Services and foster parent, Ken Talbot talked with students about the issue of adoption and fostering. Students took part in a quiz to identify some famous faces who had been adopted or in care in their early lives. They were also able to watch a film of poet and Chancellor of the University of Manchester, Lemn Sissay OBE, who was fostered at birth but then returned to the care system when he was twelve years old, where he remained until he was seventeen.



Throughout the sessions, students were able to hear from the speakers and share their own views around the subject of relationships. There were also lots of engaging activities to help students learn more about the concepts being discussed.



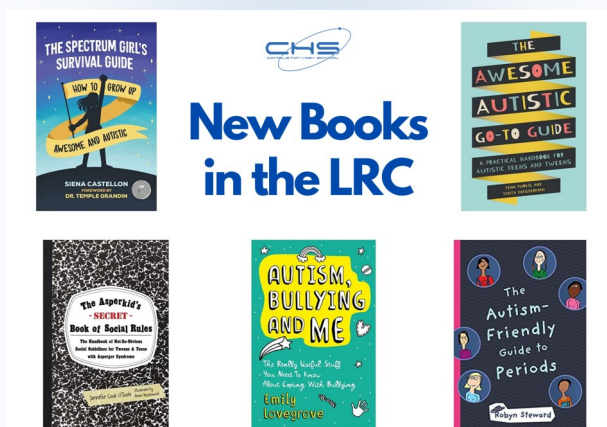


# New on the shelves

We have introduced a fantastic range of new books in to the LRC to support our students with additional needs.

Feel free to have a chat with Mrs Richardson, our librarian, if you need information on these or any other books on our shelves.

Let us know if you would like us to stock a book not currently in the LRC. We aim to be as inclusive as possible with the books and reference materials available to students.



# Community champions

We'd like to thank the Congleton branches of Morrisons and Co-op who have both provided donations for our wellbeing provision, The Hub.



The Morrisons team, led by Community Champion, Vicky Lawton, provided a range of food and drink products and vouchers and have now kindly agreed to provide vouchers each month to support the work we do in The Hub. With this month's vouchers, the Hub team plan to purchase a supply of emergency school socks and tights to help any student who may need a replacement pair for whatever reason.



The Coop team, headed by Community Champion, Kath Wilson, also supplied us with a range of food and drink products for students to enjoy whilst visiting The Hub.

Thank you, Morrisons and Co Op!

The Hub is open before school, at break and lunch for students who need extra support. Please see Ms Bates for information.



# On the right course



A group of eight of our Year 8 students are taking part in the 'Pillars' course with Cheshire Fire Service.

The programme is led by Youth Engagement staff and firefighters from various stations who are able to share their expertise and who are seen as strong, positive, and caring role models.

The course is aimed at young people aged from 12 to 16 and provides them with opportunities to shape, build and strengthen their futures. It is designed to help students to grow in confidence, develop resilience and improve their self-esteem.

Participants are encouraged to:

- embrace challenges
- share their ideas
- maximise their potential
- reflect on their experiences
- improve communication skills
- work effectively with each other

Students can select from a list of activities and themes that will best meet their needs and interests and will be issued with their own firefighter outfit to participate. They will be tackling controlled fires, running hoses and (hopefully) even rescuing Mr Morris from a car!

The course culminates with a graduation on 29<sup>th</sup> March, where the participating students will undertake a simulation that will test all that they have learned.

# Civil service

Our fantastic ACT CIVIL group delivered their third assembly for students in February. It was on HATE behaviours, unhealthy relationships and the support that is available.

Students also heard information about how issues are dealt with and what a PREVENT referral is <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>.

Well done and thank you to Ella, Isabella, Mr Holmes and Ms Jackson-Moss.

# Safer surfing

It was Safer Internet Day in February, with a focus on Safer Gaming. To help students enjoy gaming safely, we shared a short video from BBC Own It: <https://bbc.in/3owjDBK>.



To give parents and carers the information they need to help keep their children safe, we also have a range of Parent/Carer Guides in the eSafety section of our website: <https://bit.ly/3ozwUJT>.

## 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 [lynne.fitton@visyon.org.uk](mailto:lynne.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.

- 02/02/2022 - Parenting problems and difficult behaviors.
- 09/02/2022 - Securing the parent/child bond.
- 16/02/2022 - Understanding your child's anxiety.
- NO SESSION DURING HALF TERM WEEK
- 02/03/2022 - Using praise and rewards to build confidence.
- 09/03/2022 - Setting limits on anxious children's behavior.
- 16/03/2022 - Managing children's worry.
- 23/03/2022 - Managing difficult behavior.
- 30/03/2022 - Review and celebration.

Each session will start at 11:00 am and finish at 12:15 pm.



# Look out for the Safe Place logo

If young people are in the town centre or West Heath precinct and ever feel worried or threatened and need some adult help, they can now look out for a 'Safe Place' sticker in shop and business windows.

Following a recent incident of bullying in the town centre, some of the Congleton shops got together to set up a scheme to offer protection to anyone feeling threatened or intimidated. The shops will offer a safe public place to wait and, if necessary, can call a parent/carer or the police for the young person.

Shops and organisations already signed up to the scheme include Glamorous, Serenity Designs, M&Co, Congleton Information Centre and Congleton Library and more are expected to join.

Hopefully children will never be in a position to have to use this safety net, but please make sure that they have a look at the logo so they can recognise it easily if they do ever need it.

Congleton Town Council and Congleton Police are supporting this initiative. Each participating business has received the relevant guidelines from the Town Council, which have also been approved by Amy Heath PCSO. The businesses sign for the letter, stating their business name and contact number, they will then be added to a WhatsApp group to enable the members of the scheme to share any necessary information regarding ongoing incidents.



## Challenge and change

Our Sixth Form STOP Morning in February also focused on the theme of Healthy Relationships and students were interested to hear from members of Congleton Town Council's White Ribbon Group. They gave a talk to students in Years 12 and 13 to encourage them to challenge sexism and harassment and join the White Ribbon Campaign, which engages men and boys, in particular, to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that lead to male violence against women.

The talk included a number of polls and questions to stimulate discussion about the prevalence of sexism, harassment and abuse, and what can be done about it.

Many thanks to the White Ribbon Group for their stimulating presentation.



## Much appreciated



During our CHS Wellbeing Week last term, students and staff were encouraged to send each other Thank You notes, and this small gesture made such a difference to everyone, helping them to feel valued.

As part of the [2022 Pearson National Teaching Awards](https://www.teachingawards.com/the-2022-unsung-hero-award/), and featured on BBC's The One Show recently, students, parents and carers can send a Thank You e-card to one of their teachers/ support staff and also turn this card in to a nomination for an 'Unsung Hero Award'. This award

*"honours our everyday heroes and ensures these amazing staff working in schools and colleges are given the thanks they deserve".*

Anyone working in a school can be nominated - teachers, support staff including caretakers, playground helpers, school office staff and head teachers.

If you know an amazing member of school staff at CHS or any other school, you can send them a free thank you e-card and tick the box saying you would like to card to turn into a nomination on the Awards website here: <https://www.teachingawards.com/the-2022-unsung-hero-award/>

The Pearson team will then follow up the nomination with the recipient's school to progress the thank you into a fully fledged Pearson National Teaching Awards entry!

**The Deadline for entries is Friday 4th March 2022.**

# Recovery position

Curriculum Team Leader, Mrs Vale, is leading our Post Covid Lockdown Recovery Programme, and she has shared the progress to date of our 3 strands for Recovery: **Curriculum, Whole School and Social and Emotional**:

It has been another challenging time as the new variant has increased staff and pupil absence, particularly through the first two weeks of this spring term.

We are continuing to re-establish routines for students and, along with our basic expectations for lessons, are emphasising punctuality and being properly equipped for learning.

Many areas of school life are starting to get back to normal now. Year group assemblies 'in person' have returned to a normal pattern. After school activities are on offer across subjects as per pre Covid. Trips and extracurricular enhancements are being organised and students are keen to take up these opportunities. Students have engaged with our whole school charity fund raising and even the Year 1 Prom is in its planning stages!

In helping your own child to recover from lockdowns and Covid disruption, please consider how you can support them through:

- good attendance, which will help every student to recover lost learning as quickly as possible.
- being ready to learn through punctuality and having the correct equipment.
- taking part in extracurricular activities, including trips, revision or catch-up sessions offered by curriculum areas.
- encouraging reading for pleasure, which will improve both vocabulary and comprehension. A huge range of books are available in our LRC.

Posters around the school are encouraging a positive and active learning attitude and we will be developing this as we move forward into a period of growth, building on our current recovery.



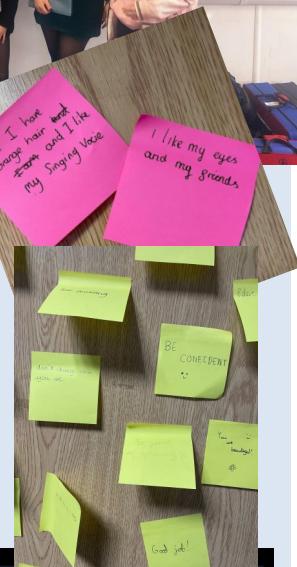
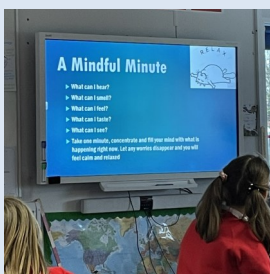
## Spreading positivity

At the end of January Miss Bates and three of our Body Positivity Group: Year 8 students Amelia C and Rosie R, and Year 12 student, Hannah B, visited Egerton Primary School in Knutsford to work with a group of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to promote body positivity and help them learn to love themselves and their differences.

The children took part in a range of activities, such as naming things they liked about themselves and telling their classmates what they liked and appreciated about each other. This is a really important activity as studies suggest that when we compliment other people, we are actually kinder to ourselves too.

The pupils also worked on feeling confident about their own uniqueness and learning how to show kindness to others and apply it to themselves. It was wonderful to read all the comments these young pupils had written and the way in which these exercises had encouraged them to focus on themselves and also help others to feel good.

The whole group worked really well together and the Egerton pupils now plan to visit CHS to take part in a workshop with more members of the Body Positivity Group. We look forward to welcoming them soon.





# A fair idea



In January, our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Sixth Form Progress Leader, Mr Donnelly, took a group of Year 13 students to the Stoke on Trent Jobs Fair. The event is a careers fair promoting and celebrating apprenticeships and attracts employers from various industries, all recruiting for local jobs.

This was a great way for the students to speak with potential employers face-to-face. There were also opportunities for CV support and to get tips on interview techniques and skills with a mini interview on the day!



Students were also able to apply for jobs, register for future jobs, find information on employers and ask lots of questions.

# Recognised and rewarded

A huge WELL DONE to Year 7 student, Cesare C (7AR), who has become the first student this year to achieve 100 Recognition Awards. So far Cesare has been awarded 109 R3s and 4 R4s.

Who will be next to join him in the 100 Club?



# Test results

There was some great A Level Computer Studies work going on across in our ICT curriculum area. With the submission deadline approaching rapidly, Year 13 have been finishing off their Programming Projects, which make up 20% of their final A Level grade.

Sophie made a game that is controlled using a dance mat and brought the mat into class to test the input functionality of moving from a keyboard input to the dance mat.

The Advanced Testing Team were soon on the case to help iron out any glitches! At least, that's what they told us they were doing!



# Buy, sell, donate

If you haven't already joined our Facebook group, **CHS Buy, Sell, Swap and Donate**, please feel free to sign up and list all your school related items - uniform, PE kit, required reading texts, textbooks etc.

We also welcome any donations of text books, revision guides or items of uniform you no longer need, please drop them in to Main or Student Reception, where they will be gratefully received and passed on.



# Free Office software

All CHS students have a **free** Office 365 account. Speak with Mr Davis or Mr Curry in our ICT Team for further details.

# Lunch spoiler alert!

Ms Figiel tasked her Year 10 Biologists with identifying the main blood vessels and the chambers of the heart as part of their Organisation topic, which focuses on just how amazing our bodies are!



We appreciate that dissection isn't nice or pretty, but it's definitely one of the best ways to learn and really helps students to get a better understanding of the theory.



# Fully equipped

We've been reminding students this term to make sure that they arrive at every lesson fully equipped, with a black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler and an approved calculator.



To make this even easier for students, in our LRC we stock a wide range of stationery supplies, including the eight piece maths set above, at prices far lower than most outlets!

## Stationery on sale in our LRC

Angle measure	65p
Clear pencil case	75p
Compass	60p
Dictionary/ thesaurus	£3.00
Eraser	15p
Glue stick	75p
Highlighter	75p
10 tab index dividers/ extra wide	45p/ 50p
Maths set in plastic case	£1.00
Pen (blue/ black/ green)	15p
Pencil/ art pencil	10p/ 20p
Pencil sharpener (plastic/ metal)	15p/ 20p
Plastic pockets	2p
Post-it notes (small/ large)	30p/ 50p
Protractor	20p
Ruler (15cm/ 30cm)	15p/ 25p
Scientific calculator	£8.35
Sticky tape	75p

# You talk, we listen

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent online Parent and Carer Survey.

We base our questions on those asked by Ofsted in their Parentview survey and also add a few qualitative questions of our own that enable people to give more specific answers in areas important to them.



We really do appreciate your feedback in whatever format, whether it is as a response to a formal questionnaire or comments and suggestions made directly to Mr Barlow or a member of the teaching or support staff team.

Along with asking parents and carers for feedback, we also survey students and staff for their thoughts on what works well, what doesn't and how we can improve. We listen to all the responses and use this information to help us make improvements where we can and ensure that we are continually **Achieving Success Together**.

## School pick up and drop off

Following our Safeguarding provision inspection by SCIES in January, where the traffic at pick up and drop off times was raised as a major concern, we are asking for the help and cooperation of parents and carers to keep students and staff safe in and around the school site.

You are permitted to access the school site via the main entrance (in front of reception) to pick up and drop off. **Please DO NOT use the other entrances (the Bus Park or the rear car park/Sports Hall entrance).**

There are plenty of safe parking areas only a short walk from school. Please park considerately, not across driveways/junctions, in turning circles etc.) and turn off your engine.

Avoid parking on Box Lane, as this blocks both the pavement and the road, causing a dangerous obstruction for pedestrians and other cars. It also results in chaos as the road becomes gridlocked with single lane traffic unable to move in either direction.

Please also remind your child of their own road safety responsibilities, including staying alert when next to roads and waiting for crossing lights to turn green before stepping into the road.

Thank you for your support.

## Filling station

Our catering team provide a wide range of snacks and meals for students and staff in our refectory every day at break and lunch.

Please ensure that you regularly check your child's online lunch account and top up if necessary.

If you're struggling to do this, please contact Mrs Triner in the school office.





# Spotlight on student success



We're always delighted to share with you stories of our wonderful students and their sports, personal achievements and hobbies. A story that we originally introduced in the previous issue of the newsletter particularly stands out for us, as it truly embodies our school motto: Achieving Success Together and our ethos of being a caring and inclusive community. This is the story of Year 11, **James B**, who volunteered to act as a one-to-one coach for Jack, a 7 year-old visually impaired

boy, who was struggling with the matches and training sessions.

They have now been working together at their football club Sandbach United Football Club for a few months and both boys are really benefitting from their sessions. It has been great coaching experience for James, and Jack is still able to train with his football friends. His confidence and skills have both improved as a result of his work with James. We are extremely proud of you, James, well done!

A definite Football face of the future, Year 13 **Bailey H** has been selected to represent England FA Under 18 Schoolboys internationally for the coming 21/22 season. The English Schools FA concluded their search for *"the best schools' footballers that England has to offer"* in December with the final England U18 Schoolboys' trial taking place at the Lillleshall National Sports Centre. The boys had been through a rigorous selection process from October until December to be finally selected to represent their country.



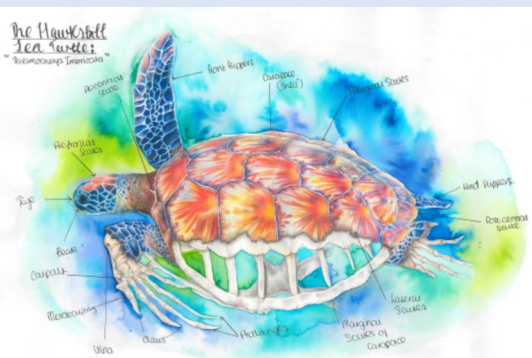
The squad will go on to compete in some friendly matches over the next few months, including a game against the RAF. They will then be involved in some preparatory training before their competitive fixtures at the end of the season in the prestigious

Centenary Shield. Congratulations, Bailey, we're looking forward to hearing more news of your (and the team's) success!

More great Swimming success news from our Year 7 student, **Oscar dV**, who took part in the Rotherham Metro Swimming Club Long Course open meet at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in January. Oscar entered all thirteen available races over the two day event, winning a tremendous THIRTEEN medals: 8 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze, making him the overall top performing boy out of hundreds of competitors. He achieved thirteen personal best times and now has a target of trying to achieve a '15 years and under national qualification time' for this year. At only twelve years old, that is some feat, Oscar, well done!



We were very proud to learn that our Year 12 student, **Sophia AG**, had made the shortlist for the 2021 Royal Society of Biology Nancy Rothwell Award in the 15-18 age group with her amazing drawing of a Sea Turtle. Sophia was one of almost 800 young people who



submitted their artwork last spring to be considered for the Nancy Rothwell Award. The competition highlights the benefits of combining art and science and Sophia definitely succeeded in delighting her Science and Art teachers alike with her in-depth knowledge and incredible skill. Following the announcement of the winners, Sophia's wonderful artwork, along with all the winning and shortlisted paintings, was displayed at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester until the beginning of January: <https://bit.ly/3q9mVw2>

A full list of winners and shortlisted entries can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3HP9FCP>

**If you have something you'd like us to share in our newsletter and social media, please email details and photographs to: [Success@CongletonHigh.com](mailto:Success@CongletonHigh.com).**

**(NB. Please make sure you have parent/carers permission to share the story.)**



# Sights and sounds

A group of our Year 9 students, planning to take Art or Photography at GCSE, enjoyed a trip to Salford Quays in February for Van Gogh Alive UK, a virtual exhibition of the artist's incredible work, projected on to large screens and accompanied by musical scores and realistic sound effects.



It was a wonderful way for the students to see and examine the works on such a large scale.



# Polar penpal

Some of Miss Roberts' Year 9 Geography students have collaborated to write a letter to polar scientist and Glaciologist, Dr. David Chandler. They were set homework to write their own individual letter to the scientist to ask him questions about his work and life as a polar scientist and the best questions were selected to be sent to him.

Dr Chandler sent a fantastic reply, answering all their questions and including lots of stunning photographs. The students have gained invaluable information about how Geography links to real life careers, like polar scientists, glaciology, and also learned about opportunities to work and travel around the world.



# Contacting us

Please email, [enquiries@congletonhigh.com](mailto:enquiries@congletonhigh.com), or call: **01260 730123** if you wish to contact school to send a message or make an enquiry.

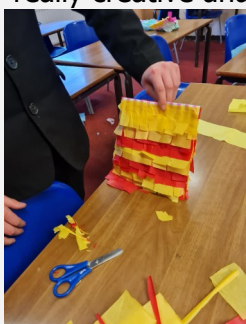


Please do not use any of our social media channels as these are only monitored in school hours and in term time only and messages may not be seen.

If you would like to share a student success story for us to share in our newsletter and social media, please email: [success@congletonhigh.com](mailto:success@congletonhigh.com).

# Piñata party

Our Spanish Culture Club students celebrated breaking up for the half term holiday by making piñatas. It was great fun and the students got really creative and colourful with the tissue paper!



If you're looking for something different, join us after the half-term break. The club is held every Thursday after school from 3:15-4pm in D0-07 and is open to all Key Stage 3 students.



# What an experience

Work placements are a great way for students to develop an understanding of the demands of the workplace and begin to acquire vital employment skills. They can also help young people decide on the sort of work they would like to do.



Our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, works with students and our business partners to secure placements that are suited to each individual student's needs.

In December, Sixth Form student, Matt D, was able to get a head start for his university Business degree with a placement arranged by Mrs Sadat-Shafai at [Franklyn Financial Management Ltd](http://Franklyn Financial Management Ltd).

Matt got the opportunity to get to know all elements of the business including Client Management, Business Relations and Marketing, and also supported them on a range of different activities such as event preparation and client communication.





# Valentines and more

A HUGE thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for our Valentine's Hamper Raffle and helped us to raise another amazing £204 for The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation. The hamper winners were Elliot D 7SW, Jessica F 10AB and Miss Drinkwater. We hope you all enjoyed your fabulous prizes.

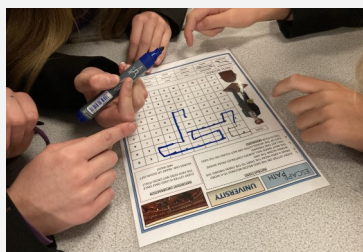
Due to its great success last year, we have also been running our Pot of Gold fundraiser again, where half the total fund goes to the winner and half to the charity. This will be drawn on the last day of term.

You can also still support The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation with the fantastic offer from Olliers Photography (£25 for a studio session and a mounted 10x8 photo). Simply make the payment using Scopay and you will then be contacted to arrange a convenient date for the sitting.



## A grand sum

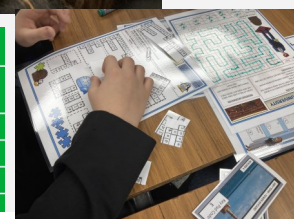
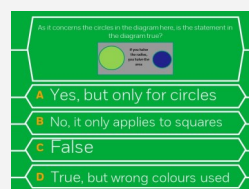
The NSPCC Number Day took place on Friday 4th February and once again we supported this with a range of activities to both promote numeracy and fundraise for the charity.



In their Maths lessons, students in Years 7-10 had fun cracking codes and solving puzzles in our special Number Day Escape Room. We also held a form time 'Who Wants to be a Mathionaire' quiz (which was shared online for parents and carers to have a go) and gave a Numeracy focus (where possible) to all lessons throughout the day.



Of course, Number Day at CHS wouldn't be the same without a few sweet treats, so we also held a breaktime Cake and Bake Sale, which raised an amazing **£138.60** for the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the sale and also to all the students and staff who bought anything and helped us to raise so much.



## Looking forward to Our Day Out

If you follow our Performing Arts team on Instagram, then you'll already be aware of all the fantastic Drama and Music work that goes on over in E Block.

Rehearsals for the performance of Our Day Out have continued and are going really well. The younger students have had some great support from Year 12 Lily and Grace, who have been helping them with choreography.

We are so excited to see the finished production next term.





# Roll up

As part of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) Faraday Challenge, twelve students completed a six week project in the Autumn Term, designing and constructing a rollercoaster alongside DT teacher, Mr Watkins and Science teacher, Dr Jones.

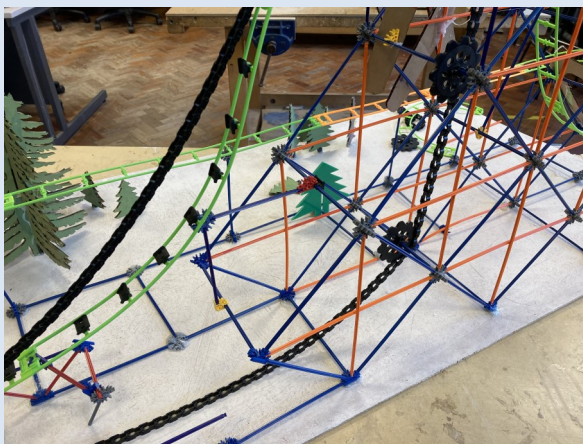


The aim of this cross-curricular challenge was to introduce students to engineering, inspiring them to consider engineering as a career and helping them to develop their practical and employability skills, including teamworking,

problem solving and creative thinking.

Great teamwork between all of the students and the two departments led to an impressive end product with some very complicated details. Alton Towers, watch out!

This term, students will be completing another 6 week project, designing, constructing and testing their own cars with our brand new rocket car launcher! The aim of this project is for students to compete with each other to see who can launch their car the furthest!



## STEM sell



In February a group of our Year 9, 11 and 13 students attended a Girls in STEM virtual event with Manchester Airport Group, which comprises Manchester Airport, London Stansted Airport and East Midlands Airport EMA. The event was part of the

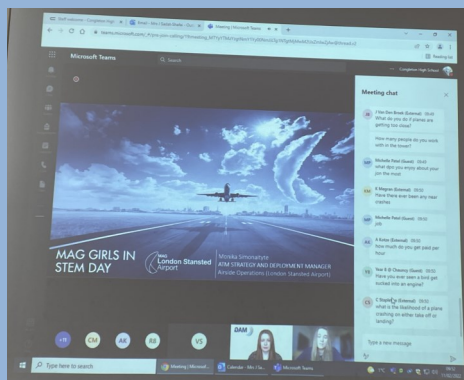
celebrations for the United Nations International Girls in Science Day.

Throughout the morning, the group heard from female colleagues at the three airports who all work in a range of STEM roles including Piloting, Air Traffic Control, Airfield Operations and IT. Useful Q&A sessions also enabled students to find out more about the areas that interested them.

Students were able to learn about the role of an Apprentice from Abigail, who is currently undertaking an apprenticeship in Engineering with the company.

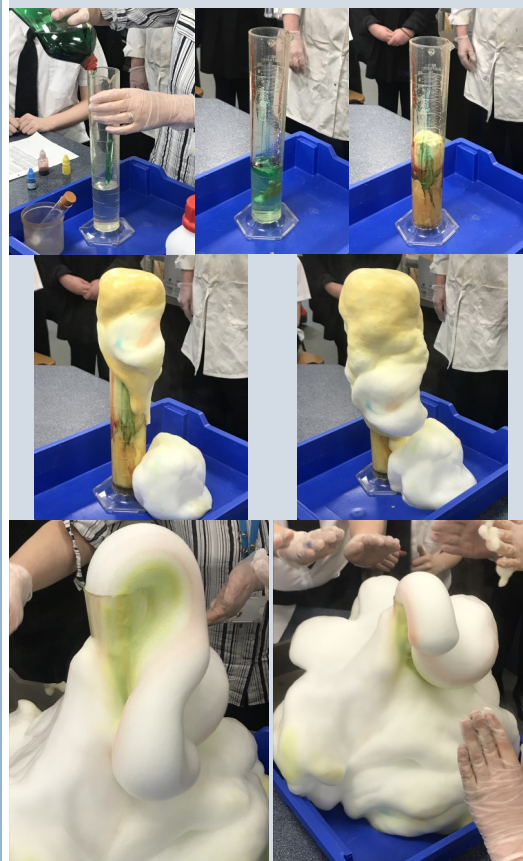
Other sessions included How to Access STEM Jobs within the Manchester Airport Group.

This event was really useful and gave the students a great insight in to the STEM opportunities available to them. We'd like to say a big thank you to the Manchester Airport Group and to all the team who took the time to share their experiences with our students.



## Super science

Our Science Club students had great fun making 'Elephant Toothpaste' with Miss Figiel. A little potassium iodide and a splash of hydrogen peroxide equals one very spectacular reaction!





# CHS united



A big WELL DONE to the Year 7 Boys Football team, who won the Manchester United and Stockport regional competition in January.

The tournament was a regional Year 7 competition, organised by Manchester United, and held at their training ground, The Cliff, in Salford.

The CHS team played five other schools during the tournament: Stockport, Stockport Grammar, St James', Tytherington and Priestnall, and were unbeaten throughout, winning three games and drawing two.

Congratulations to all the Congleton High School team players:

Dan B, Gabriel B, Lewis B, Haydn F, Matthew G, Fabien H, Callum L, Jesse R, Leo W and Sebastian W.

Standout players throughout the day were Jesse and Haydn.

The team will now progress to a national tournament held at Carrington in June.

## What a game



What a game! Our Sixth Form Sport Academy Netball team enjoyed an amazing 34-29 win in January, which sent them through to the fourth round of the Sisters in Sport national competition. Congratulations! Head Girl, Zara E was Player of the Match.

# Putting the new in Newcastle

Huge congratulations to our recently formed U15 Girls Volleyball Team, who took part in the Junior Grand Prix Series at Newcastle under Lyme in January against some very experienced teams.

They played really well, winning one game and were very close in two others, finishing the day in 5th place.

Despite all being fairly new to the sport, the team has a real taste for Volleyball now and we look forward to hearing more great news of their success in the near future.



## Football future

It was great to welcome Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to CHS in January to take part in their football league.

A special mention goes to Chloe C and Molly M for helping out with this.



## Teaming up

We introduced students to Volleyball in October as we received some funding to start a sport not currently offered in the curriculum.

Adrian, who runs Stockport Volleyball Club ran taster sessions with Key Stage 3 and 4 students and the positive feedback led to our Volleyball Club. We'll continue the Thursday night Club and hope to bring the sport into the curriculum full-time following its success.

Stockport Volleyball Club has also very kindly provided sponsorship for our fantastic new team kit, which definitely helped to give the girls added confidence in their recent match!





# Primary care

We love to be able to host and run all sorts of events for our local primary schools. It's a great way for us to get to know future CHS students and for them to get to know us and become familiar with the school, which makes transition so much easier.

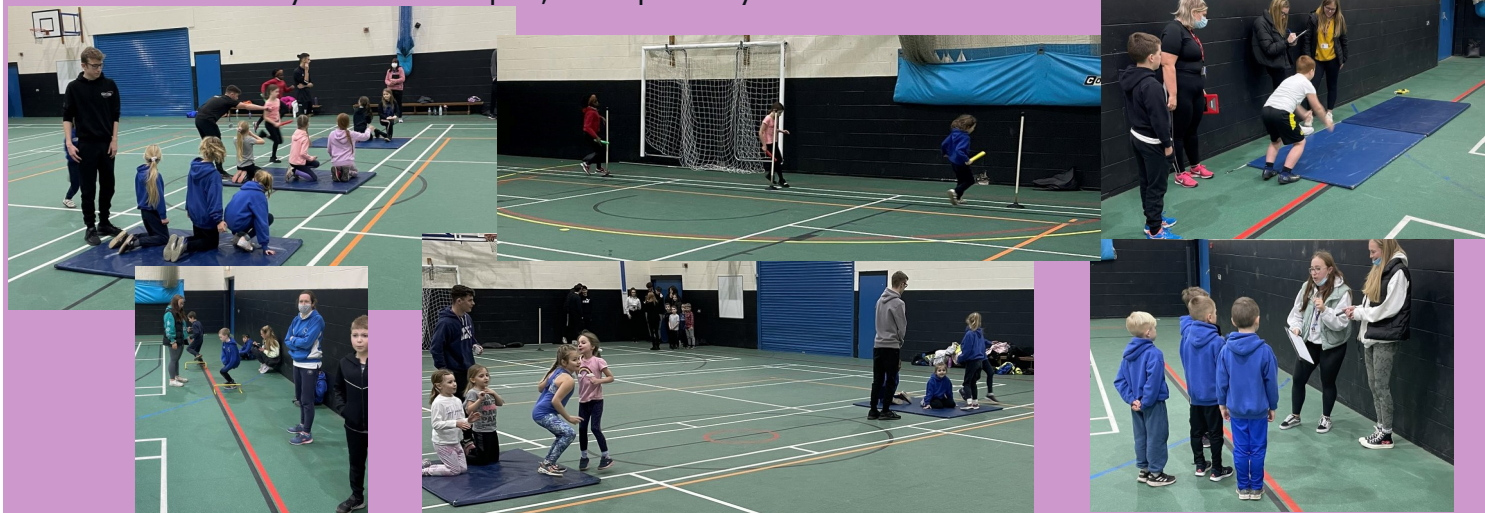
Our extensive sports facilities enable us to open our doors to pupils from all years to get together and take part in events such as the Primary Athletics competition we are hosting.

Pupils from the town's primary schools are taking part in a range of athletics activities, including speed bounce, vertical jump, standing long jump and relay races.

So far, we have welcomed Year 1 and Year 2 pupils and also children in Year 3 and Year 4. Black Firs pupils triumphed at both events, winning the Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 sessions.

Our Sixth Form Sport Leaders ran the events and did a superb job. A special mention goes to Ben G, Nina W and Phoebe J and Rhys B for all their hard work.

Well done to all everyone who took part, we hope that you all had lots of fun.



## Keeping in touch



Our main switchboard **telephone** number is **01260 730123** and will show as this on caller ID



We use **e-mail** as our main method of communicating with parents and carers as it's quick, efficient and cost effective. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address so you don't miss important communications.

We also distribute up-to-the-minute information via **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram**

**@CongletonHS** - for general school news and announcements **@newsta1** - for news from the MAT



We also have departmental Twitter accounts for area-specific information including sports team fixtures: **@chsartists**, **@CHSBus**, **@CateringCHS**, **@CHSEnglishDep**, **@CHShumanities**, **@honoursprog**, **@CHSICT**, **@CHSLanguages**, **@LawCHS1**, **@chsmathsdept**, **@chsmediadept**, **@CHSPerformers**, **@PhysEdCHS**, **@CHSSciences**, **@CHS\_Sixth\_Form**, **@CHSSocSci** and **@chstechdept**



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**humanitieschs**



Parents and carers can access a wide range of information regarding their child's school day, attendance and performance via SIMS and will receive log in details when their child starts in Year 7.

Any queries or problems should be referred to Miss Casey, via email: [kcasey@congletonhigh.com](mailto:kcasey@congletonhigh.com) or telephone: 01260 730123.