

Congleton High School



# Newsletter

Issue 33: April to May 2022



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CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL



# Summer Showcase

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE 6.30PM  
CHS SCHOOL HALL

TICKETS ARE FREE WITH DONATIONS ON  
THE DOOR

GET TICKETS FROM MRS MACKRETH E008

# Welcome

to our May newsletter, which once again contains so many positive stories about all the fantastic opportunities our students have enjoyed over the last half-term. Our Recognition Assemblies during the last week have reminded me just how much we all value and appreciate the sense of community and 'togetherness' here at CHS, as students applauded and cheered the amazing achievements of their year group.

As a school, we regularly receive lovely letters and emails of thanks and praise from CHS parents, carers and members of the local community. These are hugely appreciated and make staff and students feel really valued. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the nominations for this year's 'A Seat on the Plane' rewards trip and am looking forward to announcing the winners after the half-term break. There is still time to nominate one of our remarkable students - turn to page 5 for more information.

We are almost half way through the GCSE and A Level exams now and I am extremely impressed with the way our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached this important period of their education. I am extremely grateful to the team of staff at the school who have prepared our students so well in the lead up to the exams and I know they have appreciated the support they have received.

I was delighted to meet a group of parents and carers recently who attended our first Parents in Partnership (PiP) meeting since before the pandemic. Over recent years, PiP have raised funds to support many different areas of school life, including the school minibuses, our fantastic outdoor table tennis tables, the shelter in the Quad area, sports equipment and musical instruments. Our new group of parents are keen to organise several fundraising events over the next 12 months and you can find details of how to get involved below.

We now look forward to the last half-term of the academic year, with its opportunities to support students' talents, interests and personal development alongside their academic studies. We have so much going on in the final six weeks and two days including the remaining exams, our long awaited Performing Arts Summer Showcase (see opposite), Sports Day, New Intake Day, Year 12 Work Experience, DT trip to London, Year 10 Summer Market, Sports Award Evening, the Year 11 Prom and much more!

We will also be focusing students on our expectations of routines for learning and respect for others, and encouraging them to continually demonstrate positive attitudes within our school community.

I hope that you all have a relaxing break and enjoy the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the long bank holiday weekend. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in to school on Monday 6th June (which will be Week 2).

**Mr Barlow**  
Headteacher



## Achieving success together

We always appreciate the support and involvement of parents and carers at CHS so our Parents in Partnership (PiP) group is extremely important to us. The funds generated through PiP activities serve to enrich our students' experience here and provide an essential support to the school's budget. Over the years, every single department at CHS has benefitted in some way from PiP's involvement

In addition to the group's fundraising role, our PiP team also help out at many of our school events, with refreshments, for instance, on Sports Day and at our school concerts.

You don't have to be a parent or carer, we welcome the involvement of all family and community members. We held our first meeting since Covid recently and it was wonderful to see so many in attendance, including lots of new faces. Everyone was extremely enthusiastic, putting forward a host of fantastic suggestions for future fundraising events and initiatives.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful PiP team, contact Mrs Eckersley ([ceckersley@congletonhigh.com](mailto:ceckersley@congletonhigh.com)) or come along to our next meeting: 7-8pm on Wednesday 15th June (meet in main reception).





# Pass it on



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.

It's a great way to recycle outgrown uniform and also keep down the costs for parents and carers of existing students and new starters.

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.

# Food for thought

Well done to all the Year 8 students who took part in our Science team's **'Microbes Made My Lunch'** poster competition at the end of the Spring term. Students were tasked with creating a poster for teenagers on a catering or food microbiology course, presenting *'a clear understanding of the way that microbes are involved in the production of food.'*

There was a 'tasty' CHS prize, a certificate and an R4 for the winners! Their posters were also submitted to the national Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee (MiSAC) competition, which offers cash prizes of up to £100!

Congratulations to the individual and group winners:

- Evie F, Holly M and Lauren C
- Rosie R and Isabelle T
- Nathan J and Harry A
- Mbale M
- Sadie K
- Bradley S
- Sadie H

# Book prizes

Mrs Richardson, our LRC Manager, has run two exciting reading related competitions for our students this half term.

Firstly a 'Design a CHS Bookmark' Challenge. Using a template from the LRC, students were asked to create their own design for a bookmark. There were prizes on offer for the winner and runners up and the winning design will become the official CHS LRC bookmark, available free from the LRC.

The second competition was 'Book Blitzers', a form group team challenge. Students earned one point for every book borrowed, read and returned on time to the LRC up until the end of half term. Overdue books cost the teams one point, so they were very keen to keep an eye on the return date! The form group with most points by Friday 27th May were the winners!

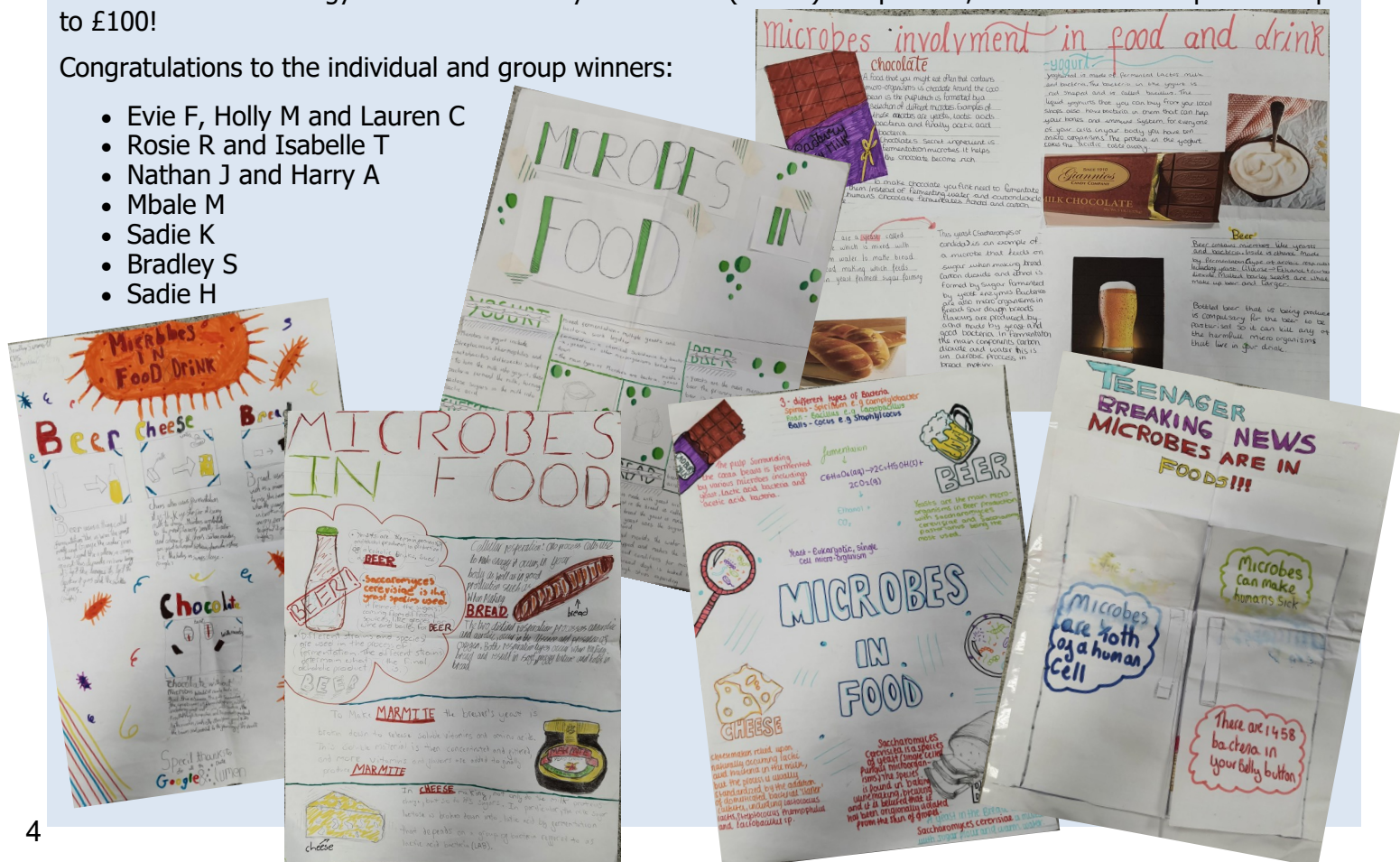
Both competitions ran until the end of half-term so winners will be announced soon. Watch this space!



# Free Office software

All CHS students have access to a **free** Microsoft Office 365 account.

Speak with Mr Davis or Mr Curry in our ICT Team for further details.





# We have take off

We're delighted that we've been able to relaunch our 'A Seat on the Plane' special rewards trip to take off this summer, enabling fifteen 'remarkable' students and a guest of their choice the chance to go on board Concorde!

Our winners will have a special tour of the Manchester Airport aviation parks, spend time in the visitor park and enjoy some light refreshments before they leave for home.

This event was originally planned for the summer of 2020 but, due to Covid lockdowns and subsequent restrictions, was grounded and has been sitting on the tarmac for the past two years! It is now all systems go and we have relaunched our call for nominations.

We are looking for examples of the 'remarkable' behaviour of our students, something that makes them stand out. This might be an act of kindness - helping out at home, helping grandparents, supporting friends or even an act of kindness for a complete stranger. It could be working really hard at school or producing an exceptional piece of work. Maybe you know a student who is excelling in their chosen sport. Or perhaps your child is showing incredible resilience just to come to school each day and you want to share your pride.

If you're a student, family member, neighbour or member of the wider community and would like to nominate one of our remarkable students for doing something out of the ordinary at home, in school or in our community, please email our Headteacher, Mr Barlow ([jbarlow@congletonhigh.com](mailto:jbarlow@congletonhigh.com)), with details, including the student's name, year group and an explanation of why you're nominating them.

*(Previous nominations still count so there's no need to nominate a student again if you've already done so.)*



Since emerging from numerous Covid lockdowns and the constant disruptions to learning and school life began to ease, we have worked hard as a community to restore some sort of normality for our students.

Our first focus was on **Recovery**. Over the many months, students had missed out on so many events and activities that had been enjoyed by previous year groups. Our aim was to slowly but surely reinstate all the parts of the jigsaw that make up the 'CHS Experience' - trips, extracurricular clubs and activities, charity events, assemblies, visiting speakers, sports clubs, revision groups, STOP Days, reward trips, Prom and more. This was where our giant Jenga wall came in to play, with each activity and event added to a brick as it was reinstated to show how we were slowly rebuilding our 'normal'.

Our latest focus is on **'Regrowth'** - not just bringing back what we had lost, but building back better and helping us to keep improving.

As part of our Regrowth stage, we are running a form group sunflower competition until the end of the academic year.

Each form has received a pot planted with three seeds and been given the responsibility of nurturing the growing seedlings, taking care of them to ensure they can thrive and grow. The class with the tallest sunflower plant on July 19th will win!

Many of the forms have named their seedlings and are really working hard to give them the best start. 9RCH, 7SLI and 12NGO plants were first to emerge but we're seeing more healthy growth each day.

Good luck to all our Sunflower Regrowth Superstars.

## Achieving the #CHS100



We are very proud to welcome two new recruits to our growing #CHS100 Club, which celebrates students who have achieved 100 or more Rewards so far this year.

Congratulations to Year 8 Mbalenhle Moyo and Year 7 Savannah H. You're in great company, girls!

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# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

If you're not here, you're not making progress

## Top tutor attendance this half-term

Rank	Tutor
1	7CE
2	8MPE
3	9KMC

## What about my grades?

Students with 100% attendance are **twice as likely** to achieve **5 or more Grade 4+ GCSEs** and **almost 3 times more likely** to achieve **5 or more Grade 4+ GCSEs** including English and Maths than students missing 15-20% of their lessons.

## How many days of learning have I lost? (In a year)

Attendance (%)	Number of days absent
98	4 days
95	10 days (2 weeks)
90	20 days (4 weeks)
85	30 days (6 weeks)
80	40 days (8 weeks)

## How does my attendance stack up?

OUTSTANDING	100%
GOOD	98-99.9%
Not good enough yet	Less than 98%

## Punctuality

### What about being late?

Minutes late (every day)	What have I lost? (In a year)
5 mins	3 days lost!
10 mins	6.5 days lost!
15 mins	10 days lost!
20 mins	13 days lost!
30 mins	19 days lost!

School starts at  
**08:40**



Breakfast  
available from  
**08:00**





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**If you're not here, you're not making progress**

## **Punctuality**



We have seen an increase in the number of students who come to school by car arriving late recently. Please remember that school starts at 08:40 and all students should be on site by this time.

## **Attendance & Punctuality Improvements**



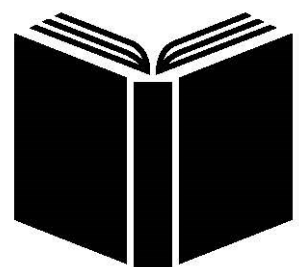
Congratulations to all of the students who have improved their punctuality & attendance this term.

More than 1 in 3 students have improved their attendance during the last half-term.

The number of students arriving late to school has reduced by over 30% during the last half-term.

## **Coming Soon**

Keep an eye out for our Attendance - Parent/Carer Guide, which will be coming out soon. Lots of information included to help you to support your child's attendance.



# A busy time for DT

It's been such a busy term so far in our Design and Technology Department - Memphis clocks, mechanical toys, Ugliers, bolognaise, earbud wraps to name but a few of their many projects.

After school, the Cooking Club students made pizzas and are planning to create a summer pudding after the half-term break. Our Young Engineers used their blue-sky thinking to design and build gliders. Look out for the new DT clubs after half term!

Over 100 R4s have been achieved in DT this term for excellent work and 30 praise postcards awarded to students in our Recognition Assemblies.

Next month will be busy too with the students completing new projects and taking part in lots of exciting activities. HS2 will be visiting us to run a workshop with sixty Year 8 students and a contingent of our DT students are off to London - and that's just the start.

Not sure how they will fit it all in!



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

# A trip to the country

This month, our Year 10 ASDAN students ventured over to Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve as part of their Environmental module.

The group enjoyed a very interesting talk and tour from the Ranger, during which they learned all about the Countryside Code and the types of animals and plants that live in the surrounding countryside.



## 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 again 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.





# Fabulous photography fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Spring in a Frame Photography Competition Exhibition after school on Wednesday 18th May. It was a great opportunity to combine a celebration of the photography talents of local children with raising much needed funds to help support the Ukrainian people.

Back in March, children from all the local primary schools, Eaton Bank Academy and CHS were challenged by our Science teacher, Mr Holmes, to get out and about in nature with their cameras and send in their fantastic animal and habitat photos for our competition. We were so pleased with the response and Mr Holmes received over one hundred photographs showing a variety of flora and fauna.

Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to the winners and runners up, who each received a fabulous 3-in-1 phone camera lens, a monster bar of chocolate, an A3 copy of their photograph and a certificate.

The winners in each category were:

Primary School Winner: **Charlie G - Mossley** (Image 1)

Primary School Runner Up: **Neesha S Year 5 - Mossley** (Image 2)

Eaton Bank Winner: **Jonathan L Year 10** (Image 3)

Eaton Bank Runner Up: **Amy R 13** (Image 4)

CHS Winner: **Holly W Year 7** (Image 5)

CHS Runner Up: **Savannah H Year 7** (Image 6)



1

Thank you to our Sixth Form judges: Year 12 **Sophie M** and **Maddi H** and Year 13 **Eloise G.**

Throughout the exhibition, guests were able to choose their own favourite photograph and vote for this by placing a sticker next to it. CHS student, Year 7 **Will S**, won the **People's Choice Award** with his lovely image of a lamb (Image 7). He was presented with his prize of a studio session at Ollier Photography and chocolate by our Headteacher, Mr Barlow.

In addition to enjoying the wonderful photographs, there was also a quiz to challenge guests and this was won by **Emma Walton** who scored 100 percent, with every question answered correctly!

The raffle too was a great success, with so many prizes, everyone who entered went home with something!

The combined sales of refreshments, raffle tickets and quiz entries resulted in a total amount of £150 raised by the event for the Ukraine Fund.

A very special thank you to Year 11 students, **Ella R** and **Isabelle M**, for helping to organise, set-up and run the exhibition and awards event.



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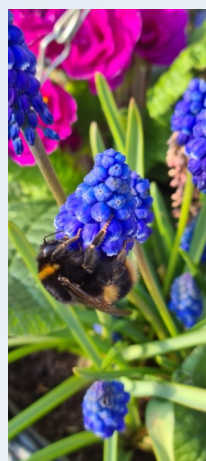
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4



5



6



7



# Wellbeing matters at CHS

The Hub shelves are fully stocked once again with loads of lovely goodies donated. Thank you once again to the team at Morrisons Congleton for their support for our Wellbeing provision, this is very much appreciated by the many students who access this facility on a daily basis.



## Planting for wildlife and wellness



**BIODIVERSITY  
DAY 22 MAY**

Research shows that being out in nature is good for wellbeing. Our students have been involved in a number of planting projects that will benefit students, the local community and a wide variety of wildlife too.

As part of our International Biodiversity Day 2022 celebrations, Science teacher, Mr Holmes and a group of students planted a mix of wildflowers in the grassy area alongside the long jump pit. These will hopefully flourish to provide food and habitat for wildlife and also a peaceful, relaxing area for students to enjoy.

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Astbury Meadow Garden Centre for providing us with all the wildflower seeds.

You may recall in our October '21 Newsletter, we shared the story of Year 8 **Annabel J's** garden design that had made it through to the finals of the BBC Radio 2 and RHS Big Bee Challenge. Subsequently, her bee-friendly design was adopted by Congleton in Bloom and 'The Just Bee Garden' is now located in Congleton Park, near to the bowling green.



Planting has been designed to attract and provide habitat for a wide range of bees and be a place for visitors to relax, promote wellbeing and reduce stress.

Annabel and friends have helped with planting up the garden, which will be completed just in time for the Queen's JuBEElee Picnic in the Park on 2nd June.



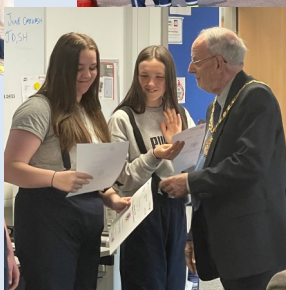
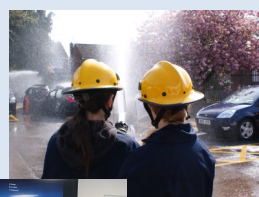
## Graduation Day

After five fantastic weeks, we were very proud to watch our eight Year 8 students graduate from the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service **Respect** Course on Tuesday 26th April. The trainees were presented with their certificates by the Mayor of Congleton, Cllr. Denis Murphy.

Well done to these eight students for all their hard work and determination. Particular congratulations go to **Jayden**, who was awarded Best Firefighter, and **Rosie** for Most Improved Trainee.

Our students have learned so much over the five weeks that will benefit them as they progress on to new challenges.

We would like to thank the Holmes Chapel Fire Station team for leading and hosting the course and our Learning Mentor, Mr Morris, for organising this wonderful and very rewarding opportunity. Thank you too to all those families who were able to join us to celebrate this event.





# No more dress stress

It's not long now until our Year 11 Prom, which this year will be held at the stunning Shrigley Hall on Thursday 7th July. It will be wonderful to once again be able to celebrate the end of GCSEs with our students.

Each year, guests are eager to see what wonderful mode of transport their classmates will choose but, of course, outfits are always right at the top of the agenda and a key talking point amongst friendship groups for many months before. This whole subject can be a worry though for many students and their families as the cost of purchasing or hiring a dress or suit seems to increase each year.

If you're one of the many struggling with the cost of an outfit for Prom, take a look at **Prom Ally**, who offer the free loan of a dress or suit (you just pay £10 to cover delivery and return postage). They have a wide range of outfits to suit all tastes, shapes and sizes.

The community interest company operates on a referral basis and works with schools, local authorities, food banks and other charities to enable students to have access to a wide range of quality outfits. You can speak with your form tutor, GTL or one of the Pastoral Team for discreet help with the referral.

Take a look at [Promally.co.uk](http://Promally.co.uk) for details of how you can access this service.

*Prom Ally*

## Who can help?

Students: If you need help, you can speak with any member of staff. Usually your form tutor or Guidance Leader are best in the first instance. If you'd like somebody else to talk with, here are the details of the Learning Mentors and where and when you can find them:

### Ms Franks

You can find her in her office in the LRC every day



### Mr Morris

You can find him in the Hub everyday



### Mr Hodgson

You can find him in his office in the LRC from Monday to Wednesday



### Miss Haney

You can find her in her office, opposite the hall, (next door to Mr Tyrrell) everyday



### Mr Smith

You can find him in his office in the LRC from Wednesday to Friday



### Miss Mapes

You can find her in her office, on the Music corridor, (next door to Mr Ainsley) everyday



### Mrs Bates

You can find her in the Hub everyday



### Mrs Roach

You can find her in her office in the LRC from Monday to Thursday



## Our Safeguarding Team

Parents and Carers: If you would like to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team about something confidential, here are their details:

**Mrs L Darling**  
Designated Safeguarding Lead



[ldarling@congletonhigh.com](mailto:ldarling@congletonhigh.com)

**Ms L Franks**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



[lfranks@congletonhigh.com](mailto:lfranks@congletonhigh.com)

**Miss J Boulton**  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



[jboulton@congletonhigh.com](mailto:jboulton@congletonhigh.com)

**Miss J Haney**  
Safeguarding Team



[jhaney@congletonhigh.com](mailto:jhaney@congletonhigh.com)

**Mr D Smith**  
Safeguarding Team

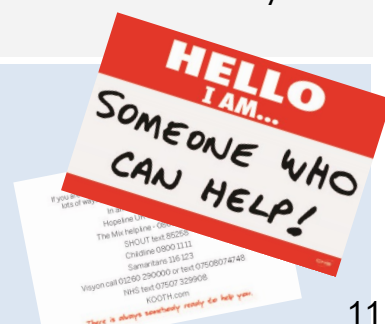


[dsmith@congletonhigh.com](mailto:dsmith@congletonhigh.com)

The Safeguarding Team are also the key staff in school who have contact with external agencies such as the police, social workers and family support workers.

If you'd rather speak with someone outside school, don't forget that we have a comprehensive list of contacts on the Student Welfare pages in both the Student and Parent/Carer areas of our website, CongletonHigh.com.

All students have a 'Someone Who Can Help' card, which also has contact details for a range of external sources of help and support. If you have lost your card or would like a copy of this, please see Mrs Darling.





# Spotlight on student success

This half-term has definitely not disappointed in terms of the number of stories we have received about students' ongoing success outside of school in their sports and hobbies. We never fail to be amazed by their dedication and commitment.

Huge congratulations to Year 7 student, **Connie C**, who returned from the Orlando ICU World Cheerleading Championships in April with a fantastic silver medal! Connie is a flyer with the Team England Adaptive Abilities Team and has been training with Momentum Cheer UK in Stoke on Trent for the last five years. This is wonderful, Connie, well done!



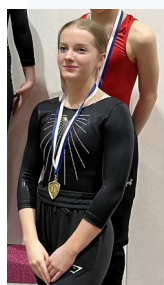
Great news from our Year 11 student, **Ellie G**, who was selected to go with her club to the England Netball under 16 National Club Finals in London in April. Fantastic, Ellie, such a great opportunity for you.



More netball success for two members of one of our families. Elder sister, **Maddy H**, has been picked for the under 17 Loughborough Lightning pathway. Younger sister, **Savannah**, won the North of England league back in April with her club, Kingsway Power. Well done to both of you!



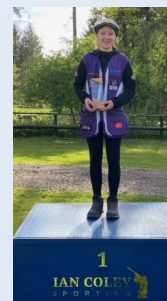
Our Year 9 student, **Charlotte J**, took part in the Tumbling Regional Qualifiers at Salford Gymnastics club at the beginning of April, competing against clubs from all across Cheshire. Charlotte had suffered a bad fall a few weeks before the competition but she regained her confidence and put in a great performance at the Qualifiers, which achieved her a fantastic gold medal and a place in the forthcoming Regional Finals! Charlotte is in the Tumbling Squad at Sandbach Gymnastics where she's been a member for several years. She trains three nights a week and also coaches 4-7 year olds in basic gymnastics technique. Great news, Charlotte, well done!



After qualifying in fourteen events at the West Midlands Regional Swimming Championships recently, Year 7 **Oscar dV** delivered personal bests in all the heats, made it through to twelve of the finals, and again found a way to achieve new personal bests in the majority of these too! He went on to take a total of twelve medals at the competition - three gold, five silver and four bronze, making him Regional Champion in 200m Backstroke, 200m Butterfly and 100m Butterfly. This is an incredible achievement, Oscar, not least the way you keep finding a way to improve with each attempt. This is yet another step towards the National Championships hopefully next year!



Congratulations to Year 8, **Fern L**, who is continuing to see great success in Clay Pigeon Shooting. At the beginning of May, she took part in the Essex Masters and scored a fantastic 137/200 on a championship course. She competed in the Cheshire Selection shoot over the same weekend and won her first 'C' Class with a score of 74/100. Later in the month, she was the



youngest competitor to shoot in the Ladies competition at Ian Coley Sporting Ground. She not

only won her 'C' class overall, winning her a trophy, but also achieved a personal best of 86/100 and placed a fantastic sixth out of eighty competitors! Well done, Fern, some very impressive results.



We were delighted to hear the great news that our Year 12 student, **Haydyn CB**, had scooped two bronze medals for canoeing in the K1 500m and K1 200m classes at the Brandenburg International Regatta in Germany in May. Months of training extremely hard earned him this amazing achievement! Congratulations, Haydyn.



Our Year 13 student, **Bailey H**, was kept busy over the Easter holidays playing for the under 18 English Schools Team in the Centenary Shield against Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and the final match against Wales. Bailey really stood out, he was mentioned frequently in the commentary (positively) and constantly demonstrated his skill on the pitch. Our Assistant Leader of Sixth Form, Mr Franklin, was delighted to be invited to watch Bailey play in Scotland, which was a fantastic, if a little chilly, experience for him!



**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/carer permission to share the story.**



# Final performance

Year 13 Performing Arts students, Holly P and Maya J, represented themselves so well in their A level Theatre and Drama Component three scripted exams, performing two five-minute monologues from the play: *'Things I Know to be True'* by Andrew Bovell.

Our Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Mackreth, was extremely pleased with their work, saying: *"I couldn't be prouder! They were so sad to think it was the last practical drama they'll do here at Congleton. We'll miss them greatly but wish them every bit of luck with their next chapters."*



# Musical intro

Congratulations to Year 11 Grace R, who auditioned and successfully secured a place on the British Youth Music Theatre programme.

She spent two weeks as a boarder, working 9am-9pm every day to be cast, learn and rehearse a bespoke musical, *'Hot Wheels'*, then perform it to an audience.

Grace said it was exhausting but such a worthwhile experience to get a taste for working in the musical theatre industry.



# Role on

Huge congratulations to our Year 11 student, Charlie H, who has successfully achieved a place at the Pendleton School of Theatre in Salford to study acting from this September.

Charlie has already appeared in many successful productions, including a lead role in *'Goodnight, Mr Tom'*.



# Lucky Friday 13th for Barney and James



On Friday 13th May, we were delighted and very proud to welcome Lynne Evans and Tony Bartley, Chair and Vice Chair of Congleton Choral Society, to present two of our Year 9 Performing Arts students, Barney M and James C, with the annual Margaret Williamson Music Bursary award of £100 shared between them, and certificates.

The boys had been nominated for the bursary by our Performing Arts Deputy Team Leader, Miss Blundred, who praised both of the boys for their dedication and achievement in all things musical:

"Barney is a wonderful pianist. He is a highly motivated young man with a heart of gold! He always tries his best with everything he does and will have a go at any music we give him.

"James has the voice of an angel! He loves music and is mature beyond his years as far as music is concerned. It is very much something he is passionate about."

Following the presentation of the £50 cheques and certificates, the boys thanked our Society guests with a wonderful performance of their own version of Elvis Presley's *Falling in Love with You*.

Margaret Williamson was a loyal and active supporter, and former president, of Congleton Choral Society in addition to being a former Mayor of Congleton and teacher at Westlands. The award was set up in her memory and rewards Congleton High School and Eaton Bank Academy students who demonstrate dedication and promise in Music. Due to Covid restrictions, the award was last presented in 2019, when CHS Sixth Form student, Will Bours, was the recipient. Will is now in his second year of a Performing Arts degree at Manchester.





# Science behind the scenes



*L-R: Mr Oakley, Mrs Perkins, Miss Haran and Mrs Convey*

We are extremely lucky to be supported in our Science Department by four highly qualified and experienced Science technicians, whose role is to work with our Science teachers to devise, prepare and test the practical aspects of Science lessons. They also ensure the safety of our students - monitoring the labs, equipment and materials and checking that we comply with all current guidance and regulations.

The number of practical lessons and their variety has increased significantly over recent years. This is great for students as they get lots of hands-on experience in every area of the Science curriculum. The Technicians need to be increasingly efficient, knowledgeable and adaptable to cope with this increase in demand, which is why our experienced team is instrumental to the success of the Science department.

They are our 'hidden heroes', so we asked the team a few questions to help you learn more about them.

## Mr Oakley - Started at CHS in 2016

**Favourite part of your job?** I enjoy the demonstrations of reactions that produce flashes and bangs and watching the students' faces when they experience this for the first time.

**Previous jobs?** After A Levels I went to work at Glaxo (now GSK) before going to university but ended up staying seven years and taking my Pharmacology Degree part-time while I worked. Whilst at Glaxo, Astra Zeneca (AZ) and Peptide Therapeutics I worked in teams of Biologists and Pharmacologists to test new chemical entities manufactured by Chemists. Our results would be fed back to the Chemists so the compounds could be altered as required.

**Greatest achievement?** I have had the privilege of working with many experts in the fields of gastro intestinal, pulmonary and cancer research to publish scientific papers in all of these areas of research.

**Interests outside of work?** I play tennis at Congleton Tennis Club and enjoy cycling. I have cycled from Lands End to John o'Groats! I also enjoy keeping up to date with Science issues in the media ie. Covid and Climate Science. I have a fascination with human evolution and the history and evolution of the solar system.

## Mrs Perkins - Started at CHS in 2012

**Favourite part of your job?** Liaising with colleagues and teachers to ensure that the practical aspects of the lessons enhance students' learning. It is good to hear great feedback that the lesson went well.

**Previous jobs?** After A Levels I worked at Lloyds Bank in administration but after 15 months decided banking wasn't for me and left to study Applied Chemistry at university. After achieving my degree I worked at ICI (now Astra Zeneca) at Alderley Park, staying there for 25 years working in the labs as a Research Chemist. I started off in anti-microbial research then spent several years in anti-cancer research.

**Greatest achievement?** A final compound I made at AZ made it on to a shortlist of compounds to take in to development. It made all the hard work I had put in up to that stage worthwhile!

**Who are your Science heroes?** Marie Curie: She conducted pioneering research on radioactivity and was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in Chemistry) for discovering the elements Polonium and Radium. Sir David Attenborough: He is a fantastic communicator and is passionate about the world around us.

## Miss Haran - Started at CHS in 2010

**Favourite part of your job?** I enjoy planning fun activities for our KS3 Science Club with Dr Buchan and working with these students to give them a wider understanding of Science and its uses.

**How has your job changed?** Initially I started working at CHS as a part-time Science Technician, Cover Supervisor and Exam Invigilator. I have also worked here as a Teaching Assistant, supporting students in Science and Media. I took on the role of Senior Science Technician in 2014.



# Science behind the scenes *(continued)*

**Previous jobs?** I studied part time for my Chemistry degree while working as an Analytical Technician for Beecham Pharmaceuticals. I was an Analytical Chemist in pharmaceutical research for twelve years and also an Operations Manager at a biotech company. I have had career breaks to travel around the world and later to raise my family. I did voluntary work in schools and the NHS and also helped set up Breastfeeding Support in SureStart cafés in Kidsgrove, Biddulph and Congleton.

**Interests outside work?** I enjoy gardening - growing flowers, fruit and vegetables in my allotment. I am Secretary of Vale Allotments and Gardening Association and coordinate activities to improve the facilities and participate in local events like Congleton in Bloom. I am also Membership Secretary of a local swimming group that encourages young people to be confident swimmers.

## Mrs Convey - Started at CHS in 2012 (on the very same day as Mrs Perkins!)

**Favourite part of your job?** Working with students is always enjoyable. Sparking their interest in Science, helping them to learn a new skill or develop a new level of scientific understanding is one of the very best parts of my job. Our Science teachers do a wonderful job and it is also hugely rewarding to know that I help to ensure their success. They can be confident that their practical resources are always ready to use when they need them and that we are always on hand to provide help, advice or expertise in their subject.

**Previous jobs?** After graduating from university, I worked at AZ for 11 years as an *in vitro* Research Bioscientist. My role involved taking new and novel compounds generated by the Chemists (like Mrs Perkins) and testing them to see if they were effective against target molecules of interest eg. enzymes or cell receptors involved in diseases like cancer, diabetes or arthritis. My role involved developing new experiments to test the effects of these compounds. These experiments were used to screen potential new drugs, which, after further testing, would eventually be sent to other specialist Scientists (like Mr Oakley) to evaluate their potential to be pharmaceuticals.

**Who are your Science heroes?** Rosalind Franklin [*English chemist whose work was central to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA, RNA and viruses*] was a truly remarkable woman and a phenomenally talented Scientist. Her work across multiple areas of Science has benefitted the whole of humanity because she focused her research on areas that mattered to society.

## Watch the birdie



We're always on the lookout for new sporting opportunities for our students. With this in mind, a group of our Sixth Form students enjoyed a taster session with Congleton Golf Club in April.

We'll be organising sessions for other year groups, so if you are interested in taking part, please see Mr Donnelly for further details.



## Manchester success

We celebrated another win for our Year 7 Boys Football Team at Manchester United in April. They now progress to the Regional Finals in June.



## Winning form

As part of their BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Sport course, a group of our Year 13 students organised an after school inter-form 7-a-Side Football Tournament for Year 8 in April.

It was a closely fought competition but the winning team at the end of the tournament was Miss Kenny's form group, 8SK. Well done to them and to all of the students who took part.





# Hit the ground running

It's still in its infancy at CHS but we are really starting to make a name for ourselves in the sport of Volleyball.

It all started when our PE Teacher, Mr Hilditch, approached the national governing body, Volleyball England. They introduced us to Stockport Volleyball Club, who agreed to become a coaching resource for both ad-hoc curriculum and after school tuition for CHS. Adrian Stores, Chair and Coach at Stockport Volleyball took on the coaching role.



The sport has developed steadily here since the start of the academic year and has just received a massive boost courtesy of national company, WPA, which provides personal and business health insurance policies and has been helping its members as a not-for-profit organisation since 1901. Through its WPA Benevolent Foundation, the company supports projects throughout the United Kingdom and, as well as other initiatives promoting good health, currently focuses on supporting the purchase of physical activity equipment in schools. This collaboration has resulted in Congleton High School receiving an award of £2,100, which has enabled us to invest in new Volleyball equipment including: posts and a net, ball carts, sports holdalls, a scoreboard and antennae.



Our PE Curriculum Team Leader, Mrs Henderson, commented on the news of this much appreciated funding:

*"Amazing news! This is going to make a real difference to the students at our School."*

This all means a continuation of the exciting times that have already seen

our Year 10 girls compete in Volleyball England's Grand Prix Series and Year 9 boys prepare for inter-school matches.



## Keeping in touch



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



We use **email** 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 email address so you don't miss any 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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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.