

Newsletter

Issue 35: September to October 2022

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Year 7's Summer School Success (turn to page 5)



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.



Contacting us

Please email: 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.

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 off any donations in to Main Reception or Student Reception, where they will be very gratefully received and passed on.

Dates for your diary

Friday 21st October	School Closes for Half-Term Break
Monday 31st October	Congleton Town INSET Day
Tuesday 1st November	School Opens to Students (Week 2)
Wednesday 2nd November	Parents in Partnership (PiP) AGM
Thursday 3rd November	Y11 Progress Evening
Monday 21st - Friday 25th November	CHS Wellbeing Week
Wednesday 30th November	GCSE Awards Evening
Thursday 1st December	Y9a Progress Evening
Friday 2nd December	PiP Christmas Market 4-6pm
Tuesday 6th December	Y9b Progress Evening
Thursday 8th December	KS4/5 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 13th December	KS3 Christmas Concert
Wednesday 14th December	A Level Awards Evening
Friday 16th December	School Closes for Christmas Break
Tuesday 3rd January	INSET Day
Wednesday 4th January	School Opens to Students (Week 1)



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.

Welcome

to our first newsletter of the year!

I'm delighted that our new Year 7 cohort, our largest year group in the school, have settled in seamlessly and they are now well and truly part of our community. I have been impressed with their positive attitudes and approaches, their confidence, manners and respect.

I am sure that you will be aware that we had a huge amount to celebrate in the summer with some of our best ever GCSE and A Level results. These excellent outcomes are a testament to our phenomenal team of students and staff. However, schools should not be defined simply by where they sit on a performance table. Along with academic success, schools also provide students with valuable enrichment opportunities to enhance their learning and CHS is no exception. Already this term there have been so many opportunities for our young people. Year 7 students enjoyed their team building day at Astbury Mere, Year 8 have visited Chester Zoo and Jodrell Bank, and other year groups have enjoyed theatre trips and gallery visits. In addition, many of our students have been able to represent the school in a whole range of sporting fixtures.

We know that choosing a secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make with your children and family. Both our Year 6 Open Evening and Post 16 Opportunities Evening were very well attended. These events could not welcome as many visitors or run as smoothly as they do, without our wonderful students. As always, they played an integral role in our events, ensuring that they are on-hand to tour the children and their parents around and answer any questions that they may have about life at Congleton High School.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our students and staff for their hard work and efforts this term, we all deserve a happy, restful and re-energising half-term break.

I look forward to welcoming back our students on **Tuesday 1st November** (Week 2).

Mr Barlow
CHS Headteacher



A few words from our Chair of Governors

First of all, a very warm welcome to parents of our new Year 7 students. I do hope that your child has settled in and that they are enjoying the new challenge of 'big school'. Congleton High School remains extremely popular and new students joined us last month from twenty eight different primary schools from all across the region.

The summer examination results were very much at the top end of expectations and we applaud all of our students who secured a whole range of qualifications that unlocked the door to the next stage of their learning journey. We look forward to two very busy Awards Evenings later in the term. [see 'Dates for your diary' opposite].

Finally, a big thank you to our team of governors and a reminder that if you are interested in becoming a governor at Congleton High School or simply want to know more about the role, please get in touch with Mrs Claire Gritton, Clerk to the Governors by email at: governorsclerk@thelearningalliance.co.uk

Mr Rich Benson
CHS Chair of Governors



Application deadline for a 2023 Year 7 place

The deadline for applying for a September 2023 Year 7 place at CHS is Monday 31st October. Applications should be made via your own Local Authority, not the school.

If you need more information on the application or transition process, please visit the **Transfer from Primary School** page in **Becoming a Student at CHS**, which can be found in the Parent and Carer area of CongletonHigh.com.



Maths Trust triumph



2021-22 was a hugely successful year for CHS students taking part in the **UKMT Maths Challenge** Competitions. Over 250 students took part from Year 7 up to Year 13, winning 59

Bronze, 26 Silver and 12 Gold Awards in total.

Special congratulations go out to the eight students who qualified for the next stage of the Challenges: Alumni **Jack B** and **Barty E, Isaac C** (Year 13), **Charlie S** (Year 12) **Elitsa R** (Year 11), **Emma L** (Year 11), **Lennon G** (Year 9) and **Josh B** (Year 8).

Of these students, **Elitsa R** (pictured receiving her medal from Mr Barlow), once again proved herself to be amongst the very best mathematicians of her age group. Elitsa achieved a Gold medal in the Hamilton Olympiad, putting her in the top twenty students of her age group in the country!

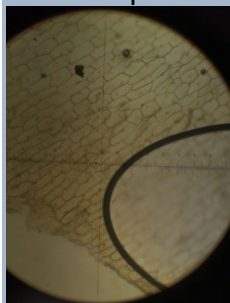
We look forward to another successful year in 2022-23 with students already participating in the Maths Olympiad for Girls and the Senior Maths Challenge.



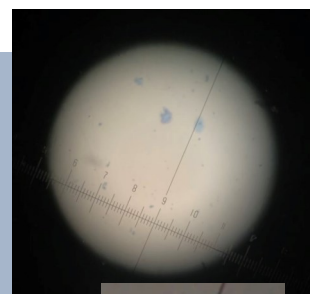
The cheek!

Dr Jones' Year 12 Applied Science group have been looking at their own cheek cells (*right - blue*) and onion cells (*below - brown*) under a microscope this term.

This was to give them practise using the microscopes and to recap how to prepare a sample to observe the microscopic differences between animal and plant cells.



The blue 'splodges' are the cheek cells, which were stained with methylthioninium chloride, commonly called methylene blue (the darker blue spot in the middle is the nucleus). The onion cells were stained brown with iodine dye.



Alumnus advice

In September, our Year 13 Economists had a fascinating Economics degree taster session with alumnus (and Economics graduate), Ollie Proctor. Ollie was able to share his own experiences of undertaking an Economics degree along with lots of information about the topics covered on the course.

The morning gave our Sixth Form students some really informative insights into Developmental Economics.



Halloween cupcake challenge



Our Food Tech teacher, Mrs Thorpe, is challenging students to bake some scary cupcakes for Halloween. You may already have a favourite cake recipe that you can use but we have added one for you below just in case.

If you can manage not to eat all the cakes straight away, take a photograph and email it to Mrs Thorpe (cthorpe@congletonhigh.com) or share it on social media and tag CongletonHS and CHSTechDept. Happy Halloween baking!



Scary Monster Cupcakes

✿ Makes 12 cakes

✿ Prep time: 20 mins.

✿ Bake time: 20 mins.

For the cupcakes:

125g/ 4.5oz soft margarine
125g/ 4.5oz caster sugar
2 large eggs
125g/ 4.5oz self-raising flour
1 tsp vanilla essence

For the decoration:

Icing of your choice to cover cupcake
Food colouring
Writing/ piping icing
Marshmallows
Mini biscuits
Sprinkles
Sweets (such as strawberry laces, jelly sweets, foam teeth, liquorice allsorts etc

Preheat the oven to 180C/ 350F/ Gas Mark 4. Cream the margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in the eggs, one at a time, together with a tablespoon of flour. Add the vanilla essence and fold in the remaining flour.

Line a bun tin with paper cases and half-fill each case with the mixture. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes. You can tell they are done when they have risen, are golden in colour and spring back into shape when pressed with your finger. Remove and cool on a wire rack. Colour your chosen icing and use this to cover the cakes then decorate with sweets to make your Halloween cakes.

Email a photo of your finished cakes to: cthorpe@congletonhigh.com

School's in for summer

Once again, during the summer break, our new Year 7 students were able to take part in three days of free Summer School activities prior to joining CHS in September.

This enabled them to build new friendships and develop their communication skills, confidence and self esteem. We also found that the opportunity helped to reduce their anxieties about starting a new school as they didn't have to spend the whole summer worrying.

Our curriculum teams organised a range of fun enrichment and educational workshops in English, Maths, Science, DT, Art, and Humanities, which included:

- Designing and building fun wooden 'block heads'
- Making healthy breakfasts
- Assault courses/team building (including giant Hungry Hippos!)
- Constructing medieval catapults
- Fun Maths problem solving/puzzles
- Art and Design activities

We had lots of great feedback from students and their parents and carers about how the three days had really helped them feel more confident about the move up to high school.

Year 7 make a splash

Even with our Summer School opportunity, starting high school can still be a scary time. Moving up from primary school to become the youngest members of a much larger school must be very daunting, no matter how many times you have visited! It is with this in mind that in the first weeks of the autumn term all Year 7 students are invited to take part in our New Starter Teambuilding Day at Astbury Waterpark.

It is a full day of activities and, like the Summer School, aimed at helping students get to know each other, learn how to achieve success together by working in teams and, most of all, have fun! Students enjoy a whole range of events and new friendship groups are formed, which is a real bonus for those joining from one of the many smaller schools in the area, who often make the move up in ones and twos.

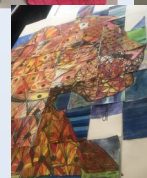
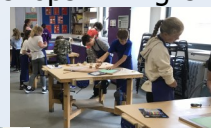
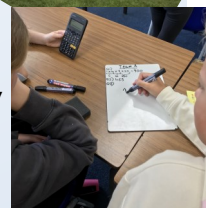
This year we held two Teambuilding Days, one for each side of the year group. Over the two days, 218 students enjoyed a range of activities from shelter building and kayaking to paddle boarding. Some took their time to acclimatise but eventually overcame their worries about the water, whilst others just threw themselves straight in (literally), including Mrs Currah-Hall in her wet suit! Mr Holt, Mr Thomas, Mr Edwards and Miss McAleavy were a little more reserved and chose to just dip their toes in.

It was a great two days and our new students made a really wonderful start to their time at CHS. Over their Teambuilding Day the Year 7 students all learned how to communicate effectively and work together to overcome challenges. They also started to build and cement strong friendships that will support them through the next seven years at CHS and beyond. All in all, a very successful day!

Around the world on a Wednesday

Our MFL team have welcomed lots of Year 7, 8 and 9 students to their new KS3 Cultural Club, which runs after school on Wednesdays in D0-11.

Each week, students are able to learn more about the culture and language of a range of countries. This term they are 'visiting' France and Italy, next term will be Portugal and Japan and in the final term they will be able to discover Greece and China! All KS3 students are welcome to take part.



It's never too early

At CHS we firmly believe that it is never too early to give students careers advice, information and practical experience. Our Careers team, headed up by Miss Boulton and supported by Careers Lead, Mrs Sanders, Employer Engagement Lead, Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Careers Advisor, Mrs Pickford, work together to plan a programme of targeted careers events for students from Year 7 right up to Year 13.



In October, each of our Year 11 students was given the opportunity to experience a mock interview with a representative from one of the wide range of organisations supporting our careers initiative. The students had begun the process in the summer, whilst in Year 10, when they selected a job from a list of possible roles. They then worked on their CVs and wrote letters of application for the job role they had selected.



Prior to their interviews, to help them prepare, Marc O'Hagan from business consultants, **p3od**, very kindly visited us to talk with the students about how to prepare for an interview, giving them lots of really useful and constructive guidance and information.

We received great feedback from employers and students alike about how the interviews went. It was a really useful opportunity for the young people to build up their confidence and gain interview experience and also a wonderful opportunity for employers to meet and speak with these impressive potential future employees!



Working with real employers enables us to keep our careers programme relevant and up to date. We are also very fortunate to have the support of a wide range of local, national and international companies, which, in turn, helps us to support students in their own varied career ambitions, whether that be in medicine, engineering, finance, law, child care, public services, hospitality or whatever.



We were particularly pleased and very proud to welcome back five CHS alumni (above) to the event: Katie Nuttall - Majestical, Josh Pearson - Reliance Medical, Kayley Taylor - Franklyn Financial Management Ltd, Jake Pear - Lion and Swan Hotel, and Joe Burnham - Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows, who were all able to help students see life after CHS!

We could not have provided our students with such a fantastic opportunity without the employers who gave up their time to support this event and we would like to thank the following companies and their representatives who joined us on the day:

Ablewell Care
Barclays UK
Cheshire Police
Franklyn Financial Management Ltd
Majestical
Rossendale Trust
The Old Saw Mill

Apples and Pears Private Day Nursery
British Army
CHS Chair of Governors, Mr Benson
Hammond McNulty
Pan European Networks
Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows

Balfour Beatty
Cheshire College S&W
EQUANS Group
Lion and Swan Hotel
Reliance Medical
Siemens

Turtle-y amazing

Save the date



Students, staff and visitors to CHS can now enjoy our fantastic new Turtle mural outside the LRC, made in Mr Walsh's Year 8 Art Club last term.

Incorporating all sorts of plastic waste items, the mural was designed to start conversations about limiting plastic use to help save marine life.

The (now Year 9) artists were: **Lewis C, Archie P, Edie S** and Year 11 **Niamh M.**

Thank you to all these students and Mr Walsh for their very thought provoking artwork.



**Congleton High School
Parents in Partnership
Christmas Market**

Friday 2nd December
4-6pm

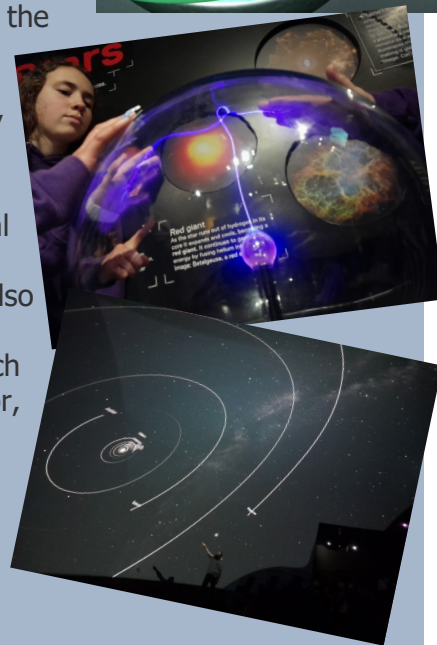
Stallholder enquiries welcome,
contact Mrs Eckersley:
eckersley@congletonhighcom

Knowledge bank

Over two days in October all our Year 8 Science students had the opportunity to visit the world famous radio telescope at Jodrell Bank, just down the road in Lower Withington. In 2019, in recognition of its internationally significant science, heritage and cultural impact over the last 75 years, Jodrell Bank Observatory was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status and inscribed on to the World Heritage List.

This visit enabled students to explore the solar system, galaxies and the universe and learn all about the technology we use to explore it. They were able to 'fly through the solar system' and beyond in the Dome cinema and get up-close and personal with our neighbouring planets and distant solar systems. The students also heard the intrepid story of how the Jodrell Bank telescope was built, which nearly ended in jail time for its creator, Sir Bernard Lovell!

The trip supported the Year 7 'Earth and Beyond' and Year 8 'Light and Sound' topics and also introduced 'Space Science,' which is covered in GCSE Triple Science.



Sea, sand and sun

In September, our Year 13 Biologists visited Anglesey for the fieldwork element of their course.

They sampled dunes at Aberffraw to investigate succession and completed a belt transect at Llaneilian to look at zonation on the rocky shore.

The sun shone for them all day while they collected data and samples to study when they returned to CHS.



Wellbeing matters at CHS

In September students heard an assembly on harmful sexualised behaviours and how to report concerns. Thank you to our **ACT CIVIL** student group who helped to deliver these assemblies.

If you have any **safeguarding concerns** about a child, your points of contact at Congleton High School are:

Mrs Darling (ldarling@congletonhigh.com), Miss Franks (lfranks@congletonhigh.com), Miss Boulton (jboulton@congletonhigh.com) or Mr Smith (dsmith@congletonhigh.com). If you would rather contact them by telephone, call the main school office on 01260 730123, and ask for one of the Safeguarding Team to contact you.

You can also speak with your child's form tutor or GTL if you are concerned. (See the **Contact Us** section of our website for contact details.)

When school is closed, you can call **ChECS** (Cheshire East Children's Consultation Services) on 0300 123 5012 Option 3 or 0300 123 5022 (out of hours). ChECS is the first point of call for all children's services.

If you would like information on how to report a concern about **Domestic Violence** or the support available, please visit: www.mycwa.org.uk or the Cheshire East/Live Well/Staying Safe website: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/staying-safe/domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence/domestic-abuse-getting-help.aspx or call: 0300 123 5101/ text: 07771 941 464.

Healthy Teen Relationship information for students and parents/carers can be found on the **Act on it now** website: www.actonitnow.org.uk/ This is a site developed for young people by young people to help them learn about what healthy, unhealthy and toxic relationships look like and direct them towards appropriate support. They can also be contacted by email: hello@actonitnow.org.uk or telephone: 01270 250 390

Any parents or carers who are concerned about **extreme behaviours** and influences and also **radicalisation** can find information and advice on the **Educate Against Hate** website: <https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>. You can also find on there contact details for reporting any concerns.

Harmful sexualised behaviours



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting children, young people and their families across Cheshire East with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Whether you're a parent or a young person, you can call us on **01260 290000** for more information or to make a referral.

Autumn Term 2022

WHAT'S ON AT VISYON:



CREATE AND CONNECT

Mondays 5.30-6.30pm (on Zoom) Age 11+
Mondays 6-7pm (Crewe base) Years 6-8 – starting 12th September for 8 weeks

Enjoy some time out to do something creative alongside other like-minded people. These small (max 6 people) creative groups are designed to help you relax, have fun and connect with others.



EXPLORING EMOTIONS

Tuesdays 6-7.15pm (Congleton Base) Age 14+

A chance to explore emotions in a creative way and to use art as a therapeutic tool. A small, supportive group provides a safe place to be yourself and find ways to cope when things are tough. Runs on a rolling 8 week programme.



OUR VISYON

Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm (on Zoom and Congleton Base) Age 14+

A supportive group for people who are interested in mental health, campaigning, rights and having a voice on all things that matter to young people.



PRACTICAL STRATEGIES SESSIONS

Recording Library Available Ages 11+

A series of webinars for young people to explore topics pertinent to mental health and to learn practical tools to help manage overwhelming emotions. Recording library available – see www.visyon.org.uk

There is also the option to book one to four 1:1 sessions to work on the practical ideas from the webinars.

To find out more about the groups and activities or to book please phone Visyon on 01260 290000. These sessions are free of charge and open to all in Cheshire East. We also have parent webinars and workshops – please see the website for more info.



ONE TO ONE COUNSELLING

(11 - 18)
Speak with one of our fully qualified counsellors for an hour each week.



FAMILY SUPPORT

(Parents of children 8+)
Information and advice to help you support your child's wellbeing.



MENTORING

(11 - 18)
See a mentor, in or out of school, to set and achieve your own goals.



PARENT WORKSHOPS

(Parents)
Face to face workshops on topics like anxiety, sleep and relationships.



CREATIVE & THERAPEUTIC GROUPS

(11 - 18)
Meet like-minded young people to talk or be creative, face to face or over Zoom.



MENTAL HEALTH WEBINARS

(Parents & young people)
Live webinars from mental health professionals on a wide array of topics.



Scan the QR for the website or visit www.visyon.org.uk

@visyonltd

Charity Number: 1107951

WWW.VISYON.ORG.UK
01260 290000

FELLOWSHIP HOUSE, PARK ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 1DP



CHARITY NO. 1107952
COMPANY NO. 5250758

Caring community

In September, Cheshire Young Carers ran a week of assemblies, which enabled them to speak with all of our year groups about the unique roles and responsibilities of the many young carers in the UK. We have been very lucky to welcome them back in to school from 6th October for our fortnightly **Young Carers Club**, offering support to the young people in our school community with caring responsibilities.



Congleton High School Young Carers Club
In conjunction with Cheshire Young Carers
Fortnightly from Thursday 6th October
3:00-4:00pm in The Hub

If you have any questions about support for young carers, please contact Miss Franks.



CHS Mental Health Matters (MHM) Team:
Lincoln DB, Leah F, Rebecca J, Natasha S, Eden B,
Isaac C, Niamh M and Sophie C



Don't struggle to cope alone.

If you are worried about yourself or somebody else, there are lots of ways you can get support when school is closed.

In an emergency dial 999

Hopeline UK 0800 068 41 41

The Mix helpline - 0808 808 4994

SHOUT text 85258

Childline 0800 11 11

Samaritans 116 123

Visyon call 01260 290000 or text 07508074748

NHS text 07507 329908

KOOTH.com

There is always somebody ready to help you.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are the Sixth Form '**Mental Health Matters**' team and this year we are focusing on making the school a kinder and safer environment for everyone.

We are working with staff and students, delivering assemblies and implementing measures such as anti-bullying, staff training and student mentoring.

As a team, we would love your support with this new initiative and encourage you to continue the discussions with your child about mental health. If you are worried about your child, please speak to their form tutor in the first instance.

All students have been given a '*Someone Who Can Help*' card, which has details of organisations who can help in a range of circumstances. Please remind your child to keep it handy, in their phone, blazer or school bag.

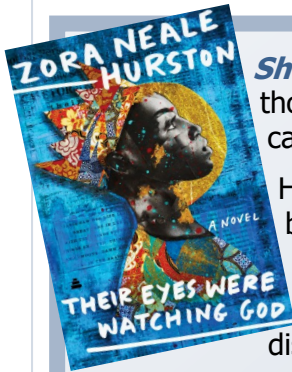
There is also information and contact details for help and support in the Student Welfare section in the Parent/Carer and Student areas of CongletonHigh.com.

Thank you.

Weaving words

Following is a wonderful piece of work crafted by Year 10 student, **Daisy A**, one of the students attending Mr Higgs' Creative Writing Club, held each Tuesday after school in E1-05.

The task presented to the group was to take the ending of an existing novel and write something new to either lead up to, or follow on, from it. Daisy actually took the endings of *two* novels - *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston, and *Memoirs of a Geisha*, by Arthur Golden - and wrote material that linked from one to the other. Daisy's chosen quotes are highlighted in blue. The first is from the Hurston novel and the second is from Golden's work.



She called in her soul to come and see. She called in to the uneven landscape of thorns and prickles, wasted like the sun atop her bones. She came and saw the animal carcasses beside the dried-up river. Even the sun lay deadened, bleached of care.

Her soul reflected what her iris saw in this world. Some may refer to this as misanthropy but she saw the realism of this world. She saw the stripped deeds of humanity, that no one tried to hide. She saw the dirt under her own fingernails as well as those of others.

As she opened her eyes from her minute of thought, the outside looked equally as disgusting as the photo in her mind. It seemed the camera truly never lied.

Derelict buildings lay unhidden and prominent in the land. The city of money and of opportunities was also a city of slurs and of abhorrence. And here, with its flattened presence and eerie demeanour, the city had fallen, despite how these people fought for it. All the protest that had caused all the chaos that had drained all their combined efforts - fallen. As she knew personally, only a few had realised their bloody sins and left as they knew so. However, the others stayed in blissful ignorance and had received exactly what was deserving of their minds. It was only fate for the arrival of one's consequences, as she was well aware.

Traipsing down the silent street was comforting. Well, for her anyway, but others tended not to feel the caress of coldness – what it really offered. Perhaps its sullen temperature matched her equally as cold heart hidden within the breaches of her chest. The monotonous houses glared down at her, with only hatred. Darkness coated the sky, like a wedding veil, with the few rain clouds crying. Like an expert, she eluded the fallen debris of human structures and polluted puddles.

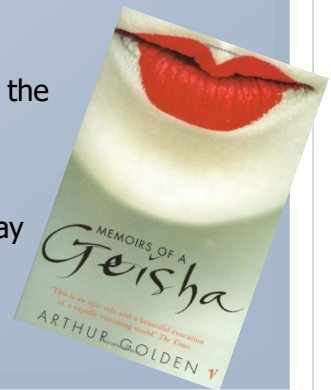
If she hadn't been sure of the impertinence of human kind before, she was now.

Biting down on her tongue, she tasted the prick of blood, which in return felt like the sickening flavour of his cowardice. Her shoes eventually clattered upon the concrete of the king's threshold.

She knocked.

It was a small, single knock that truly ended humanity's truce. She'd learnt the hard way that, *whatever our struggles and triumphs, however we may suffer them, all too soon they bleed into a wash, just like watery ink on paper.*

In short, she was the sin to end all sins.



Reaping the rewards (finally)!



At CHS we are firm believers in recognising and rewarding great behaviour and achievement, so we were delighted that the Rewards events postponed in summer due to the weather were able to take place this term.

Year 8 finally got their Year 7 trip to Chester Zoo and Year 9 were able to enjoy their Year 8 day of Marine style training in the sun with Totally Active.



Spotlight on student success

Once again we have been amazed by all the stories of our students' successes outside school, in their sports, hobbies and just generally remarkable lives! Here are a few examples:

Our Year 7 student, **Emily V**, was delighted to be awarded Cheshire Cricket Girls under 11s Bowler of the Year in September. This was a fantastic achievement for Emily, who was badly injured whilst spectating at a match in August (visit our website news pages for the full story). Emily has now been nominated for a Pride of Cricket Award and we are eagerly awaiting the results. Well done, Emily, you can be very proud of all of your achievements!



Congratulations to our Year 8 student, **Holly W**, whose essay, entitled: *'My Diary in Prison,'* has been selected from over 5,000 entries nationwide for publication in the Young Writers Annual Showcase - *Words of Youth* - a book full of young writers' work. Great news, Holly, we really look forward to reading your story.

Year 9 student, **Fern L**, competed in the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association British Open Sporting Championship at Barbury Shooting Ground in September and did so well that she scooped the title of British Ladies Colt Champion. This is a massive achievement for Fern. Some 1,213 people of all ages and abilities entered the competition to shoot the same course. Fern achieved a score of 91/120 on the championship course, which placed her third in the C class (out of 188 people), sixteenth in Ladies (out of 95) and first in Ladies Colts. This score qualified her to shoot in the finals day, where she successfully won the Ladies Colt category with 49/75 on a very tricky course, shooting against people much older and with much more experience. Congratulations, Fern, we look forward to hearing more news of your continued success.



A huge achievement for our Year 8 student, **Callum L**, who has accepted a place on the Advanced Coaching Centre Training Programme with Liverpool FC. This is great news, Callum, and it will really help you to continue to develop your wonderful football talent and skill.

We really encourage reading for pleasure at CHS, so we were delighted to hear that our new Year 7 student, **Miley DW**, had completed the national Library Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays. Congratulations, Miley, you'll find loads of great books to enjoy in our LRC. Speak with our LRC Manager, Mrs Richardson, if you need any help or suggestions.



More great news from a Student Success page regular! At the end of August, Year 11 student, **Isabel C**, was part of the Gold medal winning England Skeet team, who competed at the Home International in Falkirk, Scotland. After two days of shooting, England took Gold overall plus Golds in Seniors, Ladies, Juniors and Super Veterans categories. The Veterans Team were runners up, narrowly missing out by one clay. On this, her debut shoot for the England Ladies Team, Isabel shot an outstanding 144/150! A huge well done to Isabel and to all of the England ESK Team!

(You can read more about all of these stories in the News pages of our website, CongletonHigh.com)

If you have a Student Success story that you would like us to share in future issues of our newsletter and social media, please email the details and any photographs to: Success@CongletonHigh.com.

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

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



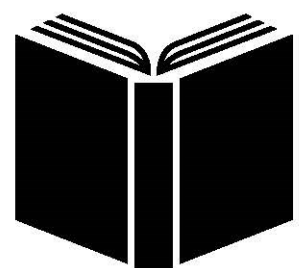
Congratulations to all of the students who have improved their punctuality and attendance this half-term.

Over half of our students have improved their attendance since the same time last year.

The number of students arriving late to school has reduced by nearly 20% during the last half-term since the same time last year.

Parent/Carer Guide to Attendance

Many of you will have already received your copy of the guide at your child's Information Evening. A digital copy is available on the school website. Lots of information included to help you to support your child's attendance.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Top tutor attendance this half-term

Rank	Tutor
1	7HM
2	7DCH
3	7AE

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



Introducing the new faces at CHS

I'm **Miss Rigby** and I teach Art and Design. I chose to teach this subject as I enjoy being creative and making art. I love experimenting with different media and materials. I'm looking forward to sharing my passion for art with everyone at CHS and seeing all your amazing creative ideas! Fun Art Fact: Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa actually has her own mailbox at the Louvre because of all the love letters she receives!



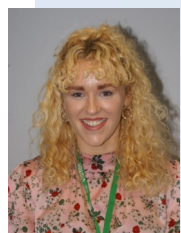
I'm **Mr Taylor** and I believe in giving all students equal opportunities to participate in sports and activity to help create the best version of themselves. My hope is that I can present our students with the opportunities to showcase all their sporting talents and celebrate them as a teacher, department and school.



Hello everyone! I am **Miss Cigala** and I teach Spanish and French. I am truly passionate about languages - I speak Spanish, English, French and Italian - and it really gratifies me to see how students learn and make progress during lessons. My aim at CHS is to guide students through their learning path and help them to understand how important foreign languages are for their future.



Hi! I am **Miss McAleavy**, and I am a Performing Arts teacher! I have a background in Musical Theatre and have undergone professional training in Singing, Acting and Dance. I am really excited to bring a Dance curriculum to Year 7 this year and teach drama throughout the school. Both upper and lower school Dance Clubs are growing week by week and there will be lots of opportunities for students to get involved in performances, trips and workshops over the coming year.



My name is **Miss Harkin** and I teach RE and History. Within both subjects, I enjoy the discussions in the classroom. It is always interesting to hear the range of opinions each student has. I believe both RE and History play a significant role in our everyday lives, and I love the passion my students have each lesson.



I'm **Mr Edwards** and I became a teacher because I have such a love and passion for History and Politics. I am particularly interested in American history and American foreign policy during the Cold War.



Hi, I'm **Miss Mahmoud**. My background is in English and Linguistics. I love the way English Literature can be interpreted in so many different and exciting ways and really enjoy teaching students the different ways to use language. I'm looking forward to my career journey here at CHS, and I hope to bring some fun, positivity and enjoyment to English lessons.



I'm **Miss Sibthorpe** and after working as a TA in a primary school for the last five years it was time for a new challenge. I am now a TA for Year 7 and thoroughly enjoying it. Everyday I am learning along with the children and looking forward to furthering my own education.



I'm **Mrs Wilkinson**, I have come back to teaching after taking a career break to have my two children. Although, my subject is English, the students of CHS will see me in lots of different departments as my role is that of Cover Supervisor. Whilst I have a love of literature and a passion for theatre, I am enjoying the opportunity to work across a much broader subject range than usual.



Hi I am **Mr Goldstraw**, one of the new PE teachers here at CHS. PE was my favourite subject at school and I always wanted to pursue a career related to sport, so becoming a PE teacher fit the bill perfectly for me. My favourite sport is football. I am looking forward to the years to come at CHS and helping our students achieve success.



I'm **Mrs Parry** and I am so pleased to have joined the SEN TA team at CHS this year. I have previously worked as a primary school TA, working with children with SEN, SEMH and physical disabilities. I have four children of my own between the ages of 5 and 12, one of whom has a diagnosis of ASD so I fully understand some of the challenges faced by the children and their parents/carers! I'm excited to take on this new challenge working at CHS and am looking forward to using my own experiences to providing my support and guidance to the students and hopefully, learn some new skills along the way!



More new faces at CHS

I am **Mrs Brennan** and I am the new SENCo at CHS. I have been an SEN and English teacher for a number of years and just love books, stories and going on adventures - sometimes without even leaving the comfort of my armchair! I want every student to be able to thrive here, to have the right kind of support to explore the exciting and enthralling learning opportunities at CHS and to leave us with a head full of ideas and a passion for how they will make a difference in the world.



I am **Miss Maxwell**. I am originally from Northern Ireland and moved to England nine years ago. Music has always been my first passion from when I attended school myself and I wish to enrich the students at Congleton with the same Music education that I received. Music is a form of art, expression and communication and I can't wait to create this culture with the students at CHS. Outside of the classroom, I am a keen runner and have a unique passion for marathons.

I'm **Mrs Currah-Hall** and I'm passionate about languages, which is why I became an MFL teacher.

In my classroom I try to bring out the intrinsic motivation for languages within my students through access to lots of vocabulary, games, and fun learning. I'm looking forward to seeing CHS students become as passionate about languages as I am. Languages bring us all together in this globalised society and we need more togetherness in the world.



I'm **Miss Martin** and I teach English. It has always been my favourite subject and love teaching it because of the wide range of texts explored and the opportunities provided to students to express their opinions and views on these.

We would also like to introduce **Mrs Pini** as our new Medical Officer and School Office Administrator.

A VERY warm welcome to all of our new staff

Highlights from our PE team

Our Sixth Form Sports Academy Netball team celebrated an amazing win at the end of September. 28-21 against Holy Cross College! The girls showed excellent determination and some great play. Well done to everyone and a big well done to **Evie**, who was awarded Player of the Match.



There were more Netball celebrations at the beginning of October with a great night of fixtures against fellow TLA school, Knutsford Academy. There were wins for the 7A, 7B, 8A and 8B teams. Well done to all the CHS and Knutsford players who took part.



Football fixtures gave call for both celebrations and commiserations at the end of September. Year 8 won their match against Alsager 8-1, Year 11 drew 3-3 against Alsager and the Sixth Form Sports Academy team lost 3-0 to Cheadle Hulme. We saw some great playing throughout all of the matches.

Students have continued to work hard in their PE lessons, putting in lots of effort and making great progress as a result. Mrs Henderson was very impressed with her Year 9 students' super balancing skills in one of their lessons in October!

Sport is always popular at CHS, with many students enjoying it as part of their school studies, out of school in their own time and also afterschool in our sports clubs and teams. We offer a wide range of extracurricular sports opportunities, which is updated each half term. Whether students want to improve their sports skills and play in matches or just use up some energy at the end of the day, there is something for everyone. A full list of sports clubs and activities can be found in both the Parent/ Carer and Student areas of the website.

Along with our own busy sports programme, we are always delighted to be able to host events

for primary schools and were delighted this half term to host the SSP CHAMpS football competition for Years 3/4 and 5/6 in September and October. Congratulations to The Quinta and Black Firs teams who are all through to the Cheshire Finals.



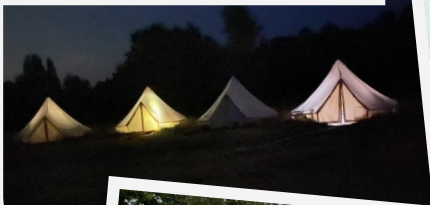
Fun in the Dorset sun

At the end of the summer term, our PE team took ninety students from all year groups down to Buddens Activity Centre at Rockley in Dorset for a week of water sports and outdoor pursuits.

It is hard to imagine it now with winter drawing in, but back in July the temperatures were rocketing, so the chance to take part in some activities in the water was very much appreciated as a welcome chance to cool down! The water-based activities included canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, long boating, raft building and kayaking. Some students, however, spent more time actually in or under the water than on it!

The students were also able to experience lots of land-based challenges including rock climbing, abseiling, archery, fire building and axe throwing, along with a range of team building activities. Luckily, there was a plentiful supply of both water and sun screen on offer at all times!

The great weather also made camping in the tipi tents much more fun than it would have been in the usual British downpours! The students were able to enjoy evening campfires outside and no doubt a few marshmallows were toasted and campfire songs sung!



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 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.

If you have any queries or problems, please contact our dedicated Sims Helpdesk via email: simshelpdesk@congletonhigh.com.