

Newsletter

Issue 37: January to February 2023

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The First Recruits to our 2022-3 #CHS100 Club



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Calling all Box Lane students



Whether you are a past student of CHS or came to school on this site when it was Heathfield or Congleton County Secondary School for Boys, we'd love to hear from you.

We are building a register of our alumni, which enables us to share your stories with current and future students who may be wondering where their studies could take them, or are confused about the different routes at 16+.

We are using these stories in a number of ways, such as on posters around school, where students can learn about and be inspired by the young people who were once where they are now. We also have an alumni section in the 'About Us' section of our website, enabling current and prospective students, parents and carers to see the sorts of roles our former students have progressed on to and show the many different routes to success.



We are equally interested in hearing about vocations that have taken decades to develop and may not have followed a 'traditional' route, alongside those that began at Options stage and have progressed seamlessly. Sharing all your

accounts is of immense value to our students, who are able to learn a great deal from your experiences.

If you would like share your story with our students now and in years to come, please email our Communications Officer, Katrina Kenyon: kkenyon@congletonhigh.com

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.

Save the date for Annie

Our Performing Arts team will be presenting Annie at the Daneside Theatre from 5-6th July. Tickets will be available from CHS closer to the date.



Dates for your diary

Friday 17th February	CHS closes for half-term break
Monday 27th February	CHS opens to students (Week 2)
Wednesday 1st March	PiP meeting 7pm
Thursday 23rd March	Year 10 Progress Evening
Tuesday 28th March	Year 8a Progress Evening
Thursday 30th March	PE Malta Tour begins
Friday 31st March	CHS closes for Easter break
Monday 17th April	CHS opens to students (Week 1)
Wednesday 19th April	PiP meeting 7pm
Thursday 20th April	Year 8b Progress Evening
Monday 1st May	CHS closed for Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May	CHS closed for Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9th May	Year 7a Progress Evening
Thursday 18th May	Year 7b Progress Evening
Friday 26th May	CHS closes for half-term break
Monday 5th June	CHS opens to students (Week 1)



Want to get more involved in school life?

Our next Parents in Partnership meeting is on:

Wednesday 1st March at 7pm

and **YOU** are invited!

This invitation is open to all CHS parents, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbours, the local community etc!

Welcome

As we reach the end of this first half-term I cannot believe how action-packed my first few months as Headteacher have been. I hope, as parents and carers, you have seen a very smooth transition, despite the need for a snow closure and the excitement of an Ofsted visit! What I will say is that I am relishing the opportunity to lead the fantastic team of staff at this school.

We have welcomed many visitors recently, with the Ofsted inspection, Headteacher interviews and Trustees visits, and it has been great to hear all their different perspectives on Congleton High School. We have been delighted that an overwhelming amount of compliments have been paid to our students. They are real ambassadors for this school, able to articulate their feelings and taking pride in their work and the wider CHS community. This level of maturity is something in which they and their parents and carers should take great pride.

Our offer of experiences for learning outside the classroom has continued its return to pre-lockdown levels. This half-term has seen field trips for Geography and Biology students, visits to the theatre and The Hallé Orchestra, careers events and a combined History and Art trip to Liverpool. This is only a small selection of what is on offer and is in addition to our regular after-school activities.

If you would like to find out more about our extracurricular offer, please visit our website, CongletonHigh.com where you will find a full list of clubs, activities and curriculum support sessions in both the Student and Parent/Carer areas.

Our big extracurricular news is the return of our Summer Production. This year the students will be performing "Annie" at the Daneside Theatre (see left). We have held a series of auditions and the talent on show was very strong indeed. So much so that the Performing Arts team have been able to cast it twice over, with a totally different cast for each performance! Therefore, we are expecting both nights to be fully booked, so watch out for when the tickets go on sale.

In this time of transition for Congleton High School it is good to have the feedback from Ofsted on our strengths as well as reflections on further developments. I am excited at the prospect of working with our new Headteacher, Heidi Thurland, from September, to move our school forward to further success.

I hope students take time to relax over the break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 27th February (Week 2).

Mr Warren
CHS Headteacher



A few words from our Chair of Governors

It has been a very busy period since the new year and I must start by thanking all of the staff at CHS for contributing to, and supporting their senior leaders at the recent Ofsted inspection. The smooth manner in which the inspection was carried out demonstrates the thorough advance planning carried out by our Headteacher, Mr Warren, and his team. I would also like to thank parents and carers who made their views known on Parent View. The inspection report will be published shortly.

The second major activity has been the successful appointment of a permanent Headteacher following a rigorous two-day process carried out at the beginning of the month. I am most pleased to welcome Heidi Thurland, who will take up her post when school returns in September, after the summer break.

Finally, after a delay occasioned by our planning application, I am now able to announce that we can proceed with the development of additional classrooms and our new meeting space. A little later than anticipated but well in time to accommodate the additional students expected at CHS in the years ahead.



May I also extend my appreciation to my team of governors who supported the appointment of our new Headteacher and met with the Ofsted inspector during the inspection. If you are interested in joining our governing board, or simply wish to know more about the role, then 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

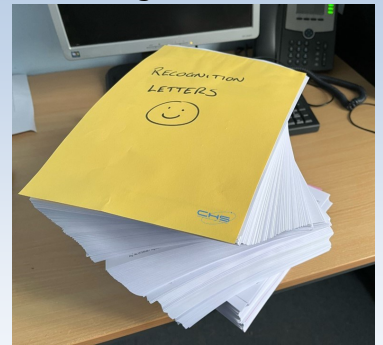
Recognising great work and behaviour

We were delighted to be able to send out **2,252** Recognition letters in December to **858** remarkable students, meaning that **85% of the main school** were recognised for something positive throughout the last half-term.

The breakdown was as follows:

- 687 students received 0 C3s
- 580 students received 0 H3s
- 367 students achieved our target of 98% attendance
- 211 students achieved 100% attendance
- 407 students improved their attendance from the same time last year

We look forward to sending out even more letters at the end of this half-term. Keep up your good work, CHS!



Students get the Eco bug



Our Eco Club students braved a bitterly cold wind on the last day of January to collect lots of natural materials for their Bug Hotels.

The Eco Club is open to all students in all years - see Mr Holmes for more details or just pop along to A0-22 after school on Tuesdays.



Inmates for a day



Our Sixth Form Social Scientists visited HM Prison Shrewsbury, known as 'The Dana,' last term. The Victorian prison, decommissioned in 2013, sits on top of the original Georgian prison and is now open to the public.

The temporary inmates were able to experience being locked in a cell, visit the execution room and get a glimpse in to the life of a prisoner - all in minus seven degrees and wearing delightful orange boiler suits!



Counting crows

On Friday 3rd February, our Year 7 students took part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch during their Science lessons. In separate groups and in different locations around the school grounds, the students spent approximately twenty minutes counting the number of different birds of each species they could see in that time.



They recorded their sightings on to the RSPB identification sheets and, once the time was up, all the groups' results were added together.

Headteacher and keen bird-spotter, Mr Warren, joined some of the groups to point out different birds, including the many pied wagtails that frequent the school site, and even identify some of the birdsong we could hear.

Students identified nine different bird types and a total of 49 birds. Not surprisingly, wood pigeons and black-headed gulls made up the vast majority of all the birds spotted.

Mrs Jackson-Moss has now submitted all our data to the RSPB to support their survey.



What did you see?	
Can you find a way to make a line for you to note down the highest number of each species that you see together at the same time? There is room below each bird's name for you to add your idea for doing this.	
Your name: CHS	
Woodpigeon	Blackbird
15	3
Robin	House sparrow
2	2
Starling	Black-headed gull
0	20
Maggie	Blue tit
2	3
Robin	Feral pigeon
1	0
Great tit	Chaffinch
1	0

Did you notice anything in particular about the birds you saw? Differences in how they moved or what they were doing? Or perhaps you managed to see and identify a bird not shown here? If so, note these things in the space on the back or on a separate sheet. Don't forget you can get help from rspb.org.uk/birdidentifier. For more information, visit: rspb.org.uk/schoolwatch

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 202070, in Scotland 0020704. Drawing by Peter Langford. 07/0044-02/07

An update from our Student Leadership Team



Above: Our 2022-23 Student Leadership Team

Right: Head Students, Grace K and Ryan C



From the beginning of the year, as a Student Leadership Team, we set out to make an impact and leave a legacy at CHS. We had many goals we wanted to achieve by the end of the academic year, which included: the element of diversity and inclusion within our school community, supporting charitable causes, environmental issues and a focus on mental health, whilst representing the school through open evenings and school events.

Six months in, we are amazed by the progress we have been able to make in the school environment. We have managed to build a strong line of student communication through our regular meetings with year groups to help aid our understanding of what CHS students really want from their school.

The topic of diversity and inclusion was a regular theme of conversation at our meetings as we wanted to create a way for all students, no matter race, religion, sexual orientation or gender, to feel comfortable, heard and validated in the school environment. This led to us being able to create a new scheme, titled '*Speak Your Truth*,' which was presented to students during assemblies by two of our team members, **Riley C** and **Grace K**. This scheme gives students a platform to educate their peers on a topic they believe needs to be voiced in school, so students are able to learn through shared experiences and build their understanding of challenges others have to face.

Our student leaders, **Sophia AG** and **Prisais I**, have been working hard on voicing the importance of Black History Month and educating others about the discrimination faced by the black community. They have been working with members of the lower school to produce an assembly that will be shown to students soon and they have used their artistic talents to showcase inspirational members of the black community, which will be displayed for all students to see.



Our Deputy Head Students have focused heavily on educating students about how to protect their mental health. They have been advocating this point since the start of term and held assemblies for all year groups during Children's Mental Health Week in February (*see left*). They looked at topics such as exam stress, social media, managing work load, feelings and men's mental health. They have also been working closely with Deputy Head, Mrs Darling, as Mental Health Ambassadors to push this message further around the school. As a team they have further encouraged staff and student support relations and have advocated for this from September.

Following a meeting in November with the Mayor of Congleton regarding the environment in the local area, the Science Ambassadors (a branch of the Student Leadership Team, led by **Ryan C**, **Dan W** and **Isaac C**) were inspired to create an Eco Club to help motivate the next generation of pupils to keep the school green. Despite this being a new initiative, we have been quick off the mark to implement changes such as creating and placing bug hotels to aid biodiversity in the school (*see page 4*).

Moving forward, we plan to further promote improvements to our school environment by reducing litter and educating our school community on how we can unite for a greener future. We are so proud of everything we have managed to achieve throughout the past six months and extremely grateful for the support we have received from students and staff. We look forward to what else we will be able to achieve by the end of the academic year, when we hand over the legacy of the Student Leadership Team to the next generation.

Sharing a love of Science

As part of our Science team's annual 'Bring a Scientist to School Day' in January, we welcomed a number of guests who were able to demonstrate to students that Science careers aren't just about white coats, test tubes and microscopes but actually encompass a wide variety of job roles in a diverse array of organisations.

Our guests explained their roles and the routes they took to achieve their position in the Science world, inspiring students to look further in to Science related careers.

The event was for students in Years 9 and 11 and helped them with their GCSE and A Level Options decision making.

Thank you to our Scientist presenters: Richard Blankley (Agilent Technologies), Robert Finch (CPG Europe), Matthew Harrison (GSK), Elizabeth Morris (Reaseheath) and Geoff Smith (Sir Robert McAlpine).



Miss King is a winner!



Congratulations to our wonderful Teaching Assistant, Miss King, who won Education and Training Apprentice of the Year at the Cheshire College - South & West Apprenticeship Awards 2023 in February.

We really value and admire Miss King's positive attitude, hard work and approachability. Her success as an apprentice is inspiration for all our students keen to investigate what an apprenticeship could offer them in the future. This award was very well deserved!



Driving ambition

In February the Bentley Motors Early Careers team visited CHS to speak with students from Year 11 and Sixth Form, to give them an insight in to what it is like to work for Bentley and the Apprenticeships available for 2023.



Thank you to the Bentley team of presenters:

- Oliver Hamilton
- Jake Kelly
- Ash Mason
- George Ormes



We were pleased to see that the team were able to travel in style to CHS and their gleaming white Bentley was very much admired and appreciated by students and staff alike!

Visit the Bentley Careers website at careers.bentleymotors.com/ for information about the wide range of Bentley Apprenticeships currently on offer.

A play on (French) words

In February, our Year 8 and Year 10 Modern Foreign Languages students had the opportunity to watch a play entirely in French. *La Maison Hantée*, performed by the Onatti Productions team, was a great hit and even included some student participation!

Onatti produce plays in French, Spanish, German and English and assert that "*Plays in foreign languages should be modern, visual, accessible and cool! We promise: no silly colourful dungarees!*"

They definitely delivered on the day and the audience really enjoyed the experience. It was a wonderful chance for students to hear the French language in context and a real departure from the normal texts studied in the classroom.



Christmas spectacular!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our fabulous Christmas Showcase last term, what fantastic talent we have at CHS!

During the evening over 100 students, across all year groups, took part and it was so thrilling to experience the vibrant atmosphere both back stage and front of house. Behind the scenes, it was electric with students delighted to be able to finally showcase all their hard work.

Around 200 guests enjoyed performances from the Drama Club performing 'Grinch'; our Dance Troupe, 7HMA and 7MWA performing Wind in the Willows from their Dance classes; upper and lower school vocals; Drum and Guitar Ensemble clubs; school band; and various solo musicians including Year 7 **Alfie S** on guitar, Year 10 **Barney M** on piano, Year 11 **Tommy N** on drums and Year 12 **Orla H**, Year 13 **Grace K** and Year 12 **Scarlett S** singing.

We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! Thank you to everyone involved, from the Performing Arts staff and student helpers for all their hard work practicing, the Site Maintenance team, Mrs Eckersley and PiP for refreshments and, of course, the cast of students for their incredible talent and commitment.

In addition to a festival of fantastic singing, dancing and drama, the show also raised **£1,400** from ticket sales for Performing Arts equipment, **£75** from the raffle for The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation and another **£230** for PiP funds from the sale of refreshments.



The #CHS100 Club welcomes new recruits



Congratulations to the first students to be awarded 100 Recognition points this year. What a great achievement. Well done!

Clockwise from top left: **Imogen D Y7**, **Ethan D Y7**, **Luke T Y7**, **Sophie C Y7**, **William H Y7**, **Lauren W Y7**, **Jacob S Y7**, **Poppy G Y8**.

Who will be next to join the #CHS100 Club?



An hour well spent

As part of their work on block-based programming and problem solving, Mr Davis' 7GXT class spent time completing an **Hour of Code** tutorial of their choice in January.

Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to Computer Science, using fun tutorials to show that anybody can learn the basics. The international campaign is supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide and available in over 45 languages. There are lots of tutorials to choose from, including creating a simple game and a Minecraft themed option. You can find out more at: <https://hourofcode.com/uk>

Most of the students completed their tutorial and afterwards could generate their Hour of Code certificate. The next task for the class was to look at how to build some games in Scratch.



All in the past

In December, our Year 13 student, **Riley C**, won first prize in the 2022 CHS Sixth Form History Essay Competition with his excellent piece of writing on the achievements of the Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee.



Well done, Riley!

Winter winner

A huge number of students were eager to take part in our LRC Christmas competition to guess the number of pages in all the books contained in the wrapped present. The guesses ranged from a big fat zero to a whopping 36,000!



The actual number of pages was 3259. A very BIG thank you to **Milly W** and **Katie W** (both in Year 7) for opening the present, checking the number of pages in each book and doing the maths.

Congratulations to Year 8 student, **Holly W**, whose guess of 3251 pages was closest to the answer. Alongside her chocolate treat, Holly chose one of the new books to take home - Fake by Ele Fountain.



Othello amazes and inspires



Last term, the Performing Arts Drama team took students from Years 9 to 12 to see Frantic Assembly's Othello at The Lowry theatre in Salford Quays. For many of the students, this was their first visit to this theatre and they were amazed by the size and setting.

Frantic Assembly are a world-renowned physical theatre company. Tickets to the show were sold out quickly and it was easy to see why! The students were so animated leaving the theatre and it has completely inspired them and their work since in their Drama lessons.



DIGITAL THEATRE+

English students, Performing Arts students and any students interested in watching live theatre and spoken word poetry can now access Digital Theatre+, an online platform featuring a whole host of theatre and poetry performances from a wide variety of genres and including some of our exam texts.

Students will need to be logged in to their CHS Office 365 account to access this.

You will find a link to Digital Theatre+ in the Student area of CongletonHigh.com

Bakespeare

Our Year 12 English Literature students had great fun in December recreating key moments from Shakespeare's King Lear with gingerbread men, piped icing and creativity. Festive fun knowledge consolidation at Christmas!



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:

Year 8 **Archie DW** and Year 7 **Miley DW** both successfully achieved their Bronze 1,2 and 3 Lifesavers certificates recently. To reach this level, swimmers must prove a number of skills including being able to swim continuously in clothing for 50m, swim lifesaving backstroke and demonstrate a reach rescue



Alfie S, Year 7, passed his Grade 3 Electric Guitar with merit earlier this year. Alfie is now working towards Grade 4. Well done, Alfie, you gave a fantastic performance at our Performing Arts Christmas Showcase and we look forward to hearing much more.

Our Year 8 Swimming champ, **Oscar dV**, has been selected to represent the North West Division at the English Schools Secondary Teams Championships in Coventry in March. This event is a particularly important one for Oscar as it will be used to select the teams for the 2023 International School Sport Federation (ISF) U15 Gymnasiade School



Summer Games in Brazil! In November, he took part in a national training camp as part of the Swim England Talent Pathway, which aims to identify, develop and support athletes for the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games of the future. He has continued to compete at a national and regional level, achieving great success and adding to his already impressive medal haul.



CHS students were very successful in a recent local history competition marking the 750th anniversary of Congleton receiving its charter. The Congleton Young Persons Documenting History Competition challenged students to produce a project on an aspect of local history inspired by the charter year celebrations. **Joseph P** was the winner in the age 8-12 category with a superb project on the history of transport in our local area. **Emily V** was runner up with a film on Congleton's history produced jointly with a student from Eaton Bank Academy, whilst **Holly W's** project received a High Commended award.



Year 7 student, **NulaAngel TG**, secured a Gold medal in the age 11-12 category in the NW Tumble Regional Teams Club and Regional Cup Qualifier Competition at the end of January. NulaAngel competes as part of the Sandbach Gymnastics Tumbling squad.

Olly P, Year 10, made it to the quarter finals of the Open Dutch Taekwon-do Championships in January. He's now looking forward to representing PUMA England at The Warrior Open in London in a few weeks before heading back to Holland (during the May half-term break) for the Holland Cup.



Our Year 11 student, **Louis K**, helped his Scholar Green neighbours protect their homes when a pipe burst and flooded their road in January. He went round to each of his neighbours to see how he could help to prevent water getting in and also did a great job digging gravel to make barriers.

You can read more about these stories in the News pages of 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/carer permission to share the story.)



Investigating IT apprenticeships

Our Careers team organised another great opportunity for students in February. Recruitment executives, Lauren and Will, from Digital and Technical Apprenticeship provider, Apprentify, ran drop-in sessions throughout the morning in our Sixth Form Centre, discussing apprenticeship options.

Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular with students, who are keen to continue their education and training but concerned about the growing costs of attending university. Young people undertaking apprenticeships are given the opportunity to continue on their educational path while also being in a professional environment and gaining valuable experience in the workplace. In addition, they have the opportunity to earn whilst they learn amongst industry experts.

IT itself continues to be a rapidly growing industry and one definitely worth investigating. According to data for the UK's Digital Economy Council, the number of advertised tech roles is 42% higher than pre-pandemic levels and tech and IT-related vacancies make up 13% of all UK job vacancies.

Students were able to hear about the range of apprenticeships offered by Apprentify and also find out more about the basics of undertaking an apprenticeship.

Thank you to Lauren and Will for taking the time to meet with our students.



Year 7 make educated career choices

In February, our Careers team ran a 'Guess the Employer' event for our Year 7 cohort. Students had the opportunity to speak with eight individuals from a range of business sectors to find out details about their organisation and their job role. After speaking with all the employers, the students were then asked to make an educated guess as to each person's job title and their employer.

The event was a real success, with students all keenly interrogating our guests about their daily tasks, the qualifications they needed, the sorts of people they worked with/for etc. There were many correct and almost correct guesses at the end of the sessions, showing that Year 7 had really listened and thought about what they were hearing.

Our Guess the Employer events are a great way for students to find out more about different jobs and organisations, which can help them to plan their own futures. Learning about the qualifications needed for particular job roles also helps students to choose their GCSE options in Year 9.

A huge THANK YOU to all the employers who supported our Year 7 Guess the Employer event:

- Maddie from Barclays UK
- Mel from Bentley Motors
- Aimee from East Cheshire NHS Trust
- Lucy and Victoria from Hammond McNulty
- Jason from The Rossendale Trust
- Oliver from Siemens
- Sara and Shannan from Tinsdills Solicitors
- Laura from Visyon



It is always very special to be able to welcome back members of the CHS Alumni to share their own career success with our current cohort. At this particular event we were delighted that former CHS students, Melanie Ashun and Oliver Jennings, were able to talk with Year 7 about their apprenticeship roles at Bentley and Siemens.

These Careers events are such valuable opportunities for our students and we really value the time and support of all these inspirational people and their employers.

Buzzing

We've signed up to BookTrust Bookbuzz, a reading programme that aims to inspire a love of reading in students aged 11-13.



Before Christmas every Year 8 student chose a free book from a list of seventeen. They now have their books and are really enjoying them.

Isaac's Oxford offer



Congratulations to our Deputy Head Student, Isaac C, who has received an offer from Oxford University to read Maths.

Anyone who knows Isaac won't be at all surprised to hear this news as he took his Maths GCSE in Year 6, achieving an A* grade with 194 marks out of a possible 200!

Future fair

In February, Year 13 students visited The Manchester Careers Fair, where they met local and national employers face-to-face and were able to apply directly for hundreds of vacancies.

The UK Careers Fair

Students also had the opportunity to access a range of information and advice on careers, CVs and interviews, along with hearing more details on a range of 'featured roles'.

CHS charity update

Our students, led by our Charity Ambassadors, have found lots of ways to raise money for a whole host of valuable local, national and international causes.

Our Christmas Item Day in December, where students were invited to add a bit of Christmas cheer to their uniform, raised **£328.52** for **Save the Children**. We saw a wonderful array of Christmas jumpers, festive headgear and a whole tree's worth of tinsel.



February was **LGBT+ History Month** and all throughout the month our screen in the main hall brought light to different members of the LGBT+ community, including many with ties to the media sector, following this year's theme of 'Behind the Lens.'

As part of the celebrations, our LGBTQ+ Ambassadors hosted stalls, music and free face painting in the hall at break and lunch on the last day of the half-term. Students were invited to wear a bright item of clothing to school in addition to their uniform that day to celebrate and support members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The main focus of the celebration was to raise awareness but our LGBTQ+ Ambassadors also raised funds with **Pride** related merchandise, and a cakes and sweet treats sale.

Our support for **The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation** continues with a number of initiatives including our ongoing loose change 'dropbox,' and Christmas Show Raffle (which raised **£75**). We also held a St Valentine's raffle, offering three fantastic hampers as prizes, which raised **£125**. Huge thanks go out to the Congleton branches of Morrisons and Marks and Spencer for their very generous donations for the hampers.



A yearly fixture in our Charity calendar is the **NSPCC Number Day**. It's a great opportunity for students to have fun with Maths and also help to raise money for the hard-working children's charity. Some of our Key Stage 3 students participated in a Maths Murder Mystery Escape Room and others took part in a History of Maths Quiz. Of course, it wouldn't be Number Day without a cake or two so we ran a bake sale at break time raising a wonderful **£180** for the charity. A big thank you to all our cake makers, all the students who helped out on the day and everyone who bought a cake to help us raise money!



Our students are taking part in the **Rotary International Swimathon** at Biddulph Leisure Centre on Saturday 11th March in aid of our own school funds, local mental health charity - **Visyon** and **North West Air Ambulance**. Fifty percent of their sponsorship money will be split between the two charities and the other fifty percent will go towards improving opportunities and facilities for our students. Swimmers each have their own sponsorship forms but you can also donate via Mrs Eckersley. Please email for details: ceckersley@congletonhigh.com.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Punctuality

Please remember that school starts at 08:40 and all students should be on site by this time. We have seen an increase in the number of students arriving late to school this half-term - remember that we have complimentary breakfast items available in the canteen for students each morning.



Attendance Improvements



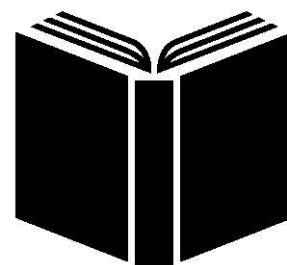
Congratulations to all of the students who have improved their punctuality and attendance this half-term.

68% of our students have improved their attendance since the same time last year.

During a challenging half-term for seasonal illnesses, we would like to congratulate the almost 400 students who finished the term on 100% attendance.

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	7MWA
3	8JF

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



Rewarding outstanding effort and achievement

At the end of last term, we invited our 2021-2 Year 11 and Year 13 students to join us to celebrate with us their many school achievements. Along with their qualification certificates, we also presented a number of curriculum and special award prizes.

Each of our Curriculum Award winners received a certificate and a £10 Amazon voucher and the Special Award winners were presented with a certificate and a £15 Amazon voucher.

Once again, the majority of our Year 11 leavers have progressed in to our Sixth Form but it was a great chance to catch up with the few who have chosen to go on to other schools, colleges, training and apprenticeships. We wish them, and all of our 2021-22 Year 11 and Year 13 students, the very best of luck for the future.

Congratulations to all of the winners of our thirteen special awards and the curriculum prizes. These awards represent all of your hard work along with your commitment to your studies, our school community and to a very bright and successful future for you all.

Year 11 Special Awards		Sixth Form Special Awards	
Pecks Restaurant Award for Excellence in Catering	Millie W	Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life	Tyler C Jemima H Ellie T Amelia L Deema S Lily S
Award for Effort and Determination	Tegan P		Award for Personal Academic Achievement
Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement	Izsak DT		
Governors Award	Daniel BP		Governors' Award
Citizenship Award sponsored by New Life Church	Rebecca C		
The EBACC Award	James C	The Martin Strawson Award for Outstanding Achievement	Dylan P Libby T
STEM Award	Benjamin D		Hazel W Joshua W
Stacey Marsh Inspiration Award sponsored by PIP	Robert D Sophie C Niamh M Lincoln DAB		Zara E
Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life			

Year 11 Curriculum Awards

Name	Subject	Name	Subject	Name	Subject
Samir A	Biology Combined	Nathan H	Physics Combined	Talia O'B	English Language
Joshua BP	GCSE Maths/ Engineering	Toby H	Physics Triple	Ellie-Jade O	English Language
Calum B	Spanish	Megan H	Biology Triple	Hannah P	Photography
Robert B	Creative iMedia/ Science ELC	Aimee H	Child Development	Grace R	Music
Amy B	Creative iMedia / French	Phillippa H	Photography	Hal R	GCSE Statistics
Libby B	Health & Social Care	Isabelle J	Textiles/ Health & Social care	Judah R	History
Joseph B	Computer Science	Ruby J	Sociology	Evelyn R	English Literature
Laura C	Business	Alexander J	Geography	Hollie S	Drama/ French
Rebecca C	Food	Jessica J	Food	Abigail S	RE/ Geography
James C	English Lang/ History	Gracie K	GCSE Mathematics	Emily S	RE/ Art & Design/ Computer Science
Eleanor C	Sports Studies	Olivia K	Algebra Level 3	Harriet S	English Language
Lewis C	Chemistry Combined/ Statistics	Joanna L	Textiles	Myles S	Biology Triple
Joshua C	Chemistry Triple	Thalia L	Physics Combined/ Art & Design	Jessica T	Product Design
William C	Business	Aidan L	IFS	Sky T	Child Development
Izsak DT	Spanish/ Maths	Amelie M	Physics Triple/ Further Maths L2	Grace T	Drama
Travis DO'N	IFS	Ruby M	English Lit/ Sociology	Carmen W	Algebra L3/ Chemistry Triple/ GCSE PE
Erin F	Chemistry Combined	Joseph M	Level 2 Further Maths	Scott W	Music
Ellie G	Biology Combined/ Maths/ GCSE PE	Charlie NH	Product Design	Oscar W	English Lit/ Engineering

Sixth Form Curriculum Awards

Name	Subject
Rhiannon A	Art and Design/ Photography
Rhys B	Public Services
Jack B	Engineering
Josh B	Photography
Ashleigh BH	Child Development
Jack B	Maths/ Economics
Isabel C	History/ Sociology
Josh C	Public Services
Isaac C	Further Maths
Sam D	Spanish/ English Language
Abigail D	Health & Social Care
Stephen D	Music BTEC
Zara E	Further Maths/ Chemistry

Name	Subject
Eywen E	Art and Design
Leah E	Psychology
Ben G	A Level PE
Eloise G	Biology
Samuel H	History
Jake H	Business
Mia J	Drama
Ellie KC	Applied Science
Toby L	BTEC IT
Zack L	Business
Conall L	Economics/ Law
Jamie P	Computer Science
James P	Engineering
Laura P	Child Development
Holly P	Drama
Dylan P	Maths/ Computer Science/ Physics

Name	Subject
Oli R	Physics
Alisha R	Health & Social Care
Kaelin R	Media
Deema S	Biology/ BTEC PE
Daisy S	Sociology
Lily S	English Literature/ Psychology
Alicia S	Applied Science
Ellie T	Spanish
Libby T	Spanish/ Geography
Mackenzie W	Media/ Law
Jessyka W	Politics
Hazel W	Geography/ Chemistry
Bethany W	BTEC IT
Josh W	BTEC PE

Caring for our Mental Health

It was Children's Mental Health Week in February, with a theme of 'Let's Connect.' In addition to assemblies from our Deputy Head Students, we shared useful information and advice with the school community to help them deal with any issues they may be facing and reminded them of the many sources of help and support available to them.

Our students' mental health and wellbeing is important to us all year round of course, not just for one week per year, so we have a dedicated team of staff who support our young people. We also have our dedicated Student Welfare pages in both the Student and Parent/Carer areas of the website. Here you can find lots of useful information and also contact details for people who can help both in and out of school.



Strictly send-off for Mr Barlow



The CHS Staff movie has become something of a Christmas tradition now, with teachers and the support team all showcasing their entertainment talents through a variety of different themes over the years. Christmas 2022 certainly didn't disappoint, and on the last day of the Autumn term, students were treated to our very own version of Strictly Come Dancing. Hosted by Claudia 'Grace K' Winkleman and Tess 'Mrs Mackreth' Daly, six teams competed for the coveted title and CHS Strictly Glitterball trophy.

Students enjoyed the very highest standards of modern and traditional 'dance' from our Headteacher, Mr Warren, and his English teacher partner, Miss Mahmoud; our former Headteacher, Mr Barlow, and Performing Arts team partner, Miss McAleavy; Mr Thomas, accompanied by his Science faculty colleague, Mrs Finch; fan favourite, Mr Holt, joining fellow Maths teacher, Miss Fernihough; Interm Deputy Headteacher, Miss Salt and her PE team partner, Mr Ainsley; and last, but very definitely not least, from the Maths faculty, Miss Drinkwater, ably leading her Assistant Headteacher partner, Mr Tyrrell.



All six teams danced wonderfully and there was very little to choose between them, making the judges' job extremely difficult. In the end it came down to the audience vote with the top three consisting of Mr Thomas and Mrs Finch, Mr Holt and Miss Fernihough and Mr Barlow and Miss McAleavy.

To find out who won, and to watch all the spectacular performances, visit the News section of CongletonHigh.com. No spoilers, but Mr Holt was robbed!

Conservation conversations

In February our Year 12 Biologists visited Chester Zoo to investigate the role that zoos play in the conservation of species, and learn more about the impact of oil palm plantations on deforestation.

The students were given a guided tour of the Islands and the orangutan enclosures, where they heard how the zoo's breeding programmes and community education projects in places like India, Indonesia and the Americas are helping to regenerate populations of some of the most endangered species on the planet, such as tigers, elephants, orangutan, endemic bird species and black rhino.

They were also given a fact-finding challenge to introduce to them to the fundamental knowledge related to evolution of species, adaptations and conservation strategies used in the wild and in the zoo. The day was definitely enjoyed and appreciated, with one student commenting: "*That was literally the most fun I've had in ages!*"



On the ball



Our Netball teams have seen great success this half-term, delivering some excellent full-time results.

The Under 13s team's match with Hazel Grove at the end of January saw a tremendous final score of 26-4 to CHS in the Sisters n Sport competition. Player of the Match was Nyla E.

Following on from this triumph, our Sixth Form team leaped in to February with a fantastic result of 51-1 in their match with Manchester

College.

A week later, against Manchester College for a second time, the Sixth Form Netball team smashed it again, celebrating a 42-1 victory! Player of this Match was Evie M.

Well done to all of these Netballers and to all of our teams who represent Congleton High School so well.



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.