

Newsletter

Issue 38: February to March 2023

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Celebrating National Careers Week at CHS (turn to page 7)



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.

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

Dates for your diary

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
Wednesday 17th May	Wildlife Photography Exhibition
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)
Wednesday 7th June	PiP meeting 7pm
Tuesday 27th June	Sports Day
Thursday 29th to Friday 30th June	New Intake Days



Want to get more involved in school life?

Our next Parents in Partnership meeting is on:

Wednesday 19th April 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 pass the Spring Equinox and the days get longer than the nights it is great to see the changes in the natural world. Blossom on the trees, and our summer migrant birds beginning to return. I for one can't wait to hear my first cuckoo of the year.

Our Spring Term has been very eventful as ever. With the Ofsted report now published it is great to be able to celebrate the very positive comments that the Inspectors made. As I said in my letter to Parents and Carers, which accompanied the publication, I am so pleased to see the Inspectors recognised the strengths of the students and school staff. The students did themselves proud and like so many visitors to our site, the inspection team recognised their hard work as well as their pleasant demeanour. We are now beginning to work on the advice received during the inspection and I will keep you updated with any changes we might make.

One of the major events to take place this term was our Careers Week events. Each lunchtime we welcomed a variety of local, national and international employers, who provided both inspiration and information for our students. As a member of staff who has been at the school for over 20 years, I really enjoyed meeting so many former students now in positions of responsibility in a wide variety of companies. Having a clear direction for the end of school years really helps to motivate young people. Listening in to the mature conversations the students were having was both fascinating and inspiring.

After Easter we go straight into the GCSE and A Level exams series. For most subjects the lessons will be concentrating on revision for the first few weeks back, but we do have some early exams. MFL Speaking Exams and the Art and Photography exams are straight after the Easter break. We then have a short time before the busy few weeks either side of the half-term break at the end of May.

We will also have exams for the Year 10 and Year 12 students. This is their first opportunity to experience sitting exams in the gym. Preparation for external exams isn't just about knowing your subject inside out, it is also about being fully prepared for the exam experience. We will be keeping a close eye on all of our students as they face the challenges of these assessments. However, if any parents or carers have concerns then please do contact us so we can support you and your child. You will also find a range of exam support resources in the Student and Parent/Carer sections of our website.

I hope students take some time to relax over the break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 17th April, which will be Week 1.

Mr Warren
CHS Headteacher



Picture rail

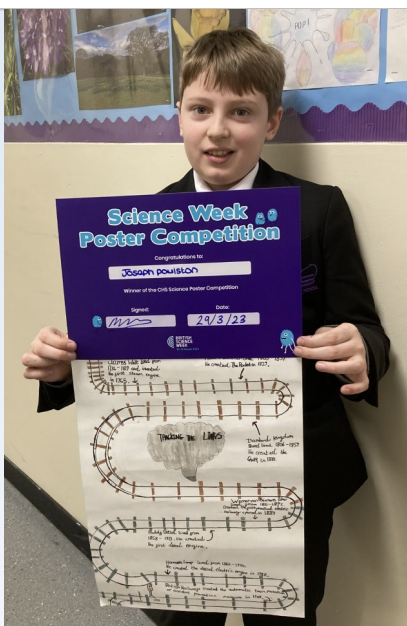
As part of the celebrations for British Science Week in March, we invited students to take part in a competition to design a poster on the theme of 'Connections'.

The winning poster was created by Year 7 student, Joseph P, who wins a solar powered model car.

"Tracking the Links" - is about scientific connections in the advancement of rail technology. This is superb work, Joseph and a great way to interpret the theme.

Our Science teacher, Mr Holmes, was very impressed and said that he had learned a lot of rail technology facts from the poster.

Joseph's work will now be submitted in to the national British Science Week poster Competition. Watch this space!



Play time

Our Year 12 and 13 Drama students travelled to the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool to see Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*.

The Year 13 students are performing an extract from this play for their forthcoming practical exam so it was a great opportunity to see it live before they present their version.

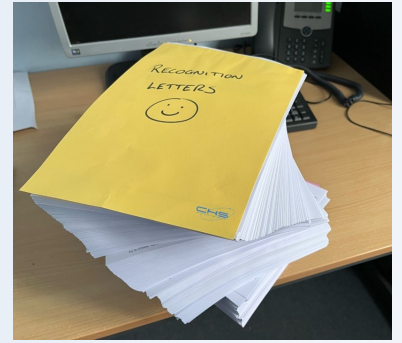


Recognising great work and behaviour

We were delighted to be able to send out **2,718** Recognition letters in February to **925** remarkable students, meaning that **92% of the main school** were recognised for something positive throughout the last half-term.

The breakdown was as follows:

- 758 students received 0 C3s
- 711 students received 0 H3s
- 445 students achieved or exceeded our target of 98% attendance
- 365 students achieved 100% attendance
- 439 students improved their attendance from the same time last year



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

Eggperiment is no yolk



Our Year 12 Psychology students took part in an eggciting project this year. All students were charged with looking after an "Egg Baby" for two weeks whilst eggsporing the importance of early childhood attachment between an infant and a caregiver.

This is obviously a very important task, which our Psychologists took eggstremely seriously and no omelettes were made!

Please say hello to Eggs-Benedict Cumberbatch, Egg Sheeran and the Eggward Twins!.

Baked-in success

We are very proud to have students competing in the Rotary Young Chef Competition again this year. Eight students took part in the Local Heat held at CHS in November. Year 9 student, Ella M, took first place and was awarded the Eric Capper Trophy. Year 8 Amelia B was awarded second place and, along with Ella, progressed through to the District Semi Final, which took place in March at Cheadle Hulme School (*Results in next month's newsletter*).



Once again, we have been extremely grateful to have the support and assistance of former Claridges Head Pastry Chef, Andrew Bourne, owner of The Alexandra Court Hotel in Congleton, in helping both girls prepare for the District Heat of the competition, with lots of professional advice and guidance on preparation, cooking and presentation of their menus.

Working alongside our Food and Nutrition teacher, Mrs Thorpe, Andrew spent a whole morning in March with both students, going through each stage of their three-course meals with them, helping them to be more efficient, cut waste and produce the most delicious dishes possible.

Ella's menu:

- Spicy Chorizo, Tomato and Chilli Sourdough, Garnished with Basil Leaves
- Rosemary Pork, served with Celeriac Mash, Tenderstem Broccoli, Pea Shoots, Pomegranate Seeds and Redcurrant Jus, with a side of Apple Slaw
- Fruit Tart - Homemade Pastry with Crème Pâtissière and Fresh Strawberries, Blackberries and Raspberries



Amelia's menu:

- Oeuf Cocotte
- Pan Fried Sea Bass on a bed of Vegetable Risotto
- Melt in the Middle Chocolate Pudding

The next stage of the competition, should the girls be successful in the District Heat in Cheadle, will be the final round - the Regional Final. We wish them both the very best of luck!



It's great to be GOOD

Back in February, we welcomed three Ofsted inspectors in to school over a period of two days. The inspectors met with Mr Warren and other members of the senior leadership team, trustees, governors, curriculum team leaders, teachers and students. They visited lessons, scrutinised students' work and thoroughly investigated our teaching and safeguarding procedures. They spoke with students and staff about their wellbeing and took parents' and carers' views (submitted via the Parent View questionnaire) in to consideration also.

We are pleased to confirm that the inspectors who visited us have agreed that Congleton High remains a **Good** school and that students and staff continue to embody our school motto, ***Achieving Success Together***.



"Congleton High is a warm, welcoming place to learn and work."

The Inspectors' report, which opens by praising our school as a "warm, welcoming place to learn and work", represents the school community well and we are particularly proud of all the positive comments regarding our students, including:

- *"Pupils are polite, courteous and enjoy speaking with visitors to the school. They behave well in lessons and around school, which results in a calm and purposeful environment."*
- *"From Year 7 to 13, pupils respect each other and are considerate of each other's differences."*

The document includes many excellent observations of the strengths of school staff, their knowledge and also the support they give to students for both their academic and personal development along with emotional and physical wellbeing:

- *"Teachers have strong subject knowledge...they use this expertise to help pupils remember and apply the essential knowledge and skills they have been taught."*
- *"Leaders are ambitious for all pupils."*
- *"Leaders place as much emphasis on pupils' personal development as they do on their academic achievement."*
- *"Pupils are confident that leaders and staff will listen to their concerns. They trust staff to sort out any concerns they may have."*
- *"The experienced safeguarding team is supported by staff who are knowledgeable and alert to any issues pupils may face."*

We were also delighted to see our "broad and balanced curriculum" positively described as "shaped well to meet pupils' needs, interests and aspirations."

Our Headteacher, Mr Warren, commented:

"We have been delighted with the outcome of this latest inspection. The praise directed at students and staff is very much deserved and I would like to thank all our students and my colleagues for their support throughout this time.

"The report gives a fair assessment of what we do well at Congleton High School and also provides us with a focus for how we can continue to be even better. We will be using this information, along with the views of students, parents, carers and staff to make our next steps on this journey of improvement."

Mr Warren also expressed gratitude to the school's parents and carers for their positive engagement with the inspection:

"Thank you to all those parents and carers who contributed to the inspection through the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire. Your responses were considered along with all the other inspection evidence and formed the basis of a number of conversations between the school leadership and inspectors."

The latest Ofsted report and previous reports can be found in the About Us section of our website, CongletonHigh.com.

A caring community

We are Rosie and Cameron and we lead the 'Toilet Troop' at Congleton High School. We have set up a team of students to monitor and supervise the toilets throughout the school to keep everyone safe and ensure that all toilets are open before, during and after school.

Rosie: "Since we started our jobs the graffiti in the toilets has stopped and all students who may be upset or need support can get it rather than hiding away in a cubicle. We are also good listeners and some younger students have asked if they can chat with us about their worries. We then pass these on to our teachers."

Cameron: "The litter has been massively reduced in the boys' toilets, vaping has stopped and Year 7 students can use the toilets safely. We also stop boys messing about when they're using the urinals."

A huge thank you to ALL of the Toilet Troop from the staff at Congleton High School. You have made our school an even more supportive, safer and nicer place to learn. Well done!



An important message



We were honoured to welcome Figen Murray in to school in March.

Figen's son, Martyn, was killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack and she visited CHS to speak with our

Year 10 students. Her talk focused on the radicalisation of young people, including personal anecdotes from Figen about the night of the Arena bombing. Students heard information on how to spot if they are being radicalised online and where to go for further support and help.

Figen delivered a strong message about the importance of kindness and tolerance of others and how the young people of today truly have the world in their hands. It was a powerful and moving talk and students were keen to ask ("really relevant and great" according to Figen) questions and engage during the Q&A.

Figen is currently working alongside Parliament to introduce Martyn's Law, which will be in place from next year to introduce new laws on public venues and their security.

On the ball

In February our Year 12 Business students were invited to Port Vale FC to learn about the "Business of Football." Students were given an introductory talk about the Club and the work that they do with the Port Vale Foundation and their Community Engagement Programme.

The group were then treated to an in-depth tour of the ground and its facilities, and later discovered more about other key roles at the Club, such as Security, Media, Marketing, and Diversity and Inclusion.

The managers of these different functions were able to give the students an insight into their roles and responsibilities.

It turns out the business of football isn't actually just about football!

The visit had been organised by Education and Employability Manager, Nicola Stanway. We would like to thank Nicola and all of the Port Vale FC team for being so generous with their time.



Just the job

We were very proud that in their February 2023 report, Ofsted recognised our Careers Programme as being "highly effective". Our dedicated Careers Team aim to offer something for everyone, so strive to deliver effective careers information and advice for all students, whatever their career aspirations. From further and higher education to apprenticeships and career opportunities, the Team aims to be able to help each individual student find the pathway that is right for them.

While some students have a clear careers plan, many more are unsure of exactly what they want to do when they leave school, or are just unaware of the different industry sectors, employers and job roles. **National Careers Week** in March gave us the perfect opportunity to welcome employers to CHS to help students with their career planning. Our Careers Team ran a series of events throughout the week enabling students to access information and advice from industry experts, employers and our own Careers Advisers.

From Monday to Thursday there were industry specific events in the Gym at lunch time. Students from all years were invited to come along to seek both inspiration and information about different careers, the many opportunities available and how to access them.

- Monday focused on **Business, Finance, Law and Accountancy** and we welcomed Barclays, BNY Mellon, Franklyn Financial Management, Hammond McNulty, Handelsbanken, SAS Daniels Solicitors and Tinsdills Solicitors
- Tuesday was **Public Services** and we welcomed British Army, Cheshire Fire Service, Cheshire Police, East Cheshire NHS and Royal Air Force
- Wednesday was **Health and Social Care** and **Childcare** and we welcomed Ablewell Care, Apples and Pears Private Day Nursery, East Cheshire NHS Trust, Rossendale Trust, Ruby's Fund, The Smile Group and Visyon
- Thursday was **Engineering** and **STEM** and we welcomed Alstom, BAE, Balfour Beatty, Bentley, Pan European Networks, Recipharm, Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows and Siemens

On the Friday students could attend a drop in session where our Careers Team were on hand to answer any questions regarding careers, particular employers, pathways, qualifications etc.

A real highlight of the week was welcoming back a number of CHS Alumni to the event and it was particularly meaningful for students to learn where their studies could lead them, directly from people who were once in their shoes.

Students really benefitted from this event and we are very fortunate and grateful to have the support of so many local, regional and national organisations, without whom we could not offer these valuable careers experiences.

We have lots of useful information and advice for Post 16 and Post 18 pathways in both the Parent and Carer/Supporting Your Child With Careers and Careers sections of our website.

Below L-R: CHS Alumni, Chloe Tatton (Franklyn Financial management), Mel Ashun (Bentley) and Sam Byram and Harry Podmore (BNY Mellon)



Week streaks earn prizes!

We've been really impressed with our students' positive attitude towards their learning and they're showing they really understand that **attendance = progress**.

From March, each full week of attendance pushes students higher up our Full Week Streaks Leaderboard and earns them a ticket for our weekly prize draw. Students can check the latest figures every Monday on the Leaderboards outside the Main Hall.



Current Year Group Full Week Streaks Leaders

	1+ Week Streaks	2+ Week Streaks
Year 7	87% of Year 7	79% of Year 7
Year 8	86% of Year 8	79% of Year 8
Year 9	85% of Year 9	76% of Year 9
Year 10	81% of Year 10	68% of Year 10
Year 11	77% of Year 11	61% of Year 11

We recognise that some students face issues that mean they have difficulties attending school. We have alternative schemes in place to motivate, encourage and reward these young people to help them achieve and succeed.

The #CHS100 Club welcomes new recruits



Congratulations to our latest (all Year 7) recruits to the #CHS100 Club.

Clockwise from top left:

Ivy M, Emily G, Molly B, Mia B, Milly W, Joshua T, Joseph P and Emilia S.

Who'll be next to make it to 100 Recognition awards and join the #CHS100 Club?



A life-saving opportunity

We were very grateful to be able to welcome the Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) team in to CHS in March to screen 200 of our students to help spot any undiagnosed cardiac abnormalities before they become an issue.

We received funding for 200 students to access the screening and these places were offered to students in Years 9 to 13 on a first come, first served basis.

CRY screens young people aged 14-35 and hopes to prevent Young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research. See c-r-y.org.uk for more info.

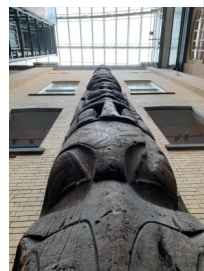


City shots



A CHS Art trip to Liverpool resulted in two of our Year 10 students taking part in the Congleton Rotary Young Photographer competition.

The 'Beauty of Architecture' theme was ideal for the students' city shots, which achieved Allyssa W one of the two Highly Commended prizes awarded (there was no overall winner in the 14-17 y/o category). Allyssa received a certificate and a £15 voucher and Maddison H received a certificate. The awards were presented to Allyssa and Maddison in school by Congleton Rotary's Youth Events Leader, Eric Westwood.



The competition was judged by local photographer, Chris Hunt, and Jo from Rotary and they commented that '*The technical ability and 'eye' of young people in creating well-composed photographs is nothing short of amazing.*' All the photographs from the competition were on display in Congleton Library over Christmas.

Well done to all the young people who took part.



Year 7 on tour

All of our Year 7 students took a holiday from their usual timetable in March and enjoyed our Languages Day. On a carousel system across the five lesson blocks, students were immersed in the languages, culture, traditions and interesting facts from Germany, Italy, Portugal, France and Latin America.

We are very fortunate at CHS to have a wonderful MFL team, which includes teachers who are native Italian, Portuguese and (Argentinian) Spanish speakers. This gives our students the opportunity to learn more about these countries and how their languages are used in everyday situations.

Our 'tourists' set off on a whistle stop tour of the countries, gathering lots of information from the different sessions, designed to inform, intrigue, entertain and challenge.

Amongst the many activities during the day, they:

- enjoyed translating some simple phrases from German to English, recognising the many similarities between the two languages.
- tried their hand (and feet) at some traditional German dancing.
- tested their existing knowledge and acquired new knowledge with quizzes about the various countries.
- worked together to identify the meaning of some of the many (polite) hand gestures used by the Italian people to convey emotions and information.
- solved a Portuguese 'Only Connect' type challenge, finding the link between various things.
- sampled the delights of Tiramisu (a student friendly recipe)!

The last session of the day for our weary travellers was to create Easter cards using the languages and information they'd learned throughout the day.

Thank you to our MFL team for all their hard work and for making Languages Day so much fun.



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! To read the full stories, visit [CongletonHigh.com](https://congletonhigh.com) News pages.



In March, **Barney M** (Year 10) took part in the Swim England Northwest Summer Regional Championships in Liverpool. He achieved a personal best time in the 50m Backstroke race with a time of 32.46. Out of over 60 swimmers competing in his age category, Barney finished a very respectable fourteenth.



Year 9 student, **Edie S** plays the tenor horn in Macclesfield Youth Brass Band and, despite very stiff competition, Edie and the Band came third overall at the National Youth Brass Band Championships at Stockport Grammar School.

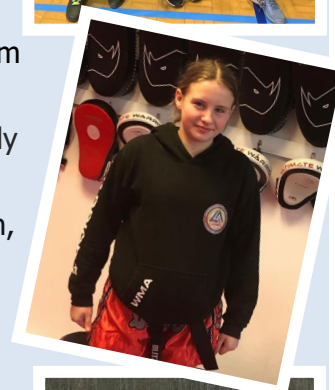


Great news for three of our Year 7 students: **Luke T**, **Anna T** and **Jacob S**, who competed in the annual Stockport and District Badminton League Junior Tournament. Anna won the U12 girls singles trophy, Luke won the U12 boys singles trophy, and Luke and Jacob won the U12 boys doubles trophy.



Year 7 **Emily G** achieved first place with her Acrobatic Gymnastics Trio at the North West preliminaries, qualifying them to compete at the British Championships in May.

Congratulations to Year 8 student, **Faye L**, who has successfully achieved her Black Belt in Kick-boxing.



More great national results from our Year 8 Swimming champion, **Oscar dV**, who represented CHS as part of the North West Division Swim team in the English Schools Swimming Association 72nd Inter-Divisional Championships in Coventry, scooping 4 gold medals and 1 bronze. This event was of particular importance to Oscar as it is used to select the teams for the 2023 International School Sport Federation (ISF) U15 Gymnasiade School Summer Games in Brazil!

We were delighted to hear that Year 7 student, **Katya B**, played for Port Vale in February.



Congratulations to Year 8 **Archie DW** and Year 7 **Miley DW**, who have both passed their Silver 1,2,3 Lifesavers by demonstrating a range of competencies including using a buoyant aid, demonstrating a throwing rescue of a casualty 8 metres away and helping a casualty climb out of shallow water.

Year 7 **Edward P** has achieved his brown belt in Jujitsu martial arts. Edward attends classes three nights a week, so has dedicated a lot of time and effort to reach this grade. He now begins two years of training to achieve his black belt!



Year 8 student, **Zach T**, was awarded Cadet of the Month by the 230 (Congleton) Squadron RAF Air Cadets and awarded the Staffordshire Wing trophy, for excellence in areas including development, leadership, attendance, uniform, manners and personal achievement.



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.)



Our Annie

Our students are so excited to be performing Annie at the Daneside Theatre in July and are already working hard, attending rehearsals twice a week.



Due to the high level of interest and talent at CHS, we have decided to have two shows each night, one at 6:30pm and another at 8:30pm. We have two casts who will each do an early show on one day and a late show on the other.



Tickets will be available in May and purchased through a ticketsource link, so keep your eye on our social media and website to make sure you don't miss out!

CHS
CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL

CHS PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

Annie Jr.

5TH AND 6TH JULY

DANESIDE THEATRE CONGLETON

Wednesday 5th

Cast 1 6:30pm

Cast 2 8:30pm

Thursday 6th

Cast 2 6:30pm

Cast 1 8:30pm

TICKET PRICES : £7.50, £5.50 CONCESSIONS

(TICKET LINK TO BE RELEASED ON 5TH MAY)

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"

By Permission of The Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Music by
Charles Strouse

Book by
Thomas Meehan

Presented on Broadway by Milke Nichols

Originally Produced by

Irwin Meyer Stephen R. Friedman Lewis Allen

Alvin Nederlander
Associates Inc.

The John F. Kennedy
Center for the Performing
Arts

Icarus Productions

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Thursday 6th April 11am to 3pm

CREWE LIFESTYLE CENTRE
(FAMILY CENTRE ENTRANCE)

CWI 2BB

WILLOW
WEAVING

EASTER
ARTS &
CRAFTS

Easter

Participation ACTIVITY DAY

LUNCH AND
REFRESHMENTS
INCLUDED!

FREE SCHOOL
MEAL
CAMPAIGN

DEBATES &
COOKING

For young people aged 11-18 (or 25 if SEND
or Care Experienced)

Limited spaces available, please
book a space by contacting
participation@cheshireeast.gov.uk
or 07890 321844.



SPRING BREAK 23

FREE to Attend Events -

Multi Activity Days for ages 8-15

Where/When?

- Tues 4th April - Crewe Alex in the Community, Shavington—10:00—16:00
- Thurs 6th April - Sandbach High School, Sandbach—10:00—16:00

For more information please email: Salt.Wars@Cheshire.Police.uk

Fully qualified coaches, free lunch, varying sports activities and all for **FREE!**



Practically perfect

For their BTEC Performing Arts external practical exam, our Year 11 Drama students had eight hours to devise a piece based on the theme of 'Truth and Lies,' which they then performed to a class of Year 7 students.

Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Mackreth, was delighted with the result:

"I was so incredibly proud of the focus, maturity, team work and sheer hard graft the students put in to creating and performing their pieces. The Year 7 students set a very fine example of what it is to be an attentive and reflective audience."



Charity roundup

Our team of Charity Ambassadors have continued to work hard this half-term, with events held to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month on behalf of Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT) and Comic Relief. We have seen our total fundraising amount for 2022-23 rocket to **£4,592.69**. Charities that we have supported so far this year include:

AKT	£349.72
Cancer Research	£447.37
Children in Need	£1015.40
Comic Relief	£308.06
Congleton Pride	£69.96
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	£1662.24
MacMillan cancer	£231.42
NSPCC	£180.00
Save the Children	£328.52
The Storehouse with food donations	



We would like to say a very BIG thank you to all the students, parents, carers and staff who have helped us help so many charities.



Take your pic

There's still plenty of time to send in your images for our Wildlife Photography Competition. If you haven't taken one yet, the Easter break will be a great opportunity to get out and about in nature with your camera or phone camera. Save your photograph as your name and year group, then email it to: scicomps@congletonhigh.com by **Friday 14th April**.

We have some great prizes including fantastic macro lenses for your phone camera, which will help you to capture even more amazing images.

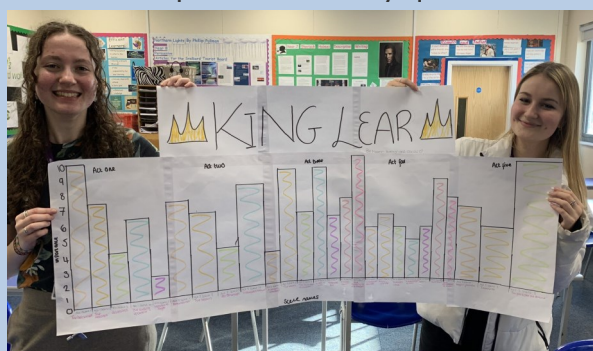
All the photographs will be displayed in our Exhibition on Wednesday 17th May, when there'll be the chance for visitors to vote for our People's Choice Prize. We'll also have a raffle and refreshments available on the night.

Novel revision tactics

Our Year 12 English Literature students are studying Shakespeare's King Lear and to help give them a greater understanding of the structure of the play and help with their recall of events, they are employing some very 'novel' tactics!

They produced a bar chart where the height of each bar represented the evaluation of the scene's importance. Naming each scene on the x axis helped to consolidate knowledge of the tragic arc and order of events.

The next step was to add key quotations.



Swimathon success

Seventeen of our students, in Years 7 to 10, took part in the Rotary Swimathon in March, powering through 700+ lengths to raise money for the North West Air Ambulance, Visyon and our own school charity.

Well done to those students and thank you to their parents/carers for all their support.



Learning journey

The best way to learn any language is to go to that country, talk with people, listen to conversations, read shop signs etc. With this in mind, our Languages Team organised a visit to Murcia in Spain at the beginning of the half-term to help Year 10 students put their language skills in to action and pick up lots of new vocabulary.

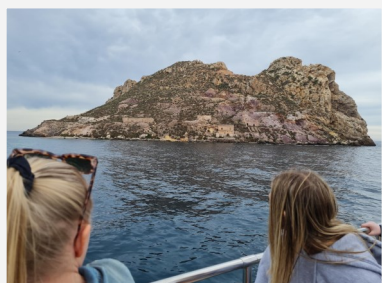
The group was given a range of different settings and activities to not only help them with their Spanish but also to help them understand more about the country's culture and history.

On their first morning, the students made *Bolitas de Coco* (a sweet chocolate and coconut treat). Throughout the preparation and making process, they found lots of opportunities to use their language skills and pick up new, culinary-related words. Once all the teams completed their bakes, a team of 'expert' judges (Mrs Cooper, Miss Adamsons and Mr Watkins) braved the taste test and picked a winning batch!

In an attempt to work off all the bolitas, the group ventured out to investigate the Spanish Civil War bunkers and learn more about the conflicts that took place at that time. They followed with more energetic activities - beach games including archery, mini golf, tug of war and ring toss, finishing off with a big group game of pichi (pronounced 'peachy'), which is like rounders but kicking the ball instead of using a bat.

In the evening our travellers enjoyed a round of music games. The teams got very competitive but displayed great musical knowledge, even recognising some of the Spanish songs! There was just enough time for a heated game of chess for Barney and Jamie before bed!

The final day began with a language lesson, discussing the town they'd visit later, with vocabulary linked to the trip. Then a castle visit, a boat ride and a trip to town to the Plaza de España for cake and ice cream. ¡Fantástico!



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



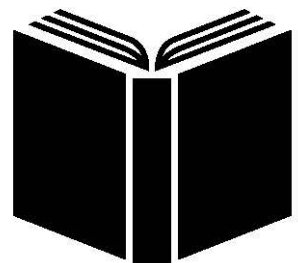
Congratulations to all of the students who have improved their punctuality and attendance this half-term.

70% 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 443 students who finished the half-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	7MHT
2	9EHA
3	10NTA

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



Games without frontiers



In March eleven PE students from Years 8, 9 and 10 attended the Step in to Sport Conference, a Young Leaders event in Warrington. The day was designed to help these young people learn how to create inclusive sporting activities that they could share with other students back at CHS.

The group participated in eight different activities throughout the day where they were shown how to ensure that various sports could be inclusive for people of all abilities, including adaptations for students with SEND requirements.

Moving forward, the eleven students will run various break and afterschool clubs incorporating all the new skills they learned during the day in a bid to increase participation in physical activity across Years 7 and 8.



Net gains



Congratulations to our Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams, both winners in the South Cheshire Netball Tournament earlier in March.

This is fantastic news for CHS, well done to both teams and to all the players who took part in the Tournament.



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 use **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** to share news and information:

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



We 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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congletonhs **physedchs** **chsperformers** **humanitieschs** **chsreadinfluencers**



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.