

Newsletter

Issue 40: June to July 2023



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Annie *"was absolutely fantastic!"* see more on p14

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 monitored in school hours and 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, website and social media, please email: success@congletonhigh.com.



Ready to learn

We ask that students arrive at every lesson ready to learn and fully equipped with a black pen, green pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.

If they are missing any items, our LRC has a well stocked stationery shop with low cost pens, pencils, rulers, approved calculators and a range of other useful items.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 20th July	CHS Closes to Students for Summer Break at 1:10pm
Thursday 17th Aug	A Level Results Day
Thursday 24th Aug	GCSE Results Day
Thurs 24th-Fri 25th Aug	Sixth Form Enrolment Days
Mon 4th-Tues 5th Sept	INSET Days
Wednesday 6th Sept	CHS Opens to Y7/11/12
Thursday 7th Sept	CHS Opens to ALL Students
Friday 15th Sept	Cultural Diversity Day
Thursday 28th Sept	School Closes at 2:10pm for Y5/6 Open Evening
Friday 20th Oct	School Closes for Half-Term Break
Monday 30th Oct	INSET Day
Tuesday 31st Oct	School Opens to Students
Thursday 2nd Nov	Year 11 Success Evening
Friday 22nd Dec	School Closes for Christmas Break
Monday 8th Jan 2024	INSET Day
Tuesday 9th Jan	School Opens to Students

Collecting exam results

A Level Results Day is on **Thursday 17th August** and GCSE Results day on **Thursday 24th August**.

Students may collect their results in the Main Hall from 9am until 11am.

If you can not collect your results in person, you may nominate someone to collect them on your behalf. Please email our Exams Officer, Mrs Casey: (kcasey@congletonhigh.com) with details of your representative and ask them to bring ID on the day.



Welcome

What a magnificent final half-term we have had here at Congleton High School. As exams and assessments have been completed, they have been followed by a wide range of trips, events and activities, with something for everyone.

Sport has been a big feature, with a successful Sports Day where a number of long-standing records were broken by our athletes. This was followed by our Sports Awards Evening, displaying the talents of our current sporting stars. We have a large number of students successful in a wide variety of sports, participating at local, county, national and international level.

Our Year 11 Prom was another glowing success. After all the hard work the students put into their GCSE exams it was great to see them dressed so smartly and celebrating this milestone in their lives. I was particularly delighted and very proud to hear great feedback from a number of sources about their conduct on the night.

It was fantastic to watch our school production of "Annie" at the Daneside Theatre. All of the students involved and our Performing Arts team worked so hard to put on a thoroughly enjoyable and very professional show. This was enjoyed by friends, teachers, parents, carers and, in some cases, whole families. The good news here is we have booked the theatre for next year. The only thing left to decide now is which show to do.

On top of these major events, we have had author visits, field trips, Sixth Form work experience, university visits, art exhibitions, awards evenings and a chance to welcome our new Year 7 students to the school. With the Race for Life and Summer Market in the final week, school life has been action-packed right up until the very end of term.

As I come to the end of my short spell as leader for this school, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to a number of people. Firstly, the students who brighten up every day with their enthusiasm and curiosity. They are always willing to ask a question and give an opinion. I was a little dismayed while taking a cover lesson recently when one student commented: "*I didn't know you could teach as well!*" I would also like to thank all the parents and carers for their support. Please continue to work with us and be prepared to make what can sometimes be tough decisions but those that are right for your child. Last and certainly not least, my fantastic colleagues at this school. To work alongside such a dedicated team is an honour.

I wish everyone a safe and refreshing summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back at the start of September, relaxed and ready for a new academic year.

Mr Warren
CHS Headteacher



Important information for parents and carers

From September, we will begin to work in partnership with the Cheshire East Attendance and Children Out of School Service regarding all attendance and punctuality matters. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of a few points regarding our expectations:

- If your child is facing any challenges that are making it difficult for them to attend school, please contact your child's Form Tutor as soon as possible to discuss these concerns so that we can put a support plan in place.
- All students should have attendance of 98% as a minimum expectation (this equates to no more than 4 days off in an academic year).
- If your child is not well enough to be in school, it is your responsibility to contact school on the morning of the absence (by 8:30am) to explain the reason for this absence. If we have not received contact from home, then any absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
- We do not authorise any term-time holidays.

If your child has an ongoing medical condition, please make sure that you have contacted Mrs Julie Pini (jpini@congletonhigh.com) in our Medical Team in to ensure that we put a support plan in place.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your child's attendance rate is excellent.

Recognising greatness

We were delighted to be able to send out **746** Recognition letters in July, meaning that **91% of the main school** (Year 7-10) was recognised for something positive throughout the last half-term.

The breakdown was as follows:

- **70%** received 0 C3s
- **75%** received 0 H3s
- **51%** achieved or exceeded our target of 98% attendance
- **42%** achieved 100% attendance
- **76%** improved their attendance from the same time last year



The **#CHS100 Club**, for students achieving 100+ Recognition Awards, welcomed 158 students this year, many of them achieving over 200 awards and some even celebrating 300+!

All the students who achieved 100% attendance were entered in to a prize draw for a £20 Amazon voucher and a winner picked for each year group. Well done to Year 7 **Ethan D**, Year 8 **Jack T**, Year 9 **Daisy C** and Year 10 **Caitlyn B**.

Full Week Streaks:

	3+ Weeks	6+ Weeks	13+ Weeks
Year 7	67%	48%	33%
Year 8	62%	42%	26%
Year 9	63%	29%	14%
Year 10	64%	47%	28%

Who lives at CHS?

In our Key Stage 3 Science Club in May, students were investigating the wide variety of insects and other creatures that can be found on our Box Lane site.

The groups gently shook some trees to see what would drop out and also checked in a big pile of sticks.

They weren't disappointed with the results, finding lots of different specimens to study. Some were definitely easier to look at than others!



Alumnus, Jordan, takes on lead role



We are always extremely proud to hear of the continuing achievements of our alumni so we were delighted to hear that our former student, Jordan Harding-Pointon, is taking on one of the main roles in The Magic Flute at Clonter Opera.

Jordan was a student at CHS from 2006 to 2013. After leaving the Sixth Form, he went on to study Music at the University of Manchester, followed by a Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the Royal Northern College of Music.

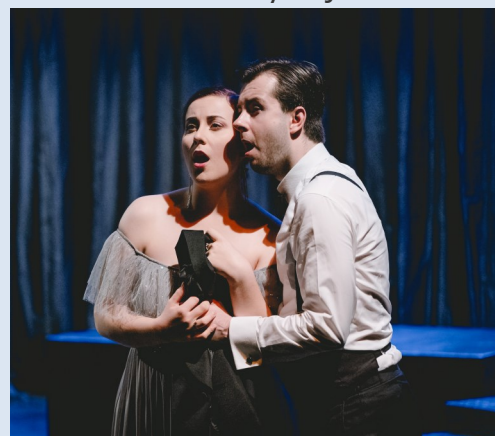
He has performed with leading opera companies in the UK including Buxton Festival Opera and Opera Holland Park. This autumn, he will move to Germany to join the ensemble at the Nationaltheater Mannheim.

In July, Jordan will take to the stage at Clonter Opera, returning to the place where he discovered his love for theatre, to perform the role of Papageno in Mozart's spellbinding fairytale opera, 'The Magic Flute'.

The Magic Flute runs from Saturday 22nd July to Saturday 29th July 2023, with a public dress rehearsal on Thursday 20th July. Tickets are £20 for the dress rehearsal and start at £47 for other dates.

Students and anyone aged 26 and under can enjoy the performance for FREE!

For more information, or to buy tickets, visit: <https://www.clonter.org/event/the-magic-flute/>



Message from our Chair of Governors

It has been so inspiring to see the whole school community immersing itself in so many sporting and educational activities these last few weeks. There is so much to applaud in the manner in which our students conduct themselves coupled with their energy and commitment. The school's production of Annie at the Daneside Theatre earlier this month illustrated so much in terms of talent, effort and positivity. The students have all earned themselves a well-earned break and governors wish them all a relaxing summer holiday.

We welcome our new Year 7 students who join us from 26 different schools next September. Their two transition days earlier this month show how ready they are to start the next leg in their journey here at CHS. Welcome all.

I am delighted to report that progress on the school's building project has progressed very quickly since the winter and the evidence is particularly noticeable at the front of the school, where ten brand-new classrooms are very close to being fully commissioned. At the rear, our new hall and dining facility will be commissioned shortly with both new builds fully available for the start of the new school year in September.

Unfortunately, I have some sad news to convey. Last month one of our long-standing governors, Roland Machin, sadly passed away after a long illness. Roland had a very long association with the school and doubtless many parents will remember him teaching at Heathfield High School. His service to education was rewarded with an MBE and, since retirement, Roland maintained a close interest in education and he also served on our governing body for many years.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Heidi Thurland who takes over as Headteacher in September and thank Mike Warren for leading us so well during his two terms as Interim Headteacher.

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 our Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Claire Gritton, by email at: governorsclerk@thelearningalliance.co.uk.

Rich Benson

CHS Chair of Governors



Introducing our 2023-24 Student Leadership Team

Each year our Sixth Form team appoint a Senior Student Leadership Team, comprising two Head Students, Deputies and Senior Student Leaders. Students nominate themselves, apply for the roles and are interviewed by our Head of Sixth Form, Miss Boulton, and her team to establish each candidate's suitability for the role.

For 2023-24 we were delighted to appoint **Ruby Moore** and **Izsak de Takats** as our Head Students, with Deputy roles assigned to **Lincoln D'Annunzio-Bruns**, **Niamh Moss**, **Ben Dolman**, **Olivia Kirby**, **Josh Bailey-Pope** and **Evelyn Roberts**.

Supporting them are the team of Senior Student Leaders: **Alex Dyson**, **Hannah Percival**, **Amelie Massey**, **Lucy Ainsworth**, **Freddie Wedgbury**, **Brodie Bailey**, **Ruby Jennings**, **William Crowcroft**, **Ella Rogers**, **Sophie Cooper**, **Daniel Brindley**, **Emily Sparey**, **Ollie Morgan**, **Joseph Morrison** and **Joseph Burkard**.

Congratulations to all of you. We know that you will continue to act as exemplary role models for our younger students, providing great support and guidance. We look forward to watching you grow and excel in your Student Leadership roles.



Fact finding mission

Our Year 12 History students had a taste of university life on their recent trip to Keele University. Ten students accompanied Miss Bennett and Mr Franklin on the 6th July to make the most of Keele's library facilities as they work on their non-examined assessment (NEA).



After a quick look around the campus, the students attended a workshop led by the Keele Library staff, which gave them insight into how to use a university library catalogue and the types of documents available to them, as well as advice on referencing and how to avoid plagiarism. Following the workshop, the Year 12s were let loose around the shelves to find books that might be useful to them in their NEA on Medieval England. After a few hours of research, it was time to return to CHS, laden with new ideas that they will be able to use in their work.

In the NEA, students will be writing an essay of 4,500 words on a range of topics including medieval castles, queens and warfare. The annual trip to Keele is a vital part of their research process and this year it was a big success; several students have already expressed interest in returning over the summer to do more research. We look forward to reading their final projects and can't wait for next year's trip!

Oxbridge aspirations

In July, our Sixth Form team arranged for a group of our Year 12 students to visit both the Oxford University and Cambridge University open days.



They were able to find out more about the campuses and what it is like to study at these world-famous universities. The students attended sample lectures and heard talks on their chosen degree subjects.

Visiting the colleges gave them a taste of life as an Oxbridge undergraduate, living in and around the historic buildings.



The students found the open days extremely inspirational and returned with their sights set on securing a place and achieving the grades needed.

Challenging high achievers

Thirty-five of our Year 7 students have attended a series of six after-school High Achievers sessions over the course of the Summer term. The sessions gave students the opportunity to study subjects and topics they do not normally get to study, including some subjects taught at A Level.



The sessions covered Critical Thinking, Politics, Biology, Psychology, Classics, Linguistics and Sociology and the students explored questions such as: Does society influence our behaviour?; Do we all speak the same English?; How does the Ancient World influence literature?; and Where do woodlice like to live?

Participating student, Isabelle P, commented: "I enjoyed working with different people and everything was new and exciting." whilst Rufus I said: "I liked learning new stuff that I wouldn't learn in class."

Year 12 Biology brilliance

A group of our Year 12 Sixth Form Biologists took part in the UKBC Intermediate Biology Olympiad in June.


The Olympiad is open to students in the first year of post-16 education anywhere in the world and consists of an online one-hour multiple choice paper. Questions are set on topics students are likely to have covered at GCSE and in their first year of A level and some additional ideas are introduced that require problem solving skills and an understanding of core principles.

Students who take part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad are encouraged to reference their participation in their further/higher education applications.

We were delighted that many of our students delivered strong results and achieved the following awards:

- **Silver** (in the top 15% of entrants worldwide, with a score of 72.06%): Izsak dT.
- **Bronze**: Scott W, Charlie S, Myles S, Joshua C.
- **Highly Commended**: Jay J.
- **Commended**: Benjamin D.

Well done and congratulations to all the students who took part.





Competition dates:
7th - 14th June 2023

Intermediate Biology Olympiad


Join over 12,000 students worldwide and take part in this year's online competition.

- Open to all students in:
 - Y12 in England and Wales
 - Y13 in Northern Ireland
 - S5 Scotland, and
- Equivalent year groups worldwide
- Gain recognition by including your participation in your further and higher education applications
- Students are rewarded with e-certificates and PSB Biotek membership





Further details can be found at:
ukbiologycompetitions.org



United Kingdom Biology Competitions Registered Charity No. 1408081

Welcome to our new Headteacher, Ms Thurland

For most of our students and many of our families, our new Headteacher, Ms Thurland, is already a familiar face as she has been busy getting to know the school for a number of months now.

To find out more about her and her plans for Congleton High School, we spoke to Ms Thurland and asked her a few questions:

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I have three amazing children, a step-daughter aged 14 and twins who are 2. My daughter, Lili, has Downs Syndrome and she amazes me every day. I am a relentless optimist and believe that *'it is only impossible until it is done'*.

I love reading - I literally grew up in a library. I love to get lost in a story and I hope you do too. Education is in my DNA, my parents were both English teachers and my three sisters have all gone on to either work as teachers or tutors in education. My twin sister is currently a Deputy Head in a school near Birmingham!

I enjoy running and have been known to complete a half marathon or two (the flatter the better!). I also enjoy paddle boarding, body boarding, kayaking and walking. For my sins, I also support Manchester United, which is interesting in a school with so many City supporters!

Why do you want to be a Headteacher?

I absolutely love learning - personally and professionally. I firmly believe that education is empowering. It has made a transformative difference to my life and I want to 'pay this forward' to the community I serve. Working with young people really is the best job in the world. As a Headteacher I have a unique opportunity to shape the lives of hundreds of students and, whilst it is in no way an 'easy' job, I love it!

Which other schools have you worked in?

I have been privileged to work in a number of schools and in every single one I have learned a great deal about myself, about teaching and my community. I began my career in Crewe at Coppenhall High School before moving briefly to Kingsway in Cheadle Hulme, then to Alsager High School where I spent 10 years. I then accepted a role as a Deputy Head at Sir William Stanier in Crewe before taking up my first Headship at Middlewich High School in 2019. I feel incredibly honoured and lucky to be moving to Congleton High School.

What do you like about Congleton High School?

Without doubt the vibrant, intelligent, happy students are the number one reason for wanting to lead this community. The staff really are wonderful as well, it is obvious how much they care about the students here. I have also been impressed with the families I have met this term - they are passionate about the school and support the work we are doing. It really is a fantastic partnership and one that I want to strengthen.

What is the first thing you want to do in September?

I have really enjoyed listening to staff, students, families, governors and members of the local community this term. I am keen to strengthen our school values, to have a clear vision for Congleton High School so that, as a community, we understand what we are working towards and what is expected from each of us. Over the summer we are making some further improvements to the site and the SEND provision, which I am looking forward to sharing with you on our return in September.

And finally?

I have high expectations. I believe in excellence being the lens through which we look - that we aspire to be the very best version of ourselves in all situations. Congleton High School is a fantastic school and I want it to be the 'rock star' of schools in Cheshire East (and beyond)!

I am excited about the journey ahead that we will take together.



Celebrating in style

Our Year 11 students celebrated the end of GCSEs and marked the end of their time in the main school with a fantastic Prom at Shrigley Hall in July. It was such a wonderful event and we were delighted to receive so many positive comments about students' behaviour.

We look forward to welcoming the majority of them back as our new Year 12 in September.

Thank you to Frank Henshall Photography for all the great photos of our students.



Classroom tourists

The Key Stage 3 MFL Club students have enjoyed a whistle stop tour this year, 'visiting' a range of European and Asian countries to learn more about the language and their unique culture.

In the autumn term, students investigated France and Italy. In the spring term it was the turn of Portugal and Japan, and they completed their classroom travels in the summer term with stop offs in Greece and China. The MFL Club members have had great fun discovering these six countries through lots of fun activities.

The final destination for the tour was the International Film Club, which introduced students to foreign language films from Japan, China, Spain and Portugal.

We are very fortunate to have native Italian, Portuguese and (Argentinian) Spanish speakers amongst our MFL teaching colleagues and they are able to give students a great insight into the language and every day life in these countries. We'd like to thank the whole team for giving students these great opportunities this year and look forward to finding out where students will travel to next term.

	My Neighbour Totoro Japanese	ADMIT ONE
	Wish Dragon Mandarin	ADMIT ONE
	Chupa Spanish & English	ADMIT ONE
	DJ Cinderella Portuguese	ADMIT ONE
INTERNATIONAL FILM CLUB Wednesday 3pm - 4pm		

Rewarding achievement and endeavour

We held our Awards Evenings for students in Years 7 to 10 in July. The evenings were a celebration of the outstanding achievements of students across the full range of subjects they study. We started with a welcome from our new 2023-24 Head Students, Izsak De Takats and Ruby Moore, followed by a superb performance of a medley of songs by the cast of Annie. Addresses were then given by Mr Warren and our Chair of Governors, Mr Benson.



Students then received awards for Achievement (highest performance in a subject) and Endeavour (outstanding effort and progress). The evening closed with the announcement of the Top Achiever awards. These went to the students who had performed exceptionally across a wide range of subjects. The winners of these awards were as follows:

Year 7

3rd Luke T
2nd Jacob S
1st Rex M

Year 8

3rd Joshua B
2nd Reuben G
1st James H

Year 9

3rd Lennon G
2nd Lauren C
1st Jozsef DT

Year 10

5th Darcy F
4th Olly P
3rd Libby H
2nd Barney M
1st Becky L



Following on from our main school awards, our Sixth Form team held a special Awards Assembly to recognise and reward Year 12 students. Awards were presented for academic excellence, resilience, and endeavour in their school work, along with four A Level Mindset Awards and a further four Special Awards. The 2023-24 winners were:



Subject Awards:

Art - Scarlett Squires

Humanities - Harriet Spencer

Performing Arts - Grace Tyrrell

Social Sciences - Ruby Jennings

DT - Leo Walton

ICT - Ben Hardy

PE - Callum Barber

English - Evelyn Roberts

Maths - Izsak de Takats

Science - Ben Dolman

A Level Mindset Awards:

Vision - Emily Sparey

Practice - Thalia Lynch

Effort - Ruby Moore

Attitude - Ben Dolman.

Systems - Amelie Massey

Special Awards:

Community Award - Alex Dyson

Project 360 Award - Ethan Lacey

Work Experience Award - Dan Brindley

UpLearn Award - Joshua Carvell, Isabelle Jenkins



A huge congratulations go to all of the students who received awards and we look forward to celebrating more outstanding successes at Congleton High School next year.

Summer break wellbeing

If you are worried about yourself or someone else when school is closed, please remember that we have contact details for organisations who can help you with a wide range of issues on the Student Welfare/Someone Who Can Help page in both the Student and Parent/Carer Areas of [congletonhigh.com](https://congletonhigh.com/parents/student-welfare) - see: <https://congletonhigh.com/parents/student-welfare>

Here are some emergency contacts:

- Dial 999 in an emergency
- NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000
- Hopeline UK - 0800 068 4141
- The Mix helpline - 0808 808 4994
- SHOUT - text 85258
- Childline - 0800 1111
- Samaritans - 116 123
- Visyon - 01260 290000 or text 0750 8074748
- NHS - text 07507 329908
- KOOTH.com



If you have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, you can also call CHECS on 0300 123 5012 or 0300 123 5022 (out of hours).

For Staffordshire, please call 0300 111 8007 option 1.

SUMMER SLAM

FREE!!

Multi-Activity Days for Young People Aged 8-15

Where/When?

- Weds 2nd Aug - Crewe Alex in the Community, Shavington—10:00—16:00
- Weds 9th Aug - Alsager Sports Hub, Hassall Road, Alsager—10:00—16:00
- Tues 15th Aug—Sandbach High School (**FEMALE ONLY EVENT**) —10:00—16:00
- Weds 16th Aug - Congleton High School, Congleton—10:00—16:00
- Weds 23rd Aug - Sandbach Boys School, Sandbach—10:00—16:00

Applications via online link—keep a lookout for updates in the coming weeks

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

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

SCAN ME

SPEAK UP! TELL US WHAT SUMMER EVENTS YOU WANT US TO PUT ON - LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

SUMMER 2023 WITH THE YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

Activities for young people aged 13 to 19 (25 if a Care Leaver or SEND)

TUESDAY 25 JULY	WEDNESDAY 26 JULY	THURSDAY 27 JULY	FRIDAY 28 JULY
Go Karting	Water Sports	Music Project	Water Sports
TUESDAY 1 AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST	THURSDAY 3 AUGUST	FRIDAY 4 AUGUST
Ice Skating	Water Sports	Music Project	Water Sports
TUESDAY 8 AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST	THURSDAY 10 AUGUST	FRIDAY 11 AUGUST
Activity Day	Music Project & Water Sports	INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY EVENT	Climbing
TUESDAY 15 AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST	THURSDAY 17 AUGUST	FRIDAY 18 AUGUST
Music Project	Water Sports	Bowling & Escape Room	Go Karting

SPACES ARE LIMITED ON ALL ACTIVITIES...

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST

Hear Me Celebration 'Music Event'

4pm to 8pm Middlewich Youth Club

TIME AND VENUE DETAILS ON BOOKING FORM...

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED AT ALL ACTIVITIES

PLEASE EMAIL FOR A BOOKING FORM:
YSSEASTACTIVITIES@CHESHIREEAST.GOV.UK

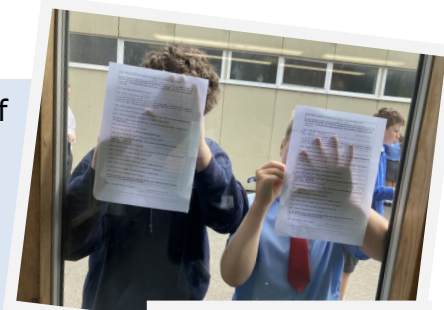
Welcoming our new Year 7 students

Our September 2023 Year 7 spent two days with us in June, enjoying a range of lessons and activities designed to help them adapt to high school life and make lots of new friends.

Over the two days, they were able to start finding their way around school and meet lots of the teachers and other staff who will be working with them for at least the next five years. Starting a new school when there are already familiar faces and you know your way around is far easier.

We also welcomed their parents and carers in to school for a New Intake Evening where they got the chance to meet with form tutors and other parents/carers, hear all about Transition at CHS, and get answers to any questions they had.

You can find out more about the Transition process at Congleton High School in the **Becoming a Student at CHS/ Transfer From Primary School** page in the Parent/Carer area of our website.



Primary SuperStars



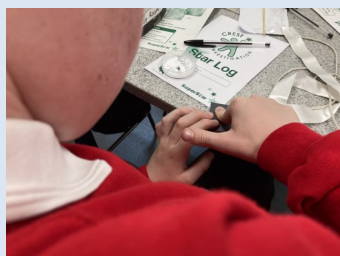
Thirty-three Year 5 pupils from Daven, Buglawton, Quinta, Castle and Smallwood primary schools joined us in June to take part in our Science faculty's CREST Awards SuperStar days, giving them a great introduction to problem solving in STEM.

The pupils spent two days taking part in a range of fun, hands-on activities. They started by designing the best method of floating marbles - with mixed results! Some vessels sank much earlier than others but the record was a fantastic forty marbles!

After the marble mayhem, they made paper, bridges, kites, helicopters, rockets, (safe) explosions, examined their fingerprints and even investigated the wildlife under their feet!



Thank you to all the primary schools who took part, to our Science technicians for setting up all the experiments and to our Science teachers for running the sessions over the two days.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Top tutor attendance this half-term

Rank	Tutor
1	8CGS
2	9MPE
3	8CE

What about my grades?

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

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

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

How does my attendance stack up?

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

Punctuality

What about being late?

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

School starts at
08:40



Breakfast
available from
08:00



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Punctuality

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



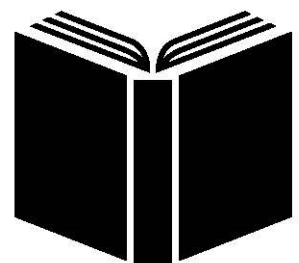
Congratulations to all of the students who have improved their punctuality and attendance this half-term.

76% of our students have improved their attendance rate since this time last year!

During a very busy half-term, we would like to congratulate the 334 students who finished the half-term on 100% attendance and 403 students who achieved our expected 98% rate.

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.



"Absolutely fantastic" Annie

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Performing Arts team's production of Annie in July. We had so many student volunteers for roles that we had to run with two casts and four performances over two days, with both casts performing one show each day. The two casts were equally exceptional and we received lots of wonderful messages from those lucky enough to watch a performance.

"It was absolutely fantastic!.. so proud of you all. Well done to everyone involved."

"It was brilliant and both casts were amazing. Thank you and well done."

"The show was amazing. So professionally staged for a school musical show. The cast and teachers should be so proud of your endeavours."

Well done to our students for all their hard work and a big well done and thank you to our incredible and tireless Performing Arts team for putting together such an entertaining and professional show!

Our raffle and refreshments sale at both events raised a superb £484.70 for **The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation!** Thank you to Mrs Eckersley for all her hard work with this.



Spotlight on student success

We are always delighted and extremely proud to hear all the stories of our students' successes outside school, in their sports, hobbies and just generally remarkable lives! Here are the latest good news stories sent in to us:

Our Year 7 student, **Emily G**, and her Acrobatic Gymnastics trio represented the North West at the British Championships in May. They competed against teams from all across the UK and achieved a very respectable 4th place.



Winner of our Rising Star Award at the PE team's Sports Awards Evening in July, Year 8 **Oscar dV**, looks set to qualify for six national swimming events after achieving 23 medals, all three Top Boys' trophies and the West Midlands Regional Champion title in six events!

Rhys W, one of our Year 7 students, was selected to represent Macclesfield under 12s in the Juventus Academy Youth World Cup in Italy, competing from 12th-16th June. Rhys also plays for Leek Town under 12s who won this year's Staffordshire League Area Cup!



Year 8 student, **Savannah H**, and her Netball Team, Cheshire Blues, won the U13s Cheshire Inter-counties Netball Tournament at Fallibroome Academy in May after beating Greater Manchester 18-16 in a very hard fought and competitive final.

Another of our Year 8 students, **Gracie C**, scooped the Port Vale FC Academy Foundation Sports and Physical Activity Award at a black tie event in June. Gracie was the only u18 to win an award this season.



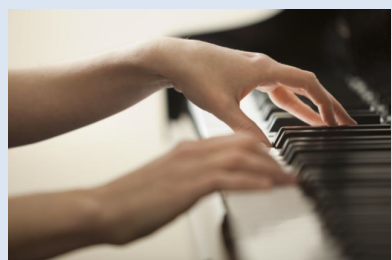
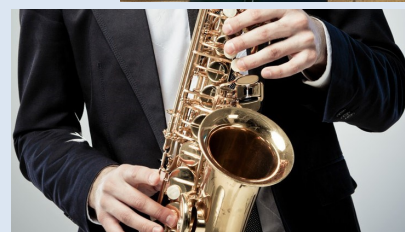
Year 8 student, **Yadi D**, has been making the most of an amazing opportunity. She is working with a team who prepare horses to compete in high level competitions.

Barney M, Year 10, won a gold medal in his age category in the 1500m event at the distance swim meet in Macclesfield in June. Barney, who swims for Alsager Swimming Club, also won silver in the 800m. He achieved significant personal bests in both events



Multitalented Barney also aced his Grade 7 Piano exam in July, passing with Distinction!

Another great Music success story - Year 9 student, **Ollie F**, successfully passed his Grade 5 Saxophone exam in July.



Year 9 student, **Amelia H**, achieved her Grade 5 Piano exam in July. Music teacher, Mrs Blundred, commented: "We're all very proud of her. She's worked really hard, especially as she's also doing her Grade 5 Theory Exam any day too!"

To read the full stories, visit the CongletonHigh.com News pages.

If you have a Student Success story that you'd like us to share in future issues of our newsletter and on our website and social media, please email details and any photographs to: Success@CongletonHigh.com. (NB. Please make sure that you have parent/carers permission to share the story.)

What an experience!

At the end of the summer term, over one hundred of our Year 12 students were able to put away their books as they ventured out into the real world of employment and took up work placements in a wide variety of industries including: medical, legal, financial, engineering/construction, educations, insurance, childcare, leisure, animal care, and marketing.

The aim of the work opportunities, arranged by our Employer Engagement Lead, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, was two-fold: firstly to give the students a flavour of life in their chosen field of work and secondly to help them build some essential employment skills.

The feedback received from the employers was exceptional, making us all extremely proud:

"Isla couldn't be more polite, helpful and friendly and is a pleasure to have in the boutique with us. We have had work experience placements each year for at least the past 10 years and Isla is easily one of the most engaging students we have had with us." **Jo, The Bridal Lounge**

"Such a precious moment, Len has dementia and rarely engages in activities. Hannah was just beautiful with him and so patient." **Rachel Beard, Ablewell Care**

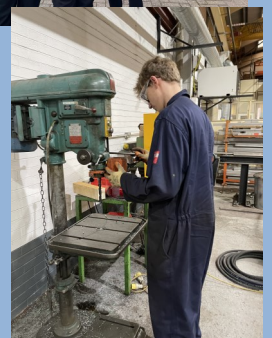
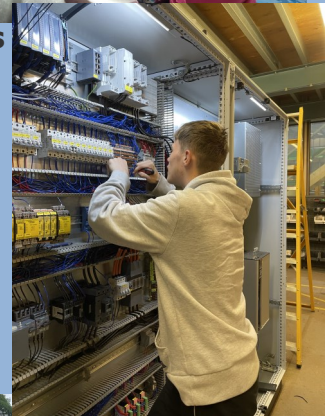
"Harvey's settling in very well! He's been great at turning his hand to all tasks assigned so far and is showing an excellent level of focus." **Scarlet Rajah, Zeus PR**

"Sophie was absolutely brilliant, all the staff and patients were really impressed. She was confident and articulate. A real pleasure to be around." **Janet McGroggan, Stride Clinic.**

"All three are here, busy working on a quantity surveying exercise. There is a lot of good teamwork on show." **Antje Budge, Balfour Beatty.**

In addition to the great feedback, one of our students, Dan B, secured a paid summer internship with his placement host, Datastor Systems.

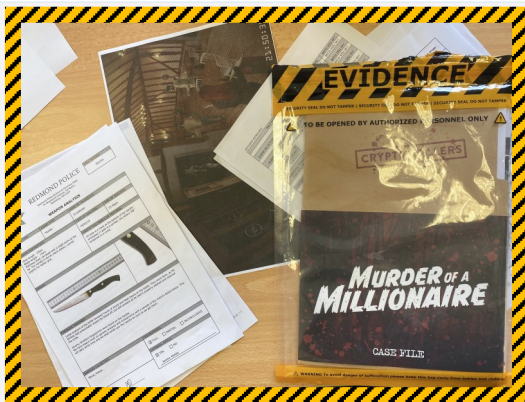
For the more information, and a list of all of our Work Placement hosts, please visit the News pages of congletonhigh.com.



Year 12 are on the case

In May, our Year 12 Criminology students put their skills to the test by trying to solve the 'Murder of a Millionaire'. The murder mystery challenge required the amateur sleuths to analyse and cross-reference the evidence found within the case folder and also access the internet to uncover further clues to help solve the case.

Throughout the previous two months, the Sixth Form students had successfully completed their controlled assessment and sat their Unit 2 exam, so a break from all the theory and exam questions was definitely a welcome task!



Why learn a language?

In June our Year 8 students enjoyed an insightful talk by Lecturer in French, Claudia Francois, and her team of Language Assistants from the Department of Languages, Culture and Film at The University of Liverpool

The group heard about where learning languages can take them in life, the skills that learning a language develops and the career opportunities that it presents.

It was a very eye-opening and useful morning, which will help these students with their Options choices in Year 9!



International Biology success for Year 10

Congratulations to all our Year 10 students who joined 43,685 other competitors from 621 schools worldwide to take part in the 2023 UKBC Biology Challenge in May.

The Biology Challenge is open to students aged 13 to 15 and consists of two, twenty-five-minute multiple choice papers, taken online under staff supervised exam conditions.

The questions set followed the school curriculum, but the competition also rewarded those students whose knowledge of the subject had been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.



We were delighted that eight of our students achieved awards in the competition. **Barney M** finished in the top 15 percent of all entrants and secured the Silver award for a score of between 83.5% and 87.2%. **Becky L**, **Robert H** and **Theo H** all made the top 30 percent, earning them a Bronze award for a score between 79.6% and 83.4%. Adara J received a Highly Commended award for a score of between 75.7% to 79.5% and **Milly C**, **Amelia G** and **Antonia L** were all Commended for finishing with a score of between 72.8% and 75.6%

The Royal Society of Biology assists the administration of the Biology Challenge along with two other UKBC competitions; the Intermediate Biology Olympiad and the British Biology Olympiad.

Challenging body and mind

On Tuesday 27th June we held both our Sports Day and our Brain Games. Throughout the day, students in Years 7 to 10 were able to work together in form group teams and compete in both mental and physical challenges, enabling each person to use their natural abilities and specific skills to best advantage.

Our Brain Games took place in the morning, during the Sports Day field events, so all students were able to gather together in the afternoon to cheer on their classmates who were taking part in the track events.



In the Brain Games, the form group teams of five worked "*Together in the Pursuit of Excellence*," tackling a series of timed challenges based on subjects they study at CHS including Art, Computer Science, Maths, MFL, English, Science, Geography, History and Geography. The aim was to complete as many of the puzzles and challenges as they could in the time limit. Some of the puzzles were more challenging than others but the students worked well together and quickly moved through them, having great fun along the way.

Congratulations to each of the year group Brain Games winning form groups:

Year 7 - 7HM Year 8 - 8SW Year 9 - 9EHA Year 10 - 10NGO

Throughout Sports Day we saw great performances in both track and field events, with lots of school records broken, some that stretched right back to 2004.

Event	Student(s)	Record	Notes
Y8 Boys 200m	Callum L	24.96s	Beat record set in 2004 (L Smith) by 2.854s
Y8 Boys 4x100m Relay	8SW	55.8s	Beat record set in 2017 (8DKN) by 1.926s
Y8 Boys Shot Putt	Ryan S	10m 30cm	Beat record set in 2014 (Lewis Halliday) by 14cm
Y9 Boys 4x100m Relay	9MPE	53.7s	Beat record set in 2022 (9KMC) by 24ms
Y10 Boys 100m	Lewis C	11.96s	Beat record set in 2005 (Luke Edgar) by 814ms
Y10 Boys 200m	Finley PK	24.68s <u>This is the fastest 200m time on record, across all year groups!</u>	Beat record set in 2013 (Brian Barton; Previously held by Daniel Sturridge) by 52ms
Y10 Girls 4x100m Relay	10EBE	52.76s	Beat record set in 2022 (10AB) by 932ms
Y10 Mixed 4x100m Relay	10EBE	39.75s	Beat record set in 2013 (10SER) by 16.425s

Congratulations to our overall Sports Day winning form groups, **7GXT**. Well done to **7AE** also - they tied on points with 7GXT at the end of all the events, so it came down to the actual number of events entered by each team. 7GXT had taken part in one more event so they took first place.

Our fantastic Sixth Form team ran our ice cream, drinks and sweet stall throughout the afternoon. They made a superb £278 towards our £4,000 target for **The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation**.



Celebrating sporting excellence at CHS

In July, our PE Team held our annual Sports Awards Evening and we gathered together with students, families and staff to celebrate our brightest sporting superstars' achievements in sports including Taekwondo, Swimming, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Football and Curling.

Congratulations to all our award winners, particularly Kate O, who was the first ever winner of our brand new award - the Jim Barlow Award, which is presented to a student who has demonstrated not just outstanding sporting ability and achievement but also academic achievement too.

A HUGE thank you to our special guest speaker, CHS alumnus and Bristol City Women's FC newest recruit, Amy Rodgers.

Sports Leaders of the Year

Ellie C - Year 12

Zak H - Year 13

Sports Persons of the Year

Anna T and Kaidan DR - Year 7

Savannah H and George T - Year 8

Lauren C and Sam B - Year 9

Ellie JB and Riley W - Year 10

Evie M and Alfie W - Year 11

Teams of the Year

Under 13s Netball

Under 16s Football

The Tom Jackson Award

Eden B - Year 13

The Rising Star Award

Oscar DV - Year 8

The Lynda Arnold Award

Phoebe J - Year 13

The Jim Barlow Award

Kate O - Year 13



Anna T



Zak H & Ellie C



Kaidan DR



Savannah H



George T



Lauren C



Sam B



Ellie JB



Riley W



Alfie W



U13s netball



U16s Football



Eden B - The Tom Jackson Award



Oscar dV -
The Rising Star Award



Phoebe J -
The Linda Arnold Award



Kate O and Jim Barlow!
The Jim Barlow Award

Winner, winner

Congratulations to our under 13 Boys team who won all of their games at the Cheshire Youth Sports Football games in May.



Success on the green

A team of Year 7, 8 and 9 students successfully represented Congleton High School in the Golf discipline at the School Games county finals in July, coming away as overall winners!



A massive well done to them all and a big well done and thank you to our fantastic Year 8 Sports leaders who helped to run the event.

Bronze Award winners

We are delighted to have been awarded Bronze in the 2022-23 School Games Mark Awards.

We were recognised for our outstanding commitment to extracurricular opportunities as well as our community links to local primary schools, and inter-form competitions.

The School Games Mark is a government-led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and in to the community.

A HUGE well done to our fantastic PE team for this award.



Goodminton!

Congratulations to our under 14s Badminton team, who took second place in Badminton England North's Cheshire Key Stage 3 Tournament in May.



According to our PE team: "They were amazing!"



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 **@newstla1** - 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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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.