

September 29th 2022

Welcome to Year 5 and 6 Students

It is my privilege as Headteacher of Congleton High to welcome you to our school. Ambition and aspirations underpin our academic, broad and balanced curriculum because we want every student to maximise their potential and enhance their life chances. We treat every student as an individual and everyone is valued for who they are and for what they may become.

Achieving Success Together



This is a vibrant and inspiring place to learn, with a highly-qualified and committed teaching and support team, who, in the spirit of our school motto: Achieving Success Together, work as a team to help our young people to enjoy, participate and achieve.

We have high expectations at Congleton High and share one main aim: to ensure the best outcomes for every single student. We recognise that every young person is different and deserving of success and as a non-selective, inclusive school we believe that progress for every child is our most important

measure. In 2018, the school's Progress 8 Score was +0.37, placing us as the joint top school in Cheshire. Despite all the setbacks of the last few years, we have successfully maintained our strong track record and have further improved the outcomes for our students, which continue to be significantly above the national average.

As a caring school, we take pride in the behaviour and high academic standards maintained by our students, and expect young people to work hard and do their best in everything that they pursue. Our students enjoy learning with us and feel supported in every aspect of their education. I am always proud to see how our students take their lead from staff and support each other to enable everyone to achieve as a team. Visitors frequently comment on our energetic, purposeful learning environment, where students are engaged and enthusiastic, with positive, supportive relationships between each other and staff, leading to a real 'buzz' all around the school.

We offer a wealth of enrichment and extracurricular opportunities, helping students to work together on effectively building the skills they need for their future through a range of activities during and beyond the school day.

I am very proud of students and staff here and I am confident that you will see for yourselves tonight that Congleton High is the school where your child will thrive, be happy and succeed.

Mr Jim Barlow, Headteacher



Please use tonight to find out as much as you can about us, what we are about and how we operate, as well as the courses you can study here, what we expect from our students and, equally, what you can expect from us.

You'll find displays and samples of our work in all curriculum areas and staff, students and parents on hand to answer any questions you may have. There are also many fun and challenging activities set up across the school for you to try your hand at.

Have a look around, get a feel for the school and ask lots of questions. Our website www.congletonhigh.com and the CHS Prospectus (available on the website) are also great sources of information.

We hope that you like what you see and look forward to welcoming you as part of our school family in the near future.



“An inclusive school where you aim to get the best out of everyone.” Ofsted 2018

How does transition work?

We recognise that moving from a small school where you know everybody and how everything works to a new school at least three times the size can be daunting for both students and their parents. This is why we have a team of people working to ensure that this transition from primary to secondary is as smooth as possible for everyone concerned.

Discovery Days

Throughout the year we work with pupils from our partner primaries, within their own schools and here at Box Lane, familiarising them with CHS and sharing our expertise and facilities.

These 'Discovery Days' are across all years but more frequent in Years 4-6. They are a great way for students to learn new skills, techniques and subjects and also get to know the staff and the school so that by the end of Year 6 there is a natural and easy transition up to us here at CHS.

Each year, our wide ranging Discovery Day opportunities include:

- Our annual Cultural Diversity Day
- Art and Photography competitions/exhibitions
- Debating opportunities
- Individual and group Maths and English sessions for gifted/ talented students
- Sport competitions including Rounders, Football and Athletics
- PE coaching sessions
- Crest Superstars Science days
- Maths, English, Drama, DT and Art workshops

We also hold our primary school visits, New Intake Days and Summer School in the months before Year 6 join CHS as Year 7 students.



Primary Visits

In Year 6, we visit every child in their primary school to talk with them in groups and individually about what will happen when they start at CHS and discuss any worries they may have. We ask for information from headteachers and teachers about each child and their friendship groups to ensure that their transition is as smooth as possible and that they will be starting with someone they know.

New Intake Day

In June we have our final Discovery Day, 'New Intake Day', when all new students spend a whole day with us, familiarising themselves with where things are and day-to-day activities such as using the refectory. Then, in the evening, parents are invited along for a short presentation and to meet form tutors and ask any questions they have.

Summer School

We also offer all our new Year 7 students the opportunity to take part in a range of workshops over three days in the summer holidays. These free sessions enable students to build new friendships and develop their confidence and self esteem. Our Summer School also helps to reduce students' anxieties about starting a new school and means that they don't spend six long weeks worrying. Children take part in a range of fun and educational activities run by our curriculum teams, including English, Maths, Science, DT, Art and Humanities.

Astbury Team Building

We understand that the first few weeks of starting a new school can be the scariest so our transition work doesn't end after Year 6. At the start of the new term, we organise a team-building day so that students can spend time getting to know one another, learning new skills, taking part in team-building activities and, most of all, having fun together.

Students can look forward to fabulous activities including kayaking, climbing wall, bushcraft, archery, raft building and orienteering.

Our new Year 7 students learn to work together as a team to achieve common goals - really bringing to life our 'Achieving Success Together' school motto.



What makes us different?

There are a great many reasons that we are the school of choice for so many families in Congleton and surrounding areas, in particular the things that make us different from other schools. From our free Breakfast Club before form time each morning right through to our after school clubs and activities, our students benefit from opportunities not available elsewhere. Students and Parents explain in their own words the difference that Congleton High has made for them:

“Dedicated teachers have gone the extra mile and worked hard to enable our children to find and follow their dreams for the future..... day in day out, term by term, year by year.”

Parents of 3 former CHS students

“[Our son] is very fortunate to have such supportive and inspirational teachers who care greatly about their students. I’ve never seen [him] so enthusiastic. He talks about what he has learnt regularly, with great knowledge and passion for the subject.”

Current CHS Parents

“Moving [our daughter] to this school was the best decision we made in terms of meeting her learning needs and in her being happy and thriving in the school community. Many thanks to teaching staff for their commitment to meeting her individual needs.”

Current CHS Parent

“When I first came to CHS I came from my old school on my own and I didn’t think I’d make new friends but I did and I’m very happy.”

Current CHS Student

“There have been tough times but also many fantastic achievements and massive steps forward, which have meant you have given [our son] the opportunity to grow, allowing him to reach his full potential as he goes forward”

Current CHS Parent

“The support available to students, academic and pastoral, is excellent. Thank you.”

Current CHS Parent

“This is an amazing school. The teachers push you to be the absolute best you can be.”

Current CHS Student

The teachers you have working with in your school have shown us that they understand our child, his abilities and how best to further encourage and enhance his future learning.

Current CHS Parent

Sixth Form

Many of our students choose to pursue an academic route at sixteen, studying traditional A Level subjects such as Maths, English, History or Geography and our continuously improving exam results are testament to their success in this area.

We are also now able to offer our Year 12 and 13 students a wide choice of Post-16 vocational education and many of our students choose to combine both academic and vocational subjects.

Students seeking a vocational course no longer have to leave Congleton or even CHS to study elsewhere but are now accommodated by a wide range of work based training and education in areas including social care, public services, childcare and our successful Sports Academy.

Our students enjoy the benefits of our purpose-built Sixth Form Centre (The Taylor Building) with its café, newly refitted common room, classrooms and study room with student PCs and wireless internet access.

Facilities

We offer well equipped, state of the art facilities across all departments, inside and out. Music and Drama studios, recording studio, science labs, ICT rooms, media suite, Learning Resource Centre, language labs, sports hall and playing fields all ensure that our students are afforded a first-rate learning experience at CHS.

Our 3G pitch, with its 150 seat stand, is suitable for all outdoor sports including rugby. The pitch increases opportunities to get involved in sport and reduces the chances of bad weather affecting play.

Our popular outdoor shelter enables students to enjoy being outside at break and lunch regardless of the weather and also offers us a sheltered outdoor learning facility.

The latest addition to our facilities are four fantastic, full size outdoor table tennis tables, which have been a great success with students and staff alike.



“Over 90% of parents would recommend the school to another parent.” Ofsted 2018

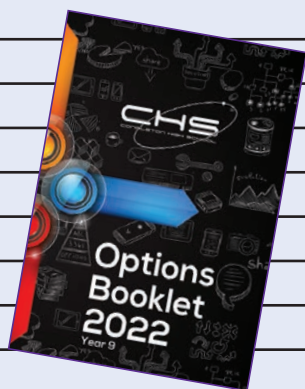


A broad and balanced curriculum

Our students are able to choose from a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 4 and 5, selecting from a list of thirty courses to study in Year 10 and 11 and another thirty nine in Year 12 and 13. This broad and balanced curriculum ensures that every student is able to choose subjects they both enjoy and excel at, which, in turn, helps them to achieve and exceed their target grades.

Listed below are the subject choices offered to students starting in Years 10 and 12 in September 2022

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Courses	Post 16 Course Courses
The Common Core	Applied Science
English Literature and Language	Art and Design (A Level)
Mathematics	Art and Design (Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma)
Science - Combined or Triple Award	Biology
Religious Education	Business
Physical Education	Chemistry
Personal, Social and Health Education	Childcare and Education (Technical Level 3 Certificate)
	Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) (Technical Level 3 Diploma)
Options	Computer Science
Art	Criminology
Business Studies	Dance
Child Development	Drama
Computer Science	Economics
Creative iMedia	Engineering
Design and Technology	English GCSE Re-Sit
Dance	English Language
Drama	English Literature
Engineering	Food Science and Nutrition
Food Preparation and Nutrition	French, German, Spanish
French	Geography
Geography	Health and Social Care
Health and Social Care	History
History	Information Technology
Media Studies	Law
Music	Mathematics GCSE Re-Sit
Photography	Mathematics
Physical Education (GCSE)	Mathematics - Further Mathematics
Sociology	Media (Digital)
Spanish	Music (BTEC)
Sports Studies (Cambridge National)	Performance (BTEC)
Statistics and Further Maths	Photography
Textiles	Physical Education
	Physics
	Politics
	Product Design
	Psychology
	Public Services
	Sociology
	Sport (BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma)



Learning beyond the classroom

We firmly believe that learning opportunities extend beyond the classroom and that students learn better if they are able to see how the information they learn at school actually applies in the real world. As a result, we aim to offer students as many chances as possible to learn more about their chosen subjects with a wide range of visits. At least once a week, we arrange for students to go out of school to supplement their desk studies with a combination of field trips, factory visits, educational fairs, expert speakers, careers events, school competitions, gallery and exhibition visits and sports events to name just a few.

The CHS curriculum teams also aim to run a range of residential stays of up to a week in the UK and further afield. Our trips are now almost back to normal following a few disrupted years. Students can now look forward to a similar frequency and variety of trips such as those enjoyed in 'normal' years, those with no pandemic complications. Prior to Covid, students had the opportunity to take part in an average of one trip every two weeks!

Residential trips between September 2017 and July 2022:

- PE - Watersports Tour, Dorset 2022
- DT - London 2022
- MFL - Murcia, Spain 2020
- Science - Geneva, Switzerland CERN and UN 2020
- MFL - Boulogne, France 2019
- PE - Watersports Tour - Murcia, Spain 2019
- MFL - Cartagena, Spain 2019
- Sixth Form - Cambridge University Trips 2018/2019/2021/2022
- Sixth Form - Oxford University Trips 2018/2019/2021/2022
- PE - Ski Trips France 2018/2019
- MFL - German Exchange Visits 2018/2019
- PE - Football/Netball Tour Malta 2018
- Science/ MFL - Berlin, Germany 2018
- Art - New York, USA 2018
- Performing Arts - Conway Drama Residential 2018
- London Creatives Trip 2018
- Humanities - Normandy, France 2018
- DT/ Science - Bologna, Italy 2017
- Art - London Art Galleries 2017/2022



"A respectful and orderly environment where staff and pupils can work as a team." Ofsted 2018



Extracurricular Activities

We are keen to help students blossom in every dimension, so academic life at CHS is complemented and enriched by a wide range of extracurricular activities, clubs and trips to introduce students to new activities and support and encourage participation and achievement.

The diversity of enrichment activities is what makes a student's years at our school such a rich and fulfilling experience: trips to the very best theatrical productions, concerts and exhibitions, combined with excellent visiting speakers, workshops and events in school, competitive and enjoyable sporting activities, creative pursuits and opportunities to see and experience the world for themselves.

The variety of provision offered by staff enables students to pursue activities they enjoy or to receive additional help and support with their curriculum studies.

Students can get involved in a whole host of clubs and activities. We try to offer something for everyone and just a selection of the activities available include:

School band • Choir • MFL Cultural club

Curriculum support • Concerts/ Shows • Y7 History competition

Textiles club • Computing/ICT support • Art club

Manufacturing club • Rotary Debating comp • Instrument/ Singing tuition

Rollercoaster club • Creative writing club • Science club

Revision groups • Cryptography club • Drama club

STEAM club • Cookery club • Media club • Dance club

Christian Union • Art/Photography competitions

Young Carers club • Gardening club • Homework support

Rotary Young Chef competition • Eco club

(See over for our wide range of sporting opportunities)

High Achievers

A large proportion of our students are 'High Achievers' and have the potential to gain the very highest grades at GCSE, BTEC and A Level. As part of our commitment to meet the educational needs of all our students, we strive to provide greater challenges in lessons for these students and create additional opportunities for them to demonstrate and develop their abilities.

Our provision includes organising activities for groups of students within a curriculum area such as guest speakers, educational challenges, creative workshops, specialist trips or educational visits. Such activities recently have included:

Creative Writing club

UKMT Maths Challenge

High Achievers Intervention

Regional Debating Competition

In Years 12 and 13 we offer an Honours Programme that seeks to challenge our most academic students so that they can continue to achieve excellent results and ultimately be selected by some of the most prestigious universities.



Our two CHS minibuses enable us to transport students to a wide variety of enrichment activities and sporting opportunities.



Enjoying sports at Congleton High School

In sport there are also many opportunities to develop skills at a higher level by representing the school or being coached for District and County trials. Being a member of a school team is a valuable experience but we also recognise that some students just want to let off steam and have fun, so offer after school sessions as well as team practice in sports including netball, football, rugby and trampolining.

The activities on offer throughout the year in our extracurricular programme include:

Athletics • Basketball • Fitness • Football • Indoor Rowing

Netball • Rounders • Rugby • Table Tennis • Tennis • Trampolining • Volleyball

It was great to finally get back to playing fixtures after over a year of cancellations. 2021-22 was a hugely enjoyable and successful year for our students and, with sports clubs and teams entered into many different leagues and tournaments, school sport is once again really thriving at CHS. Below is a list of our students' successes across some of the sports we enjoy at CHS:

NETBALL

Year 7	Macclesfield Netball League Winners
U16	Macclesfield Netball League Winners
Sixth Form	AOC League Winners
Sixth Form	Sisters n Sport Runners Up

FOOTBALL

Year 7	Regional 7 a Side Finalists
Year 7	Regional 9 a Side Finalists

CRICKET

Year 8	District Champions
Year 9	District Champions

VOLLEYBALL

Under 15	Grand Prix 3 Series Event
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RUGBY

Year 7	District Runners Up
Year 8	District Champions
Year 9	District Champions

ROUNDERS

Year 7	South Cheshire Champions
Year 8	South Cheshire Champions
Year 9	South Cheshire Runners Up

ATHLETICS

South Cheshire Champions Athletics did not take place this year, but well done to all our students who represented the district.



Finding out more

Hopefully tonight has given you a good understanding of our school, who we are and how we can work with you on the next stage of the learning journey. If you would like to know more, the best place to start is our website, www.congletonhigh.com, which is a wonderful source of information. Here you can:

- Read our Admissions Policy, prospectus and information about transferring from primary school in the 'Becoming a Student at CHS' section
- Find out more about our broad and balanced curriculum
- Take a look at our termly newsletters
- Access our Parent/Carer Area and Student Area, where you will find information on our aims for students, uniform, bus services and much more

Following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram will also ensure you see all the latest information about what is happening at CHS

If you need further information, please contact Mr Barlow, Headteacher, on 01260 730123 or e-mail: jbarlow@congletonhigh.com.

The CHS Promise

As a student at CHS you'll have opportunities to get involved locally, nationally and internationally - from community charities and green projects, to visits and competitions, even work experience and travel to countries around the world.



- Community Projects - volunteering/raising money for charity.
- Outdoor Education Experience - Astbury Team Building events.
- National Competitions - across the UK in a wide range of subjects.
- Gallery Visits - see some of the country's most inspiring exhibitions.
- Leadership - developing skills that reinforce future abilities.
- Enterprise - projects that inspire creativity, such as the Summer Market.
- Theatre Visits - experiencing the thrill of live performance.
- Opportunities - to develop talent in subjects from Art to Sport.
- Next Steps Advice - including Careers Fairs and workplace visits.
- Honours Programme - recognising ability in our Sixth Form.
- International - actively involved in global projects and experiences.
- Green School Projects - embracing environmental concerns.
- Higher Education Visits - first hand experience of university life.

