

Newsletter



Issue 8: January—April 2015

Achieving Success Together

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OFSTED: CHS RETAINS ITS 'GOOD' STATUS



Welcome

to our Easter newsletter, which sees us two-thirds of the way through another successful and busy academic year. A lot has happened since our last issue, which saw us just about to celebrate the festive season.

As most people were happily winding down and looking forward to the Christmas period, the team at CHS were informed that we would receive a visit from the Ofsted inspectors in the final week of term! Although we were confident of the quality of Congleton High - the teaching, care and behaviour of our students, our curriculum and school management - we were in no way complacent and it was a fraught few days during the inspection period and then waiting to hear the outcome. Everyone was, of course, delighted to learn that we had once again been designated a GOOD school and this is down to our student body as much as the dedicated team of staff, so congratulations are due all round!

In February we celebrated the first anniversary of Cmat. A single year in which it has grown from just one school to a true multi-academy trust, encompassing two primary schools: Black Firs and newest member of the family, Castle Primary; Congleton High School and The Congleton College. We now hope to further develop the Trust and are asking for your support in steering Cmat towards continued growth and success in the future. On page 6 you can find out how you can play a vital part in this.

Going into the next term, many of our students will begin the final countdown to important GCSE and A level exams. This can be a stressful time for students and parents alike and we urge you to work with form tutors and curriculum teachers to ensure that stress is kept to a minimum and that each student has an effective revision programme. We have a range of guides and sources of information in the [student](#) and [parent areas](#) of our website designed to help at this time, so please make use of these.

Enjoy the Easter break and, for those due to sit exams next term, try to use the time to plan the next few months to ensure that you can remain relaxed and work effectively in the run up. We look forward to welcoming you all back on 20th April, rested and ready to do what we are best known for at Congleton High – Achieving Success Together!

Mr D Hermitt
Executive Principal



YEAR-ON-YEAR SUCCESS LIMITS SPACES AT CHS

As seen on the front and back pages of the Congleton Chronicle recently, we announced that, from September 2015, we will be at full capacity of 1134 students, largely due to our continued year-on-year success. Anyone in receipt of an agreed place for September 2015 need not be concerned though, as all previously accepted places are secure.

The current school structure does mean, however, that there are still spaces in certain year groups, most notably our thriving sixth form, which, due to The Congleton College and both on and off-site facilities, enables us to offer sixteen-plus education for all those around the area requiring either an academic or a vocational route.

CHS performs extremely well, delivering high quality student welfare and education resulting in exceptional GCSE results (74% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths) and an A level pass rate of 99.9%. Thanks to this success and the range of curricular and extra-curricular options we offer, we have seen applications to join the school remain consistently high and an incredible 70% of year eleven students choosing to stay on into our sixth form.

Ofsted, too, returned a favourable report, viewing us as 'A GOOD School' in its latest December 2014 assessment. This has again added to our popularity amongst local parents seeking the school in which their child will thrive.

Mr Hermitt, commented: *"I am extremely proud of our high standards and success and that this has resulted in us being the school of choice for many Congleton parents. However, it has raised concerns with regard to the future for our growing town, not least from our partner primaries and other members of the Cmat family, many of whom face the same situation. In March, I wrote to the head of planning and policy at Cheshire East Council, Adrian Fisher, to again warn him that we will be unable to accept further applications and that the Local Authority will need to ensure that developers make adequate financial provision to ensure access to quality schools for future housing schemes."*

Through Cmat, we plan to continue to deliver high quality education for all ages, from pre-school right up to sixteen-plus and we will work with the Local Authority to ensure that all Congleton children have access to this, now and in the future."

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Ready for the eclipse? Recalling the lighthouse Boxing clever!
Page 48 Page 59
Small text at bottom: School Governors: 01256 33241 Letters: 01256 33241 School Website: www.congletonhigh.co.uk

School can't cope with more homes

Local governors have failed in their job of protecting school places for Congleton High School, according to a report published in the Congleton Chronicle. The report, which was written by a local journalist, states that the school is currently at full capacity and that the governors have failed to secure additional funding to build new classrooms. The report also mentions that the school is facing a significant increase in demand for places, particularly in the sixth form.



Loaned money could save Vale Allotments

The Congleton Glass company has offered to loan money to the Vale Allotments Association to help them with their financial difficulties. The company, which is based in Congleton, has been in operation for over 20 years and has a reputation for producing high-quality glassware. The loan is intended to help the association cover the costs of maintaining the allotments and providing facilities for the members.

Delia Metcalfe
Author and Editor
Step into Spring
alackchens
crowd
ROBELL CAPRI TROUSERS
place a number choice of trousers
all in bright summer colours

CHS IS A 'GOOD' SCHOOL that 'prepares students well for life in modern Britain'

We're delighted, once again, to be considered a GOOD school following our latest inspection by Ofsted, which took place in the last week of term in December 2014. The Ofsted team graded us as 'Good' in the five key performance areas as follows:



- Leadership and management
- Behaviour and safety of pupils
- Quality of teaching
- Achievement of pupils
- Sixth form provision

For two days, a total of five inspectors observed thirty eight lessons across a range of curriculum areas and year groups. They experienced all aspects of our everyday school life, including registration periods, assemblies and classes and also how our students conducted themselves outside of the classroom.

Formal meetings were held with Mr Hermitt, the senior leadership team, governors and teaching staff. In addition, the inspectors talked with our students about their experiences here and their behaviour. Samples of students' work were scrutinised, including during lessons and the inspectors listened to some of our younger students reading.

In addition to the observations the inspectors made within the school itself, the views of our students' parents were also taken into consideration via Ofsted's Parent View online feedback questionnaire. A total of 259 parents – almost a quarter - had gone online to express their satisfaction with and support for the school.

Commenting that we 'prepare students very well for life in modern Britain' and that our 'work to keep pupils safe and secure is outstanding', the report praises many of our other strengths, including:

- *'[The executive principal] and his team are passionately committed to ensuring that the students in their care reach their full potential and are well prepared for their chosen careers or further study.'*
- *'Pastoral support from staff is very strong.'*
- *'There is a strong culture of care and nurture which is appreciated by both students and parents.'*
- *'Inclusion is a major attribute which permeates the whole school.'*
- *'The curriculum is broad, balanced and innovative....'*
- *'[The students] have very positive attitudes to learning.'*
- *'Students with disabilities and special educational needs make good progress...'*

Mr Hermitt commented:

"We are delighted that we have been recognised, once again, as a good school overall and by some very positive comments in the report. Our motto of "Achieving Success Together" shines through, as everyone involved played their part throughout the demanding inspection process."

The full report can be viewed on our [website](#) by going to 'About Us' and selecting 'Ofsted Report'.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Did you know that as well as this termly newsletter, there are many other ways of finding out what is happening at CHS during the term:

- Sign up for our monthly E-Newsletter via the homepage of our website at www.congletonhigh.com
- Read the [CHS Sports Blog](#)
- Connect with us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@CongletonHS](#)—for general school news and announcements
[@PhysEdCHS](#)—for PE news and up-to-the-minute information about fixtures etc
[@CateringCHS](#)—for details of our daily meal deals and menus
- Or follow one of our other departmental Twitter accounts for updates, photos and curriculum-related news:

[@CHSHumanities](#)

[@CHSLanguages](#)

[@CHSMediaDept](#)

[@CHS Sixth Form](#)

[@chsmathsdept](#)

[@chsartists](#)

[@chstechdept](#)

[@CHSSportsCentre](#)

[@CongletonColl](#)

[@CongletonMAT](#)



EMOTIONAL VISIT TO BATTLEFIELDS

In February, forty four Congleton High year ten history students embarked on an emotional journey to some of the Belgian and French WWI battlefields. Over the few days, the group were able to learn about events that occurred many decades before they were born, which, in turn, has helped to give them a greater understanding of their history coursework.

During the first day of the trip, the students visited The Hoge Crater Museum and took a tour around the Belgian town of Ypres. The group then went on to The Tyne Cot British War Cemetery and the Langemark German War Cemetery where they passed amongst the graves and memorials. The students found these to be both haunting yet fascinating places to visit.

The school was also honoured to be able to take part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate where students, Nathan Gaunt and Remy Williams, laid a wreath on behalf of Congleton High to commemorate the lives of those who fought for their country.

The following day, the group left Belgium for France, where they visited the some of the Somme battlefields including Newfoundland Park, The Theipval Memorial and the Great Lochnegar mine crater. The students were also fortunate enough to be able to take a fascinating underground tour underneath the town of Arras to explore a network of tunnels left by British soldiers in 1917.

Eve Ryan, one of the students on the trip, commented:

"It was a great experience to see the things we have studied in lessons come to life and it proved to us that the facts our history teachers taught us are not at all exaggerated. The sites were hard hitting and really important. I believe that everyone should take the opportunity to visit them if they can."



BERISFORDS DESIGN AWARDS 2015

Back in September 2014, eight Congleton High Fashion and Clothing students visited the Berisfords Ribbon factory in Congleton to learn about the industry and see the process in action. Following the visit and as part of 'The Berisfords Design Awards', which the school runs with the company, the students were set a challenge to design a bag using Berisfords ribbons.

Many months of planning and hard work (and some unpicking) followed and an array of highly creative designs was produced. Managing director, Peter Bowers and marketing and design director, Fiona Hampton, visited the school to judge the competition on Tuesday 10th February and were extremely impressed by what they saw.



Peter Bowers, Berisfords' managing director, with Berisfords Design Awards competition winners (L-R) Lucy Collins (1st), Bethan Owen (2nd) and Trinh Pham (3rd)

Both judges agreed that: *"The design and construction of the bags was complicated and deserving of the new AS equivalent examination course, it was difficult to judge but we believe we chose the best three designs."*

Despite all the entries being of exceptionally high quality and worthy of a prize, the final winner selected was Lucy Collins, who won first prize of £100. Bethan Owen scooped £70 for second prize and Trinh Pham was awarded third prize of £30.

The Fashion and Textiles teacher, Mrs Paling Sparkes, added *"This is a marvellous partnership that we have formed with Berisfords and we would like to thank them for their generosity in time, materials and prizes. The annual event is a great all round experience for our Fashion and Clothing students and really makes a difference to the quality of their coursework and final examination grades."*

GUNK, CAKES, BOYBANDS AND TEAMWORK

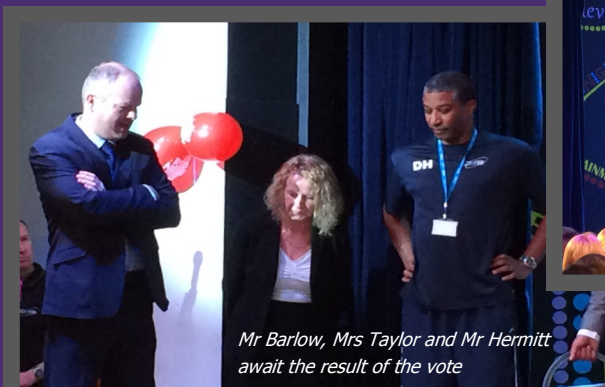


Never ones to do anything half-heartedly, students and staff from CHS threw themselves in at the deep end when it came to supporting Red Nose Day 2015 on Friday 13th March. In between lessons, the whole school dedicated itself to raising almost £1000 for the great cause, which did not go unnoticed by the outside world, with the our Red Nose Day antics making the [BBC News website!](#)

Everyone got behind the charity day with a range of events taking place over break and lunch, enabling the whole school, from the youngest to the oldest, to organise, participate or donate.

GUNK THE TEACHER

Students voted all week for the member of staff they wanted to see in the 'Gunk Tank'



Mr Barlow, Mrs Taylor and Mr Hermitt await the result of the vote



Above: Mrs Taylor and Mr Hermitt receiving a 'gunking' in aid of Comic Relief - what fantastic sports!

'NO DIRECTION'

Supported by student group, 'Band with No Name', members of the PE department came together for one performance only as 'No Direction'



FUNDRAISING

Money was also raised through selling homemade cakes and sweets and through prize games and competitions organised by students.



Mrs Eckersley, the teacher responsible for organising the Red Nose Day activity, commented: "Although Red Nose Day encourages us all to see the funny side of things, staff and students alike are all too aware of the serious work of the charity and why the event takes place. As a school, we pulled together as a team to ensure that everything ran smoothly and that we were able to help to make a real difference to the lives of others at home and overseas. Everyone worked really hard and a huge thank you goes to Mr Hermitt and Mrs Taylor for being such fantastic sports."

IF WE CONTACT YOU BY TELEPHONE...

Important information for parents/carers:

We would be grateful if parents could please note that if we telephone you, our number shows as **0845 148 0060** and not as the school number. This is a central Cheshire East number, which is the same for all schools in our area.

If you need to return the call, please use the main school telephone number (01260 387000), as the 0845 number will take you to a recorded message and not direct to us here at school. Thank you.

CMAT ONE YEAR ON—YOU CAN HELP SHAPE ITS FUTURE

In February, Congleton Multi-Academy Trust (Cmat) celebrated its first anniversary since launching with CHS as the only member back in 2014. The Trust has gone from strength-to-strength and now spans education from pre-school right up to eighteen plus and is set to expand further with other schools currently in discussion with regard to joining.

On March 1st, the Trust was delighted to announce that Castle Primary School had joined the CMAT family and became the second Cmat primary member, along with Black Firs, who joined in June '14. Based in Mow Cop, the school traditionally sends the majority of its children to us and has already benefitted from the extra links we provide, such as language teaching and additional maths lessons for their most able students.

The Congleton College, launched in July 2014 and due to welcome its first full intake of students in September 2015, has also enjoyed almost a year of continued development and, alongside the existing Box Lane site, will now offer a range of courses at the Mountview day-care facility and plans to expand yet further into additional premises around the town.

2015-16 looks set to be another exciting year of growth and evolution for Congleton Multi-Academy Trust. This sustained and rapid progress has led the Cmat Board to review its current vision, to ensure it remains appropriate and relevant to all members, both new and existing.

As a result, the Board have produced a consultation document and a survey designed to give all Cmat member stakeholders – students, parents, staff, governors, local communities and businesses etc – the opportunity to have a say on a future vision for the Trust that represents all the schools that it comprises.

We would welcome your views on this and the document and survey can be found on our [website](#) under the section 'Cmat' and then 'Cmat Vision and Values'. Please complete this by Monday 20th April.

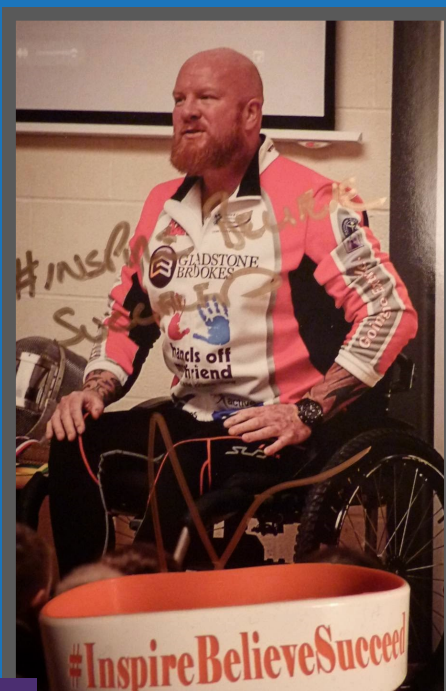


Congleton Multi-Academy Trust

INSPIRATION FROM PARALYMPIAN

On Thursday 19th March, British International Wheelchair Fencer, Adrian Derbyshire, visited the school to talk to Year 9 about life, sport, health & wellbeing, disability awareness and hate crime.

Adrian's life changed forever in August 2008 when, after going to bed he woke-up three days later in hospital after suffering a brain haemorrhage which had been caused by a brain tumour. He then contracted chemical meningitis, was told the brain tumour was inoperable and given just days to live. The days turned into weeks and then months and Adrian was still fighting and defying the odds. Eventually he came home but faced a totally different life ahead of him and one which he said he knew could be taken away from him at any point.



Adrian told students, "Sport changed my life. It gave me the will to fight and a purpose in life." He explained that when he came home from hospital his life completely changed. "I was new to being a wheelchair user, I had this life threatening illness and I just wanted to go outside as well as meet people who were disabled. 89% of disabled people were not born that way, they acquired their disability in their life. I was one of the 89% and I wanted to meet others. I had the opportunity to try all the Paralympic sports as well as try out for Great Britain, which was a tremendous honour."

He now hand cycles around the country raising awareness of disability and also of hate crime, of which he is a victim himself. He is an ambassador of several charities and has spoken to over 35,000 students to date.

Students and staff found his talk truly inspirational and Adrian is someone that everybody can learn from, whether this is his positive "I can" attitude, his determination, going the extra mile, being a positive role model or his experiences of hate crime and bullying. One thing's for sure, you will not hear many stories like Adrian's and he has definitely made an impact on both students and staff at Congleton High School.

Written by Year 12 student, Adam Bailey.

You can read the full length version of this report on the [Congleton High School Sports Blog](#) and also watch an interview with Adrian that was recorded as part of [BBC News School Report day](#), both of which are available on our website.

WORKSHOPS. WORDS AND WOLVES

Bringing learning to life is key at Congleton High, with teaching staff constantly looking for new ways to enthuse and inspire students. With this in mind, the English department arranged for leading children's author and illustrator, Curtis Jobling, to visit the school and share his experiences with a group of year seven, eight and AS creative writing students to encourage and challenge these keen readers and writers.

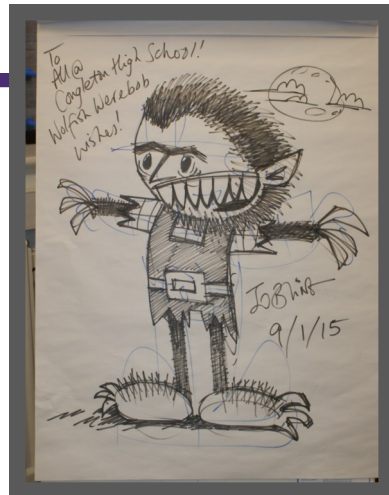
Well known to younger children and their parents as the author and illustrator of *Bob the Builder*, *Frankenstein's Cat* and *Raa Raa the Noisy Lion*, older children have now become fans of his work through his *Wereworld* series of fantasy horror novels and his latest trilogy, *Haunt*.

Curtis entertained and inspired the students with accounts of his writing and illustrating career in a funny and fascinating talk, interwoven with mini video clips. He told how, from an early age, a great love of reading had inspired his career choices and led him to what he considers the best job in the world, 'being paid to daydream'!

The author also held two workshops, with a masterclass on structuring a gripping story and writing tense, engaging prose. The room fell silent as thirty students all scribbled intently to complete a challenge set by the author - a short story entitled, 'The Box', with some excellent pieces

of writing produced, showing incredible imagination and composition skills. Between workshops and the talk, other students were able to meet and chat with Curtis and they posed an impressive range of searching questions on everything from his working life to his inspirations and his own favourite books. He also spent time signing his books with unique and personalised wolfish and ghostly doodles.

Curtis' words provided a unique and valuable insight into where students' studies could lead them and the workshops gave them a perfect opportunity to practise and develop their own creative fiction writing skills. Student feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive, with everyone feeling motivated and inspired to stretch their own imaginations and creativity.



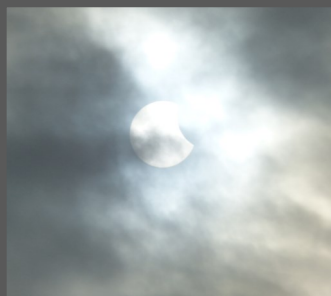
Familiar children's character, Bob the Builder, morphed into 'Werebob' by Curtis Jobling during his visit to CHS



THE SUN GOES OUT IN CONGLETON

"Nothing - and I mean absolutely nothing in nature - is as powerful and spectacular as the totality of a solar eclipse," said Slooh.com astronomer, Bob Berman and, along with many people across the UK and Europe, CHS students and staff enjoyed the thrill of the partial solar eclipse on the morning of Friday 20th March.

Keen to experience the event safely, students used pin-hole viewers or their own eclipse glasses to view what was a really exciting and memorable event and were struck by the noticeable change in both temperature and light. The last solar eclipse to be seen in the UK was in 1999 and the next substantial one will be in 2026, so this was a rare opportunity to view this phenomenon in our own hometown.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Head boy, Jamie, offered coveted Cambridge place

We were delighted to learn recently that one of our high achieving sixth formers and CHS head boy, Jamie Bernardi, has been offered a coveted place at St John's College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences (Physical).

Currently studying A levels in mathematics, further mathematics, physics and chemistry at our sixth form, Jamie must secure two A and two A* grades to guarantee his place at one of the leading UK universities. He is no stranger to hard work though, having already achieved seven A* and three A grade GCSEs in addition to a Distinction* BTEC at the end of year eleven. Jamie is also an active member of Congleton Town Council Youth Committee in his 'spare' time!



Jamie commented: *"I was absolutely ecstatic to receive my offer. There's still a long way to go to ensure I meet the conditions but it will certainly be worth it to be able to study at the University of Cambridge. It has been hard work so far too but I have Congleton High and my family to thank for all the help with the application and interview preparation and, most of all, for allowing me to be in the position to apply to such a great institution in the first place, having never thought it possible myself until fairly recently."*

Jade to be Big Fat Gypsy Wedding Apprentice

Jade Pirie, a year thirteen CHS student is over the moon to have been offered a two-year apprenticeship leading to a full time position working with Thelma Madine, better known as the Big Fat Gypsy Wedding dress creator. Fans of the series will be well aware of her fantastical, intricate creations - the incredible dresses and outfits – and will fully understand Jade's excitement at this fabulous opportunity.

As a current BTEC Fashion and Clothing student, Jade was keen to extend her abilities and learn new skills, so, during the February half-term holiday, she travelled to Liverpool to undertake a corset making course with Thelma. During her time with the dressmaker, her talent and enthusiasm shone through and she was offered an apprenticeship there and then. As part of the BTEC Fashion and Clothing course, students produce an entire garment from start to finish and Jade chose to make a hacking jacket as she is also a keen horsewoman. After hearing of this, Thelma offered Jade the amazing opportunity to work on the jackets she was creating for Riverdance.

Jade will spend the first two years as an apprentice, learning all about the business and developing her skills and techniques, after which she will be given a permanent role. She will begin the apprenticeship as soon as she completes her BTEC Fashion and Clothing qualification at CHS.

Mrs Sparkes, Fashion and Clothing teacher commented on Jade's appointment: *"I am so pleased for Jade, she has worked really hard at her fashion and clothing studies and she even opted to study for three extra units to extend her course to a higher level. She consistently achieves the top grade of Distinction Plus for her work and her future sounds like it is going to be hard work but it will definitely be rewarding."*

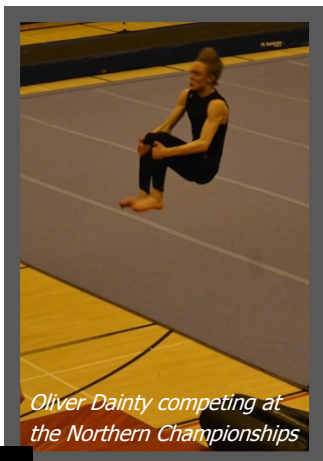
Rory gets a head start!

Congratulations to year twelve student Rory McEwan, who has been awarded a prestigious place on the *Headstart* course, organised by the Engineering Development Trust. Rory researched and applied for a place on the course to help support him with his engineering ambitions. The course, which will be run in the summer, will involve Rory spending a week at Edinburgh University. During this time, Rory will be focussing on electronic engineering, which is his particular area of career interest.



'Young Hood' great ambassadors

Congratulations also go to our Young Enterprise (YA) Team, 'Young Hood', in particular Rob Kirkwood, Alex Benez and Angel Alexander (pictured right), who represented the school at the YA Cheshire East and Warrington final last week. They were judged on their business report, which they had to submit in advance and also their trade stand and presentation that they put forward on the night. Work Experience Co-Ordinator, Jill Sadat-Shafai, who has been working with the team, was incredibly proud of them, saying, *"The team didn't ultimately win the competition but they did extremely well and held their own amongst the competition. They were great ambassadors for CHS!"*



Oliver Dainty competing at the Northern Championships

Gymnastics Gold Medal

And finally, CHS student & gymnast, Oliver Dainty, recently competed in the Northern Championships, winning Gold with his team. Congratulations to Ollie and the team.

OUR EXCELLENT BBC NEWS SCHOOL REPORT

SCHOOL REPORT

BBC NEWS



On Thursday 19th March, Congleton High joined over one thousand schools across the UK to set the news agenda and become reporters for the day through the BBC News School Report event, an annual opportunity for 11-16 year-old students in the UK to make their own news reports for a real audience.

Fifteen members of the school's weekly Media Club, from years seven to nine, along with a number of sixth form mentors, began working towards the event back in November 2014, when the first practice days took place and the whole process began. Over the next

five months, the students started planning what topics they would cover and who would take which role.

Led by English and Media Studies teacher, Grace Eardley, a TES Inspirational Teacher of the Year nominee, the team wanted to address issues that affect young people but take an alternative angle on them, so they came up with a shortlist of relevant material before narrowing it down to the stories that made the final cut.

On the actual School Report News Day, the team covered breaking home and international news including the Tunisian museum attack, an election update and a general sports report.

The main stories included an inspirational interview with British International Wheelchair Fencer, Adrian Derbyshire, in which he discussed his career as a sportsman and also as a Hate Crime Ambassador. Adrian had come to the school to talk with students and the team were lucky enough to be able to speak with him between sessions.

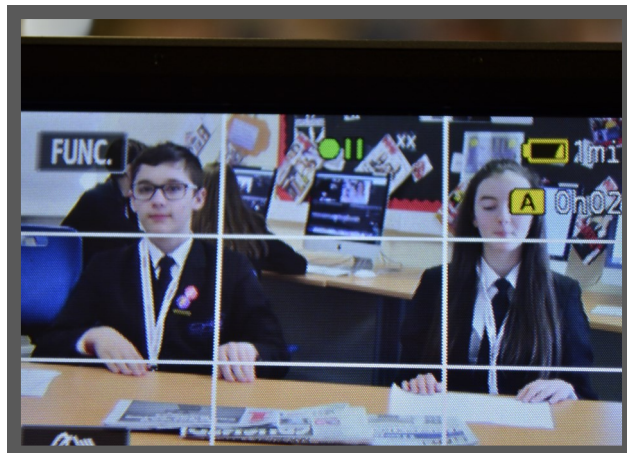
A number of significant health and wellbeing matters were addressed during the broadcast. One important issue and certainly very much in the public eye at the moment, is that of mental health and the team took an in-depth and sensitive look at how this affects young people. Later in the report, Diabetes was tackled, giving an opportunity to look at what this disease is and how sufferers manage it on a day-to-day basis. Finally, Congleton High's already successful sports blogger, Adam Bailey, highlighted the Team Congleton 'Every Step Counts' campaign, aimed at getting the townsfolk active and was able to interview veteran Olympic medallists and campaign leaders, Ann and Robbie Brightwell.



The team came up with a shortlist of stories before making their final choice



Staff, students, campaign figureheads and the public were all willing to share their opinions



Congleton High joined thousands of schools to set the agenda on BBC School Report News Day

One hot topic that couldn't be avoided was the anticipation of the Solar Eclipse, due to occur the day after the reports were broadcast. The team was keen to include this story of international significance and interviewed Congleton High science teacher, Ed Tyrrell, who explained the facts behind the event and also the best way to view the eclipse safely.

The team's final report was a light-hearted look at the history of school-ground crazes, giving students and especially teachers, the opportunity to reminisce about the various toy trends and fads of their childhood.

Throughout the broadcast, the team were lucky enough to be able to speak with a range of people to add interest and depth to their substantial research. Campaign figureheads, members of the public, teachers and fellow students were all expertly interviewed by the team, who received praise for their sensitive and mature approach.

BBC School Report is a collaborative project run by BBC News and BBC Learning. Using lesson plans and materials from the website and with support from BBC staff and partners, teachers help students develop their journalistic skills to become School Reporters. After the months of preparation, schools take part in the annual March News Day, simultaneously creating video, audio and text-based news reports, and publishing them on a school website, to which the BBC aims to link.

The full broadcast from this year and previous years can be viewed on the Congleton High website at <http://www.congletonhigh.com/156/bbc-news-school-report>

Indoor rowing—'Congleton have brought some class!'

Building on their success last year, our indoor rowing teams have continued to go from strength to strength. Earlier this year all five of our teams entered and won the Level 2 School Games competition and progressed on to the Level 3 (county-wide) event, which was held in March at Manchester Metropolitan University.

We took 20 students to the games and returned with a fantastic twenty medals, finishing in the top three in all but one of the categories! Curriculum Team Leader for PE, Mrs Salt, was extremely proud of all the students who took part. She said *"Our students have worked very hard to train for this event and the success of our teams really stood out on the day. Even the commentator said 'Congleton have brought some class!'"*



Summary of results:

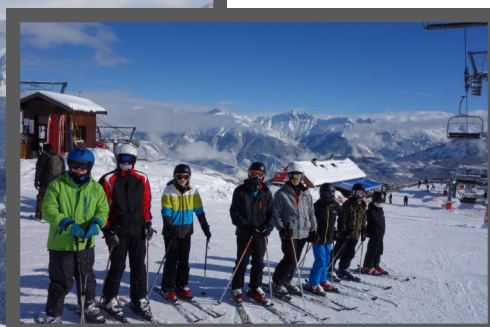
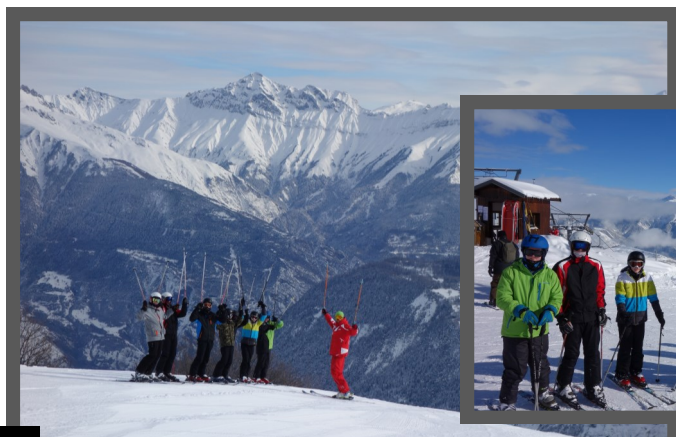
	Overall results	Team relay competition	Individual results
Year 9 girls	Gold	Bronze	Helena Cresswell – Silver
Year 9 boys	Silver	Silver	Ethan Johnson – Silver
Year 10 girls	Gold	Bronze	Megan Sheard – Bronze
Year 10 boys	Gold	Gold	Ramtin Musah - Bronze
Year 11 boys	4 th place	5 th place	

Students swap snow for more snow!

As the snow fell in Cheshire, forty CHS students and four staff set off in the early hours of Saturday 31st January to find even more of the cold stuff in the French Alps, where they would spend the next week on the school's annual ski course.

Having been kitted out on arrival with skis, boots, helmets and poles and after a welcome night's sleep, everyone was up promptly the first morning; breakfasted and booted, ready for the first lesson of the daily five-hour ski training course. It was an amazing experience for all concerned! Exhilarated, excited and exhausted (even a little bit scared) everyone excelled themselves. From absolute beginners to advanced skiers, each and every one achieved something to be proud of.

The final night Presentation Night saw a skittering of 'Snowflake' awards and an avalanche of Bronze, Silver and Gold 'Stars'. It was even suggested by the French coaches that there was a special talent worthy of competition consideration - quite an astounding achievement after only two week's skiing! The six days passed at great speed and it didn't seem long before all forty students were returned home; some with aching and over-stretched muscles but all with huge smiles.



PE teacher, Mr Naylor, commented: *"Once again, the ski course was a tremendous success, allowing students to develop new skills and improve existing ones. The behaviour of the students was exemplary and our coaches were impressed by both their teamwork and attitude. We have already planned next year's trip and students are already polishing their skis in preparation!"*



Sportshall Athletics

On Monday 9th March the year seven boys Sportshall Athletics team (pictured left) competed in the Cheshire & Warrington School Games event at the Northgate Arena, Chester. The boys had finished in first place at the Level 2 event to progress to this stage and represent the School Sport Partnership. After an afternoon of tough competition the boys finished in 5th place. Congratulations to all involved.

Netball Champions

As the netball season comes to a close, our girls are continuing to dominate in local leagues and tournaments. They have recorded clean sweeps against Sandbach and Holmes Chapel since the season resumed and have gone on to be extremely successful in the South Cheshire netball tournaments. The results are summarised below...

Year 10	South Cheshire Runners up
Year 9	South Cheshire Champions
Year 8a	South Cheshire Champions
Year 8b	South Cheshire Runners up
Year 7a	Tournament after Easter
Year 7b	Tournament after Easter



Year 8a and Year 8b netball teams



Year 9 netball team

Emerging Schools Rugby Festival

During March 2015, students from years seven to ten have participated in the annual Emerging Schools of Rugby festivals held at Winnington Park RFC in Northwich.

Jonny Cross, Deputy Curriculum Team Leader for PE was delighted with how our students performed "Over sixty boys represented CHS and they played some fantastic rugby. The competition was fierce to say the least and demonstrates how far rugby has developed in mainstream schools over the past twelve months."

The final festival was held on Wednesday 25th March with eighteen schools being represented across Cheshire and Merseyside. There were 3 groups of year seven boys all vying to win. CHS won Group 2, scoring 11 tries and conceding only 2. They won 4 and drew 1 game, their best result this year.

Rugby has been going from strength to strength here at CHS and Mr Cross acknowledged the support the school has received in building interest and expertise: "We would like to thank the RFU Development Team and Community Rugby Coaches, especially Julian Gilding, who has been a constant source of support for us in developing rugby here." He added "Following through the progress of this sport here at CHS, we are now in the process of leading on developing a league structure with local schools ready for this September and in anticipation of the Rugby World Cup 2015."



Year 7 team



Year 10/9 team

RAVE REVIEWS FOR BUGSY MALONE

They say 'the show must go on' and that was definitely the case in January, when we refused to let the heavy snowfall prevent our all-school production of Buggy Malone from proceeding as planned. Braving the cold and blocked roads, audiences flocked here over three nights and were rewarded with the most fabulous acting, singing, dancing and music this side of Broadway.

Set in twenties USA, the play follows hero, Buggy Malone, as he attempts to win the affections of chanteuse, Blousey Brown. Students effortlessly recreated the amusing stop-start love story and the comic rivalry between the two warring gangsters, Fat Sam and Dandy Dan, with their motley crew of sidekicks and gangster's molls.

The famous splurge guns and custard pies put in an appearance, much to the delight of the audience, who watched as various characters were 'killed by custard'. Luckily, not one member of the cast or crew fell victim to the copious amounts of custard splurged across the stage and sets!

There were two sterling casts for the main characters, all of whom captured their subjects perfectly. A strong supporting company of

singers, dancers, gangsters, laundry workers and down and outs gave amazing performances, often having to race off stage to return moments later as totally different characters.

With the authentic twenties flapper girl and gangster costumes, superb lighting and sets, fantastic performances and faultless music, audiences could be forgiven for thinking they were watching a professional West End musical. One audience member emailed head of school, Jim Barlow, personally to express their thoughts, which were echoed by all the audiences over the three nights: *"We were absolutely blown away by the Buggy Malone production! It was fantastic. So professional and talented, it made us very proud of Congleton High. Well done to all staff and pupils involved, it was worth all your hard work."*

The show was directed by curriculum team leader for performing arts, Gill Davis, who said *"it was a privilege to work with such a dedicated and talented cast and band"*, with music directed by Kathryn Martin and supported backstage by a whole host of students, teachers and other school staff who ensured that the show ran smoothly and without any hitches despite the best efforts of the weather!



Key Dates for your diary

Monday 20th April 2015	School re-opens
Thursday 23rd April 2015	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 4th May 2015	May Day bank holiday—school closed
Tuesday 5th May 2015	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 13th May 2015	PIP meeting (7pm)
Monday 25th—Friday 29th May 2015	Half term holiday
Wednesday 10th June 2015	PIP meeting (7pm)
Tuesday 23rd June 2015	Alternatives to University Parents' Evening
Thursday 25th June 2015	New Intake Day/New Intake Parents' Evening
Friday 26th June 2015	Sports Day
Tuesday 7th July 2015	Africa Day
Friday 17th July 2015	End of the school year— school closes at 1:10pm