

# Newsletter

Issue 12: April - July 2016

Achieving Success Together

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## Excellent! Entertaining! Professional! Brilliant!



*Return to the  
Forbidden Planet  
show gets rave  
reviews*

# Welcome

to our final newsletter for the 2015-16 school year. It doesn't seem like five minutes since we were welcoming our current Year 7 in to Congleton High and helping them to find their way around and feel at home. Now they are all established as part of the family and ready to take on the role of big brothers and sisters for our new 2016 intake.

2015-16 has been another fantastic year at CHS, which started on a high with great GCSE and A Level results last summer, not least from Ru Morgan, who achieved an A\* in GCSE mathematics aged just 12! Students studying GCSEs received a record number of coveted A grades with 67% celebrating at least one A\*/A grade. Similarly, A level students tripled the number of A grades received in 2014.

The year has continued apace with each week bringing another reason to celebrate. Our school calendar has been packed with a broad range of learning and enrichment opportunities to challenge and motivate students of all ages - educational trips, visiting speakers, international guests who have broadened our horizons, an amazing all-school production, a wide range of sports and, of course, recognising our students' many achievements with rewards trips, awards evenings and praise assemblies.

2016-17 will be another exciting and busy year. As a result of the continued success of the school, the quality of teaching and the wide-ranging curricular and extracurricular opportunities we offer students, we have the largest intake ever due to start in September. Our many Discovery Days with partner primaries mean the majority of new starters are already familiar with the layout and everyday life here, so it will be a smooth transition and our new Year 7 will feel at home in next to no time.

We wish you all a very relaxing and hopefully sunny summer holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday 7th September.

**Mr D Hermitt**

Executive Principal (CHS)



## Farewell from Adam and Sophie

*Head Boy, Adam Bailey and Head Girl, Sophie Hammond, step down at the end of term and hand over to Richard Vickers and Suzi De Takats, who will take on the role for 2016-17.*

We were both very honoured to have been chosen as Head Boy and Head Girl this year and we have very much enjoyed the responsibility of the role. We have been fortunate to receive a great deal of support from our fellow students, parents, staff and the school Governors.

The student voice is something that is highly valued at the school and we have improved communication and ensured a greater continuity in the work of the Student Leadership Team. We also represented the student voice at Governors' meetings and, last term, gave a presentation to the governing body, outlining what we have achieved this year.

We have supported a number of charities including Syria's refugee children, Children in Need and Operation Christmas Child. However, our main project this year has been raising money for the construction of the school shelter, which will be located in the quad area. This is a costly enterprise but we are really pleased with the progress we have all made this year.

This newsletter is not, however, just our final one as Head Boy and Girl but also our last as students at Congleton High School. We both agree that choosing to come to this school seven years ago was the best decision we have made. We arrived here with the nerves of moving up to "big school" and with many aspirations and ambitions.

Seven years later we are moving on, having been part of this school's close-knit community and surpassing many of our original Year 7 aspirations. In that time, we have received some amazing opportunities, created many friendships and happy memories and, of course, learnt a great deal along the way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during our time as head boy and girl and, on behalf of all the students in Year 13, we would also like to thank the school for all their support over the last seven years.

Sophie and I wish Richard and Suzi all the best in their new role.

*Adam and Sophie*



# Stop, Look, Listen and Communicate

We held our eleventh annual Reading Week this term, helping students to develop a love of reading for pleasure and an opportunity for staff and students to share their literary experiences with one another.

For the whole of Year 7, the week was rounded off with their Literacy STOP Day, a series of workshops all on the theme of 'Communication'. Working with teachers, Governors, parents and community members, who helped them to consider communication in its many different forms from inter-personal to mass communications, students wrote poetry, debated national issues, wrote Twitter stories, problem solved, became story detectives and presented their own news items to camera.

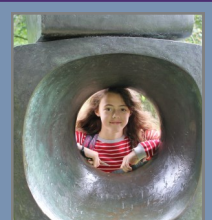
The students had a wonderful day and we would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who made the day possible and so enjoyable.



## 'Great Art in the Great Outdoors'



At the end of June, forty eight of our Year 7 visited the 500 acre Yorkshire Sculpture Park in West Bretton, near Wakefield, a unique facility that aims to 'challenge, inspire, inform and delight'.



The visit enabled students to experience close up works by many renowned and inspirational sculptors such as Henry Moore, KAWs, Barbara Hepworth, Antony Gormley, Dennis Oppenheim and Magdalena Abakanowicz.



## Dreaming Spires Inspire



Each year, our high achieving Post 16 students have the opportunity to visit both Oxford and Cambridge Universities to find out more about studying there. In June, ten Year 12 and Miss Heys joined students from Eaton Bank to see for themselves what life is like at these top universities.

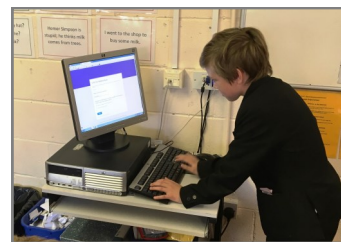
The group stayed in Pembroke College, Oxford and St Catherine's College, Cambridge before spending a day at each university's open day. They were able to tour the different colleges, attend lectures in their chosen subjects and speak with students who have already completed their first or second years. The visit gave students a real flavour of Oxbridge and served to inspire them to want to win one of the few coveted places.



# CHS Votes to Remain



On the day of the EU referendum, after watching arguments put forward for each side by Year 12, students went online to cast their vote for whether the UK should remain part of the European Union. Mirroring the actual vote, there was an extremely high turnout of 71.6% but, unlike the national results, the Congleton students, by a narrow margin of 53.7% to 46.3%, voted to remain in the Union.



## BTEC Students Pass with Flying Colours

Twenty three Post 16 students completed an Assessment Day in April for the Leadership and Teamwork unit of their BTEC Public Services course, all passing with flying colours and impressing the assessors - two Royal Navy instructors and a Royal Marine Commando. The group tackled a variety of team building activities and were evaluated on how they worked together as a group and also how individuals performed and demonstrated leadership potential and abilities.

A question and answer session at the end of the day enabled students to find out more about careers, recruitment and lifestyle within the Forces. This really sparked the students' interest and resulted in at least three of the Year 12 students beginning their application process for these Public Services.



## The Language of Science

Back in March, the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and Science Departments teamed up to take forty Key Stage Three and Four students to Paris, for a cross curricular visit that would enable those studying both disciplines to benefit.

The three-day trip began with a cruise along the Seine river, enabling the visitors to see many of the historical sites. This was followed up with a tour of the Musée des Sciences, which featured some interesting temporary exhibitions on advances in aircraft technology and the production of sound as well as the permanent aquarium, planetarium and other exhibitions - more than enough to satisfy even the most science-hungry of our students.

The group were able to immerse themselves in the Parisian atmosphere with a guided cultural city tour taking in the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysée, Arc de Triomphe and the dizzy heights of the fifty sixth floor of the Montparnasse Tower, providing a fantastic panoramic view of the whole of the renowned city.

The students also took part in a series of challenges around the Montmartre area of Paris. These included a visit to the Sacré-Coeur Basilica, finding information from plaques in Paris' most cultural quarter, taking pictures and buying a stamp speaking only French.

Of course, no trip to Paris is complete without a stop off at Disneyland, which is where the group spent their final day and this was rounded off with dinner at Planet Hollywood and the grand finale, The Disneyland sound, light and firework spectacular!





# Africa in a Day



Our fifth annual Africa Day took place in July and gave Year 7 a fantastic opportunity to explore and experience African Culture in its many forms. The whole day was packed from beginning to end with activities including learning the art of African beading, creating artwork inspired by the continent from recycled materials, shelter building and learning about the people and creatures that call Africa 'home'.

Jeff Cutts, from Congleton's New Life Church, challenged students to consider the difference between their own lives and those of many African children their own age. Building shelters from cardboard and other 'scavenged' materials gave Year 7 a small insight into how it must be to live a different life without the many things that they view as necessities that others can only dream of such as a house, running water and electricity.

Students also explored the problems faced by the South African rhinos in danger of extinction, something they had heard about earlier in the year from visiting South African teachers. In the art workshops, they helped to create a giant chicken wire rhino, which will be placed in the school's quad area to serve as a permanent reminder of the creature's plight.

Probably the highlight of the day for many was the opportunity to learn and perform Zulu dance routines with the amazing Mighty Zulu Nation Theatre Company. The perfect end to the incredible day was watching and participating in an amazing performance, in traditional dress, by the Mighty Zulu Nation team, thrilling staff and students alike with the sounds and sights of Africa.



# Partner Primary Discovery Days



By the time students start at Congleton High in Year 7, our aim is that they will already be familiar with the school, with many of the teachers, the layout of the building and also have experienced some of our lessons. We achieve this through a programme of 'Discovery Days' that we host for our Partner Primaries, mainly from Year 5 but occasionally earlier. Combined with our primary school sports activities and other competitions we run for Key Stage One and Two children, these events enable our future cohort to get to know us, to understand how our students learn and see what is expected of them. The transition from primary to high school becomes much smoother and easier in this way and is not such a big step.

Our final Discovery Day takes place at the end of June for all Year 6 students due to start with us. It is a full day of introductory lessons and familiarisation activities that enable Year 7 to 'hit the ground running' in September. The images above depict the different things we do during our New Intake Day but, more than this, they show how relaxed and happy Year 6 already look in these familiar surroundings.

Along with taster lessons in a range of subjects including science, languages, drama, ICT and Design and Technology, the New Intake Day includes a 'Map Trail' around the school, which enables new starters to get to grips with where each department can be found, the location of essentials such as the LRC, refectory and cloak rooms and also introduces them to areas they may not have previously come across on earlier visits. Year 6 are able to spend time in their tutor groups, making new friends and getting to know their form tutor. Far from students spending the summer worrying about starting high school, we find the day results in the majority of them counting the days until they can start at CHS full time!

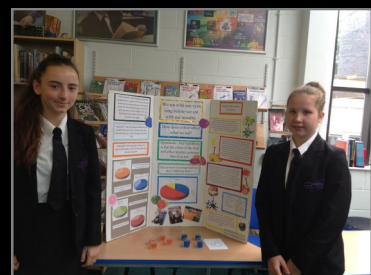


Back in June, Year 5 students from Black Firs, Castle, Astbury St Marys, Woodcocks' Well and The Quinta joined us for two days as part of The British Science Association's Crest Superstars programme. Pupils took part in a range of science based activities, getting the opportunity to solve crimes, construct nests, build rockets and make recycled paper.





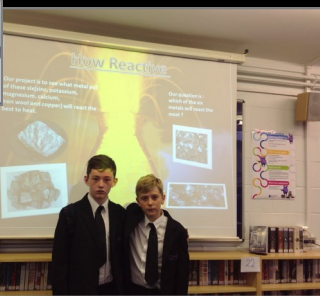
# Creating a 'Wow' with Science



Working in small groups, Year 8 undertook a science project in July. Students were tasked with thinking about not just the scientific content of the project but also how the information could be displayed to make it interesting and create a real 'wow' factor.

There was an amazing variety of topics covered, with teams adopting a wide range of approaches to the project brief. Students in each group voted for their favourite and the top three from each class were then displayed in the LRC for the whole of Year 8 to choose a winner.

Jade Cartlidge and Amy Cosgrove secured first place with 'Does Colour Affect what we Eat?', Chelsea Jackson, Devon Knapper and Lucy Booth came second with 'The Heart' and 'How Reactive?' from Mikey Lennon, Sam Kehoe and Elliot Dolman came third.



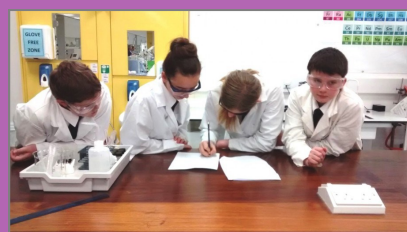
Top Left: First Prize Winners

Left: Second Prize Winners

Above: Third Prize Winners

## Case Cracked with Chemistry

Year 8 Amy Cosgrove, Tom Kennedy, Josie Statham and Kieran Walker met fourteen other schools at Keele University to take part in The Salters' Festival of Chemistry, a day of hands-on practical challenges and demonstrations. The team carried out a crime-scene investigation challenge in the laboratory environment, coming a very respectable third before spending the afternoon investigating the strength of sun tan creams, which is part of the Royal Society of Chemistry's *Mission: Starlight* global experiment into UV protective materials in collaboration with the UK Space Agency and The European Space Agency.



## Vocational Opportunities for Year 12

In March this year, Year 12, Tom Longshaw, won an Apprenticeship Challenge with online retailer, AO.com and, as a result, was offered a week's work experience in July at the company's Crewe logistics headquarters.

The Apprenticeship Challenge took place in Crewe and Tom, along with four other Year 12 CHS students attended a day at the AO.com HQ. Whilst there, the students gained an insight into what it would be like to work with the company, met existing apprentices and were given the opportunity to work on a challenge that could win one of them the week's work experience. All five of the students commented how the day had been a great insight into the world of work.

Tom, who studies Product Design, IT and Music, was lucky enough to win the valuable work experience opportunity, where he will be working with the 'Quality Assurance Team'. Tom stated, '*I really enjoyed the day,*' and '*especially enjoyed competing with my mates.*'



As part of his Public Services course, Year 12, Dan Wilson, joined Mrs Sadat-Shafai at 'Thursday Thirty', a Chamber of Commerce event held by Cheshire Fire and Rescue at Congleton Fire Station.

Currently studying History, PE and Public Services, attending the event not only supported his work on Public Services but also gave him the opportunity to develop his understanding of what employers are looking for and also make valuable local business contacts.

Dan said: '*It was a good experience, meeting all the different employers. I got really useful background information on what businesses are all about.*'

# "Wow, Wow, Wow. What a Show!"



Our Return to the Forbidden Planet show, which ran at Congleton's Daneside Theatre in July, was a fantastic success and received rave online reviews from the audience.

*'Wow, wow, wow. What a show!'*, *'Grab a ticket and be thoroughly entertained. Fantastic show tonight!'*, *'What a fantastic show, you've all worked really hard and should be very proud of yourselves!'* and *'Excellent! Entertaining! Professional! Brilliant!!'* were just a few of the comments received.

A loose mix of Shakespeare's The Tempest and fifties sci-fi film, Forbidden Planet, the show featured a whole host of fifties and sixties classics that had everyone singing and clapping along.

Students from all year groups were involved, with everyone having the chance to play a part in the production as cast, band and crew members. Everybody worked so hard to make the show a success and their dedication really paid off with the show being one of the best yet.



## Keeping in Touch



Our main switchboard telephone number is **01260 730123** and will show as this on caller ID



We are increasingly using e-mail as a method of communicating with parents as it is quick, efficient and cost effective. Please therefore make sure that we have your current e-mail address so that you don't miss out on important communications.



In addition to this termly newsletter, we also produce an E-Newsletter. You can sign up for this via the homepage of our website at [www.congletonhigh.com](http://www.congletonhigh.com)

We also distribute up-to-the-minute information via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



@CongletonHS - for general school news and announcements

We also have departmental Twitter accounts for area-specific information including sports team fixtures:

@chsartists, @CHSBus, @CateringCHS, @CHSEnglishDep, @CHSHumanities, @honoursprog, @CHSICT, @CHSLanguages, @LawCHS1, @chsmathsdept, @chsmediadept, @CHSPerformers, @PhysEdCHS, @CHSSciences, @CHS\_Sixth\_Form, @CHSSocSci and @chstechdept



[www.facebook.com/pages/Congleton-High-School/526370394106880](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Congleton-High-School/526370394106880)



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# Year 11's Cranage Hall Prom





# Record Setting Summer Market



Each year our Year 10 organise and run a charity fundraising Summer Market, raising a substantial amount each time for their chosen charities. This year was certainly no exception, raising a record **£1697.07**, the largest amount to date of any Summer Market.



The secret to their success may have been down to the vast array of stalls offering something for everyone. Whether they wanted to use up energy after sitting in lessons, a delicious food or drink treat to keep them going until lunch, a clean car or just looking to support the good cause and maybe win a prize or two, the market had something for everyone. The funds will be split between charities, 3L Care and The Sarcoma Project.



## Exam Results Days

Students who are expecting to receive GCSE and/or A Level results this summer should note the following important dates:

**Thursday 18th August 9am-11am: AS / A Level results**

**Thursday 25th August 9am-11am: GCSE / BTEC results**

Students may collect their results in the hall from 9am until 11am on each day. The school is not allowed to give results over the telephone or by email. If you are unable to collect your results in person and would like someone else to collect them on your behalf, they need to speak to Mr Warren on the appropriate day and should bring with them a signed letter from you to this effect. Alternatively you can send a large (A4) SAE to Mrs K Isherwood at school and she will post your results out to you.

## Sporting Achievements Recognised and Rewarded



The Sports Awards Evening, held in July, is an opportunity to publicly congratulate and reward the students that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to achieving in school sports. The awards include Contribution to School Sport, Future Champions, Player of the Year, Athlete of the Year, Team of the Year, Sports Person of the Year, The Daniel Sturridge Rising Star Award and the Lynda Arnold Award.

The refectory staff had vacated the kitchens for the afternoon, enabling the Year 10 Catering students to prepare the evening's meal using professional equipment and facilities. This year, served by Year 8 and 9 Catering students, diners were treated to a choice of leek and potato soup or English breakfast salad for starter, a main course of chicken in tarragon sauce or stuffed peppers, both served with fresh, seasonal vegetables, followed by a delicious, tangy lemon cheesecake.

The school was privileged to welcome as guest speaker, footballing legend, Cyrille Regis, former West Bromwich Albion, Coventry City and England player, who made 614 league appearances, scoring 158 league goals during his nineteen year footballing career.

Amongst the 120 students receiving awards on the night was Head Boy and avid school sports blogger, Adam Bailey, who received the Lynda Arnold Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Sport for his work promoting and recognising the school's many sporting activities.



Head Boy, Adam Bailey, with Cyrille Regis



# More Sports Day Records Broken



Sports Day this year was in stark contrast to last year when the sun shone down. Despite this year's blustery weather

(which seemed to get even worse once past the astroturf) and the soft ground, students made the most of the opportunity to get out, get active and have fun.

Year 7 students, Joe Ayre and Fin Stratford, set new records in the 200m and 1500m respectively. Joe beat Elliott Darman's 2013 time by 1.03 seconds, while Finn set a new 1500m record in a time of 5 minutes 20 seconds, beating Jack Farrall's record from last year by 9 seconds.

At the end of the day, when the scores were calculated, there were just two points separating the top five Year 7 tutor groups, with **7ZGr** beating **7HV** and **7CT** by one point to claim the Year 7 title with 130 points. Year 8 was not as close though, with **8KJE**'s total of 136 points beating **8CE** by six points. Year 9 was much more convincing with **9SDR** taking the Year 9 title by a twenty point margin, while **10JC** were the victorious tutor group in Year 10 once again.



## Year 9 Court Appearance



Above:  
Students and Mr  
de Souza

Eight Year 9 students had the amazing experience of visiting Wimbledon on semi-finals day where they were fortunate enough to watch Grand Slam champion, Andy Murray, practicing before his match. They were also able to watch the Williams sisters in the ladies doubles semi-finals.

Not content with just tennis players, the group also met Welsh rugby player, Dan Biggar.



Right:  
Posing for a photo  
with Dan Biggar





# International Sport Opportunities



At the end of May, it looked as though sixty four of our netballing and footballing students were due to be disappointed after industrial action led to the cancellation of their Barcelona sports tour flight. Luckily, some fast action from the tour operator and PE staff saw the group on their way - albeit by the much slower ferry and coach method (a journey of just over twenty four hours) but still able to make the long awaited trip.



The football and netball teams developed and perfected their skills during training and fixtures with local teams whilst



experiencing a different culture and the opportunity to explore the iconic city of Barcelona. The group toured the vibrant La Rambla, experienced a Segway tour of the city and, of course, no sports tour would be complete without a visit to the iconic Nou Camp stadium, home to FC Barcelona, 'Barça'.



*l-r: Janse van Vuren, Mafuma, Pokomela, Blose and Zandberg*

Five of South Africa's next generation of rugby union stars provided students with an amazing opportunity to take part in a rugby masterclass in May. The Junior Springboks, affectionately known as the 'Baby Boks', were in the UK to compete in the World Rugby Under-20 Championships in Manchester and had booked a place in the semi-finals with a 40-31 victory over France the previous night.

Vice-captain, Junior Pokomela, winger, Mosolwa Mafuma, prop, Kwenzo Blose, lock, Eduard Zandberg and scrumhalf, Marco Janse van Vuren, all took time out of their busy schedule to share their knowledge and passion for the sport with close to eighty students.

The South Africans led a training session where they taught a range of rugby skills and participated in a series of touch rugby matches. The trainees were thrilled to be able to pick up tips and playing advice from the five, world-class team members, whose patience, skill and enthusiasm for rugby was infectious and inspirational.



## Key Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20th July 2016 - 1:10pm finish	School closes to students for the summer holidays
Monday 5th September 2016	INSET Day - school closed to students
Tuesday 6th September 2016	School closed due to Tour of Britain race
Wednesday 7th September 2016	School re-opens to students
Thursday 29th September 2016 - 2:00pm finish	School closes early for Open Evening
Thursday 29th September 2016 6:30 - 8:30pm	Open Evening for Year 5 and 6 students
Friday 21st October 2016	School closes for half term
Monday 31st October 2016	Congleton Town INSET day - school closed to students
Tuesday 1st November 2016	School re-opens to students
Tuesday 22nd November 2016 6:30 - 8:30pm	Post-16 Open Evening
Thursday 22nd December 2016	School closes for Christmas holidays