

Congleton High School Newsletter



Issue 14: January - March 2017

Achieving Success Together

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Welcome to our Spring Term newsletter, which is packed with stories of our many talented students and staff who have worked together to achieve success in all areas of school life. As a community, we're delighted that our students are able to take advantage of and benefit from all the opportunities we have to offer.

At the beginning of March, we were pleased to confirm 200 new Year 7 places, mainly to students from partner primary schools. We are very proud to remain the school of choice for a great many parents, almost all our available places were first choice selections. However, this does lead to us again to being oversubscribed and, unfortunately, some who wanted a place have had to go to appeal.

The next phase of the transition process will see Mr Barlow and his team visit individual schools to meet our new Year 7. To ensure a smooth transition, we will have several induction events during the Summer Term before the new intake start with us full time in September.

We would like to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Easter break. It's going to be exam term, so take time to rest and revise in equal measure!

I look forward to welcoming in another successful term with you all when we start back to school on Tuesday 18th April.

Mr D Hermitt

Executive Principal (CHS)



Fairer Funding Update

Most of you are aware of the Government's planned funding changes that threaten to affect us if they go ahead. Many schools across the country stand to lose but Cheshire East will receive the least amount of funding of all.

Thank you to everyone who's supported our efforts to halt these changes, those of you who completed the online response survey at home or at one of our in-school sessions, signed petitions, joined marches, written to MPs and so on.

If you are unclear about the situation, then please watch the film our Media Department made to tell our story and raise awareness of how we will be affected by the cuts. (click [here](#))

The Consultation Period for the Government's proposed new Funding Formula has now closed but you can still sign the Fair Funding for all Schools' [petition](#). Fiona Bruce MP, the MP for Congleton, is already working with us to fight for a fairer deal but if you are within another MP's constituency, then email or send a letter to them to raise your concerns.

Life Lessons



Equipping young people with the skills they need for life isn't all about maths and English and this is why Year 10 welcomed some very important visitors this term. A guidance session with 'Virtual Babies', brought in by The Mothers' Union, helped to give students a glimpse of the reality of being a young parent.



2017 BBC News School Report

Nine of our Media Club students made the news for real on 16th March 2017 when they took part in the BBC News School Report. They selected a range of current news themes and then researched, scripted and presented reports around these issues.

The team spent the day researching a range of stories on the very topical theme of 'Fake News'. The items covered included the historical hoax, The Cottingley Fairies, along with more up to date examples such as the Roswell Alien Autopsy film. The team also discussed the common practice of airbrushing images and whether this could be viewed as fake news.

The results of our BBC News School Report 2017 activity can be seen [here](#). You can also view our news reports from previous years in the archive section of our [BBC News School Report page](#).

Well done to the following students: Eady-Beau Williams, Evie Wilson, Chloe Anderson, Tyler Cartwright, Ben Greatbatch, Callum Large, Jake Tomkinson, Jacob Tyrrell and Joe Fuller.



The CHS 2017 School Report Wall of News

Remember the upside-down pyramid of news! Who, What, When, Where, Why

Journalist	Story	Researched?	Scripted?	Filmed?
Jacob Tyrrell	Trump travel ban blocked @/5/5			
Ben Greatbatch	Painkillers cause heart attacks @			
Jake Tomkinson	There is some weather @			
E&E	Working on pre-rec piece (election fake news)			
Chloe Anderson	Childline app released today @/5			
Tyler Cartwright	Unemployment falls @, wage growth slows @			
Callum Large	Emma Watson hacking @			

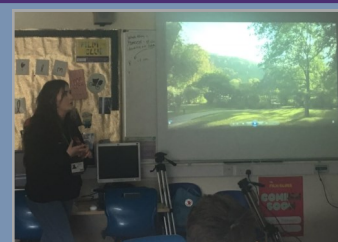


A Future in Film

Media Studies students and our Film Club have been able to learn more about how they can turn their love of film and media into a rewarding career.

Staffordshire University Film Production team visited the school this term to discuss the range of courses on offer and the sorts of careers they can lead to.

We were also lucky enough to welcome back our ex-media student, Emily Kirkham, who came in to share her experiences of studying film and media at university. She showed students examples of her work, including some promotional videos she created for a company in the Lake District (bottom right), which were also submitted as part of her course work and earned her a well deserved First!



Above: Emily Kirkham shared some of her course projects with students



Bringing Science to Life



Like young people all over the world, many of our students are uncertain of what the future holds, which direction to take and where they see themselves in years to come. As a result, choosing GCSE Options can become something of a 'lucky dip,' with no real reason for the subjects chosen. At Congleton High, we aim to guide and support our students to make wise choices, providing a range of opportunities to help.

To give Year 9 a clearer idea of where their studies can lead, our Science

Team organised a very successful 'Bring a Scientist to School Day' in February. Students heard from speakers drawn from a wide variety of science based jobs. These included an ecologist, a vet, an engineer, a cardiac physiologist, a principal scientist from Astra Zeneca and a medical writer amongst others. It was a great way of inspiring and informing, helping students see beyond the science lessons and GCSEs to where they could be in the next ten or twenty years.



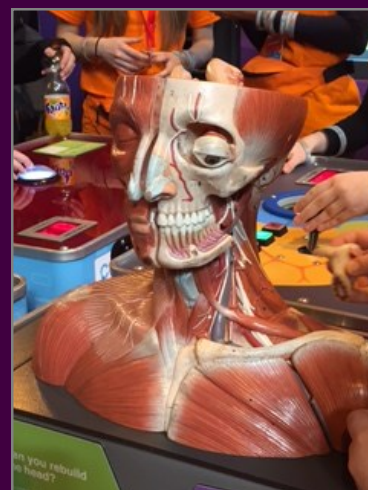
Big Bang Moment for Year 8

The last term was again a flurry of activity with no let up in the amount of enrichment opportunities we have offered our students.

Mrs Jenner took on the mammoth task of organising a trip in March for 156 of our Year 8 students to travel down to the NEC for the Big Bang Fair.

It was a great chance for them to see STEM subjects in action in a variety of weird and wonderful settings and, judging by the photographs of creepy-crawlies we saw afterwards, some were more wonderful than others!

It was also another good way of showing students the many different careers that are accessible via the study of STEM subjects.



Sun, Snow and Superb Skiing

During February half term, our PE Team took eighteen students to the resort of Serre Chevalier in the French Alps. They struck lucky with six days of glorious sunshine, clear blue skies and bright white snow. Two fantastic ESF instructors worked the students extremely hard throughout five hours of lessons each day but this paid off with everyone making superb progress. It was a fantastic week with an amazing group of students and everyone is already looking forward to the 2018 ski trip when twenty three students will travel to the resort of Risoul in the French Alps.



Extra Mile Awards

We have an amazing team of teachers here at Congleton High, who go to incredible lengths to ensure our students enjoy learning, can achieve to their full potential and always feel they have somebody they can turn to with any worries they may have.

'He is a great teacher and, no matter what it concerns, his door is always open.'

In recognition of this, students contributed to a survey to nominate the staff members at school they feel have made a real difference for them. The response was fantastic with so many wonderful comments about all of our team.

As a result, the following twelve people were presented with an **Extra Mile Award** at the end of term: Mr Davis, Mr De Souza, Miss Fernihough, Mr Franklin, Mr Fryer, Mr Holt, Mrs Jackson-Moss,

Mr Knight, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Pyatt, Miss Reilly and Mrs Sadat-Shafai. Thank you to all those students who took part and cast their vote.

'She is kind, funny and brings energy to the lesson, she makes it fun.'

'She understands how we feel when times are difficult and has helped so many students'

Love of Languages

Once again, our Languages Department has held two very successful and enjoyable Language Days for Year 7 this term. The students were all able to enjoy taster sessions in French, Italian, Spanish and German, which introduced them to the different cultures of the countries through dancing, music, food and even some quizzes with prizes!

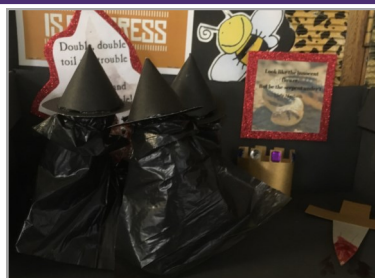


Creativity Unmasked

This year, Big Art Day for Year 7 enabled students to work in pairs and groups but also express their individual creativity with the design of some amazing masks.



Showcasing Shakespeare



As part of their study of one of Shakespeare's most well known plays, Macbeth, Miss Griffiths' Year 7 English students have created some amazing visual interpretations of the play for one of their homework projects. The pictures here are just a small selection of what was produced but we will be displaying the full class' work in the LRC next term. Do pop in and take a look for yourselves.

World Book Day



World Book Day 2017 took place on March 2nd, with children up and down the country once again celebrating with all sorts of reading related activities. Of course, we at Congleton High were no exception, approaching the day as a whole school effort.

Along with an all years competition organised by Mrs Parker in the LRC, Year 7 took part in a literary 'treasure hunt'. Following registration, students tracked down posters of famous authors and used QR Reader technology to learn about two texts each one had written. As usual, each student was also given a book token to spend on books of their choice to help grow their love of reading.

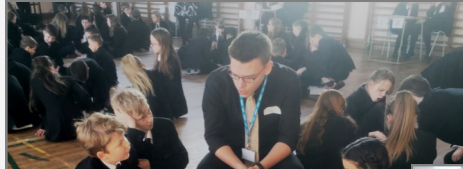
It was also wonderful for our staff to be involved too, with both teaching and non-teaching staff taking time to share excerpts of their favourite books on film. You can enjoy some of these [here](#).



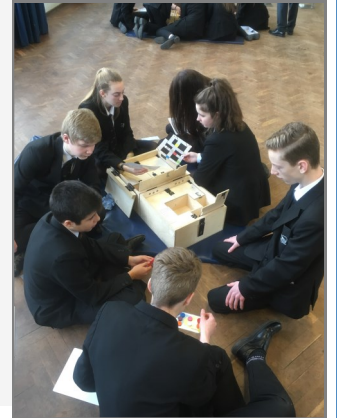
Puzzles No Problem for Students

Our annual Numeracy Day took place in March to coincide with the NSPCC's Number Day and was a great way of mixing learning with fund raising. In the gym, Year 7 students took part in a 'maths relay race', solving numeracy problems, which were checked by Year 9 and 10 helpers. Meanwhile, in the hall, other Year 9 and 10 students were trying to free themselves from the maths 'escape room' boxes by cracking number puzzles. One of our Year 9 teams beat the current all time record of 29 minutes by 4 minutes (with some help from a Year 7 'ringer', maths superstar, Isaac Cumberlidge - you may recall that Isaac passed his GCSE Maths with an A* grade at the end of Year 6!)

Below & right: Year 7



Right, far right above right: Year 9 & 10



Maths Marvels

Miss Drinkwater took four of our students from Years 7, 8 and 9 across to Keele University in March to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge regional final.

The four (left to right): Isaac Cumberlidge, Sam Vale, Ru Morgan, and Libby Trueman, came a fantastic third out of the thirty eight schools competing. This was a great result, so well done to the students involved and also to our Maths Department, for giving them the confidence and skills to progress so far in the competition.



Investing in the Future

The London Institute
of Banking & Finance
Student Investor

Four of our Post 16 students, Alfie, Will, Scott and Chris, have been taking part in the Student Investor Challenge and have made it all the way through to the finals in London on May 3rd.

In the UK wide investment game for students, teams of four invest virtual money on the stock market, aiming to achieve the best returns.

First Prize is an all-expenses paid educational trip to New York for the winning team and their teacher. They also win £2,000 prize money for their school and £200 for each team member. The trip to New York will include excursions to the financial district as well as some of the famous landmarks.

The second placed team in the challenge wins £1,500 for their school and £150 for each team member and the third placed team wins £1,000 for their school and £100 for each team member.

Well done to all four boys and thank you to Mr Davis for his continued support and guidance of the teams.



Calling all Box Lane Ex-Students



Whether you are a past student of Congleton High or came to school on this site when it was Heathfields or Congleton County Secondary School for Boys, we would love to hear from you.

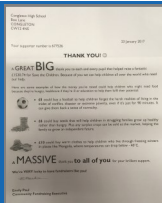
We are hoping to build up a register of our alumni, which will enable us to share your stories with current and future students who may be wondering where their studies could take them or confused about the different routes at 16+

We plan to use the stories in a number of ways, including as case studies in our termly newsletter and on posters around school, where students can learn about and be inspired by the young people who were once where they are now. We are also planning to have an alumni section on the website enabling current and prospective students and parents to see the sorts of things our alumni have gone on to do and also show the many different routes to success.

We're equally interested in hearing about vocations that have taken decades to develop and may not have followed a 'traditional' route, alongside those that began at Options stage and have progressed seamlessly. Sharing your accounts will be of immense value to students who'll be able to learn from your experiences.

If you would like to be part of our project and share your story with our students now and in years to come, please email our Communications Officer, Katrina Kenyon kkenyon@congletonhigh.com

Charity Update



Our charity fundraising efforts continue to enable us to help people all around the world. Head Girl, Suzannah de Takats, took charge of our Save the Children initiatives last term, which included a hamper raffle and a collection of 'Pennies in a Bottle'. When all the donations were calculated at the beginning of this term, we found we had raised a fabulous £1530.74 for the organisation.



Our Red Nose Day fundraising in March, which included a cake sale and cake raffle, totaled almost £800. Year 8, Katie Darmon, baked the fabulous raffle cake, which was won by Year 7, Corey Rogers. Well done to all involved.



Keeping in Touch



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



We use **e-mail** as our main method of communicating with parents as it's quick, efficient and cost effective. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address so you don't miss important communications.

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](https://twitter.com/chsartists), [@CHSBus](https://twitter.com/CHSBus), [@CateringCHS](https://twitter.com/CateringCHS), [@CHSEnglishDep](https://twitter.com/CHSEnglishDep), [@CHShumanities](https://twitter.com/CHShumanities), [@honoursprog](https://twitter.com/honoursprog), [@CHSICT](https://twitter.com/CHSICT), [@CHSLanguages](https://twitter.com/CHSLanguages), [@LawCHS1](https://twitter.com/LawCHS1), [@chsmathsdept](https://twitter.com/chsmathsdept), [@chsmediadept](https://twitter.com/chsmediadept), [@CHSPerformers](https://twitter.com/CHSPerformers), [@PhysEdCHS](https://twitter.com/PhysEdCHS), [@CHSSciences](https://twitter.com/CHSSciences), [@CHS_Sixth_Form](https://twitter.com/CHS_Sixth_Form), [@CHSSocSci](https://twitter.com/CHSSocSci) and [@chstechdept](https://twitter.com/chstechdept)



www.facebook.com/pages/Congleton-High-School/526370394106880



Congletonhs



Parents can access a wide range of information regarding their child's school day, attendance and performance via **Progresso** and will receive log in details when their child starts in Year 7. Any queries or problems should be referred to Mrs Tarpey, via email: dtarpey@congletonhigh.com or telephone: 01260 730123.

Working Towards the Future

Along with the academic support and guidance we offer students, in both the main school and Post 16 provision, we also aim to provide them with a wide range of vocational opportunities, helping them secure the experience and awareness required for the world of work.

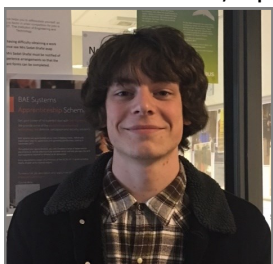
Nine of our Year 12 students, (L-R) Daniel Smith, Sam Cosgrove, Emma Williams, Katie Archer, Jack Tranter, Chloe Tatton, Max Hill, Ben Oakley and Aaron Barrett, travelled to Astra Zeneca to take part in their Challenge Day this term. Daniel Smith and Sam Cosgrove were awarded a week's work experience as part of the winning team and Chloe, Jack and Max also secured a placement on the basis of their personal performance. The students are able to select which area of the Astra Zeneca business they would like for their placement, making it a very worthwhile opportunity indeed



Our Post 16 students have also learned about Legal and STEM career routes recently, with presentations from SAS Daniels LLP (right), BAE Systems (below right) and Astra Zeneca (left), who came in to the Post 16 Centre to speak about apprenticeships and other opportunities.



Mrs Sadat-Shafai organised these visits as part of an extended National Careers Week programme, which enabled students to benefit from a range of vocation based activities, opportunities and talks.



Elliot Bloor (left), from Year 13, undertook a week's work placement over the February half-term break with global engineering and technology services company, Siemens and received some great feedback from all departments. Spending time within Research and Development, Training and Development, Supplier Quality Assurance and Information Management, he was able to gain a good understanding of the requirements of such a company. Elliot hopes to secure an Apprenticeship in Engineering after Congleton High, so the placement will stand him in very good stead.

Five of our Year 12 students (right), Jack Bate, Jack Tranter, Ed Sproston, James Jackson and Ollie Proctor took part in the AO Logistics Challenge in March. At the end of the Challenge Day, Jack Bate was awarded 'Best Presenter' and James Jackson, 'Best Idea.' Both students won a week's work experience at AO's site in Crewe. All five students worked really hard and benefitted greatly from taking part.



Showcasing Congleton talent

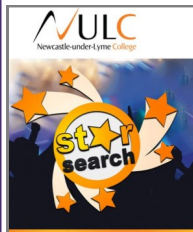


We try to impress on all our students the importance of work placements and how they can help in the future with work skills, building up a CV and also as a chance to 'network'.

Charla Pinton, Year 12, is one student who truly understood and got really involved with her placement at The Old Sawmill community project. Doing all she could to support their many initiatives, she learned a great deal and impressed her co-workers immensely in the process.



Spotlight on Success



In February, Signal Radio ran its 'Star Search' talent competition in conjunction with Newcastle under Lyne College and four of our students, (right) **Reve Clowes-Michael, Asa Hendrickx, Jansin Sutcu and Ben Lockett**, fought off hundreds of other acts to make it all the way through to the final with their band, The Bar Jackars. Reve's sister, **Tainn** (right), who has been accepted into Newcastle under Lyne Performing Arts Academy, also made it through as a wild card act. Well done to all five for making it so far in the competition.



THE BAR JACKARS

TAINN CLOWES-MICHAEL

Congratulations to our Year 11, **Fin Jackson** (right), who has gained a two year football scholarship, playing for Port Vale FC



As we reported in last term's newsletter, **Lexie Harrison**, Year 10, (left) is part of the English Schools' FA Under 15 Squad and, this term, has represented England in Portugal and Ireland with some impressive playing skills.



Year 9 student, **Ruby Spencer**, (near right) qualified in the Cheshire Schools Cross Country Competition to represent Cheshire in Norwich at the National Cross Country Championships. Year 9 student, **Jack Farrall**, (far right) will also represent South Cheshire at the County Championships in Winsford.

Year 9 student, **Ruby Spencer**, (near right) qualified in the Cheshire Schools Cross Country Competition to represent Cheshire in Norwich at the National Cross Country Championships. Year 9 student, **Jack Farrall**, (far right) will also represent South Cheshire at the County Championships in Winsford.

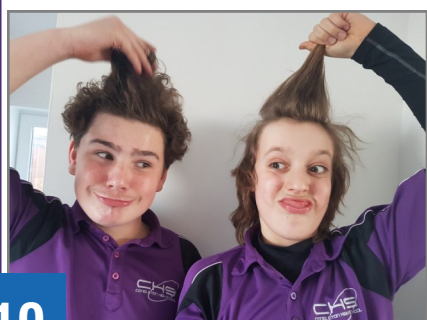


Congratulations go to **Tom Jones**, Year 11, (left) who has been appointed Captain of the American football team he plays for.

Year 11, Beth McCusker, (right) took to the skies at the beginning of the Easter break when she travelled down to RAF Cosford in the Midlands with the ATC. Along with fellow cadets, Clara Jackson and Rebecca Faulkner, also from Congleton High, Beth was able to spend time at the controls of a Grob 115 'Tutor' aircraft. A member of the ATC for almost a year and a half, this was Beth's first experience of flying but it certainly won't be her last and she's looking forward to her next flight.



And finally... On the last day of Spring Term, two of our bravest and most selfless Year 8 students, Mason Hopkins and Reve Clowes-Michael, chose to 'Brave the Shave' in aid of charity, [Crohn's and Colitis UK](#). The pair, who had worked hard to persuade both parents and school to allow it to go ahead, had already raised almost £700 by the day of the shave and it is hoped that the charity event will raise over £1000 for the very worthy cause.



RIP Harrison Heath 2000-2016

We were very sorry to hear, at the beginning of this term, of the passing away of one of our former students, sixteen year old Harrison Heath. Mrs Taylor and Mr Franklin attended his funeral at Astbury St Mary's on January 13th and were able to pass on our sympathies and share their memories of Harrison. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends.



Key Dates for Your Diary

Friday 31st March 2017	School closes for the Easter holidays
Tuesday 18th April 2017	School re-opens
Wednesday 19th - Monday 24th April 2017	GCSE Music Exams
Thursday 20th April 2017	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 1st May 2017	School closed - May Day
Tuesday 2nd May 2017	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 10th May 2017	A Level Speaking Exams
Monday 15th - Friday 19th May 2017	Year 10 Catering Exams
Monday 15th - Friday 26th May 2017	GCSE/ AS Exams
Friday 26th May 2017	School closes for half-term holiday
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Monday 5th - Friday 30th June 2017	GCSE/AS Exams
Monday 12th - Friday 16th June 2017	Year 10 Speaking Exams
Monday 12th - Friday 23rd June 2017	Year 7 - 9 Exams
Monday 12th - Friday 30th June 2017	A2 Exams
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd June 2017	Year 10 Exams
Tuesday 4th July 2017	Sports Day
Monday 17th - Thursday 20th July 2017	Year 12 Work Experience
Thursday 20th - Tuesday 25th July 2017	Watersports Trip
Friday 21st July 2017 - 1:10pm finish	School closes to students for summer holiday
Wednesday 6th September 2017	School re-opens to students

Sports Roundup

It's been a busy half term with the end of the **Netball** season.

Our Year 9, 10 and 11 teams are all South Cheshire Champions. With Year 7 and 8 both finishing as Runners Up. The girls have performed consistently well in the Macclesfield and District League and we look forward to learning our finishing position in the league soon.



Year 7 and 8 students took part in the **Sportshall Athletics** competition and put in a great performance with the Year 7 competitors emerging as overall winners. Well done everyone and thanks to the PE Team for all their support.

Over last term, we hosted many primary school competitions on our new 3G pitch, including the Year 3/4 'Brilliant Advice Football' competition, won by Black Firs School. Well done to all of our Partner Primary students that have taken part in any of our activities, we enjoy them as much as you all obviously do.

Right: Y10 Team
Middle: Y9 Team
Left: Sportshall Winners
Below: Black Firs



Sports Round Up (cont'd)

Girls' Football

Our Under 13s team - Tegan Ansell, Kate Oakley, Emmy Noakes, Alice Beech, Megan Beech, Ebany Buccieri and Gem Hollins - are through to the Premier League Schools Tournament finals day at Stamford Bridge in May, the home of current premier league champions, Chelsea Football Club. They qualified by winning the regional competition, representing Stoke City FC, winning all their games up to the final, which they won on penalties. There were some great team performances but a special mention must go to Year 7, Tegan, who scored over ten goals in four games to get the team into the final. The team has also represented the school and Crewe Alexandra FC in the English Football League competition in Wolverhampton, where they came 4th overall in a tough national group. Finally they have also won the South Cheshire League, beating lots of rival schools in a weekly competition over the winter term. It has been a great season so far for girls' Football at Congleton High School and, hopefully, there's lots more success to come. We wish the team the very best of luck in May!



Boys' Football

Year 11 boys' football team have won the South Cheshire Cup Final for the fifth time in a row, beating Shavington 4-1 in the final at Sandbach United FC convincingly with goals from Fin Jackson, an own goal and two goals from captain, George Johnson. The Year 7 team also made the cup final with wins over Holmes Chapel, Sir William Stanier and St



Thomas More in the semi final. They lost 2-0 in the final unfortunately in a hard fought game with Shavington but the boys showed a lot of promise for the future with some great team performances on the way to the final.

Futsal

The Year 11 boys' football team were runners up in the EFL regional Futsal tournament, qualifying after winning the local football league and played in the indoor Futsal tournament in Birmingham against all the local champions. Runners up overall, they narrowly lost out to Burton Albion FC. They represented local club, Crewe Alexandra and had a fantastic experience, especially winning 7-0 against Wolves FC in the national Futsal arena.



Rugby

The Year 7, 8 and 9 teams have all played in local fixtures this winter. Year 9 played in the first ever rugby game on our brand new 3G pitch. The boys narrowly lost to Brine Leas School by one try but all played fantastically. The Year 7 and 8 teams have won fixtures against Alsager School with Year 7 winning 11

tries to 3 and Year 8 winning 13 tries to 7. Finally, Year 9 played in the Sandbach School 7s tournament in the final week before Easter. The boys played exceptionally well against all the schools.



Sports Academy

The Sports Academy is continuing its success with the men's **Football** team currently winning their college league with recent wins over FC United of Manchester and Fowler Academy. They have one more game against Edgerton before learning if they win the league in the first year of the Sports Academy. The men's **Basketball** team have also been playing all over the north of the country from Liverpool to the Lake District. They have their final game against West Cheshire College in the first week back after Easter and we wish them luck.