

Our Winning 2017 Christmas Card Design



Welcome to the Christmas edition of our Newsletter, once again a bumper issue, packed with stories of yet another very busy term at Congleton High. Our new Year 7 have been finding their feet and taking part in a wide range of activities aimed at helping them settle in, make new friends and learn how to work together to achieve success. Our older students have been getting to grips with GCSE coursework and others sitting mock exams in preparation for the 'real thing' in summer.

Chloe Tatton and David Speed, our Head Girl and Boy, are also adapting to their new roles, combining school duties seamlessly with their Post 16 coursework and even some very successful fundraising for our new shelter and many other really deserving causes.

With so many fantastic things happening here every week, it is difficult to fit them all into a newsletter so please take a look at the News and Events section of our website. Subscribing to our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds will also give you up-to-the-minute news of Congleton High.

On the last morning of term, we held our Christmas Celebration at Astbury St Mary's, which, as a rapidly

growing school, is one of the very few occasions when we are all able to gather together. It is always such an amazing event, with readings and musical performances from students and, yet again, I was reminded of just how well-behaved, talented and confident our students are.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming in another successful year with you when we start back to school on Monday 8th January.

Mr J Barlow Head of School



Message from David and Chloe

Both Chloe and I have settled into our Head Boy and Head Girl roles well in the past couple months and have had many high points during our time so far.

We have successfully run many charity and fundraising events this term for a range of really good causes. For Children in Need we raised over £1200 with a concert held in the hall, with great performances from students throughout the school. To raise as much money as possible, we also came up with the idea of leg waxing and were really pleased to see so many staff and students volunteer themselves for this.

Our Student Shelter project, which will see a shelter constructed in the Quad area of the school enabling us to make better use of our outside space, is still ongoing and we continue to find ways to fund this. We have



come up with the idea of 'Charity Tuesday', where each month, different year groups will take it in turns to run an event to raise money. November was the turn of Year 12 and 13 students, who chose a car wash and a Teacher vs Teacher Netball game as their contribution, raising a brilliant £205 for their efforts.

It was great to hear that our Shelter Project will be one of the three Tesco 'Bags of Help' causes in January and February so we're asking all our families and friends to choose us with their blue token to help us raise as much as possible.

Working with the deputies: Alice, Jack, Olivia and Sam, we have also supported many school events, giving speeches at the main school and Post 16 Open Evenings and the GCSE Awards Evening along with sitting in on Governors' meetings to understand where the school is headed in the future.

Over the past term, Chloe and I have become more accustomed to our role here and are now looking towards the next term where we can further the school's progress and run more successful charity events to raise further funds for the Student Shelter and other causes chosen by the student body.

ESCO Bags of Help

Congleton High School is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative. Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its community funding scheme, which sees grants of up to £4,000, up to £2,000 and £1,000 raised from carrier bag sales in Tesco stores awarded to local community projects.

Three groups in every Tesco region have been shortlisted to receive the cash award and shoppers are being invited to head along to store to vote for who they think should take away the top grant and **Congleton High School** is one of the three groups on the shortlist.

Voting is open in all Tesco stores throughout **January** and **February**. Customers will cast their

vote using a token given to them at the check-out in store each time they shop and they can vote for Congleton High School's Shelter project at the **Barn Road Tesco Superstore** and the **West Road Tesco Express**.

Mr Barlow, Head of School, commented:

"We are so excited to have been selected by Tesco for this opportunity. We have a long-term ongoing project to construct an outdoor shelter for our students in the Quad area of the school. All the students have been so enthusiastic in their fund raising efforts but we are still some way off having the funding we need to start the project. This extra boost from Tesco will really help to get the Shelter off the ground so would encourage any shoppers to support us with their Bags of Help tokens."

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered over £40 million to 9,700 projects up and down the UK. Tesco customers get the chance to vote for three different groups every time they shop. Every other month, when votes are collected, three groups in each of Tesco's regions will be awarded funding.

To find out more visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp.

Competition All Sewn Up

Our annual Berisfords Ribbon Design Competition entries have now been submitted and judged. Once again, our students have excelled themselves with a range of beautiful, imaginative and creative designs, each using up to 100 metres of ribbon per student, supplied free by the company.

The judging took place on December 18th and was by no means an easy task for Berisfords' managing director, Peter Bowers and company designer, Danielle, with the high quality of work making the task of choosing a single winner extremely difficult.

Following much deliberation, first prize and £100 was awarded to Jeorgia Finch. Second prize of £70 went to Macie Lawton and Clara Jackson scooped £30 for third prize. Although not one of the winning entries, Miss Paling- L-R: Danielle (Berisfords), Jeorgia, Macie, Clara &

Sparkes commended Josie Robertson for her stunning cushion, which successfully utilised unique and experimental stitching and techniques not seen before in the ten years the competition has run.

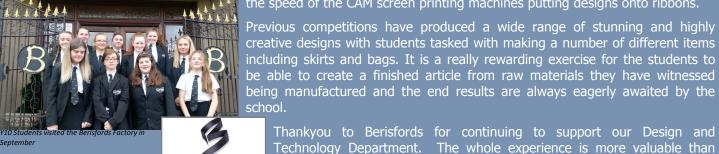
This year's competition had started life earlier in the term when Year 10 GCSE Textiles Technology students visited the Berisfords ribbon factory in Congleton to learn more about the manufacturing methods and the skills required and also receive the competition brief.

The group was welcomed by Peter Bowers and his team, who took the students on a tour of the factory where they were able to see for themselves the industry they have chosen to study. Following this introductory visit, the students set about designing and producing the cushions for the competition and the rest, as they say, is history

Berisfords welcomes a new group from Congleton High to the factory each year and, yet again, it was a great experience for these Year 10 students to see all the looms weaving, take in the smells of the dye room and wonder at the speed of the CAM screen printing machines putting designs onto ribbons.

> be able to create a finished article from raw materials they have witnessed being manufactured and the end results are always eagerly awaited by the

Thankyou to Berisfords for continuing to support our Design and Technology Department. The whole experience is more valuable than ever as it covers a multitude of the content for the new 9-1 GCSE



BERÍSFORDS

school.



Engineering Italia

The Design and Technology Department team took twenty three Year 8-11 students to Bologna in northern Italy over the half-term break to examine the architecture of the region and see for themselves the engineering and design of world renowned transport manufacturers, Ferrari, Lamborghini and Ducati.

At Ferrari, the group were delighted to be able to see a number of rare cars along with two of Michael Schumacher's F1 vehicles and Miss Kenny's absolute favourite, an exact replica of an F1 car made entirely of Lego!

During the Ducati factory tour, the Engineering students were revising hard for their examination, asking many questions about the different materials, manufacturing techniques and quality control tests. (Miss Kenny reported that the production lines for manufacturing Ducati engines were staffed entirely by women as they are thought to be more accurate so fewer mistakes are made and the resulting quality of the engine is much better!)

To add variety to the trip, a Balsamic Vinegar tasting was arranged and this went down better with some than others! (see below right)

The Year 10 Architecture Group will be able to incorporate the many unique styles that they saw from the buildings in Bologna to help design their own projects.

The Engineering group will take the knowledge gained from the Ducati factory visit to help with their coursework and examination revision.



Picturing the City



04

During October and November, Art students from Years 9, 12 and 13 were able to travel to Manchester to take part in a Photography trip. The opportunity enabled the group to experience being out on a photoshoot and helped them to gain vital understanding of a camera and how to get the most from it when shooting outside.

The theme for the visit to the City Centre was 'Investigating the urban environment.' The group walked along the route from Piccadilly through

the University to Oxford Road, then on down to Castlefield, around the Town Hall and Library in St Peter's Square and then across to the Northern Quarter.

The students were able to see the vast differences in the architecture, taking in the many historical buildings and comparing and contrasting these with the numerous contemporary structures that have appeared over the recent years. The buildings and landscapes of Manchester provided ideal subject matter for students to photograph.





Forging Friendships through Fun

Starting a new school can be a scary time at any age and is particularly daunting for those eleven year olds moving up from primary school to become the youngest members of a much larger school than they have been used to for the previous seven years. With this in mind, we hold a range of 'Discovery Days' for primary school children of all ages to familiarise them with the school, staff, students and also the other students that will join them in Year 7. These Days span many areas of the curriculum including PE, Maths and Art and also include our popular annual Cultural Diversity Day.

This work, to ensure a smooth transition and help students settle in quickly, doesn't stop once they join the school, however. In the first term, all Year 7 students are able to take part in our New Starter Teambuilding Day at Astbury Waterpark, a full day of activities aimed at helping students get to know each other, learn how to achieve success together by working in teams and, most of all, have fun! The opportunity is a real bonus for those joining from one of the many smaller schools in the area, who often make the move up in ones and twos.

This year, a lake full of blue/green algae had led to us postpone our first attempt in September and when there was no sign of this clearing by October, the decision was made to make changes to our normal programme to ensure Year 7 could still enjoy the day.

Instead of our usual water-based Astbury Mere tasks, organisers, Peak Pursuits, put on a great programme of land based activities and, with the support and encouragement of their new team mates, students were faced with a number of teambuilding exercises including bushcraft skills, building dens and making a campfire, a climbing wall, building a giant catapult to fire water balloons, archery and problem-solving activities. Wet and overcast weather on the day of the teambuilding event failed to dampen the spirits of Year 7, who all made the most of the opportunity, enjoyed the wide range of activities and spent the day making memories and building bonds to last a lifetime with both new and old friends.



Information and Advice for Post 16



At the beginning of December, Billy Hooley and Steve Hewitt from the Substance Misuse Service of <u>Cheshire and Wirrall Partnership</u> <u>NHS</u>, visited our Post 16 students to share information and support on the dangers of misuse of alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. Following on from this, Billy will be offering a regular drop in service for advice, information and support.



Lifesaving Lessons



Year 10 students welcomed Cheshire Fire Service to the school in November for a Guidance session on road safety, which provided students with advice on cycling and driving, including risk awareness and identification.

The session presented some hard hitting messages and students were able to hear from Fire Officers who gave real-life examples of the consequences of distracted

driving - including having to cut the roof off a car just the previous evening.

These real-life examples and anecdotes really helped students to see the relevance of the message to their lives. Several brave volunteers also got to experience the aftermath of a simulated road traffic collision using virtual reality headsets to see both the role the Fire Service plays in helping people and the potential impact of distracted driving.

Primary Colours

We were delighted to host another annual Primary School Art Exhibition on behalf of the Congleton Education Improvement Partnership (EIP), at the end of September. This year, the theme chosen for the competition was 'Around the World', a wide-ranging theme, giving entrants great scope to use their imagination. Local primary schools were invited to submit work from their students in to the competition, which was judged by local artist, Alan Evans.

The schools taking part were: Havannah, Mossley, Black Firs, Woodcocks' Well, Quinta, Astbury St Mary's and Smallwood. Over 120 pieces of work were submitted from reception children, right through to Year 6 pupils, all of which showed exceptionally high levels of imagination, skill and dedication.

Following the very difficult judging process, **Caitlyn Bailey** from **Quinta Primary School** was announced as the overall winner and prizes were also awarded to the twenty two winners and runners-up across the seven age categories. In



the twenty two winners and runners-up across the seven age categories. In addition, all students who submitted a piece of work were awarded a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

Parents, teachers and pupils from the primary schools joined us on the evening to celebrate the success and creative work and were able to browse the art for themselves and see the admirable handiwork of the many budding artists.

For a full list of winners, visit the News section of the CHS website.

Oxbridge Calling



Following on from our Post 16 <u>Oxbridge Tour</u> last term, three of our Year 13 students have already secured interviews with the historic institutions to study their subjects of choice.

Aaron Barrett will be interviewed at Cambridge with a view to reading Architecture and Olivia Roberts is due to attend her interview at Oxford regarding her choice of Archaeology and Anthropology. Jack Tranter has applied to read Biochemistry at Oxford and has already undertaken his interview in early December, which he felt was very positive and went well.

Teaching staff work with students to help them prepare for the interviews and ensure they are fully equipped to be able to give their best on the day. Mock interviews help equip the students for every eventuality and ensure that they present themselves well during the interview and have an understanding of what the interviewers are looking for.

Year 11 students from Congleton and beyond have already sent in their applications to become 2018-19's Year 12 CHS intake. Both academic and vocational courses proved popular with all the Science subjects, History, Geography, Sociology, Psychology, Maths, Languages selected by many along with Childcare, Sport, Health and Social Care to name but a few. The closing date for applications was December 15 and has now passed. Anyone who missed the deadline should contact Miss Boulton by email, <u>iboulton@congletonhigh.com</u> or on 01260 730123

News of Mr Franklin

You may be aware that at the end of September, our Humanities teacher, Mr Franklin, was badly hurt whilst spectating at a Motorbike event in Scarborough. He is still recuperating from his substantial injuries but is thankfully well on the way to recovery now.

We hope you will all join us in sending him and his family the very best wishes for a speedy recovery and we all very much hope to welcome him back to school in the near future.

Local Learning

At the end of each academic year, our Year 7 students take part in a Local History Competition, which is judged in September by local historians.

This project encourages the students to learn more about our town and the surrounding areas through a variety of different research methods and then present the information they have gathered in an interesting and unusual way.

Year 7 truly rise to the challenge every year and we have seen some unique ways of presenting their findings, including the Lion and Swan Hotel in cake form! This year was certainly no exception with a host of really creative ways of sharing the history of Congleton.

In first place was Nina Whitehurst, who produced an amazing film on the history of Little Moreton Hall. Second was Zak Hargreaves with his incredibly detailed project on Congleton in WWII, with lots of original research. Ryan Cartlidge's super display of Havannah village

scooped him third prize in the competition.

Nina and Zak are pictured above with Linda Hulse and Peter Aston, of the Congleton History Society, who kindly judged the competition for us.

The Great Congleton Cook Off

This term, four of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the local heat of the annual Rotary Young Chef competition held at Eaton Bank Academy in October.

Joining two Eaton Bank students, Thea and Olivia, were our four budding chefs, Alyssa Fieldhouse, Natasha Scott, Ben Simpson and Elisha Stanier.

The competitors were tasked with creating a two course menu for two people for under £15 and produce this in ninety minutes.

The heat was judged by Andy Bourne, a Member of the Academy of Culinary Art from the Alexandra Court Hotel, Congleton and Jill Robinson, a retired Domestic Science Teacher from Goostrey. Both judges agreed that choosing between the menus was an exceptionally difficult task as all the competitors had worked to a very high standard indeed.

After great debate, the judges finally awarded first place to Thea, second to Ben and third to Natasha. Brian Hogan, President of the Rotary Club of Congleton, along with Eric Capper, presented all the contestants with certificates and the three winners with trophies and cash awards.

> The three winners, along with Olivia, will now go forward to the district heat in December and, hopefully, on to the regional final and then the grand final in London. They have also been invited to attend a mentoring session at the 4* Marriot Hotel at Manchester Airport with the Head Chef and his team.









e: Ben Simpson was awarded 2nd place





We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Each year we run a Christmas Card competition for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students. We award a prize for the winning card design from each year group and the overall winner is used as the official Christmas card from Congleton High School.

We are always amazed by the quality, originality and creativity of the artwork we receive, which seems to get better and better each year. We have such a wide range of entries, ranging from traditional images to more contemporary and unusual imagery.

This year, our winners for each year were:

- Year 7: Jenna Northwood (See right)
- Year 8: Thomas Williams
- Year 9: Katie Stansfield.



All three card designs were of extremely high quality and choosing just one winner was very hard for the judges but in the end it was agreed that Jenna's snowy sheep scene would be used as our Christmas 2017 card. Congratulations to all three winners and thank you to all those who spent time producing their fantastic artwork for the competition.

The Importance of STEM

At the beginning of December and despite the snow threatening to put a stop to all activity, Miss Kenny (Engineering teacher), Mr Curry (IT teacher) and Mr Donnelly (Learning Mentor) took a group of our Year 12 students to Manchester Airport to take part in a STEM Conference.

Throughout the day the students attended a number of sessions with teams from Ricoh, Laing O'Rourke, Airbus, Jet 2 and Manchester Airport Transformation Project. During these sessions, the group enjoyed activities such as

exploring the new airport terminal in Virtual Reality (VR), working with staff from Laing O'Rourke to design a fantasy airport terminal and navigating around the wing of an Airbus A330.

There was also a compelling presentation about drone technology, exploring the issues surrounding the use of the technology and the potential uses in the future. All the presenters who spoke throughout the day stressed the importance of ICT/Computing and Engineering careers for the future prospects of the UK economy.

As an added bonus, teams from Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester University and Salford University were on hand throughout the day and available to talk with students about studying STEM degree subjects.

The day gave the students an opportunity to look at potential future careers



available at Manchester Airport and their service partners, who offer various routes of e n t r y f r o m apprenticeships, higher level apprenticeships and

graduate programmes.

Along with the overall enjoyment and appreciation of this really useful and interesting day, the students also very much enjoyed the free pizza and chips at lunch time!









Helping to Make a Difference

We are always amazed and humbled by the generosity of our students and their families, the kindness of whom means that we are able to help make a difference to people all around the world. Here are some of the charity events our students have organised this term:

Fundraising activities for **Year 7's** nominated charity, **The Storehouse Foodbank** at New Life Church, got off to a flying start this month with students collecting food items to go into Christmas hampers. Our Year 7 student leaders are pictured (right) with food items ready to be collected by New Life Church.



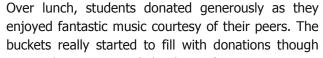


Thank you to everyone who bought their Poppy from

our **Post 16** students this year. We were able to raise a wonderful **£193.85** for **The British Legion** poppy collection. Miss Boulton also joined Head Girl, Chloe and Head Boy, David to represent the school and lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Parade

We took part in the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal**, which enables students and their families to share gifts with less privileged children around the world. Once again we were delighted with the response and were able to send 150 shoeboxes this year, which we hope will help to make Christmas a happier time for those who have very little. Thank you to all those who sent in donations.

Cake sales, competitions, amazing musical performances and merciless leg waxing all helped our fantastic students and staff raise a phenomenal **£1237.71** for **BBC Children in Need** back in November.



once the victims (*ahem*) **volunteers** assembled for the leg-waxing. Teachers and students alike had agreed to undergo the ordeal to help collect as much as possible for the cause. Once again, thank you to all those who took part and who donated.













National Poetry Day Celebrated



To celebrate National Poetry Day in September, all students from Year 7 to 11 set about learning the classic Percy Bysshe Shelley sonnet, 'Ozymandias'.

First published in 1818 and probably Shelley's most famous work, the poem tells of meeting a traveller who recounts a story of the ruins of an ancient statue in the deserts of his native country.

In addition to encouraging the students to learn and develop a greater understanding of were also challenged to recite

the verse and its construction, they were also challenged to recite the lines in registration time.

Prizes and R3s were given for those who could recite the full verse and also for other National Poetry Day competitions run by the English Department, including for those correctly guessing which teacher was dressed as which poem. *(see photo)*.

Year 10 Look to the Future



As part of our continued commitment to finding the most suitable path for each individual, our Year 10 students recently heard from a range of visitors during Guidance Time about different career routes.

Mr Davis had arranged for a variety of speakers who were able to share information, advice and their own experiences to help students learn more about the options available to them.

Dave Armson from All about Stem presented a great informative session on Apprenticeships as part of their Apprenticeship, Support and Knowledge (ASK) Project.

Lucy Beaman, a third year undergraduate and Student Ambassador from Staffordshire University gave a interesting talk on life at university.

Lucy Sherratt, Designer and Rich Wilcock, Accounts Manager, both from Thrive Creative in Congleton, gave students a really good overview of the company and their own career path.

Year 10 contributed well to the session and the whole event provided a great insight for the students.

TEDx Talkers

Many of us are now familiar with TED Talks, which originated to cover Technology, Entertainment and Design themes but now encompass a far wider range of subject matter via conferences, the TED Talks video site and numerous other initiatives. TED has now introduced Tedx, which is a programme of local, self organised events that bring people together 'to share a TEDlike experience.'

One such event was the 2017: Future Positive TEDxyouth@manchester conference, which was held at Fallibroome Academy in Macclesfield at the beginning of November.

The event included a packed programme of speakers, activities, TedTalks videos and performances, all of which combined to spark discussion amongst the group. In addition to guest speakers from a wide range of careers including media, engineering, acting, survival, teaching, and entertainment, were a number of student speakers and two of our Year 12 students were among them.

Becky Bailey's 'Three Small Words' talk was a personal comment on selfconfidence and self-belief and Harry Johnson's 'Mind Manifestation' discussed recognising and realising your own potential. Both students delivered confident, mature and engaging presentations.

You can watch all the talks online at <u>https://goo.gl/bDJVmK</u> and learn more about the event at: <u>http://tedxyouthmanchester.com/</u>





Faraday Fun

In December, six of our Year 8 Engineering students joined Miss Kenny at Fallibroome Academy in Macclesfield to compete against five other schools in the Faraday Challenge, a STEM based competition.

Each year the tasks for the Challenge are kept secret from everyone until the actual day. This year the teams were required to design a new ride for theme park, Thorpe Park. They had to design and build a prototype using motors, electronics and pneumatics, manage the money and show engineering skills. In addition to all that, they had to present what they had designed to the rest of the schools and judge each other's work.

The Faraday Challenge is all about letting students be creative and use their own problem solving skills to explore their capabilities as engineers. The day gives students the opportunity to research, design and make solutions to genuinely tough engineering problems.

All of the students worked together really well and Grace Kennedy, in particular, was noted for her leadership skills. Although we did not win the Challenge, each of the team had a fabulous time, having learned a great deal and able to take away new skills for the future.





We were delighted to learn that all the schools in the Cmat family achieved above average results again this year from Key Stage 1 right up to Key Stage 5 (Post 16).

From the point of view of CHS, measurements for Year 11 Congleton Multi-Academy Trust new Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths, for which our result was 74% compared with the national average of 63.3%. Our Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores were 3.9 and 0.09 higher than the national figure respectively, both significant achievements.

Post 16 results compared favourably too, with A Level A*-C and A*-E figures both above the national average. Although no BTEC data is yet available to compare our results against, students studying vocational courses did exceptionally well in 2017, with remarkable numbers of up to 97% of students achieving Distinction*/Distinction grades in some subjects.

Likewise, both Black Firs and Castle pupils performed exceptionally well in SATS tests taken by children at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. Key Stage 1 and 2 Reading, Writing and Maths results for children achieving the expected standard at both schools were well above the national average. A tremendous 100% of Key Stage 1 Castle pupils achieved expected progress in Reading and Maths, which helped the small village school rise to a remarkable 18th place in the Staffordshire County school league tables

Study Enhancing Opportunities

At the beginning of November, one of our Year 13 Economics students, Oliver Proctor, was lucky enough to attend a lecture given by Dr Kathryn Simpson, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor of Politics and Public Policy at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

The theme of the event was Brexit and was Dr Simpson's inaugural lecture at MMU. She discussed the impact of Brexit on the devolved administrations: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the impact on regional development and asked what to do next for the devolved administrations, regional policy and EU structural funds.

Oliver commented on how useful he had found the opportunity:

"This talk has greatly enhanced my ability to explore key areas of government policy, a internationally, nationally and locally.

"I would implore any student who sees their subjects as more than just learning but, instead, as a way of life, like politics and economic have become for me, to find and take advantage of as many opportunities like this as possible. Going to seminars to get examples to use in essays is something that I believe all students should do."



Oliver and Dr Kathryn Simpson







Spotlight on Success



A Biddalph teenager's quest to net a career in football took another step forward last week when she was selected to represent Cheshire. Lexie Harrison will play in an U16

Merseysick on Tuesday, 5th December at a venue to be confirmed. Lecie was originally that to be part of the Cheshire Schools U16 Girls team that took on West Yorkshire Schools U16 Girls in the Northern Counties Schools FA championship on Tuesday at Congleton Town's ground but this was cancelide because. West Yorkshire



One of our Football champions, Year 11, **Lexie Harrison**, is going from strength-to-strength each week. Already a key player in our own girls' Football team, Lexie also plays for Crewe Alexander Ladies Under 18 team. In recognition of her amazing ability, Lexie has now been selected to play for Cheshire and, in December, Captained the Cheshire Schools U16s team to a 7-1 victory against Merseyside.

Year 10, **Sam Johnson**, is rapidly becoming the one to watch on the greens, with some spectacular golfing achievements. Sam, who has been honing his golfing skills for some time now, played over the summer in

many Opens, one of which was a major England tournament for Under 14s international players. As one of fifty English players there, Sam came 28th out of a total of 150 players.

More recently, Sam, who will be 2017/2018 Junior Captain at Astbury Golf Club, has attended trials to play for the England Under 16s regional squad and will be undergoing England coaching for Under 15s over the coming months.

We'd like to say a huge congratulations to Year 10, **Niamh Boote**, who braved a sponsored abseil down the nine-storey Hanley YMCA recently, raising £300 for two charities!

Niamh has also been awarded a coveted place at the World Scout Jamboree in Arizona and is fundraising to cover costs. Anyone wishing to donate can do so via her Just Giving page, <u>https://goo.gl/cU8QuJ</u>

Our popular Year 9/10 band, **The Bar Jackars**, who have entertained at many events both in and out of school, took part in their first festival over the summer.

Year 9s, **Jansin Sutcu** (guitar), **Benjamin Lockett** (guitar/ vocals), **Reve Clowes-Michael** (guitar/vocals) and Year 10, **Asa Hendrickx** (drummer) performed alongside other bands at Hatchfest in Mottram St Andrew, near Macclesfield.

You can watch the boys' performance of a range of tracks including Don't Look Back in Anger, and Seven Nation Army on You Tube at https://goo.gl/R4ou8z







Sixth For

ards Eve

⊂⊬⊒

Rewarding Effort and Attainment

Each year we hold Awards Evenings where we welcome back our last year's GCSE and Post 16 students to recognise and reward their hard work, determination and success and present them with their exam certificates. Throughout both events, we present two awards from each Curriculum area for outstanding effort and attainment and at the Post 16 evening, awards are also given to students achieving A*/Distinction* Grades.

A number of special awards are also presented and this year, these went to:

Year 11 Awards Evening:

- Contribution to Performing Arts Hugh Cotton
- Pecks Restaurant Award for Excellence in Catering Jamie Casie
- Macclesfield College Award for Effort and Determination Frances Cooper, Amy Follett, Bethany McCusker and Max Goddard
- South Cheshire College Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement Eleanor Graham,
 Sam Harden, Madeleine Morgan and Matthew Needham
- Governors' Award Kieran Aisbitt
- New Life Church Citizenship award Maisie Kearney and Joseph Nixon
- Stacey Marsh Inspiration Award Ashraf Jabir
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life Dalya Shanati

Post 16 Awards Evening

- Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life Joshua Earley, Laura Gallagher and Beth Jones
- Personal Academic Achievement Bradli Brown, Laura Gallagher, Gabriella
 Simpson, Isabella Statham, Rebecca Stubbs and Daniel Wilson
- Governors' Award Suzannah de Takats and Richard Vickers
- Martin Strawson Award for Outstanding Achievement Samuel Hodgson

A full list of award winners will be added onto the news section of our website - <u>congletonhigh.com</u>

Alumní Update

Our Alumni project is well underway now and we have a great mix of stories to share already on our website for you to read and reminisce about times gone by. They are also providing a really invaluable source of inspiration for our students, who have been able to visit the website or read the posters around the school and see where their studies could lead them.

Two of our most recent additions to the site have been former Heathfields students, Claire Hatton and Yvonne Wallace, who have both gone on to excel in STEM related careers. Claire is now based at Liverpool Airport, is a qualified pilot and works as an Air Traffic Control Safety Unit Manager. Yvonne has been located in Australia for many years, working in the mining industry as a Geophysicist. Their stories have been ideal to demonstrate that there is a definite place for girls in STEM careers.

Our latest story is one that many can identify with. Paul Strick found school quite difficult and, as a result, didn't do as well as he hoped and wasn't able to immediately pursue his dream career of engineering. However, he didn't give up and persevered until he achieved his goal and now works as an Engineering Manager at Birmingham Airport. You can read all these stories on the <u>Alumni</u> page of our website.

Whether you're 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 too. Please email our Communications Officer, Katrina Kenyon kkenyon@congletonhigh.com

Year 9 Keep Options Open

Dave Armson, from All about STEM, recently came long to join the Year 9 assembly to give the students an introduction into Apprenticeships, what they are all about and how they can be a vital step on the career ladder.

The talk covered a lot of information including the various types of Apprenticeships, salary, training and the different professions that can be accessed. Dave also stressed the importance of Year 9 as it is when students choose their options. He advised them to think carefully about their choices as it is the next stepping stone in their education and can impact on their future career.

Year 9 have also had an introduction to University. These opportunities are part of our programme to ensure we prepare students for the future and equip them with all the information they need to pursue the route that is right for them, whether that is academic or vocational or a mixture of both.

Staying 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

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: @CHSBus, @CateringCHS, @CHSEnglishDep, @CHShumanities, @honoursprog, @chsartists, **@CHSICT**, @CHSLanguages, @LawCHS1, @chsmathsdept, @chsmediadept, @CHSPerformers, @PhysEdCHS, @CHSSciences, @CHS Sixth Form, @CHSSocSci and @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 progresso via Progresso and should receive log in details when their child starts. Any queries or problems should be referred to Mrs Tarpey, via email: dtarpey@congletonhigh.com or telephone: 01260 730123.













Finding the Route that's Right



Once again, our **Post 16 Team** have worked hard to ensure that our students are able to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities designed to enhance their studies, help them develop new skills, increase their understanding of the workplace and make them more attractive to potential employers.

At the beginning of term, our Post 16 students were able to learn about the many benefits of volunteering from Aoife Middlemass, Volunteer Coordinator at **East Cheshire NHS Trust.**

Aoife showed the students a presentation then spoke of the various volunteering and employment options with in the NHS, both locally and further afield. She also highlighted the benefits for the students of volunteering, including developing key employment skills and building up a CV. Three Year 13 students, **Jack Bate, Chloe Tatton and Mia Hopkins,** were also able to share how volunteering had helped them and told of their own experiences on summer term work placements

Our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, recently attended the **NHS Cheshire Career and Engagement Hub** Conference at Hartford. The Hub is a new service designed to help young people, partner organisations and anyone considering a career in health and social care.

At the conference, apprenticeships and work experience were discussed in great detail, as the NHS, currently the fifth largest employer in the world, predicts a skills gap amongst its workforce as a result of fewer younger people entering the profession to replace those staff due for retirement in the coming years.

The opportunity for students, especially health and social care students, to visit Macclesfield District General Hospital was raised along with the chance for NHS representatives to visit the Congleton students to promote good practice. Students will also be able to apply for Summer Internships with the organisation, which will further enable them to gain valuable workplace experience. More information on the Cheshire Career Hub can be found <u>here</u>.

As part of our programme to provide a wide range of opportunities to advise, guide and support students for life beyond Year 13, Mrs Sadat-Shafai visited local radio station, **Silk FM**. Based in Macclesfield and broadcasting across the region, the station played host to one of our Post 16 students, Abby Wakefield, last summer when she was able to spend time there experiencing life within a busy media environment.

Mrs Sadat-Shafai was welcomed by Station Manager, David Flavell, who discussed the many opportunities for Congleton students to get involved, undertake work placements and see how a radio station works on a day-to-day basis. This offer has been greeted with great excitement by all students, not least those studying on our media courses!

Following on from this, Year 13 student, **Megan Johnson**, was able to visit the radio station for one of the **Chamber of Commerce**'s Thursday Thirty events where thirty employers get together to learn and understand more about each other. Mrs Sadat-Shafai is able to take one student to accompany her to each of the events and she aims to match the career ambitions of the student to the type of business at which the event is held so that it can broaden the student's understanding and experience within their field of interest.

On this occasion guests were able to learn more about the history of Silk FM and were also shown round the premises, including the studios where the live broadcasts take place. Megan was delighted to be able to take a seat at the broadcasting desk and get a real taste of life as a radio presenter.

Megan is studying Media, Art and Photography and, although she has not yet decided what route into furthering her career she will take, she was keen to learn more about this aspect of the media and made the most of the opportunity, asking lots of questions about radio and taking a real interest into the various employers' conversations.

Cheshire's Gilk 106.9

Mrs Sadat Shafai commented on the day:

"Megan was an excellent ambassador for the school, displaying great maturity and interest and networked very well.



Seeing inside the school, displaying great maturity and interest and networked very well. Seeing inside the studio was a great opportunity and both Megan and myself learned a lot whilst there. I am hoping to take a group of students in the near future to see the breakfast show being broadcast live and I know that they will see a great deal of benefit from this."

Philip Wagg, Education Liaison Officer at **Staffordshire University**, visited at the end of November to talk with Year 12. He gave a comprehensive presentation on applying for university, careers, employability skills and the importance of work experience. He also gave a good, rounded view on university including fees and paying

them back.

Year 13 students, **Chloe Tatton** and **Bailey Hopkins**, were able to accompany Mrs Sadat-Shafai to an open day networking event at Franklyn Financial Management also attended by many other businesses. This was a great opportunity for them to talk on a professional level and discuss apprenticeships and career options with local businesses.



Finding the Route that's Right

One of our dedicated Year 13 students, **Ben Oakley**, gave up the chance for a break at half term and, instead, opted to undertake a valuable work placement with **Barclays Bank** in Newcastle Under Lyme.

He gained experience in various departments across the business, spending a good deal of time observing the 'Moment Bankers', who are responsible for loans/new accounts etc. and particularly enjoyed the chance to shadow and interact with one of the company's mortgage advisors.

Whilst there, Ben met with a 'Higher Apprentice' currently employed by Barclays who was able to share his experiences of how he had secured the apprenticeship opportunity and the sort of work he undertakes. Ben was able to learn more about Barclays' Apprenticeship Management Programme, including how a business degree fits in to the scheme.



Ben thoroughly enjoyed the experience, commenting: `A lot more goes on behind the scenes than I originally thought.'

Branch Manager, Sharon Willis, commented on Ben's time with her branch of Barclays: He was a pleasure and was confident, friendly and polite at all times. Ben showed a genuine interest in the business and I wish him every success in the future'

This Year 13 student is certainly putting a great deal of effort into preparing for a career in the world of finance, along with his week at Barclays, he also undertook a very successful work placement with **BNY (Bank of New York) Mellon** at the end of the summer term.



At the end of October, local law company, **SAS Daniels**, once again visited our Post 16 facility to speak with Year 12 Law students about careers in the legal profession, giving students a great opportunity to find out more and ask any questions they may have.

The SAS Daniels team gave students a fascinating and informative presentation, which inspired the listening group to want to know more about the various routes into Law.

One area students were particularly keen to hear more about was the debate regarding entering the law profession via university versus an apprenticeship

route. The SAS Daniels team talked in detail about this and the various roles in law. They also discussed how apprenticeships have become increasingly viewed as an important route into a legal career, even by the leading UK law firms, also known as 'The Magic Circle'.

Law student, **Kiya Hopkins**, found the presentation particularly useful as she has ambitions to become a lawyer in the future. Kiya enjoyed the discussions regarding the various routes that can be taken, what steps have to be taken and also how to accomplish your own goals. More specifically, she was keen to find out more about undertaking the LPC (Legal Practice Course).

All of the student group thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted greatly from the presentation and took the opportunity to ask lots of questions regarding both general and specific aspects of the profession.

As part of our ongoing programme to ensure all students are assisted and supported in finding and pursuing their ideal Post 16 pathway, whether academic or vocational, five Year 12 students visited the **National Apprenticeship Show** in Manchester this term.

James Comer, Fallon Doolan, Callum Cooper, Morgan Mellor and **Josh Evans** joined Mrs Sadat-Shafai to visit the show, which was a fantastic chance to investigate the wide range of career opportunities available to them once they complete Year 13.



Prior to the trip, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, keen that all the students should get the maximum benefit from their visit to the show, provided each of them with a guide, which covered a range of aspects from Giving Employers the Best First Impression, Research and Planning, Using their Time Wisely to Standing out from the Crowd.

All five students had a really productive day at the Manchester event. Along with taking advantage of the many opportunities to meet and talk with prospective employers, the group also took part in many of the team building and creative thinking activities taking place and were even able to learn some basic first aid skills whilst there.

The visit to the National Apprenticeship Show was seen as of great benefit by all the students, one of whom commented:

"It really helped to improve our confidence levels and opened our eyes as to the many opportunities out there."

CHS Sporting Success





Sport continues to be something in which we at CHS excel at all levels and we work hard to share our success with our partner primary school pupils.

The Post 16 Sports Academy teams have started the year extremely well. The football team won four out of six games

> and are currently top of their league, having played all over the North West as far as Bury and Burnley.

The Post 16 Basketball team have beaten Blackpool College and only narrowly lost to Oldham College, however the Year 11 Basketball Team have won all their games including a fifty point win over Alsager School and a big win against Helsby School.





There have been fixtures every week in a range of sports such as boys' Football, girls' Football, Netball, Rugby and Basketball. The teams are halfway through their seasons and there are still many teams in the County and National cups.

This term, our PE Team have also run many successful Primary School Sports events, including the Datastor Year 5 and 6 Football, Tournament which was won by Black Firs. There has been a tag rugby festival and basketball competitions held at CHS with lots more to come in January.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Friday 22nd December 2017 - 1:10pm finish	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Monday 8th January 2018	School re-opens
Wednesday 17th January 2018	Year 9 Big Arts Day and Art Exhibition
Thursday 18th January 2018	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 24th January 2018	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 30th January 2018	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 31st January 2018	Parents in Partnership Meeting
Friday 2nd February 2018	Y7 Numeracy Day
Wednesday 7th February 2018	Post 18 Opportunities Evening
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th February 2018	Year 8 Art Trip
Friday 16th February 2018	School closes for half term holiday
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2018	Ski Course
Monday 26th February 2018	School re-opens