

# Congleton High School Newsletter



Issue 17: January - March 2018

Achieving Success Together

## In this issue

**05**

We did it! £20k raised for our Student Shelter

**09**

Year of Engineering lifts off at CHS

**11**

A spotlight on student success

**12**

Post 16 preparations for the future

**14**

Our writers get creative

**15**

A sports roundup

## Ofsted once again confirms we're a GOOD school!



# Welcome

to our Spring 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 are delighted that our students are able to take advantage of and benefit from all the opportunities we have to offer. Our extensive and vibrant extracurricular programme has provided students with many opportunities to develop their skills, interests and talents. A successful Skiing Course in France, the 'Big Arts' Day, NSPCC Number Day, our comprehensive National Careers Week programme, Bentley 'Be Extraordinary' Day and the German Exchange Visit are just some of last term's highlights.

Of course, the 'Good' outcome from the January Ofsted inspection was a point of celebration. Inspectors spoke about the positive feedback from the student, staff and parent surveys and acknowledged in their report that we have 'created an inclusive school where you aim to get the best out of everyone'.

Over the next few weeks I am looking forward to meeting Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. Miss Franks and I will be visiting all the schools that have children coming to us in September as part of our transition programme. We also have several induction events and primary liaison activities during the Summer Term before the new intake start with us full-time in September.

For those students already with us, this next term will be our busiest and for many it is a crucial time in their education as they embark upon GCSE and A Level exams. Whilst it is a very important time, we recognise that it can also be very stressful and we try to impress on students the importance of getting plenty of rest and seeking help whenever they feel they need it. Along with the sources of advice and information for both students and parents/carers on coping with exam stress included in our website, there are also many people in school available to help and offer practical and emotional support.

Many of the year's highlights also take place this term including our whole school production of 'School of Rock', Sports Day and the end of year trips before the 2017-18 academic year draws to a close.

I look forward to sharing more news of yet another successful term at Congleton High School later in the year.

**Mr J Barlow**  
Head of School



## Message from David and Chloe



Last term saw a lot of activity for the Student Leadership Team as both Chloe and I created and attended a number of events for charity and the wider community. We were fortunate enough to be invited to take part in the Royal Visit in the Town Hall, where we represented Congleton's Eco-Schools in front of HRH Prince Charles.

We also had great success with Sports Relief on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, where we helped organise the Sports Relief Mile sponsored walk/run, which both Quinta Primary School and our own student body took part in. We have also continued our 'Charity Tuesday' programme, with Year 9 selling Valentine's themed gifts and sending love letters in February to raise more money for our Student Shelter. As you'll read on page 5, we have now hit our £20k target for the Shelter, which is tremendous news!

As we now look to our last term of the school year, we hope to see it out in style with more charity events to raise as much money as possible for good causes but also to leave a lasting legacy of what this school has been able to achieve over the past months and what is possible for the future.

From Chloe, me and all the Student Leadership Team, we wish you all a great final term of the 2017-18 year.

**David Speed and Chloe Tatton**  
Head Boy and Head Girl



# CHS is a **GOOD** School



Students, staff and Governors were all delighted that CHS was once again confirmed as a **GOOD** school by Ofsted, following a 'Section 8' one day inspection in January. The school is proud to have now been classified as **GOOD** since 2010.

The subsequent report positively addressed all aspects of the school, including leadership, teaching, governance and the student body, praising Congleton High as '*An inclusive school where you aim to get the best out of everyone*' and a '*Respectful and orderly environment where staff and pupils can work as a team.*'

Referencing our motto: '*Achieving Success Together,*' the report went on to highlight many of the school's strengths, including:

- *The relationships between teachers and pupils are highly supportive. This allows pupils to ask for help when they need it and learn from their mistakes.*
- *The supportive culture of the school means that many pupils help each other alongside the support that they receive from their teacher.*
- *Pupils with whom inspectors spoke were highly positive about the help and feedback they receive from teachers, which supports them to make better progress.*
- *[Pupils] feel safe and happy at school.*
- *Staff feel highly valued... that leaders listen to them and believe that their well-being is a high priority. They receive the help and encouragement that they need to be able to excel in their own profession development.*
- *The leadership team balance ambition for excellence with support.*
- *Parents, students and pupils are loyal and supportive of the school...over 90% of the parents who responded and all students who spoke with inspectors would recommend CHS.*
- *Governors and trustees offer a diverse set of high-level skills from a range of backgrounds. These skills allow them to ask appropriate and direct questions of school leaders.*

Along with highlighting our next steps, the report also acknowledged the changes and further improvements we have made since the 2014 Ofsted visit: '*You have put measures in place to address the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection...and pupils are making better progress as a result.*'

Mr Barlow, Head of School, commented on the outcome of Ofsted's visit:

*"We were both delighted and proud that the Inspectors witnessed how 'Achieving Success Together' is more than just our motto but actually the recipe for happiness and success here at Congleton High. We have all worked together to act on the feedback from our 2014 inspection to ensure that we constantly improve to be the best we can be, as a school and as individuals. We will again work towards addressing the comments from this inspection, which will allow us to continue to offer current and future students the very highest standards of education and care."*

A total of three inspectors visited the school in the first week of the spring term, experiencing many aspects of everyday school life and also observing students' behaviour both in and out of the classroom. Formal meetings were held with the executive principal, the senior leadership team, governors, teaching staff and Cmat Trustees. In addition to scrutinising samples of the students' work, the inspectors also talked with students about their experiences at the school and their behaviour. The views of parents, staff and students were also taken into consideration via Ofsted's anonymous online feedback questionnaires.

Safeguarding requirements were checked along with a wide range of school documents concerning development planning, self-evaluation, pupil premium action plans, attendance records and governors' meetings.

The full report can be viewed on our website at [www.tinyurl.com/congletonhigh-ofsted](http://www.tinyurl.com/congletonhigh-ofsted)



# Olivia Meets her Hero at Science Live



A recent school trip to the Science Live Conference at Manchester Opera House proved to be more than just an educational experience for one CHS student. When Olivia Barber met IVF pioneer, Professor Lord Robert Winston, at the event she had come face-to-face with the man who had made her very existence possible.

Julie Barber, Olivia's mum, takes up the story:

*"It certainly was an amazing moment when Olivia got to meet the man who made my dreams come true and helped me to give birth to my two amazing and wonderful girls. Olivia really was a miracle baby but then, when I got pregnant with her sister, Madison, I felt well and truly blessed."*

*"They have made my whole life complete and it was helped by this one man, Lord Robert Winston. Olivia was our third attempt at in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and Madison was an FET (Frozen Embryo Transfer.) I had three embryos frozen, two perished on transfer but Madison was our little fighter."*

Meeting Lord Winston was a fantastic opportunity for Olivia, who was eager to meet the man who had pioneered the technology to help her mum become a mum and she was delighted to be able to have her photograph taken with her hero and tell him her story.

Lord Winston is Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London. In the 1970s he developed gynaecological surgical techniques that improved fertility treatments. He later pioneered new treatments to improve IVF and developed pre-implantation diagnosis.

Twenty three Year 10 students attended the conference as part of CHS' programme of events and activities to celebrate 2018 as the Year of Engineering. Along with Professor Lord Winston, there were four other high profile speakers: Simon Singh, Andrea Sella, Steve Jones and Dave Cliff, who delivered a range of presentations on topics including The Future of Computing, The Big Bang Theory, The Chemistry of Water and Nature Vs Nurture.

Students also picked up lots of tips for the forthcoming exams from a GCSE examiner who gave a talk at the event.

## Big Bang is a Big Hit with Year 8

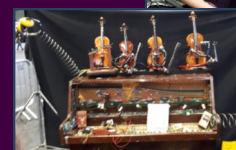
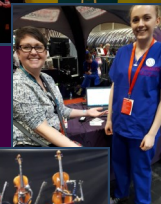


As part of our **Year of Engineering** programme of events and activities, the majority of Year 8 students spent a day at the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in March.

There were so many activities on offer for the students to enjoy, including a virtual reality roller coaster, live insect handling, model hovercrafts, slime making and a robotic orchestra! One of the more 'challenging' activities on offer was the hands-on operating theatre, including hearts, brains, eyes and multiple internal organs, which made for a fascinating and very smelly experience!

The students were able to talk with the hundreds of inspirational scientists and engineers at the event about the many different STEM careers available and the routes into them.

There were a number of shows running throughout the day, which the students greatly enjoyed and these included 'The Quantum Mechanical Chocolate Factory', 'The 'Not at' Christmas Lectures' and Dangerous Equations, which all helped get across some quite complex ideas in a fun and interesting way.



## Year 11's Recipe for Success

Our Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students sat a three hour practical exam in March, working really hard and delivering some exceptional results. Students produced three dishes using quality ingredients from different regions the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, ranging from Scotland, Cheshire and Staffordshire right down to Kent and Cornwall. It was a tiring but productive two days and all the students produced some wonderful dishes as a result. Well done to all of those who took part. Once the exams are completed and marking finalised, we will share all the pictures of the wonderful range of dishes that were prepared.





# We Did It! Our Student Shelter is on its Way!



**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**

We are delighted to be able to announce that we've finally hit the £20,000 target to cover the cost of constructing our planned Student Shelter, thanks to a phenomenal £10k grant from The Big Lottery Fund. The construction of the Shelter will take place in the Quad area over the Summer and will be completed in time for students returning in September.

Along with the grant from The Big Lottery Fund, we have also received very generous donations from The Rotary Club, Congleton Town Trust, Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows and The William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust. The fundraising team was also thrilled to be selected as one of the chosen charities to benefit from Tesco's 'Bags of Help' blue

token scheme throughout January and February and this added another £1000 to the fund. We'd like to thank all those who have donated to help ensure that current and future students will be able to benefit from this fantastic new asset.

The Shelter will provide a much needed and much requested space for students to be able to spend time outside no matter what the weather. Along with offering students a great place to relax and socialise during break and lunch, this new space will also provide an opportunity for lessons to take place outdoors.

Students, staff and parents/carers, led by Mrs Eckersley, have been fundraising for many years to get the £20,000 needed. The fundraising team have organised a wide range of events and activities in order to get the project off the ground.

A big THANK YOU also goes to Mrs Eckersley, Head Girls and Head Boys past and present, the Student Leadership Team, Parents in Partnership and all of the students, staff and parents/carers for their hard work and dedication, which has ensured that the Student Shelter could become more than just a set of plans.



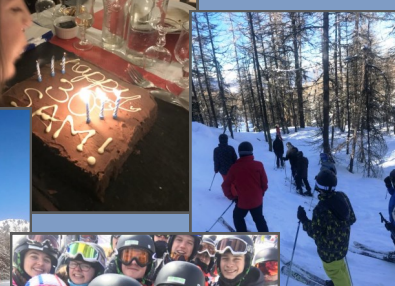
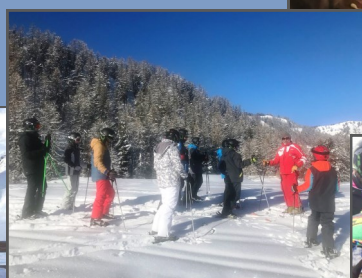
## Sun, Snow and Six Superb Skiing Days

On Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>, twenty three students set off from Manchester Airport to travel to the resort of Risoul in the French Alps for the 2018 Congleton High School Annual Ski Course. Based in the Le Morgan Hotel, located in the beautiful French resort featuring high altitude skiing mixed with picturesque tree-lined runs, the group had six full days of ski lessons with instructors, Anne and Gerard, from the French ski school, École du Ski Français (ESF).

It was a mixed group in terms of ability, some were absolute beginners who had never put on a pair of skis before, some were very experienced skiers and the rest somewhere in between. All the group worked incredibly hard and made fantastic progress, even the more proficient were still able to improve their skills and test themselves on some challenging terrain.

Once the day's skiing was done, there was still plenty of fun to be had and the evening entertainment included a quiz night, a games night, ice skating and 'bumboarding'. One of the highlights was celebrating Miss Drinkwater's (*shhhh*) 30<sup>th</sup> birthday with a wonderful cake from the hotel.

Returning on the following Saturday, after an amazing time and six full days' skiing, the group had already started the countdown to the 2019 Ski Trip to Zell am See in Austria, which will take place during the Easter break.



# Walk (and Run) a Mile in Another's Shoes



Once again our students helped to raise money for the Sport Relief cause by running, walking and even hobbling a mile around our sports field. Pupils from The Quinta also used our field to run their mile earlier in the day. It was great to see everyone taking part and we raised over £200 for the charity.



## Our New Uniform Supplier

You spoke, we listened! Parents/Carers can now choose between purchasing CHS uniform on line or in store from our new supplier, [DP Sports Wear](#), located on Bromley Road, Congleton. Full details of our uniform requirements for both girls and boys can be found on the [School Uniform](#) page of the [Parent/Carer Area](#) of our website.



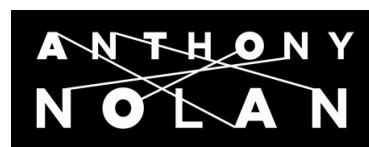
## Joining the Anthony Nolan Register



Over thirty Post 16 students from Congleton High signed up to be part of the Anthony Nolan Stem Cell Donation Register this half term after the charity presented an assembly on the lifesaving work they undertake and how young people aged 16-30 can be part of this. After hearing about the Register, the students were keen to be able to offer someone the chance of a brighter future. A simple cheek swab was all it took to join the potentially life changing worldwide database.

Registering with the charity means that whenever a patient with blood cancer or a blood disorder needs a lifesaving stem cell transplant, the Anthony Nolan team can search for someone who is a

genetic match for the patient. Nine out of ten people donate their stem cells via the bloodstream in a straightforward process called peripheral blood stem cell collection. Anyone between 16 and 30 and in good health can sign up to the Anthony Nolan Register (and stay on it until they turn 60). To find out more about the work of the Anthony Nolan charity, visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)



BE A MATCH, SAVE A LIFE

## Life in a Northern Town



In March our Modern Foreign Languages Department ran their annual German Exchange Visit, with twenty six members of Year 8 and Year 10 and their families playing host to students from Trier in southwest Germany.

During the seven days, the German visitors were able to learn more about life at our school and our town, spending time with their hosts exploring CHS and Congleton. A family Anglo-German quiz night also helped everyone to understand more of each other's culture.

In addition to spending a very enjoyable and rewarding week sharing their everyday life in an English school, the host students also accompanied the visitors on a number of trips to give them a greater insight in to England past and present. Among these were Chester Zoo, Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry and Warwick Castle, which included a battle skills workshop and a birds of prey show.

The Trier students will have an opportunity to share more of their own culture and hometown when the Congleton High students travel to see them in Germany in June.





# Save the Date for School of Rock!

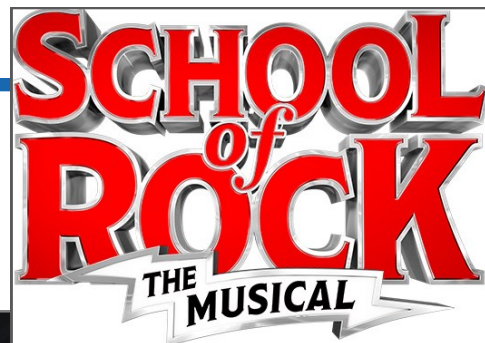
Never ones to shy away from a challenge, when our Performing Arts Department advertised auditions for cast and crew for its Summer Production, 130 students turned up, all eager to be part of what they know will be something very memorable.

Our 2018 show will be our own version of the stage smash hit, School of Rock and work has already begun to ensure that this show is the best yet.

Tickets will be available closer to the date from the Performing Arts Department and the main school reception.

Please make a note in your diary and save the date as this will be one you do not want to miss!

**Weds 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
**at Congleton High School**



## Maths Marvels

Miss Drinkwater took four of our students from Year 8 and Year 9 across to Keele University in March to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust Team Challenge Regional Final.

The four, Isaac Cumberlidge, Ryan Cartlidge, Sofia Miccolis and Zara Eardley worked really well as a team and came a fantastic seventh out of all the thirty three 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.



## A Taste of Culinary Success



Congratulations to Year 10, **Ben Simpson**, who made it all the way through to the Regional Final of The Rotary Young Chef Competition, finishing in a very respectable second place.

Ben's menu of smoked salmon starter, main of chicken with goat's cheese and red pepper stuffing, completed with a chocolate orange fondant saw him sail through the local heats, the District Semi-Final and the District Final right into the Regional Final, held in Rochdale in March.

A huge well done too to Year 8, **Natasha Scott**. Although knocked out in the District Final stage, Natasha was the youngest person to ever reach that level!

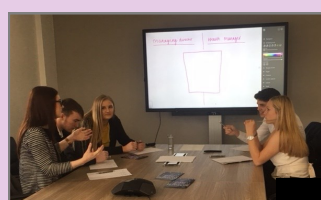


## National Careers Week Activity



Thanks to our Work Experience Co-ordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, students from all years were able to gain both inspiration and information regarding a wide range of careers during our week of activities and events celebrating National Careers Week in March.

Visitors from a variety of industries visited to present to students or to be on hand to talk about the many roles in their particular sector and the routes into these jobs. We welcomed professionals from the services, engineering, the health service, finance, law, creative and the media, who were all able to share their experience and expertise. A number of students interested in careers in medicine visited Keele University during the week for their annual medical careers event.



# Calling all Box Lane Ex-Students

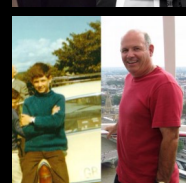


Our Alumni project is well underway now and we have a great mix of stories to share already on our website for you to read and reminisce about times gone by. They are also providing a really invaluable source of inspiration for our students, who have been able to visit the website or read the posters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

Of particular interest in 2018 as [The Year of Engineering](#) are our many students who have gone on to excel in STEM related careers. Among the list are [Patrick Wilson](#), employed as a Snr Atomic Energy Technologist before taking retirement, [Claire Hatton](#), a qualified pilot and Air Traffic Control Safety Unit Manager and [Yvonne Wallace](#), now working in the Australian mining industry as a Geophysicist. In addition, a recent leaver, [Jayne Booth](#), is currently partway through a Manufacturing Technologies Internship with Airbus.

One Engineer's story many can identify with is that of [Paul Strick](#). He 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 [Alumni](#) 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](mailto:kkenyon@congletonhigh.com)



## Numbers Add Up for NSPCC



Our 2018 annual Numeracy Day took place in February to coincide with the NSPCC's Number Day and was a great way of combining learning with fund raising. Teachers and students organised a range of number based competitions across the school and a cake sale. Year 7 students took part in a 'maths relay race' in the gym, 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. Almost £100 was raised for the NSPCC on the day



## 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](#), [@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)



**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](mailto:dtarpey@congletonhigh.com) or telephone: 01260 730123.



# Year of Engineering Lifts Off at CHS



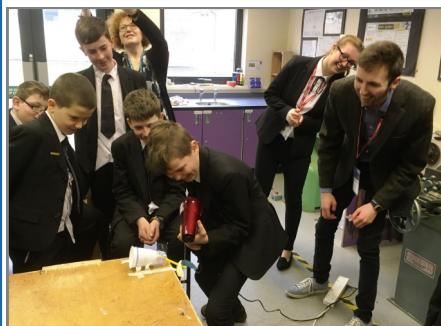
As part of our programme of events and activities celebrating 2018 as the **Year of Engineering**, two visiting Graduate Engineers from Bentley challenged twenty four Year 7 Design and Technology students to design and build a wind turbine capable of lifting a number of weights.

Working in teams, the students were provided with a range of basic materials including card, pencils, scissors, string, plastic cups and tape and given an example of a wind turbine design. The exercise enabled students to combine their engineering knowledge and skills with their creativity to develop the most effective end product. Although they had been shown an example, the students did not let this limit their creativity, taking a wide range of different, considered approaches to solving the problem.



The teams worked together for an hour on the turbines, problem-solving and tweaking as they went along to ensure that their device was up to the task. At the end of the challenge, each turbine was tested to ensure that it worked and both turned and lifted. A hair dryer provided the wind power to ensure the turbines turned, then weights were slowly added to the plastic cup 'baskets' to check the lifting capacity.

Whilst some turbines performed better than others, each team had put a great deal of thought and effort into their designs, using the theories and ideas discussed at the beginning of the challenge. The winning team, which consisted entirely of girls, created a twin-turbine design, with one turbine turning then pushing a second around, like cogs and wheels, which gave the power to lift three of the weights.



The two Bentley visitors, Domonique Roberts and Jonathan McCrae, were both recent graduates yet had already been involved in a wide range of projects and opportunities at the company, with many great achievements already under their belts. Their stories, along with the day's activities, left the students feeling both motivated and inspired to learn more about Engineering, its applications and the different careers available.

We'd like to thank

Domonique and Jonathan for coming along to work with the Year 7 group and also Bentley for their continued support of the school, which offers students access to many great engineering opportunities.



Right: The winning team with Domonique and Jonathan



## A Weekend of Drama



Twenty two of our Performing Arts Department GCSE Drama students headed off to North Wales at the beginning of March to take part in a residential weekend at the Conway Centre.



The aim of the course was to give the students the opportunity to work with theatre professionals and students from other schools to help to inspire them and raise their attainment at GCSE. A wide variety of theatre techniques were introduced and students were able to develop their competence in a range of practical, creative and performance skills.

Working in mixed school groups, the students participated in a number of workshops over the weekend including Puppetry, Script Work, Movement and Physical Theatre. The Sunday morning consisted of final performances by the students which focused on the skills they had gained over the weekend.





# A Snail Biting Experience



A group of thirty one Year 10 and 12 History students travelled to the village of Bréville, Normandy in March to learn more about the many important events that have taken place throughout the area over the years.

After a long journey the previous day, the group woke bright and early on Saturday for a day focusing on medieval history. The morning began with a visit to Bayeux and an introduction to Medieval architecture, exploring the beautiful cathedral. After some time investigate the town, the next stop was the infamous Bayeux Tapestry, which tells the story of the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



In the afternoon, they travelled to Falaise Castle, birthplace of William the Conqueror, then on to Ranville, the first village in France to be liberated from the Nazis in 1944. The group spent time in the British War Cemetery, an emotional and moving experience for many.



Sunday focused on the events surrounding D-Day in 1944, including a stop at Pegasus Bridge, which featured in the classic film, *The Longest Day*. In the fascinating museum, students learned how British soldiers showed incredible bravery as they landed silently in gliders and then seized the bridge over the Caen Canal.



A visit to Arromanches and a 360° cinema on a site overlooking the remains of the Mulberry Harbour came next. The powerful film shown told the story of D-Day and was a real highlight for many. As they progressed down the coast to Omaha Beach, the group learnt of the challenges faced by the American soldiers, something brought home by a visit to the enormous American cemetery on the cliff tops.



Moving further west, the penultimate stop was at Pointe de Hoc, once part of the Atlantic Wall of German coastal defences. The students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the remains of gun emplacements and bunkers set in a crater-scarred landscape. Before returning to the hotel for a snail tasting experience, the group made one final stop at a German military cemetery, again a very sombre and moving experience.



The tired travellers arrived back in Congleton on the Monday evening having thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learned a huge amount from it. The students all agreed that the trip had been an incredible experience, with one adding: *"The most enjoyable part for me was the visit to Falaise Castle and I really enjoyed visiting the British and American cemeteries."*



Mr Fryer, who had accompanied the students and a number of colleagues, commented: *"This was an excellent trip with a superb group of students. They had some wonderful experiences, engaged with some fascinating history and were a real credit to themselves and the school."*



# Spotlight on Student Success

Three of our Post 16 students and their former CHS colleague have been booked to perform at the Manchester Academy with their band, Circus. **Alfie Tarrant, Olivia Donelon, Xander Greenwood** and **Ethan Jenkins** will support Proud Mary at the venue on Saturday 9th June. The band have already seen great success and a growing band of followers and landed a very successful *BBC Music Introducing* session on BBC Radio Stoke in March



Marcus Tarrant, Alfie's dad, was delighted to share the great news with us and thanked the school, particularly the Performing Arts Department for their role in the success of the band, commenting: *"Apart from my own pride, the reason I'm writing is to make you aware of this amazing achievement, which has come about not only due to the hard work the band has put in but also to the amazing support they have had over the years in developing their musical skills from Congleton High School, in particular, Miss Martin. It is a testimony to what can be achieved when schools and teachers nurture talent as you have all done."*

For more information about Circus or to book tickets, visit the band's website at [www.circusband.rocks](http://www.circusband.rocks)

If you watched the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and Handover from the Gold Coast, Australia to Birmingham, England, you may well have seen one of our Year 12 students, **Maisie Kearney**, whose dancing skills secured her a place to dance in the Birmingham ceremony.



Maisie had heard about the event via social media and, as an experienced dancer, decided to try for a chance to take part in what would be an amazing experience and opportunity. She auditioned along with hundreds of others and was lucky enough to win the chance to dance in the ceremony.

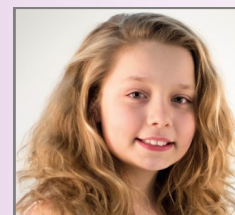
The team rehearsed at Edgbaston over the Easter break and finally got the chance to perform at the closing ceremony and handover at Victoria Square, Birmingham. Their performance, dancing to ELO's *Mr Blue Sky*, was beamed live across the world and to the ceremony taking place on Sunday 22

April in Australia.

Last year, we shared with you how, as a Year 11 student, **Tom Jones** was made Captain of his American Football team. This year he has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Under 19s team and will start training with them in summer. Huge congratulations to Tom and we look forward to hearing more news of his success in the very near future.



At the beginning of March, Year 8 student, **Tainn Clowes-Michael**, took part in a production of *Fame the Musical* at The Mitchell Arts Centre in Hanley with Angela Beardmore School of Dance. She was particularly excited about the musical production as it was the first musical staged by the dance school.



Tainn first started dancing with this dance school when she was two and a half and has enjoyed all kinds of wonderful opportunities over the years. She also encouraged her school friend, Natasha Scott, to join last year, which meant they were both able to appear in the show together.

Tainn's older brother, Year 9, **Reve Clowes-Michael**, once again signed up for the Signal 1/Newcastle under Lyne College 'Star Search' competition and his talent and musical skill took him all the way through to the final, eventually scooping the Runner Up position and a professional recording session prize. Reve also made it through to the final of the competition last year with his band, The Bar Jackars.



Huge congratulations to Year 11 student, **Emily Beckett**, who made it through to the final of the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards in the Mobile Phone and Devices Category People's Choice Award for the second year running. The photographs were posted online for the public to select their favourite. At the time of going to press we were still awaiting the final result but wish Emily every success. As we reported in [Issue 13](#) of our Newsletter, Emily scooped third prize in the same competition in 2016 with her stunning picture of a carp just below the surface of lake and it was on the way home from the awards ceremony that she managed to capture the seagull image that saw her yet again in the finals of the competition.



# Foundations for the Future



Our Post 16 team have again been working hard to create a range of opportunities to give students the very best foundations that will enable them to progress on to successful and fulfilling futures. Our Work Placement Co-ordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, also works with local training providers and local, regional and national businesses to arrange work experience, work skills and networking opportunities. This programme of activities enables our students to acquire a wide range of experience and skills to equip them with the attributes required by employers and help secure positive outcomes when they leave us. You can find out about the results of the Post 16 team's work on the [Post 16 section](#) of our website.

Keen to pursue a career in Social Work, Year 14 student, **Tanya Knusel** accompanied Mrs Sadat-Shafai to a Chamber of Commerce Thursday Thirty information and networking event in January. The meeting was held at the Congleton base of [Visyon](#). Visyon is a charity organisation supporting the emotional health of children, young people and their families in the Cheshire and Staffordshire Moorlands area.

Tanya was keen to find out about the work of the charity and also meet with others involved in the sector to learn more about the range of careers available and the routes into these. She found the opportunity to be extremely fruitful and came away from the meeting having learned a great deal and with various work placement offers.

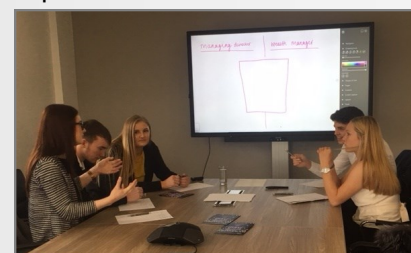
Year 12, **Ethan Johnson**, made a great impression on creative advertising and marketing agency, [Outpost](#), during his 8 week placement with them earlier this year. Ethan helped to generate images for a client's Instagram feed by using his photography skills to capture close up shots of the client's garments. He also assisted with the social media strategy for a global fast-fashion brand. Ethan welcomed the chance to improve his photography and editing skills along with experiencing work in a professional environment.



As part of our National Careers Week activities, five of our students took part in the [AO](#) Logistics Apprenticeship Challenge at the company's Crewe division. **Numaan Bukhari, Tom Jones, Ethan Johnson, Harry MacConnell** and **Callum Powell** joined other students from the area to take part in the annual event aimed at giving young people a better understanding of the requirements of the workplace. The five Year 12 boys, along with the other students taking part in the Challenge, were split into groups and spent the day working in teams on a number of challenges.

All five enjoyed the day immensely and were able to take away not just a great experience but also a wealth of knowledge and skills. Callum Powell was delighted to be part of the winning team, securing a week's work experience with the company.

Twenty of our Year 12 and 13 Post 16 Business and Economics students were invited by leading wealth management company, [Franklyn Financial Management](#), to spend the day at their Congleton office with the aim of giving them an insight into a career within the financial world of investments and pensions etc.



The group undertook financial challenges, which proved to be a great team building exercise and were also able to speak with employees from the company as well as the Managing Director to find out more about the many routes into the industry from those already employed in the sector. The feedback from students regarding the day was extremely enthusiastic.

Ten Year 10 and 11 students visited **Keele University School of Medicine's** annual Medicine Careers Day: "So You Want To Be A Doctor?", which took place in March. Aimed at students in Years 10 to 12 wishing to find out more about a career in medicine, the day included sessions on "Why Choose a Career in Medicine?", "Entry Requirements and the Interview" and "From student to doctor" with interactive sessions including laboratory workshops and an Admissions Q&A workshop. They also heard from experts including Prof Terence Wardle from Liverpool University, Dr Karen Grant, Dep Director of Medical Studies, Lancaster University and Prof Andrew Hassell, Head of School of Medicine at Keele.

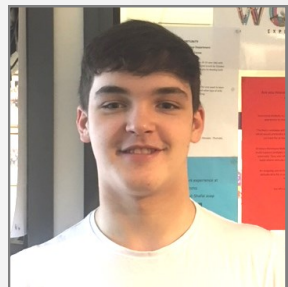




# Foundations for the Future

With one eye on the future, Year 12, Reece Carbutt Beech, chose to forego his February half term break, choosing instead to spend the week on a work placement with Barclay's Bank in Macclesfield to help him gain valuable work experience and employment skills. After his studies, Reece aims to secure an Apprenticeship at Barclays Technology Centre at Radbrook, near Knutsford, so this work experience was a great opportunity to build on relevant skills.

The feedback from Barclay's was extremely positive and Reece commented on the opportunity: *"This week has helped me improve and develop on my communication and teambuilding skills in preparation for when I apply for Apprenticeships next year."*



Year 13, Bailey Hopkins, also gave up his half term to focus on a career in finance with a three-day placement at Franklyn Financial Management. Bailey was able to learn more about the range of roles available and gain an overview of working within a financial and investment company. He was also given the opportunity to visit some of the company's clients to get a better grasp on how the financial world works, commenting: *"The work experience gave me a real insight into the business and inspired me to search and apply for Apprenticeships within this field."*

At the end of January, Mrs Sadat-Shafai and Social Sciences Teacher, Mrs Airey, accompanied nine of our Year 13 Health and Social Care students: **Laura Bailey, Summer Beech, Lydia Bennett, Frankie Bibby, Eloise Dale, Tanja Knusel, Alisha Meakin, Holly Murray and Shelby Norris**, to Macclesfield Hospital to further enhance their classroom studies.

Mrs Sadat-Shafai had arranged for the group to visit the Clinical Skills rooms at the hospital, where they were able to look around the Simulation Suite. They also had the opportunity to get involved in some of the activity that hospital staff would experience on a day-to-day basis, including learning how to take blood using an artificial arm. As part of the visit, the students were also able to find out more about NHS careers and volunteering.



Mrs Airey commented on the opportunity:

*"Students complete a unit on Continual Professional Development and Reflective Practice and having access to the training suite was really beneficial as they were able to understand the ways in which professionals use technology and video recording to support their reflections. Students were also able to gain an understanding of the roles within the NHS, supporting their knowledge on the Working within Health and Social Care unit."*



The group was also able to complete observational criteria for their Preventing Infection and Control unit as they learned the correct hand-washing procedure and the consequences of not following it. Finally, students were able to develop a greater understanding of the vital role that effective communication plays when working with patients and colleagues within the Health Sector and the impact this can have on the overall quality of care service users receive.



Year 13 student, **Tim Bowers**, undertook a day's work experience opportunity with Staffordshire University at the end of January, which was aimed at giving him an insight into working in the University's IT department, helping him to acquire some valuable employability skills whilst also enabling him to experience university life for a day. In addition to attending a lecture, Tim worked with the IT Technical Team, getting the chance to try video editing and looking at the work the University undertakes with programming language, Python, along with its Virtual Reality ventures.

The University were impressed with Tim's professionalism on the day:

*"Tim made a demonstrable effort to engage, asking questions and expanding upon what's clearly an already reasonably strong understanding of the technologies, for someone of his age and experience. Above all else, I'd highlight his adaptability and willingness to learn as being the core strengths he demonstrated."*

Tim thoroughly enjoyed the day, which has given him a great basis to begin to work on his many ideas for the future.

# CHS Writers Get Creative

Along with the wide-ranging curriculum we offer here at Congleton High School, we also provide our students with many opportunities to try their hand at something new or improve on existing skills or talents they may already have through a variety of lunchtime and after-school clubs and activities.

One such opportunity is our Wednesday Creative Writing Club, run by Mr Higgs, which gives students who enjoy writing or those who would like to improve or explore new avenues for their creativity, the freedom to express themselves through their compositions.

The following pieces of writing came from one of the sessions in March. They were a response to three separate short descriptive details, chosen individually by each writer from a selection they had produced the previous week. After picking three fragments, the authors spent around forty minutes writing, incorporating their selected details into their work in any way they wished

The resulting works are two fantastic compositions, which both work well as stand alone pieces but definitely leave the reader wanting to know more!

## Untitled

The room was silent. Nothingness rested in the corners like creatures made of red nightmares, their claws blood-drenched and dripping with a crimson emptiness.

Moonlight pooled into the centre and congealed against the cold marble floor, tendrils of it breaking through the aged curtains to spread like a maze of pearlescent capillaries. Fragile veins of silver fled up the black walls like desperate rivers running through a mountain range, running through the rich, silken nothingness.

Eventually, dawn would bloom and the blazing arrows of the sun's light would boldly chase away the lack of life and feeling. Early-waking birds would free the room from its silence and the grand piano hidden against the back wall would be played - as it was every morning - to gratefully welcome the day.

But, until then, the large, unoccupied space hung in an uncertain state like a soul that had yet to fully pass over. Lingered between being and not being, tangible and ethereal. Nightmares nestled in its recesses whilst the moon blended and merged with its core.

The room was silent. And though it did carry a sense of muted lethality - of 'almost the end but not quite' - it was inexplicably, incontestably, beautiful.

Perhaps that was why the blood-soaked creatures nestled in the corners had chosen it for their home.

## Ravens

People say the raven's call brings death. In most circumstances they would be wrong. But this one...

This one was a whole different story.

It was early morning when Lieutenant Harvey and his men were patrolling no-man's-land. A coarse sound echoed through the air, the call of a raven that was sitting in a dead tree just a few feet away. It called again and cocked its head, staring into Harvey's eyes. Another raven landed then another until the trees charred branches held thirteen ravens, the same amount of people in the lieutenant's squadron.

The soldiers ignored the birds and marched on, rifles slung over their shoulders.

Ten minutes had passed when the men saw twelve ravens sitting in a tree by a river. Harvey spotted a dark shape down the river. He grabbed it. It was a helmet. He looked back to see eleven men behind him. He ordered his men to lie down and crawl back to the trench. As they crawled through the extreme environment rigged with harsh tangles of barbed wire, a raven called again. Harvey looked back, ten men. Harvey ordered his men to rise and sprint back. The stark yet jagged mountainside was beginning to get repetitive. A fourth raven called for death. A loud series of bangs repeated until the lieutenant was swept from his feet. He kept falling and falling as the empty black abyss swallowed him.

*Rebecca Bailey - Year 12*

*William Johnson - Year 8*



## Key Dates for Your Diary

Friday 29th March 2018	School closes for the Easter break
Monday 16th April 2018	School re-opens
Wednesday 25th April 2018	Year 7 Parents'/ Carers' Evening
Monday 7th May 2018	School closed - May Day
Thursday 10th May 2018	Year 8 Parents'/ Carers' Evening
Monday 14th May - Friday 15th June 2018	GCSE/ A Level Exams (Majority)
Wednesday 23rd May 2018	PiP Meeting
Friday 25th May 2018	School closes for summer half-term break
Monday 4th June 2018	School re-opens
Monday 18th - Friday 29th June 2018	Year 7-10 and 12 Exams
Wednesday 27th June 2018	PiP Meeting
Thursday 28th June 2018	New Intake Day/ Parents' and Carers' Evening
Friday 29th June 2018	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 3rd July 2018	Year 10 Parents'/ Carers' Evening
Wednesday 4th July 2018	Sports Day
Wednesday 4th July 2018	Key Stage 3 Art Exhibition
Wednesday 11th July 2018	Sports Awards Evening
Monday 16th - Thursday 20th July 2018	Year 12 Work Experience
Tuesday 17th July 2018	Year 10 Summer Market
Friday 20th July 2018 - 1:10pm finish	School closes to students for summer break
Wednesday 5th September 2018	School re-opens to students

## Sports Roundup

Sport has again proved to be extremely popular at Congleton High School this term with many students taking part as members of our wide range of sporting teams and also choosing to join in with

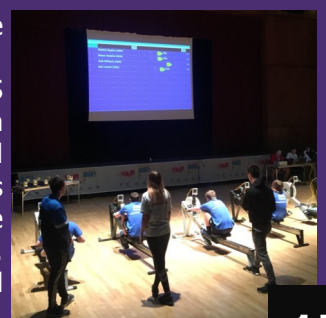


**extracurricular sport activities** during their free time at lunch and after school. Training sessions for our many sports clubs, such as Basketball (*above*) and Table Tennis (*left*), are always full with students looking to learn new skills or

improve on existing ones.

**School Games Rowing Event:** Our Year 9 and 10 Girls and Boys teams once again took part in the Cheshire Level 3 Rowing over at Northwich memorial Leisure Centre in March, competing against other finalists from across the county.

We saw some great achievements for the CHS rowers, with our Year 10 Girls team finishing in a fantastic FIRST place overall. We were also delighted to see some great results in the individual events too, with Jade Cartlidge taking a superb second place and Jeorgia Finch a fabulous third in the Girls' event. In the Boys' individual rowing, Ru Morgan scooped fantastic first place and Kai Ansell a brilliant third.





# Sports Round Up (Cont'd)



Our Year 7 Girls' **Football** team (*left*) played some great matches this season, which saw them come top of the Sandbach Sports Partnership League. They were also delighted to make it as far as the Cheshire Finals in March.

The CHS Year 10 Boys' **Football** Team (*below, showing off their brand new kit*) have seen many great results too, including a superb 4-0 win over Alsager at the end of term.



Our Year 10 Girls' **Netball** Team (*left*) were crowned South Cheshire Champions this season and are still undefeated in the Macclesfield and District League this year. Congratulations too to our Year 9 Netball team, (*below left*) who played some excellent matches over the season, achieving a fantastic Runners Up placing.



We saw some great **Rugby** performances from our Year 8 team, supported by some of our keen Year 7, (*right*) in the Woodhouse Tournament. *"Some good wins, loads of tries and lots learned about the game of Rugby."* Man of the Tournament was



Above: Y10 Team

Right: Y9 Team



Louie Jones.

Our Sports Academy **Football** Team also played well last term, with the Men's Under 18 team working their way through to the Cheshire Cup Final but eventually losing out 2-1 to Upton High School. The boys were by far the stronger team but unfortunately just couldn't score the winning goal and saw their hopes dashed by the final Upton goal scored in the last five minutes of the game.



Congratulations to **Black Firs Primary School A Team** (*left*) for winning the Brilliant Advice Year 3/4 Football Tournament at CHS in March, beating Mossley A Team in the final. Black Firs were superb throughout the entire tournament, winning every one of their games. Well done to all eleven teams who took part.

We were delighted to be able to play host to our first ever **Cheshire Schools Rugby** fixture at the beginning of March. The whole of the 3G pitch and stand were packed with spectators for the Cheshire Vs Staffordshire Under 15s fixture. The match was made doubly significant for us as our own Ru Morgan (*right*) had been selected to play for Cheshire and, as an even greater honour, was picked to be Captain on the night! Many of his friends turned out to support Ru and his team, which certainly seemed to have the desired result as the Cheshire Captain led his players to a 55-0 win, with Ru playing a key part in many tries.

Right: Ru and the Cheshire Team

Below: Many of Ru's classmates came along to cheer him on

