

Congleton High School Newsletter



Issue 19: January - May 2019

Achieving Success Together

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Welcome to our Spring/Summer Newsletter, which once again reminds us of just how much takes place each term here at Congleton High. Every page is full of the opportunities we offer our students and their fantastic achievements, both in and out of school.

As part of our transition programme, I have been busy visiting primary schools to meet with the Year Six students who will be joining us in September. The majority will have visited us for our many Primary Liaison events so they are already familiar with Congleton High; our School Family and our buildings. Over the next few weeks, we also have nine Discovery Day primary school workshops and other transition activities including our New Intake Day, before the Year Six children join us full time as our new Year Seven.

We are delighted to have been nominated in two categories in the 2019 Cheshire Schools Awards this year [see page 5] and we will all be keeping our fingers crossed for a positive outcome on the 11th June. Having the School nominated as Secondary School of the Year was a great honour but we were particularly thrilled that Mrs Sadat-Shafai had been nominated as Support Staff of the Year in her role as Work Placement Coordinator. The work of Mrs Sadat-Shafai makes a real difference for so many of our students and the opportunities she creates help to give our school leavers a real head start in the world of work.

Although the end of this academic year is just a matter of weeks away, we still have so much to cram into this short time, so the fast pace will continue. GCSE and A Level exams are still taking place and our Year Seven to Ten students are to sit their Serious About Success exams. We have Sports Day, Year Twelve Work Placement Week, our Oxbridge visits, the Sports Awards Evening and, of course, our Year Eleven Prom to look forward to.

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



Governor Update

The governing body provides strategic leadership and accountability in schools. At Congleton High School your governing body comprises volunteers drawn from the school and local community, including parents. It is important that governors have the skills to successfully support the school to deliver the outcomes that the students and their parents deserve. This is front of mind throughout all our governor recruitment and appointment processes to ensure that our governing body are able to add value and make a real difference.

At Congleton High, we pride ourselves on delivering excellent pupil outcomes for every student, not just the academically gifted and this was confirmed by our fantastic Progress 8 result. There is so much more that we would like to do in this respect.

There is currently much change in the educational arena, so there is no shortage of challenge for all schools. Locally, the new housing developments in Congleton are putting pressure on schools. We are seeing this pressure translate into competition for available places, with some parents now being denied their first choice of high school. So, school expansion across the town is a major priority and we will continue to push for this.

Nationally, the debate over Fairer Funding for Schools will hopefully deliver a more equitable financial outcome for all children in Cheshire East. As a school, we will keep up the campaign for equal funding for our students.

If you are interested in becoming a governor at Congleton High School or simply want to know more about the role, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Claire Gritton, by email: GovernorsClerk@Congletonmat.com

Rich Benson
Chair of Governors CHS



Biggest Ever Careers Fair at CHS

In March, we held our biggest ever Careers Fair, with over thirty exhibiting employers, training and apprenticeship providers and educators arriving on the day to inform and inspire young people.

Throughout the event, all students, from the eleven year olds in Year Seven up to the eighteen year olds in Sixth Form, had the opportunity to visit the Fair to learn more about the many roles within the wide range of sectors exhibiting. Some students were already sure of their future pathway and spent time delving deeper into their chosen career. Others used the event to see what was on offer, be inspired and find where their studies could take them as school leavers.

Organised by our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, there really was something for everyone at the Fair. Employers spanned a wide variety of sectors including engineering, public and armed services, finance, hospitality, retail, manufacturing, travel and tourism, insurance and legal. Students were able to find out more about the different roles within each of the businesses, make useful contacts and even start to plan and secure work placement opportunities.

It was particularly rewarding for us to be able to welcome back so many of our former students as exhibitors, now reaping the rewards of their strong education at Congleton High. Meeting young people who once walked the same corridors and sat in the same classrooms was both inspirational and aspirational for the current students. (See below)

The feedback from exhibitors was extremely positive, with everyone saying how impressed they had been with students' confidence, manners and level of engagement. This comment from **Plus Dane Housing** says it all: "*I was blown away by the support there from other businesses and I felt privileged to be a part of it. The confidence and manners of everyone I interacted with were amazing, especially considering the ages of some of the children attending.*"

We are always keen to hear from any employers interested in providing opportunities for students to learn more about their business and help them develop work skills, whether that is through work placements, visiting speaker seminars, activity days or other initiatives. Please contact Mrs Jill Sadat-Shafai at Congleton High School on 01260 730123 or by email at jsadatshafai@congletonhigh.com.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!
at the CHS careers fair

Increase YOUR employability by exploring a wide range of career choices.

Talk to more than THIRTY leading companies from across the area, including:

- Engineering - Childcare - Medical
- Manufacturing - Catering - plus many more

We also have leading universities on site to offer guidance and information.

Apprenticeships

Thursday 7th of March from 9am to 3pm in the gym



Alumni Return to Inspire and Inform



AO: Kerrie (Ogden) Salisbury, Future Talent Advisor



Senior Aerospace: Joe Taylor and Louis Cameron, Engineering Apprentices



ALPS: Jamie Byram, Asst. Accountant and Dan Mongillo, Sales and Marketing Manager



Visyon: Emma Vaughan, Community Engagement Officer



Bentley Motors: Reece Clowes, Mechatronics



BNY Mellon: Ben Oakley, Global Income Representative and Josh Robertson, Global Cash Operations Representative



Franklyn Financial Management: Former CHS Head Girl, Chloe Tatton, Business Relations Coordinator

Collecting Exam Results

The 2019 Exam Results Days are **Thursday 15th August** for A Levels and **Thursday 22nd August** for GCSEs. Students will be able to collect their results in the Main School Hall from 09:00 to 11.00 on these days.

If students are unable to collect their results in person, someone else may pick them up on their behalf. A signed letter of authority from the student, naming the person who will collect should be handed to school's Exams Officer, Mrs Isherwood, in the Sixth Form Centre or brought on the day. The person collecting the results will need to bring with them some form of ID as proof of identity.

If nobody is available to collect the results on the day then students can provide the school with an A4 stamped, addressed envelope (SAE) and the results will be posted to them on Results Day. SAEs should be handed in to Mrs Isherwood.



Is Your Child Entitled to Free School Meals?



Cheshire East Council is encouraging parents and carers to check their eligibility for Free School Meals to ensure that nobody misses out.

Children receiving Free School Meals in Cheshire East are also entitled to a 'Pupil Premium' payment of up to £1,900. Schools can apply for this additional funding, which is then used to provide more support for the student, helping to develop their academic progress, self-esteem or social and emotional skills.*

All Infant children (Reception, Year One and Year Two) automatically receive Free School Meals, but older Primary and Secondary children may also be entitled if you are claiming any of the following benefits:

- Income Support.
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- Income related Employment Support Allowance.
- Support under Part 1 of the Immigration Act.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67.

You can also apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or any Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

Visit the Cheshire East website to apply at: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx
For further information and help, call: 0300 123 5012 or email: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

* You can learn more about how we use Pupil Premium funding to support our eligible students on the Pupil Premium page in the School Life section of our website: <https://www.congletonhigh.com/152/pupil-premium>

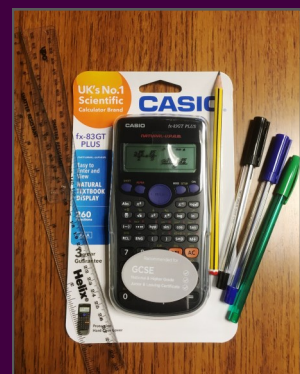
Equipped for Success

It is important that every student attends lessons with all the necessary equipment to enable them to get the most from their lessons. We ask that all students have with them the following in each of their lessons:

- Blue or Black Pen (15p from the LRC)
- Green Pen for corrections and improvements (15p from the LRC)
- Pencil (10p from the LRC)
- Ruler (15-25p from the LRC)
- Calculator (£6.35 from the LRC)

All these items can be purchased from the LRC for a total cost of **less than £7.**

Students can also purchase a range of revision guides and other stationery, including pencil cases, protractors, compasses, maths sets, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, from the LRC



Cheshire Schools Awards Finalists!

We were delighted to learn in May that we have been shortlisted in not just one but two categories in the annual Cheshire School Awards!



Firstly, our amazing Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, has been named as a finalist in the School Support Staff of the Year Award. Mrs Sadat-Shafai works with our Sixth Form and younger students, finding and creating a wide range of opportunities to help them acquire vital employment skills and work experience to ensure positive outcomes once they leave Congleton High School.

The second award for which we have been shortlisted is the Secondary School of the Year and our nomination is the result of all the hard work, determination and teamwork of our students, their families and all the staff here at Congleton High School.

The finals will be held in Chester on Tuesday 11th June and we will be represented by a team of students, staff and our Chair of Governors, Mr Rich Benson.



Great Globes Galore

Our students are definitely not the sort to ever shy away from a challenge! When our English Teacher, Mrs Smith, asked her students to create their own version of Shakespeare's famous Globe Theatre, they really pulled out all the stops and our English Department was transported back in time to Elizabethan England!

Both of Mrs Smith's Year Seven English groups studied an Introduction to Shakespeare and, as an "optional" extension project, lasting the whole of one term, they were challenged to research the Globe Theatre and create their own model of it. At the end of term, fifty five Globe reconstructions and two Globe cakes were handed in. Prizes for the best eight models, two from each group, were awarded during an assembly on "Going the Extra Mile". The students enjoyed the project and seeing each other's work but particularly enjoyed demolishing the Globe cake creations!

The winning Globes in the individual images below were created by:

Reuben Hanks

Louis Dishington

Olivia Hurst

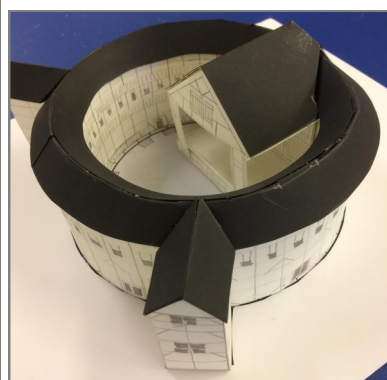
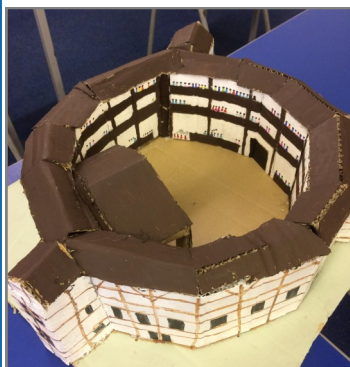
Elitsa Rashkova

Evie Morgan

Theo Miller

Alastair Nuttall

Mia Thorley



Reading Millionaires

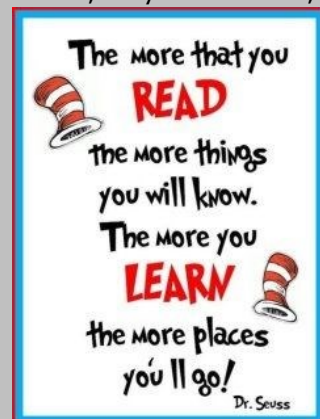
We encourage our students to read as often as possible as we recognise that reading helps to develop vocabulary, opens up new worlds and helps us to understand others. To inspire students to develop a love of reading, we run our Accelerated Reader (AR) scheme for Years Seven and Eight, which tracks reading progress via a wide range of AR books and quizzes.

Students are required to read an AR scheme book that matches their reading level for a minimum of 20-30 minutes a night and are also given time to read in registration and library lessons. Once they have completed each book, they take a short, online, five to twenty question quiz to show they have read and understood it.

So far this year we have a fantastic seventeen 'Reading Millionaires,' who have achieved over one million words and a further 100 students with 250,000 or more words. Our top achievers to date are Year Seven, **Emma Locker**, who has scored an incredible five million words and Year Eight **Edward Kerr** and Year Seven **James Cam**, both on two million words.

The students achieving one million words in 2018-19 so far are:

Toby Harrison	Jessica Stanway	Harris Potts	Evie Morgan
Ruby Painter	Joseph Morrison	Emily Sparey	Ollie Smith
Theo Miller	Christabel Stanmore	Louis Dishington	Elitsa Rashkova
Alexander Hall	Oliver Crewe		



IT Girls

In February, our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, took fifteen of our Year Nine students along to Barclays' Technology Centre at Radbroke Hall near Knutsford to take part in their 'IT Girls Allowed' Event.

Throughout the day, which focused on careers in IT for girls, the students were involved in workshops, working in teams alongside their peers from other schools to create computer programs to solve particular problems including navigating a robot around a course. Each failure for the robot required it to be reprogrammed, requiring the teams to persevere and work together.

In addition to the practical aspects of the day, the group were also able to hear from a number of inspirational speakers from Barclays regarding the opportunities for girls in IT. Of particular interest to many was a young apprentice who talked of her progression from school to a role within Barclays and her plans for the future. All the girls enjoyed and appreciated the day greatly.



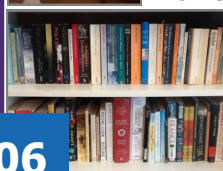
Wonderful World Book Day



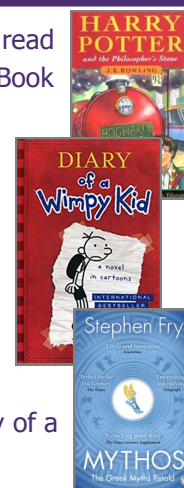
Our English Department takes every opportunity to encourage students from all years to read as often as possible and to help them develop a real love for books of all sorts. World Book Day and National Poetry Day are just two of the many opportunities the team maximise in as many ways as possible.



This year, for World Book Day, teaching staff provided 'Shelfies', photographs of their own book shelves and challenged students to guess which teacher owned which shelf, with prizes for the form with most correct answers. Year Seven students also took part in a survey via Show my Homework to find out the year group's favourite read.



7MHO were the form to achieve the most correct answers in the Shelfies challenge and the top three books nominated by Year Seven were: In third place, Stephen Fry - *Mythos*, second was JK Rowling - *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, with Jeff Kinney - *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* emerging as the group's favourite read.



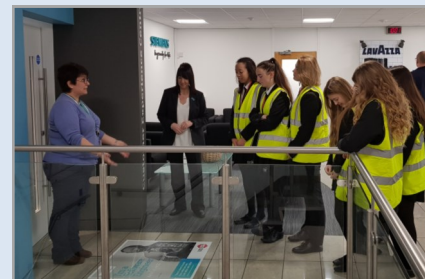
A Woman's Work

International Women's Day took place this year on Friday 8th March and we were delighted to be invited to celebrate the day with Siemens at their Congleton site. Siemens is the largest industrial manufacturing company in Europe and leads the way in a number of sectors including industry, healthcare and energy. Many women work within the company in roles at all levels including the Head of Logistics and the Head of Manufacturing and they are keen to attract more women into the company and in to engineering roles.

Our Engineering teacher, Miss Kenny, took along fourteen female students from Year Ten to Year Thirteen and they were able to spend the day finding out more about careers in Engineering.

Along with students from other schools, the group heard talks from some of the female engineers working with the company. The speakers were able to share their own stories about their chosen profession and the route they took to their current role from school to present day. Following the talks, the students were able to see more of the engineering facility with a tour of the plant.

We aim to encourage girls to ignore any misconceptions and stereotypes about the careers they can pursue, so this was a great opportunity for them to see for themselves the real women who have been successful in STEM careers. All the students found it interesting and most rewarding.



Sweet Shop Showcase

We have a school full of very talented students and we love to be able to share their work with parents and families. At the beginning of the year, all pupils in Years Seven, Eight and Nine were challenged to combine their love of art with their love of all things sweet and sugary in our Sweet Shop themed Key Stage Three Art Competition and Exhibition.

There was an amazing amount of entries, with students putting a great deal of effort and time into their artworks. In March, all of the entries were displayed in the school hall after school and the students, parents, carers and families were invited to come along and see the work on display.

Prizes were awarded for first, second and third places in all three year groups along with an overall winner for the whole of Key Stage Three, which went to Year Nine, **Lily Smith**.

Year Seven 1st - Amber Thomas
2nd - Louis Kearney
3rd - Georgia Bostock

Year Eight 1st - Hollie Simpson
2nd - Emily Sparey
3rd - Daisy Therin

Year Nine 1st - Zac Hargreaves
2nd - Sophia Adu-Gyamfi
3rd - Gemma Bailey

Well done to those students who took part and a big thank you to all the families who came along to the exhibition. It is always lovely to welcome you into school and we really value your support.



Students Bag a Brilliant Berisfords Prize

We are extremely lucky to have the support of our local community with many local and regional businesses included. This support enables us to offer our students a wide range of opportunities to enrich their studies and school life.

One event that is of great benefit to those studying within our DT Department is our annual visit to the Berisfords Ribbon Factory, which launches our Berisfords Ribbon Competition each September.

This year, students were tasked with creating a bag constructed using a range of the company's products. Once again the entries were all of a very high standard and it was difficult to choose between them, but eventually Louise Brindley won the first prize of £100, Jorja Grant won the £70 second prize and Kate Hodges secured third place winning £30.

Previous years' competitions have seen students create a range of high quality entries including skirts and cushions, all demonstrating a fantastic flair for design and highly skilled manufacturing techniques.

The photographs show (*Above L-R*) Danielle Thomson - Berisfords Designer, Louise Brindley, Kate Hodges and Peter Bowers - Berisfords MD.

(*Below*) Year Ten students visited the Berisfords factory in September.





Job of the Week

To help inform and inspire all our students, our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, runs a 'Job of the Week' initiative. This aims to help students broaden their knowledge of the many jobs on offer and explains what the job is, what it entails and the route into that career. We often find that students know which subjects they enjoy but not necessarily the jobs that could lead to or, alternatively, know the job they want but not how to get there, so this gives them the information they need. The details are shared in form time, on the Careers Board outside the school library and also on our '[Job of the Week](#)' section of the [Careers and Higher Education Guidance](#) page of our website - www.CongletonHigh.com.




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

 **Congletonhs**

Cloud School
Management Information System

Parents/Carers can access a wide range of information regarding their child's school day, attendance and performance via Cloud School (formerly Progresso) and will receive log in details when their child starts at Congleton High. Any queries or problems should be referred to Mrs Tarpey, via email: dtarpey@congletonhigh.com or telephone: 01260 730123.

Achieving Success Together

At Congleton High School we have very high expectations for the behaviour of all our students and encourage good behaviour through praise and reward. Our rewards policy incentivises *Outstanding Effort/Achievement*, *Improved Work/Effort*, *Cumulative Good Work*, *Taking part in Extra Curricular Activities* and *Service to Others* with a series of rewards from verbal praise to R3 merit points. Attendance is also rewarded with Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards and there is a Sixth Form 'Personal Achievement & Service Scheme - PASS' for older students.

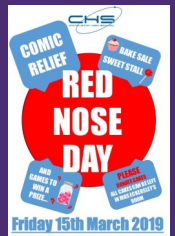
Students enjoy competing against each other within their own tutor group and, in turn, aim to ensure that their tutor group receives the most combined R3s at the end of the year to earn extra rewards and privileges.

The two students topping the leader board so far this year are Year Seven Ahmed Gajoum and Ollie Smith, who have amassed almost 400 R3s between them to date. What a fantastic effort by both boys!



Comic Collection

Once again, the students and staff worked together to ensure that we could help to support the Comic Relief fund raising initiative. Students donated a pound in return for brightening up their uniform with a red item and we also held a Cake, Bake and Sweets Sale at lunch along with competitions and a HUGE Easter egg raffle. A fantastic £525.04 was raised throughout the day and our thanks again go to all the students, staff and families for their donations and support.



Science of the Future

A group of our Year Ten scientists visited the popular GCSE Science Live event at Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. It was a great opportunity for all the students, particularly those planning to continue studying sciences at A Level. The event enabled the group to hear about some of the aspects of Science schools aren't able to study in depth during lessons and also gave them ideas about the many careers that studying Science can open up.

Students had the chance to see and hear from five of Britain's top scientists, including Prof Robert Winston (An expert in human fertility and well known television presenter), Prof Andrea Sella (Chemist and award winning scientific presenter), Prof Alice Roberts (clinical anatomist, author and presenter), Prof Lucie Green (solar researcher, author and presenter) and Dr Helen Czerski (Physicist, oceanographer and broadcaster). The Scientists were selected for their communication skills and are all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms.

The group was also able to pick up some useful top tips on examination success from an experienced Science examiner.



Royal Navy Kitchen Know How

Earlier this term we were delighted to be able to welcome Royal Navy chefs, Rachel Fletcher, Kim Barber and Katie Stone, into school to share with students a combination of careers information and advice along with some of their culinary expertise.

Displaying some serious multitasking skills, whilst preparing and cooking a delicious chicken roulade in a white sauce, the Royal Navy team talked with Year Nine and Eleven Food students and Sixth Form Public Services students, all of whom were considering pursuing careers in catering. The visitors talked about their own roles and the route they took into the Forces

The students got a great insight into the role of a chef in the Royal Navy and also thoroughly enjoyed tasting the results of the cookery demonstration!



Spotlight on Student Success

In April, Year Eleven, **Josie Statham**, was appointed 'Lord Lieutenants Cadet' for the Sea Cadets, receiving the badge from the Lord Lieutenant. Josie is a 'Petty Officer Cadet,' which is the highest rank available to a cadet in the Sea Cadet Corps and she said of her appointment:

"I'm honoured to have been selected as one of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for Staffordshire and look forward to my duties in the upcoming year."

David Eivers (Sea Cadet Corps) Sub Lieutenant Royal Naval Reserve Commanding Officer, Stoke-on-Trent commented: "*Josie has worked hard to pass the examinations for that rate, doing much of it in her own time. She's done extraordinarily well and I am very proud of her and her achievements.*"

Josie's parents added: *"We are very proud of Josie and all that she's achieved. She's done incredibly well to have been selected as Lord Lieutenant Cadet. The Sea Cadets has given Josie opportunities that she may not have had anywhere else."*



Year Eight students, **Leo Walton** and **Isaac Mwisongo**, danced with their crew, Dynamite, at the UDO Streetdance Championships earlier in the year. They achieved first place and qualified for the World Championships, which is a four day event that will be held in Blackpool in August. There were nineteen regional competition events in the UK with a total of fifty seven qualifying events across the Americas, Australia and Asia-Pacific.



world in the UK, North America, Australia and Asia-Pacific.



Year Ten, **Reve Clowes-Michael** and his sister. Year Nine, **Tainn Clowes-Michael**, once again took part in Star Search, the annual singing competition held by Newcastle College. Performing their version of 'Shallow' from the film, A Star is

Born, the pair made it all the way through to the finals and were amongst the final seven in the competition. Tainn sang and played keyboards whilst Reve accompanied her on guitar and also sang. Newcastle College's Star Search is run in collaboration with radio station , Signal 1, and is open to chi Signal area.



dren aged 11-16 years of age who live in the

Evie (12) nets national championship trophy

[illegible]

Year Seven, **Evie McDermid** and her netball team, Tameside Netball Club, went through to become U12s National Champions after winning the first ever ENG (Earned not Given) Sports Cup. The team qualified for the competition after winning the Northern Finals in December. They went on to celebrate win after win in the preliminary rounds, which saw them through to the final in which they were leading 6-2 at the halftime break, completed 5 to Tameside.

Evie is extremely serious about netball, along with training with Tameside on Tuesdays, she also trains with Manchester Thunder, a northwest netball super league franchise on Fridays. Her dedication has paid off with a collection of over thirty medals and trophies to date!

Our American Football star, Year Thirteen, **Tom Jones**, continues to go from strength to strength in his sport. He recently represented the Great British squad when they travelled across the Channel to take part in a friendly match against France.

Tom was selected by Great Britain last July as part of a 150 strong development squad of 15 to 19 year olds. He continues to play for his own team, Manchester Titans and hopes to make American Football an integral part of his future.

American football teen plays for Great Britain

[illegible]

Thomas, right, turned out for the Great Britain squad when it played France recently.

of sport and there are a lot of opportunities.

"Playing for Great Britain you have to be treated as if in the gym with linebackers and I'm training hard."

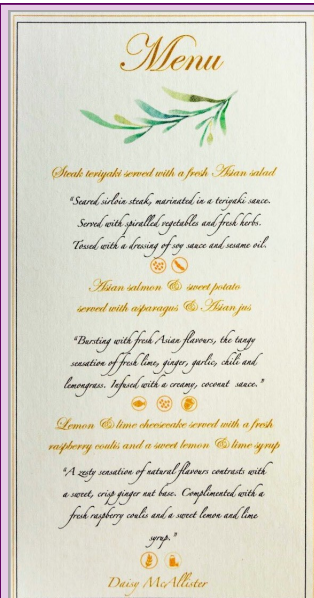
Mr. Jones said he was. When Jones had trained Thomas to take up the sport, he said: "That's what made him want to play. But the rest is

history."

Thomas is Derby University who have committed to giving him a place on its squad. He's been looking at camps around Europe and thinking about colleges in America."

(Photograph: Hannah Thomas/Thomas)

Spotlight on Student Success



The annual Rotary Young Chef Competition is very popular with our students, who love to share their culinary expertise and creativity and they always achieve great results. In this year's competition, Year Nine, **Daisy McAllister**, went all the way through two preliminary local and district rounds and in to the Regional Finals, held at Kendal in the Lake District.

The entrants are tasked with preparing a three course meal to a budget within a set time. Daisy prepared a starter of Steak Teriyaki, followed by Asian Salmon and rounded off with a Lemon and Lime Cheesecake with Raspberry Coulis. The judges' taste buds were well and truly teased with Daisy's deliciously descriptive menu.

The dishes were judged by two local prestigious chefs and, after much deliberation, Daisy was awarded joint runner-up, with only a single mark between the overall winner and the runners-up.

Thank you to Food Technology Teacher, Mrs Thorpe, for all her help, encouragement and support for Daisy. We would also like to thank chef, Andrew Bourne, of **The Alexandra Court Hotel** for his help and support for our students taking part in the competition. Andrew worked after school with the students, giving them lots of great advice and practical help for their menus, individual dishes and presentation.



Congleton High School and its forerunners on the Box Lane site - Heathfields and Congleton County Secondary School for Boys - have seen many students pass through who have gone on to achieve great success in many walks of life.

One of the more recent examples is that of **Joel Harper Jackson**, who is now starring in the Olivier award-winning musical, *Kinky Boots*, as it tours the UK from Aberdeen to Plymouth, Dublin to Norwich and everywhere else in between.

Now 27, Joel first became interested in acting at the age of 11 and it was at CHS that his talent first began to shine through in his drama and music classes. Although he had no knowledge of the theatre, he knew he just wanted to sing and act so went on to join a number of youth theatre groups in the area. His original plan to become a property developer with his father was soon pushed aside once those around him began to recognise and encourage his gift for performing.

He told Stoke on Trent Live:

"I never thought I would make it but I was encouraged by my music and Drama teachers at Congleton High School; Charlotte Blundred, Katherine Martyn and Gill Davis."

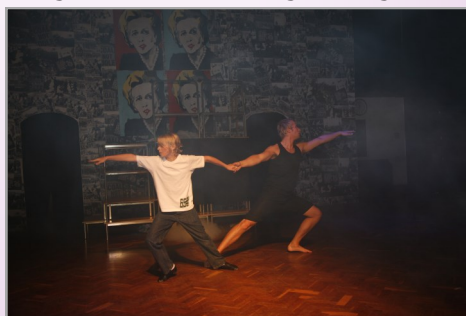


His dedication and talent won him a

scholarship to The Hammond School, a specialist performing arts school based in Chester, where he studied for three years, leaving at 21 to take up a role in *Rent* at the Regent Theatre in Hanley. Other career highlights have included performances in the UK tour of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and appearing in the West End in both *Rent* and the Carole King musical, *Beautiful*. Joel also had a fabulous run in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which won the Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival in 2017.

Mrs Davis, CHS Performing Arts Department Curriculum Team Leader, was Joel's Guidance Team Leader from Year Seven to Year Eleven and also taught him Drama at GCSE and A Level. She commented on his growing success:

"Landing the main role of Charlie in Kinky Boots is Joel's most prestigious role to date. He's outstanding and it was a very proud moment for us to see him at The Regent in his home town. Joel is a fabulous ambassador for the Performing Arts and hopefully we will be seeing him at school again as he may be coming to deliver some workshops."



Skills, Support and Sixth Form Success!

Once again, our Sixth Form Team have created and accessed a wide range of enrichment opportunities that have really benefitted our Year Twelve and Thirteen students. These activities give students a vital head start for their next steps after high school, whether that be academic or vocational.



Earlier this year, a group of students visited Congleton based brand and digital communications agency, **Thrive Creative**. The group had the opportunity to talk to the Managing Director of the company along with other members of the Thrive team about careers within the creative field.



In March, our Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, accompanied a group of twelve Sixth Form students to an Assessment Day at **Franklyn Financial Management**. The day was organised by Business Relations Director, Ian Cottrill and our own former Head Girl, Chloe Tatton, who is now in the role of Business Relations Coordinator.



The students were able to gain an understanding of a successful financial investment company and also to develop communication and leadership skills in preparation for work. CV tips were also covered, helping students learn how to make the most of their experience and skills.



Managing Director, visitors. Andrew has established Franklyn Financial Management over twenty years ago. He was able to share this experience with the students who were also keen to ask lots of questions.

David Watson, Chief Executive of the East Cheshire Chamber of Business and Commerce also went along to the event to support the day and share his business experience and expertise with the students.

In March, Mrs Morris from our Sixth Form Team travelled across to Crewe with five of our students, Oliver Pestell, Dylan Massey, Jack McNinch, James Casewell, and Ryan Jupp, to take part in the **AO Logistics** Apprentice Challenge. This is an annual event, which aims to give young people a better understanding of the requirements of the workplace. Along with students from other schools and colleges, the group spent the day working on a number of challenges. The day was a great opportunity for building confidence, communication skills and teambuilding skills.



A further group of students were also able to join the **AO Logistics** team at Crewe for an employment skills day. This event aimed to help students in the search for work. The sessions looked at developing a strong and effective CV and also helped with interview techniques, including ways to build confidence.



Our Sixth Form Guidance Team Leader, Mr Franklin, took forty three of our Year Twelve students to the **UCAS** Higher Education exhibition at Manchester Central in March. The exhibition helped students explore a wide range of academic and career opportunities and to find a future that's right for them. UCAS experts and hundreds of university representatives, employers, and gap year specialists attended the event and there was also a range of inspirational talks, topical seminars, application process advice, and interactive stands. Current university students were also on hand to discuss what it's really like to study a certain subject. The event was the perfect opportunity to find out more and ask the questions that aren't answered in the prospectus.



Mr Franklin commented: "It was a great event and the Year Twelve students represented the school fantastically, and were impressively motivated to find out a great deal about universities, types of degrees and apprenticeships."



Skills, Support and Sixth Form Success!

We aim to give all our students as much support as possible when choosing and applying for higher education courses. In addition to Russell Group and other universities, we also have a number of students who aspire to attend Oxford or Cambridge. Prior to visiting the actual colleges later in the year, there are other events designed to help students navigate the specific requirements of Oxbridge applications.

At the end of March, nine of our Year Twelve students attended an **Oxbridge** Conference in Nantwich at Malbank School. The students took part in practice interviews and met current Oxbridge students. They were also delighted to be able to seek advice on the dreaded personal statements and the best ways to make them as effective as possible.

Research undertaken by YouGov shows that young adults with greater levels of contact with employers whilst at school are significantly less likely to become 'Not in Education, Employment or Training - NEET' and, once in employment can earn up to 18% more than peers without the same workplace experience.



Our students are very aware of the benefits of undertaking work placements and, once again, many of our Sixth Form traded their February half-term holidays for the chance to build up experience in their field of interest. Amongst those acquiring new skills and general employability knowledge were Year Thirteen, Annie Joyce, who spent time at **Siemens** in Congleton, Year Thirteen, Barbara Andrade who worked with **SAS Daniels Solicitors**, Year Thirteen, Alex Turner who took on a work placement at **Franklyn Financial Management** and Year Twelve, Molly Johnson, who spent the week with the team at **Macclesfield Hospital**.



At the end of her Year Twelve studies, Maisie Kearney joined many of her CHS class mates to take up work placements in a variety of industries around the region. We receive wonderful feedback from the employers regarding our students' great attitude and enthusiasm and, of course, there is no greater accolade than from those businesses who are so impressed by our students that they offer them a job. Last year, a number of our students were lucky enough to secure employment opportunities as a result of their placements and Maisie was delighted to be one of these.

Maisie takes up the story:

*"After I had completed my work placement at radio station, **Silk 106.9**, David Flavell, the Station Manager, offered me a part-time promotional job, which I was over the moon with.*

"Since then I have attended numerous events with Silk, like Macc Fest, Sandbach Christmas Light Switch On and, most recently, and by far my favourite, The 2018 Local Heroes Awards. This was held at Crewe Hall, where I was able to meet all the different nominees and listen to the extraordinary things they had achieved and also hand them their awards.

"I am so thankful to have this job at Silk and it wouldn't have been made possible without the work placement organised by the school."

Maisie has continued her studies at CHS alongside her part-time Silk FM role.



Earlier in the year, Year Thirteen, Jamie Casey, who is studying History, Biology and Chemistry, attended the **East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce** Thursday Thirty meeting at Congleton Restaurant, DV8. These Chamber events are aimed at professionals but offer students a chance to learn more about their chosen field and network with different businesses.

Jamie aspires to study Food Science at University. He came runner up in Junior Master Chef a few years ago and, from his work placement last year, he gained part-time work at **Pecks** restaurant. Jamie said the event was a great opportunity to meet and talk with catering professionals.

Key Dates for Your Diary

Monday 3rd June 2019	School re-opens
Monday 3rd - Friday 14th June 2019	GCSE/ A Level Exams
Monday 17th - Friday 28th June 2019	Year 7-10 and 12 SAS Exams
Wednesday 26th June 2019	PiP Meeting 7pm
Thursday 27th June 2019	New Intake Day/ Parents' and Carers' Evening
Wednesday 2nd July 2019	Sports Day (Reserve Sports Day 5th July 2019)
Wednesday 10th July 2019	Year 10 Parents'/ Carers' Evening
Thursday 11th July 2019	Sports Awards Evening
Friday 12th July 2019	Year 11 Prom
Monday 15th - Friday 19th July 2019	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 16th July 2019	Year 10 Summer Market
Thursday 18th July 2019	Reward Trips
Friday 19th July 2019 - 1:10pm finish	School closes to students for summer break
Wednesday 4th September 2019	School re-opens to students
Thursday 26th September 2019 - 2pm finish	Main School Open Evening 6:30-8:30pm (School closes at 2pm)
Tuesday 8th October 2019	Sixth Form Open Evening 6:30-8:30pm

Sports Roundup

Huge congratulations to our Year Nine U14 Girls Football Team, who have won the **Cheshire Schools FA Cup**, beating Bishop Heber 4-1 in the final in April. The team made it through to the Cheshire Cup Final after their 7-0 home semi-final win against last year's winners, Bridgewater High School.

Scoring a total of 39 goals in their five matches, the team only conceded one goal in the whole tournament, which came in the final against Bishop Heber. The team is: Kate O, Jess J, Chloe C, Grace W, Molly M, Ruby J, Megan B, Thalia L, Alice B, Anya W, Ella D, Lola C, Lily D, Phoebe J and Emily M.

The Year Nine team, also won the South Cheshire League.

As part of their coursework, a group of our Sixth Form PE students organised a Charity Netball Tournament earlier this year for our Year Seven students in aid of St Luke's Hospice. St Luke's is a small hospice based in Winsford and has been providing support and care in the Cheshire community since 1988.

The matches took place after school with Year Seven form teams all competing against each other to find the ultimate Netball champions of the year group.

Teams of between five and seven players all gave £1 per person to take part in the tournament, with all the proceeds going to the Hospice.



Everyone played really well and the winning form was 7KJM - Fern C, Isabelle C, Annabel H, Georgia B, Lucie-Anna G, Abbi R, Oliver C and Sammy W.

Congratulations to our Year Eight netball team (left), who were runners up in the **South Cheshire Tournament**. Our Year Eleven team were also runners up in their age group and our Year Nine team secured third place.

Other netball achievements we've celebrated include our Year Ten and Eleven U16 team as the **Cheshire County Tournament** winners.



Sports Round Up

Thirty four students from Year Seven to Year Ten represented Congleton High at the **Cheshire Indoor Rowing Finals** in March at the Level 3 event of the Active Schools **Cheshire and Warrington School Games** held at the Northwich Memorial Court.

The Teams consisted of the following students:

- **Year 10** - Zara E, Ruby S, Amelia L, Katie D, Reve CM, Reece F, Josh W, Maddox H
- **Year 9** - Ruby P, Chloe C, Kate O, Maddie C, Sophie E, Jack H, Hayden CB, Max A, Khaya M, Archie C
- **Year 8** - Grace E, Ellie Jade O, Ruby J, Shauna-Lee P, Iszak DT, Josh BP, Will C, Jack R
- **Year 7** - Evie M, Georgia B, Hannah B, Lilly H, Caleb B, Harris P, Herbie J, Kebba G.

Every single student performed exceptionally, giving their all as individuals and within their teams. Congleton High came first in the whole of the county in:

- Year 7 Boys (with Caleb B landing the individual first place ranking)
- Year 8 Boys
- Year 8 Girls
- Year 10 Girls

The following teams rowed really well and achieved the runners up placing:

- Year 7 Girls (with Georgia B coming first individually)
- Year 9 Boys
- Year 9 Girls

In the Rowing Relays, the Year Ten girls were runners up and the following teams secured first places:

- Year 7 Boys
- Year 7 Girls
- Year 8 Boys
- Year 8 Girls
- Year 9 Boys

These are incredible results! Almost every student in Years Seven to Ten competed to enable us to find our strongest team for every age group.



We have also been lucky enough to secure a grant from **Sport England** and this has been used to fund a set of eight new rowing machines for our PE Department. Our students have been making the most of these, so we very much look forward to the results of the next Rowing Competition!

Sports Round Up



Basketball continues to be a very popular sport at CHS with students enjoying both participating and spectating. Mr Holt and Mr Hermitt run our afterschool Basketball Club on Fridays, which is always well attended.



In March, our Year 9 Basketball team took part in the Level 3 event of the Active Cheshire **Cheshire & Warrington School Games** at Ellesmere Port Sports Centre, home to professional basketball team, Cheshire Phoenix, known as the Nix.



The boys performed really well with some great team and individual playing. They won five games, lost one and were eventually crowned County runners up. As an extra treat, they also got to meet some of the Nix players!

In January, members of the PE team took students on our annual trip to the **British Basketball League (BBL) Cup Final** in Birmingham. The group saw the London Lions beat the Glasgow Rocks in the Men's final and the Sheffield Hatters beat the Sevenoaks Suns in the Women's final.



Other recent Sports highlights include our Year Eight and Year Eleven Boys Football teams winning their age groups in the **South Cheshire Cup** and our Rugby teams continuing to do well, winning matches across the county and also at home on our own 3G, where they won 17-12 against Holmes Chapel.

Sport Academy

Our Sport Academy squads continue to do extremely well in the National Colleges League, with the Basketball team going from strength to strength. They are currently unbeaten and at the top of the **North West Colleges League**.



Our Academy Footballers and the PE team were delighted to welcome guest coach and ex-professional footballer, **Simon Sturridge**, in March to take the team for their training session. Simon is from



a family of career footballers and is the uncle of former Congleton High student, Liverpool and England striker, Daniel Sturridge. He made more than 250 appearances, also as a striker, in the Football League for a number of clubs including Birmingham City, Stoke City and Blackpool.



Simon's success has definitely rubbed off. The Academy Football team continue to perform to a high standard and are doing well in their North West Colleges League. They were also lucky enough to play at Manchester City's Academy last term.

