

# Congleton High School Newsletter



Issue 22: December 2019 - March 2020

Achieving Success Together

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## Welcome

It is hard to believe that just a few weeks ago the school was operating normally and now, as I introduce our latest newsletter, we have become a school that communicates online, with learning continuing remotely. I have to commend all of our amazing students and staff on how quickly they have adapted to new ways of working and thank our supportive parents and carers for figuring out new routines for the family at home.

The most surprising aspect of the last few weeks is that it feels like we are even more of a community than ever. The overriding theme that has emerged is the need for all of us to look after each other and I hope, as a member of the Congleton High School community, that you all feel supported and cared for.

It has been a particularly difficult time for our Year Eleven and Year Thirteen students. I know many were disappointed to hear that they won't now have the opportunity to sit their exams. However, we will make sure that students receive the recognition they deserve, allowing them to go on to great things in September.

Although we are currently in these extraordinary times, familiarity is still possible. So, based on that approach, here is our Easter newsletter. It is filled with even more inspirational examples of what people can do when they are part of a strong school community. It also shows that, whatever the circumstance, Congleton High School will always be a vibrant learning community, encouraging students to be the best they can be.

I am so proud of everyone associated with our school. In a few months I am sure we will all be back together. Hopefully, we will have learnt some valuable lessons, such as fully appreciating what we have. I hope all of you remain safe and well and that you have an enjoyable and relaxing Easter break.

**Mr J Barlow**

Headteacher



## Update from our Chair of Governors

There is only one subject dominating all our lives at the moment, so first I'd like to extend a very sincere vote of thanks to all of the staff at Congleton High for continuing to support our students both in school and at home during these challenging times.

The school staff have been absolutely brilliant, stepping in at short notice to deliver home-education for students, as well as providing in-school support for vulnerable and key workers' children. Some staff will also be foregoing their Easter break, keeping school open to enable key workers to continue their vital roles.

I also wish to thank all parents and carers for their understanding and tremendous support during these challenging times. We have received many emails and messages thanking us for our efforts over the last few weeks.

The governors are continuing to support Head Teacher, Jim Barlow, and his team and we are working on plans for improvements in our facilities to cater for the future growth in student numbers. We are pleased that next September's Year Seven intake looks set to meet our planned admission number.

On a final note, if you are interested in becoming a governor at Congleton High or simply want to know more about the role, please get in touch with Mrs Claire Gritton, Clerk to the Governors by email at: [GovernorsClerk@CongletonMat.com](mailto:GovernorsClerk@CongletonMat.com)

Please stay safe.

**Rich Benson**

CHS Chair of Governors



# Update from our Head Girl and Head Boy



We'd like to share with you what we've been doing this year as the Sixth Form Leadership Team, and the legacy we hope to leave for the next student leaders.

One of our roles is representing the student voice and ensuring that this is acted on. We listen carefully to all the input from each year group, from Year Seven up to our Sixth Form peers. We're passionate about the importance of strong communication, which we've tried to focus on and improve in both leadership information and charity work.

At the start of the year, we set up email groups for both the Sixth Form team and the whole school team, allowing us to easily send information, such as minutes from our meetings, to everyone. In assemblies we introduced the year groups to their respective Sixth Form leaders, who were then used as the main point of contact so that students always saw a familiar face when we were informing them of events.

We hold meetings every other week at lunchtime for Sixth Formers and during most guidance lessons for the whole school team, as we feel this allows us to regularly talk about any issues or suggestions that the team could have input on.

As with every year, we have a strong emphasis on continuous, school-wide charity work. At the start of the year, a Year Eight student wrote to Mr Barlow asking if we could do something to support Ruby's Fund. We took this on board and held a school '**Wear Red for Ruby**' Day, raising over £300 for our first charitable event. We've continued the school's support for **Children in Need** and **Operation Christmas Child**, holding a school concert and bake sales and helping to organise the filling and collecting of Operation Christmas Child boxes. **Charity Tuesday** has been running at CHS for the past two years and we've continued this. Each year group is allocated a month during which they nominate a charity and undertake fund raising activities. This ensures that students are able to focus on the charities close to them personally and receive help and support with their chosen fund raiser from the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team.

An initiative we are particularly proud of is **Food Bank Friday**. For the two months before Christmas, we held a collection in Sixth Form of a different food type each week. Over time, we got the whole school more and more involved, with a large amount of food being donated for the Storehouse Foodbank at New Life Church. We hope that this initiative will continue for many years to come.

One of our goals at the start of the year was to help to improve the school's environmental footprint, so we were involved in starting the new **Congleton High Eco Club**. Their first project was planting trees all around the school. They've also had meetings of a small lobbying group that met with Mr Barlow to discuss changes that could be made to the school from a student's perspective.

We have worked with existing Sixth Form students to find what they'd like to see in the upcoming Taylor Building renovations and have been able to set these plans in motion for the next Leadership Team,

There are also many school initiatives that the Sixth Form Leadership Team have helped with, such as the Year 6 Cultural Diversity Day, Parents in Partnership (PiP) Discos, Careers Fairs and Open Evenings, which we have tried to help flow smoothly by offering as much support as possible.

As much as we have helped the school, in our Leadership Team roles, we too have benefitted. Like each Leadership Team before us, the roles have greatly improved our abilities in public speaking and have taught us valuable skills in team management, project planning and communication with people at all levels and of all ages.

*Lara and Alex*





# Woman in Black

At the beginning of March, forty-six Year Nine students went to the Crewe Lyceum to watch a performance of the terrifying Gothic play, "The Woman in Black". Students study Gothic Fiction in Year Eight and this play is a prime example of the genre. This gripping production is a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror and the play is not for the faint-hearted as was discovered by the students who attended!



English teacher, Mrs Robson, said: "This performance showed the students the real nature of Gothic Horror, which is not based around blood and gore, but creates fear through its use of simple lighting and sound effects, and, of course, an extremely petrifying 'woman in black'"

## More Rotary Success

We celebrated another culinary success for Year Nine, Daniel Amies, who secured a wonderful third place in the Regional Final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition in Leeds in March.

Daniel had worked his way through local and district heats, amongst 600 other competitors, to make it to the Regional Final, so it was a fantastic achievement.



We would like to thank the Congleton Rotary Club, The Alexandra Hotel and Mrs Thorpe for all their support for Daniel and all the other students who have taken part.

We were delighted to welcome members of Congleton Rotary Club in to school in February to present a trophy in memory of Eric Capper, their late colleague and long-time organiser of the Local Rotary Young Chef Competition.



Eric's widow, Joy, and daughter, Jane, presented the trophy to Year Ten, Daisy McAllister and Year Nine, Daniel Amies, who were the 2019 and 2020 winners of the local heat of the competition.

## City Studies

After measuring the infiltration rates near Trentabank Reservoir in Macclesfield Forest earlier in the year, the Year Twelve Geographers travelled to Rusholme, Manchester in March for their second fieldwork trip.

They planned and prepared the work themselves beforehand and hoped to find out how insiders and outsiders perceive the area and the ways that it has changed. This will help them gain insight into one of their main case studies. Later in the course they will return to Manchester and the surrounding area to find evidence of the 'urban heat island effect', whereby cities tend to be warmer than the countryside, before going on to plan their own independent research on a topic of their choice.



## Diggin' It



Working with Geography teacher, Mr Hulson, our amazing Eco Club has worked hard to help our school become more eco-friendly.

As part of their work, the group has planted 130 trees in school grounds in the hope that over the next few years they will help to improve wildlife habitats, absorb pollution from cars, take in carbon emissions and simply make our surroundings a much nicer place to be.



The trees, provided by Woodland Trust and Free Trees for Schools, have included hazel, field maple, oak, crab apple, and hawthorn and the group are hoping to branch out in to fruit trees in the future.



# Books We Love (1)

## Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling

### Main characters:

Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger.

### Plot:

The story begins with a boy called Harry and the Dursley family, including Harry's cousin, Dudley. Harry's parents were killed when he was just a toddler; the Dursleys are the only family he has left. Harry is treated poorly by them but when it was Dudley's birthday, Harry got a mysterious letter that would forever change his future. To find out how this letter changes Harry's life, read this story filled with action, drama and intense moments.

### Why people should read this book:

I think people who like fantasy and magic should read this book. It is one of the best books I've read this year by far.

### What I like about it:

I love the action, drama and characters and think it is a recommended read for all ages.

I give this book 5/5.

**Dan Carter Year Eight**



## Students Shine

### Band

A stranger came this morning,  
dressed in black and white.  
Put every noise  
in to a bag then left  
late in the  
night.

The clattering of  
the drum,  
the rustling of the  
leaves,  
not a sound was  
left last  
night.

It was only  
me and  
you.

The crying of a  
baby,  
the bark of a dog,  
all disappeared  
in to the late night fog.

A stranger came this morning  
dressed in black and white.  
Put every noise  
in to a bag then left  
late in the  
night.

**Toni Price Year Seven**



A number of our artistic students took part in the Rotary Young Photographer competition last term.

The standard of all the entries was very high and the judges deliberated for a long time before making their final decision.

Millie Goode won the Senior Congleton heat of the competition with her image showing the power of young people taking a stand against climate change.

Second Place went to Jasmine Holmes with her photo of spectacles on a beach and Third Place went to Lily Hancock for her shot through the berries at sunset.

Ron Goodier, President of the Congleton Rotary Club, visited us to present certificates to each of the winning students and a photography book prize to Millie.



All the photographs went on display in Congleton Library from December to January and the winning photographers invited to take part in the District Heats of the Competition

## Picture Perfect

# Useful Emergency and Support Contact Details

If you are worried about yourself or someone else during school closure, please don't struggle to cope alone.

Listed below are useful contact emails, telephone numbers and websites:

- In an emergency, call **999**
- For safeguarding concerns about a child, call The **Cheshire East Consultation Service** (ChECS) on: 0300 123 5012, Option 3. (For out of hours calls, contact the Emergency Duty Team on: 0300 123 5022.)
- **NSPCC** Tel: 0808 800 5000
- **Childline** Tel: 0800 1111
- **Kooth** Online Counselling - <http://www.kooth.com>
- **Samaritans** Tel: 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)
- **NHS Urgent Care** (non-emergency) Tel: 111
- **Wellbeing Hub** - mental health support for 16-19 year olds <https://www.youinmind.org/service/395/self-referral-wellbeing-hub>
- **Visyon** - mental health charity for children <https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Services/1070/Visyon>
- **Young Minds:** <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>
- **Cheshire East Carers Hub** - for all young carers <https://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk/Services/4387/Cheshire-East-Carers>
- Domestic Abuse:
  - Women can call on: 0808 2000 247, the free 24-hour **National Domestic Violence Helpline** run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge
  - Men can call the **Men's Advice Line** free on: 0808 801 0327 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or **ManKind** on: 01823 334 244
- **Cheshire Without Abuse** - <http://www.cheshirewithoutabuse.org.uk> or: 01270 250390 - whole family support for domestic abuse
- Anyone who needs confidential help with their own abusive behaviour can contact **Respect** on their free helpline on: 0808 802 4040.
- The **Storehouse Congleton Foodbank** <https://www.nlchurch.org.uk/community/the-storehouse/>
- **Newcastle (Staffs) Foodbank** <https://newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk/>
- **Government** Email for Education related questions: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)
- For **CHS Updates:** <https://www.congletonhigh.com/308/coronavirus-information>



# Maths Challenge Champs

Back in November, a team of CHS Mathematicians took part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge (STMC) competition at Keele University. The STMC provides enrichment and challenge to teams of senior students from independent and state schools across the UK. The competition tests students in Years Eleven to Thirteen on their mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, with teams of four competing over several rounds to reach the final.

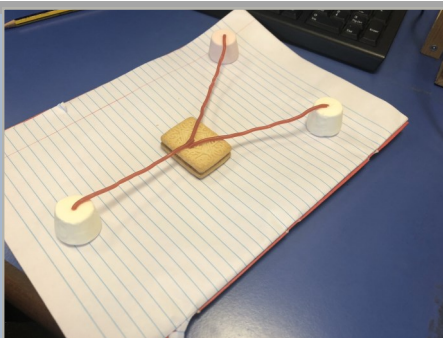


The CHS team performed exceptionally well, winning the Keele Shield as the highest performing state school and finishing in a very respectable third place overall. Richard Stakes, of the Keele University School of Computing and Mathematics, visited CHS in February to present the Shield to the triumphant team: (L-R): Alex Lehm, Isaac Cumberlidge, Daisy Tranter and Ru Morgan.

Thank you to Maths teacher, Miss Drinkwater, for all her support and guidance.



## Edible Education

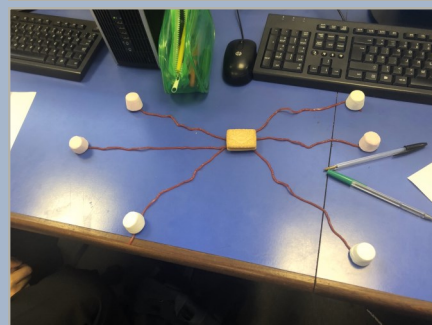
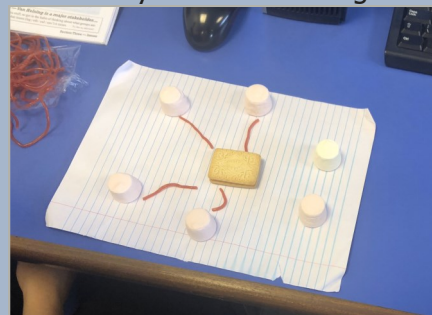
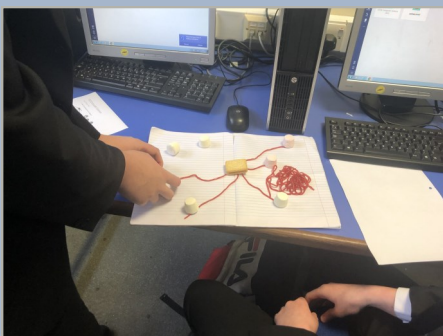


Year Ten Computer Science students completed a unit of work on the structure and function of computer networks. They studied a range of network topologies (the structure of networks), looking at the advantages and disadvantages of each.

As part of their revision materials, which will embed understanding, the group built each of the topologies studied, using biscuits, strawberry laces and marshmallows to represent the different components of the networks.

After much deliberation, the class decided that it was perhaps best to use actual components to build future networks, as some students found that their

components kept mysteriously disappearing...



## Alumni Assembly

In March, two of our Alumni, Reece Carbutt and Tom Evans, presented a Year Eleven assembly on career pathways within Barclays.

Following this, they held drop in sessions in the Sixth Form Centre for any Year Eleven to Thirteen students wanting to know more about Apprenticeships and careers with the banking company.

Reece and Tom are both currently undertaking Degree Apprenticeships with Barclays





# Key Dates for Your Diary

Friday 3rd April 2020

School closes for Easter Break

Monday 20th April 2020

Summer Term starts

Friday 22nd May 2020

School closes for May Half-Term Break

Monday 1st June 2020

School starts

Friday 17th July 2020

School closes for Summer Break

**Please note: Due to the current school closure, the key dates have been limited to term dates only. These dates are included to inform parents, carers and students when terms start and finish, NOT when students will come back into school. The school will remain open throughout Easter and the May half-term break for vulnerable and key worker children.**

## Play Time

As part of their English Literature course, some Year Ten and Eleven students studied the play, *An Inspector Calls*, by J.B Priestley.

To add to their classroom learning of the text, a group of 188 travelled to The Lowry Theatre in Salford earlier this term to watch a matinee performance.

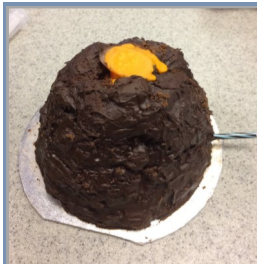
## Speaking of Success

We were delighted that two CHS teams were able to compete in the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Speaking Competition, hosted by Biddulph Rotary Club, at the beginning of the year.

Both the Intermediate Team: Ruby, Olivia and Jay, and the Senior Team: Lucy, Tom and Imogen, gave exceptional performances and were each Runners Up in their category. Well done to everyone who took part.



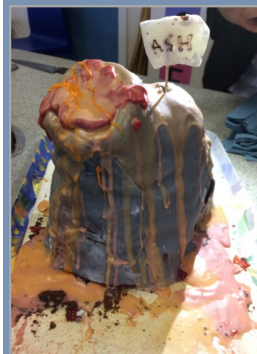
## Food Science



Last term, Science teacher, Mrs Fitzsimmons, challenged her Year Eight Scientists to create a model of a volcano to show the different parts.

The students produced a wonderful and varied range of models, with all the relevant information clearly labelled. Two of the students, however,

really took their homework to a new level - an edible level!



work with their fantastic volcanoes, complete with exploding icing!

Well done to Elitsa Rashkova and Evie Morgan for putting extra thought and effort into their



## All Went Swimmingly

Twenty one of our students took part in the Congleton Rotary Club Swimathon back in February. They managed a total of 732 lengths between them. One Year Eight student, Josie H, achieved a fantastic 98 length solo swim!



# A Card for Mrs M

At the beginning of March, all our Health and Social Care students signed a card for "Mrs M" - we know little about her, only that she resides in a care home in Stockton-on-Tees.

A Facebook appeal on a teachers' group aimed to collectively send 100 cards to help Mrs M celebrate her 100th Birthday. We sent four cards in total and the students asked if it can become a monthly event to send cards to people in care celebrating their birthdays.



## Books We Love (2)

### Fing by David Walliams

*Fing* is my favourite book; it is written by David Walliams.

The main character is Myrtle Meek. All Myrtle wants is more things! She keeps asking her Mum and Dad for more things as she is very spoilt and just wants more and more! Myrtle tells her Mum and Dad she would like a fing, but no-one knows what a fing is!

The story is all about Mr and Mrs Meek trying to find a fing. Mr Meek goes into the deepest, darkest jungle to find a fing. He puts custard cream biscuits on the ground to try to lure the fing in, which is really funny! Unfortunately, when Mr Meek finds a fing, it bites his finger, stays on and inflates like a big puffer fish.

How will it end? Will Mr Myrtle be successful in his quest for a fing? Will Myrtle ever be satisfied? Is this book a comment on greed and the dangers to her planet of always wanting 'fings'? You will have to read it and find out...

I think all children above Year Four should read this book as it is really funny!

**Jake Darby Year Eight**



## Rising Star



Congratulations to former student, Toby Cawthorn, who received a Highly Commended Certificate in the Newcastle College Awards Rising Star category.

Toby secured an Apprenticeship with Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows last year after achieving great A level results and a Distinction\* in Engineering.



## Uniform, Kit, Books and More

If you haven't joined our Facebook group, **CHS Buy, Sell, Swap and Donate**, already, please feel free to sign up and list all your school related items - uniform, PE kit, required reading texts, textbooks etc.

We also welcome any donations of text books, revision guides or items of uniform you no longer need, please drop them in to Main or Student Reception, where they will be gratefully received and passed on.



All CHS students have a **free** Office 365 account. Speak with Mr Davis or Mr Curry in our ICT Team for further details.

## Free Office Software



# Bags of Talent

At the end of last term the Berisfords Design Award Competition was judged and the makers of the winning designs were awarded their impressive prizes.

In previous years, students have been challenged to design and make cushions, skirts and bags. The brief this year was to make a satchel using the wide range of fashionable ribbons kindly provided by Berisfords. The competition also differed from previous years in that Key Stage 3 students who attend Mrs Paling Sparkes' after school Textiles Club on Tuesdays worked for a whole term on their Berisfords Design Awards Competition entry.

Martha Clowes was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize and £50 for her 'very well made' monochrome style entry. Naomh Mayson took 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and £30 for 'a well constructed satchel that had an enormous amount of detail.' Olivia Hurst received 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her 'on trend' choice of bee motif on her satchel and received a £20 prize.

The competition judge was Berisfords designer, Danielle Fielding. She was extremely impressed with all the students' work and that they had produced the satchels in their own time. We'd like to thank the team at Berisfords once again for their continued, and very much appreciated, support for all Congleton students.



# Ruby's, Recipes and Rhymes

One of our Year Seven English groups surprised Jill Carsberg of Ruby's Fund with a cheque for £85 when she visited them earlier this year to talk about the work of the charity's Congleton based sensory centre. The generous donation was the proceeds from the sale of the group's unique recipe and poetry book, "**A Sonnet for Supper**"

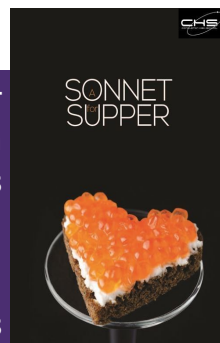
The students spent the Autumn term learning about Shakespeare and his sonnets so decided to put all that knowledge to good use, and created a unique book of thirty of their very own verses accompanying a selection of twenty six of their favourite recipes. The budding poets waxed lyrical about a range of delicious delights from cherry scones, chicken curry and the old-favourite, Spaghetti Bolognese, to apple cookies and the more unusual choice of cabbage soup!

Perfectly timed for Christmas presents for grandparents, aunties, uncles and anyone interested in food or poetry, the student group then sold the compilation in school and to family and friends to raise money for Ruby's Fund and were able to present all the proceeds to Jill during her visit.

English teacher, Mrs Smith, who helped the students compile the book, commented:

"Sonnet writing is particularly challenging, and follows a considerable list of strict rules in terms of the number of lines, rhythm and rhyme. Therefore, writing their own sonnets was no mean feat for Year Seven but they all rose to the challenge, no doubt inspired by the thought of all the delicious food, and created a wonderful buffet of verses!

"We were delighted to be able to surprise Jill with the money we raised from the sale of A Sonnet for Supper, which we hope will help Ruby's Fund to continue their very worthwhile work."





# Churros and Choc



In February, a group of our Language students spent five days in Murcia, Spain.

The visit gave them the perfect opportunity to speak Spanish with native speakers and to get first-hand experience of Spanish culture.

The itinerary included Spanish lessons, visits to the San Pedro nature reserve on the Mar Menor and the cities of Cartagena and Murcia, along with salsa dancing lessons and games on the beach

In addition to the cultural highlights of the area, the group also got the chance to experience the gastronomic delight of Churros and Chocolate!



## A Day at the Zoo

Science teachers, Mr Thomas and Mrs Fitzsimmons, took a group of Year Twelve Biologists to Chester Zoo in February to support the Conservation and Biodiversity topics of their A Level course.



An Islands in Danger workshop, including a zoo tour, helped the group to learn about conservation projects and sustainable palm oil production.

## High Achievers

In February, twenty eight of our Year Twelve students attended a High Achievers Conference at Alsager School

along with other high achieving students from fellow Chimney House Alliance schools - Alsager, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach High and Sandbach School. A range of talks and activities, including a debate on nuclear weapons helped students to develop their critical thinking.

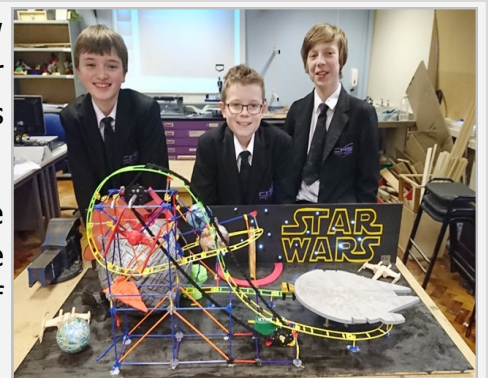


## Life is a Rollercoaster

Congratulations to three Year Seven students, James Castle, Matthew Elsbey and Barney Mitcheson, who competed in the Siemens Rollercoaster Challenge final against ten other schools at Congleton Town Hall in February.



The boys were delighted to scoop the 'Judges Choice' award and were presented with their prize by the Mayor of Congleton and Lord Lieutenant Briggs



## Lego League

A group of our Year Nine Engineers had a fantastic day when they visited Newcastle College to take part in the FIRST LEGO League City Shapers Regional Challenge in January.

A huge well done to the whole team, who did really well and picked up the Judges Award and also to the overall winners, Endon High School.



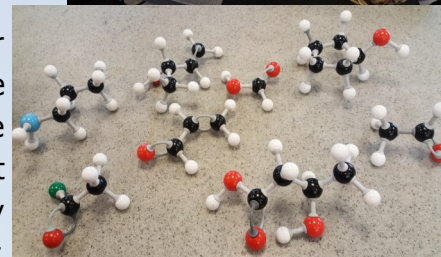
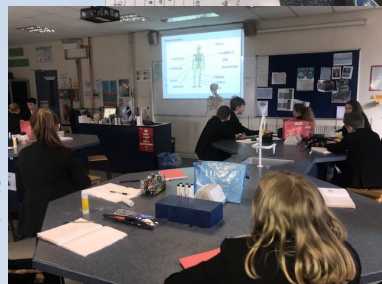
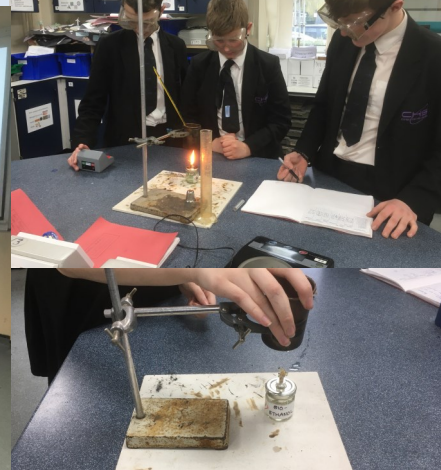
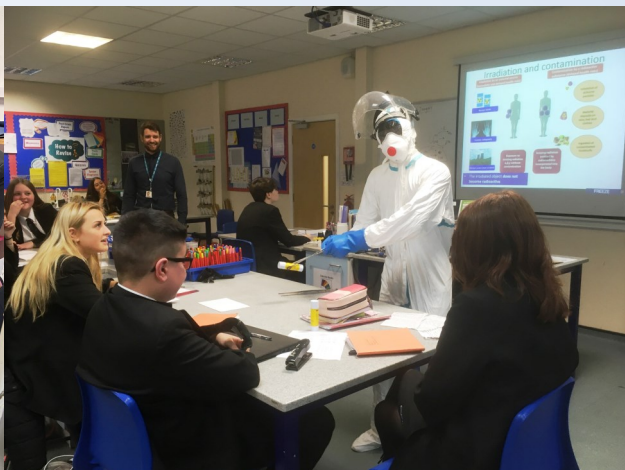
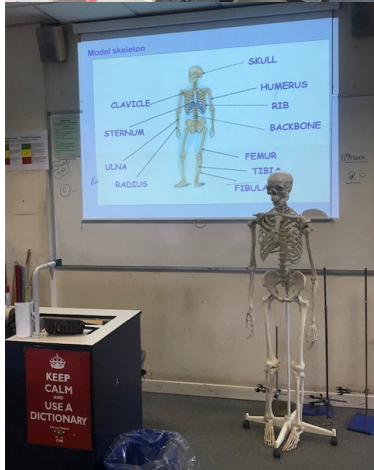
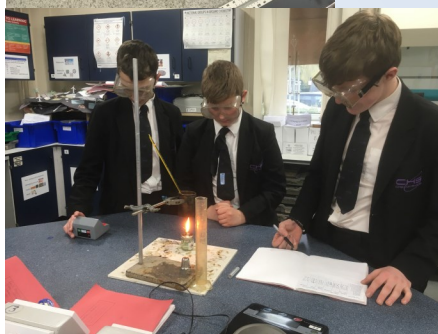
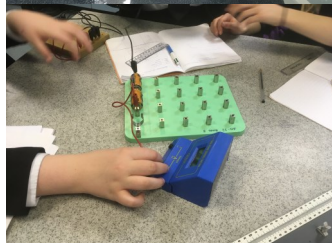
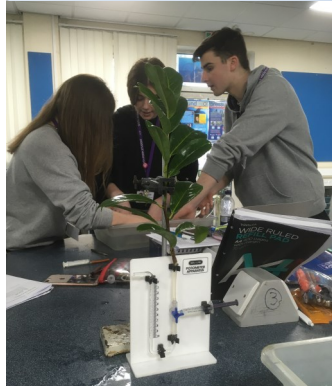


# A Wonderful Week of Science



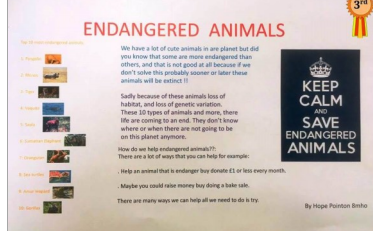
Each year, the British Science Association coordinates British Science Week, which aims to raise awareness, spark enthusiasm and celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This year, British Science Week ran from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March and CHS Scientists enjoyed a wide range of lessons and activities that really helped to inspire and inform.

- Year Twelve Biologists used Potometers to measure transpiration rates of laurel leaves. They also investigated other factors that might affect the rate of transpiration (water moving through a plant) such as wind.
- Year Nine Physics students measured the resistance of wire, trying hard not to get into a tangle!
- Year Nine Chemists investigated the amount of energy created using different fuels, comparing diesel, biodiesel and ethanol. It certainly made sure that the science labs were toasty and warm!
- Mrs Figiel's Year Seven Scientists investigated the Skeleton System with the help of Jerry the Skelly, who joined the class for all their Science lessons after that.
- As part of their Inheritance and Selection work, Year Nine Biologists cloned cauliflowers using a technique called Tissue Culture.
- Mr Holmes' Year Ten Scientists had an unexpected visitor to their lessons. While learning about Radiation and Contamination, Fellow student, Kaya Marissa, dressed in the type of protective equipment needed by people working in contaminated areas.
- Our Year Twelve Chemists used molecular model sets to study Isomers - these are molecules with the same formula (the same number of atoms of each element) but different structures. The models they constructed helped to give them a greater understanding of the structures.

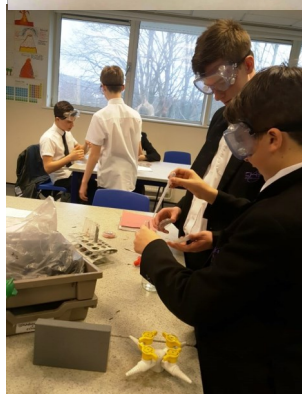




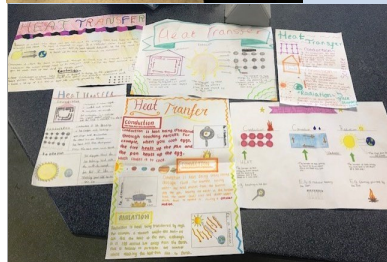
# A Wonderful Week of Science



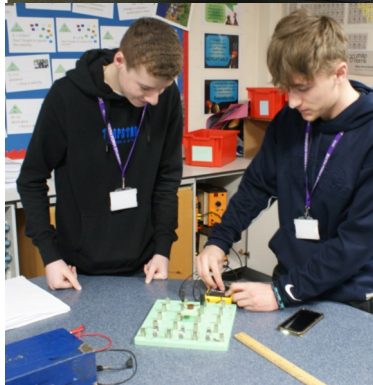
Mr Holmes encouraged all students to take part in our own 'heat' of the nationwide British Science Week Competition to design a poster following the 2020 theme of 'Our Diverse Planet'. We received some wonderful entries from both lower and upper school students, showing real creativity and an understanding of the important issues challenging our planet today. Choosing between them was not an easy task but the eventual very worthy winners were: First Prize - Year Eleven Abi Douce, who won £30 in Amazon vouchers, Year Eight Katie Morova won Second Prize and £15 in Amazon vouchers and Third Prize went to Year Eight Hope Pointon who won a chocolate egg in addition to £5 in Amazon vouchers. The three winning posters have now been sent off to the national competition. Watch this space!



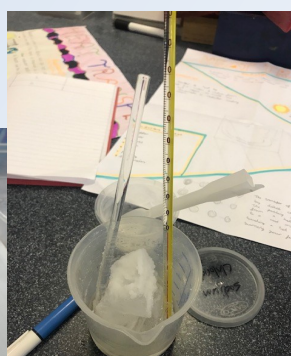
- Miss Jones' Year Nine class investigated the reactions between acids and metals and tested whether hydrogen gas was produced in the process.
- Miss Figiel challenged her Year Seven scientists to design a poster to help explain Heat Transfer. She chose her Top Six and handed the task of choosing an over all winner to Mr Tyrrell!
- Year Twelve Physicists investigated light-dependent resistors, working in pairs to measure the current voltage characteristics.



- Year Seven had been investigating the skeleton and body tissue and put this learning in to practise when they dissected chicken legs. They were able to identify the different parts and their function in the limb.

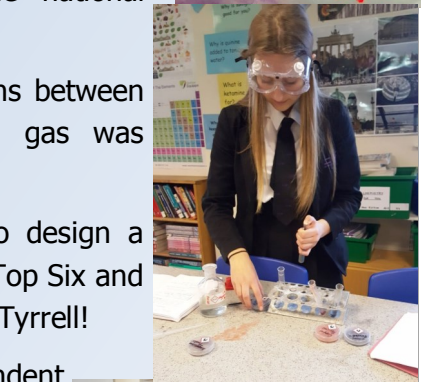


- Year Nine students studied infrared radiation using upcycled food cans to determine if shiny or matt surfaces radiate more heat when filled with hot water.
- Finally, if you've ever wondered what happens to ice when salt is added, Mrs Figiel's Year Seven group will now be able to enlighten you! The students investigated this process with some very interesting results.



Can Salt Change The Temperature?

Salt (wt)	Temperature
0	3°
1	0°
2	-10°
3	-15°
4	-15°
5	-15°





# Spotlight on Student Success

Once again, this term we have heard so many stories from our amazing students, they really are a talented and busy bunch! If you would like to share a story with us, please send it to our dedicated Student Success email: [Success@congletonhigh.com](mailto:Success@congletonhigh.com)

Year Eight **Isabel Cartlidge** has been invited to try out for the England Skeet Team. To win a place, Isabel will attend three shoots in Suffolk, East Yorkshire and Surrey and her best two scores taken from these events. The top five scorers will secure a team place. We wish Isabel every success and look forward to hearing further updates in the future.



We've brought you stories in previous newsletters about aspiring Year Nine actor, **Charlie House**. In the National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards held in January, Charlie was awarded Best Male Youth Performance in an Adult Production for his role as William Beech in Congleton Players' production of Goodnight Mr Tom. Charlie is a member of Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre and Goodnight Mr Tom was his first role in an adult production.

In the same awards, our wonderful Medical Officer, **Mrs Woodall**, also won the award for Best Choreography of a Youth Production for Centre Stage Youth Theatre's staging of Cats.

The success of Year Eight **Jayden Tang** demonstrates how hard work and determination pay off. Jayden has secured a place in the Stoke City Academy. You may remember from Issue 20 of our Newsletter last year that he also achieved an eight week trial with the Liverpool Academy Squad last year. Jayden's definitely a football face of the future - watch this space!



Kindness and compassion are qualities much valued, particularly in the current climate, and Year Ten, **Lucy Picken**, has both of these in bucket loads! At Christmas she dressed as a Disney princess and sang on the children's ward at Macclesfield Hospital. This was something she wanted to do and organised herself. She now plans to do this on a regular basis and the Hospital has also asked her to sing on the rehabilitation ward.

In December, football superstar student, Year Ten **Kate Oakley**, was one of only sixteen girls selected to represent the North of England in the final trials for a place on the U15 England Team. She was delighted to be awarded a place and the team played their first match together in January. In February, along with the Girls and Boys international teams, Kate travelled to PSV Eindhoven in Holland to take part in a five day training camp. The team went on to celebrate a 2-1 win against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin, winning them the John Read Trophy.



We were extremely proud to learn that a number of our students had been recognised at the Air Training Cadets Awards dinner in February at the Town Hall, which was attended by the High Sheriff, Mayor of Congleton and the Commanding Officer of 230 Sq RAF. Year Twelve Sgt. **Clara Jackson** received Best NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer), Year Thirteen, FS **Megan Granville** received the Flying Award and also a flying scholarship, Year Twelve FS **Sam Kehoe** received the Shooting Award, Year Nine Cdt **Vinnie Jackson** received the Sports Award, Year Nine Cdt **Adam Dinnis** received Most Enthusiastic Cadet and Year Ten Cdt **William Spender** received Most Improved Cadet, which was presented by former CHS student, William's eldest brother, SLT **Elliott Spender** RN.

Year Ten, **Thomas Williams**, signed at Blackburn Rovers earlier in the year and is now on contract until the end of the season and officially registered with the EFL. The signing represents a significant additional workload for Thomas, with up to sixteen hours a week at the academy and first team training centre.





# Great Minds!

The Staffordshire University Great Minds Bus made a stop at CHS again in February to meet with Sixth Form students considering their university options.

Year Twelve students visited the lower deck to find out what the University has to offer them via a Virtual Reality (VR) campus tour and short film.

A trip to the upper deck revealed the replica of the University's specialist Esports Hub where they were able to immerse themselves in the world of electronic gaming.

Thank you to Staffs students, Aimee, Fay and Juliette, who all spent time talking with students.



## Art for All



In February, all of our Year Eight students were given the opportunity to visit the city galleries in Liverpool to experience a range of classic, modern and contemporary artwork. Each day, from Monday to Thursday, a different group of students visited the city.

## Reach for the Stars

Our Year Nine, Ten and Thirteen Performing Arts students spent a full morning in February working with former student, now actor and musical theatre star, Joel Harper-Jackson. Joel has been touring the UK in 'Kinky Boots' for over a year now in the lead



role of Charlie Price.

Joel coached the students in a range of dance and physical theatre workshops using his experience in productions such as The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, Jesus Christ Superstar, Rent, Evita and Beautiful.



One of the highlights was the wall-walking exercise, used in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time when Christopher 'walks in space'.



It was hard work but enormous fun for all the students, who were able to take away some new skills and great memories of their morning with Joel.



## Bug Art Day



Visitors to the main reception of CHS in January and February were able to see for themselves the amazing work produced by Year Nine students during their 'Big Art Day'.

The year group was tasked with making insects



from a range of recycled materials and certainly delivered on the brief. They created a swarm of life-like and fantastical creepy-crawlies!





# Careering Ahead

## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

National Careers Week is an important time for us, and our Careers Team, Miss Boulton and Mrs Sadat-Shafai, work hard to organise and coordinate a wide range of opportunities for students in all years. 2020 was no different, with activities and events taking place each day that aimed to inspire and inform students. Those who already have a clear idea of their future career pathway found the week as useful as the students who are still unsure of what life after high school will look like for them.

Monday was **Public Services** Day and we welcomed representatives from a range of public organisations, including the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, Army and RAF, to a mini Careers Fair in the Sixth Form Centre.

Along with meeting and talking with students in the Fair, one of the RAF team gave a presentation at lunch. A real highlight for students and staff of all ages was the visit from the Congleton Fire Station's Fire Engine! The fair was open to students from all years and many who visited are also planning to undertake our popular Public Services course in Sixth Form so this was a great introduction.

The focus for Tuesday was **Engineering** and **Construction** and we were delighted to run our second mini Careers Fair of the week, welcoming guests including Siemens, BAE Systems and Graham Construction. Once again, the students from all years were welcomed to the event. Earlier in the day, during their registration period, students had discussed and challenged gender stereotypes with regard to career choices.

On Wednesday, we ran a '**Speed Networking**' event for Year Nine. In groups, students spent six minutes with each employer, enabling them to find out more about their particular business and the different roles.

Thank you to the following people and companies for their participation and for the invaluable information and advice they shared with students: Howard Smith - Siemens, Gemma Picken - Apples & Pears Private Day Nursery, Sue Evans - Apples & Pears Private Day Nursery, Chloe Tatton - Franklyn Financial Management, Pauline Jacobs - Reliance Medical, Sophie Hill - NHS, Sgt Shiv Chand - RAF, Amal Asaf - Graham Construction, Ehsan Zahoor - Graham Construction, Alice Whitehurst - Keele University and Gary Wenn - Royal Navy.





# Careering Ahead

On Thursday, twenty of our Year Twelve and Thirteen Business and Economics students were invited to spend the day with one of our key business partners, Franklyn Financial Management, by Business Relations Director, Ian Cottrill,

The day was designed to give the students an insight into careers within the financial world of investment and pensions etc. The group took part in various innovative financial challenges, which, along with encouraging problem solving skills and strategic thinking, were great team building exercises too.

The students also had the opportunity to speak with employees from the company as well as the Managing Director for information and advice and also to find out more about their own particular routes into their current job roles. Once again we would like to say a huge thank you to the whole team at Franklyn Financial Management for their ongoing support for all our students.



Friday was an opportunity for students to learn more about careers in **Business, Finance** and **Law** with our final mini Careers Fair. We were joined by team members from Franklyn Financial Management (Wealth Management and Financial Planning), BNY Mellon (Investment Services and Management), Barclays (Banking), SAS Daniels (Legal Services), AO (Electrical Products Distributer), Alps (Insurance and Legal Services) and Reliance Medical (Medical and Healthcare Suppliers) who were able to talk to the students about the nature of their business, the opportunities available and the routes into those roles.



We were delighted that many of the representatives were CHS alumni, which meant that students were extra keen to hear their particular career stories.

- Chloe Tatton from Franklyn Financial Management is a former CHS Head Girl and now holds the role of Business Relations Coordinator. Her own role was the result of attending a Chamber of Commerce networking event and her advice to students is: "Take Every Opportunity."
- Following work experience with the company while at CHS, Ben Oakley secured his Apprenticeship role with BNY Mellon in Portfolio Services.
- Reece Carbutt from Barclays is currently undertaking a Mainframe Developer Degree Apprenticeship with the banking business.
- Dan Mongillo's Sixth Form work experience landed him a junior position at ALPS, where he has taken Chartered Institute of Marketing Qualifications and worked his way up to Sales and Marketing Manager.
- Kerrie Salisbury is Future Talent Adviser with electrical products distributor, AO, and has supported a number of our Careers events.

Throughout the whole of Careers Week, teachers and support staff displayed a poster that enabled them to share their own career pathway, listing their different jobs alongside the skills developed in those roles. Students were encouraged to ask questions to find out more. It was a valuable exercise that helped students to learn more about a wide range of careers and the many different routes taken.

WHAT DOES YOUR CAREER PATH LOOK LIKE?

Name:

Previous Jobs:

Skills Developed:

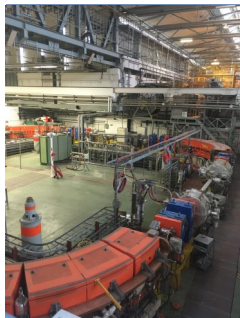
NCW

#NCW2020

RBS



# Mind Over Antimatter

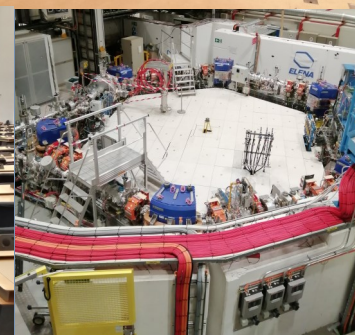
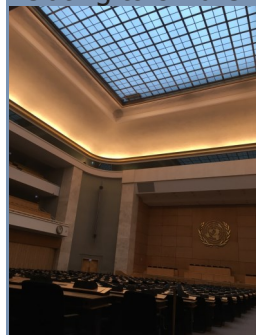


In February, eighteen of our Year Twelve and Thirteen Physics and Science students travelled to Geneva to visit CERN and the United Nations (UN).

At CERN, home of the world famous Large Hadron Collider, the group went to the Antimatter Factory. This is the only place in the world where antiatoms are created on a daily basis and experiments to measure properties of Antimatter, such as its mass, are undertaken.

This visit helped students gain a greater understanding of many aspects of their A Level Physics course, including the Particles and Nuclear Physics topics, and it also enabled them to see how theories are tested.

The group also visited the UN, which is where 193 Member States communicate and try to solve world issues (such as global health emergencies like COVID-19). There are other UN sites including in New York, Lagos and Vienna but Geneva is where the United Nations began and where matters such as refugees and issues relating to children are discussed.



## Cranberry Jamboree

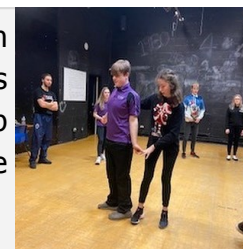
We were delighted to welcome guests to our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party last term.

Our visitors were treated to music and drama performances and a delicious range of Christmas fare.



## Physical Education

A group of our Year Nine, Ten, Eleven and Thirteen Performing Arts students took part in a physical theatre workshop in December, courtesy of theatre company, Frantic Assembly.



## STEM for All

As part of our International Women's Day activities, eight of our Product Design, Engineering and IT female students visited



Siemens to learn more about the industry, the company and STEM careers for women.

A team of female employees led the day, acting as both positive and inspirational role models.





# Plane Speaking



As part of National Apprenticeship Week, fifteen Year Twelve and twenty Year Ten Engineering and Product Design students visited Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows to learn more about Engineering careers.

The students enjoyed a factory tour with Martin Farmer, (who had very kindly organised the visits) and some of the Apprentices, including former CHS student, Toby Cawthorn. Martin explained how sheet metal materials are transformed into a number of parts used in aeroplanes.

After seeing first-hand the quality and precision that goes into every product, we can all travel that much safer in the knowledge that Bird Bellows' engineering is keeping us flying.



## Flipping Fantastic

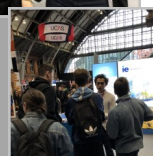


Our Year Eight and Nine Cookery Club flipped from its normal Wednesday after-school slot to a Tuesday for one week only on Shrove Tuesday. They had a fantastic time making and, best of all, eating pancakes.

## Higher Hopes

Our Sixth Form students made the most of the fantastic UCAS Higher Education Exhibition opportunity last month, speaking with as many exhibitors and collecting as much information as possible.

There are so many Post 18 pathway options and the event was a great chance to find out more about the possibilities and start to plan the next steps on their own road to success.



## The Road to Discovery

For many of our students, interested in pursuing careers such as engineering, built environment or construction, the Congleton Link Road project has long been a source of fascination. We were delighted therefore to be invited by project contractors, Graham Construction, for a behind-the-scenes visit and site tour.



Work Placement Coordinator, Mrs Sadat-Shafai, and Head of Design and Technology, Mrs Stanier, accompanied a group of Year Twelve and Thirteen Product Design students to the site. The visit began with a safety induction, which included kitting-out the group with full hi-vis, safety glasses and helmet. The Graham team talked about the variety of roles within the construction sector and it was interesting to hear that Apprentices in Design, Procurement and Engineering were all part of their company.

The site tour gave an opportunity to view the large abutments of the Sandbach Road bridge up close and to see the weathered steel platforms that were lowered into place over the Christmas period, using one of the biggest cranes in Europe. It was fascinating to see the size and scale of the operation at close quarters.

The Graham team were welcoming and very knowledgeable and students were able to ask questions relating to materials and construction methods, all of which helps to give them a greater understanding of many of the topics they study.

Although the visit was initially for those students who had an interest in construction, the tour, presentation and walk-through introduced the whole group to the multiple opportunities within the construction industry that many had not realised were available. Thank you to Graham Construction for this wonderful opportunity.



# Rowed to Success



As part of their Sport Relief activities, our Year Seven and Year Nine PE students challenged each other to a rowing competition in the gym. Great fun and lots of cheering on from team mates.

## Instant PE

Our sports fan students will be delighted to hear that, along with their Twitter account, our PE Team are now sharing all their latest updates, photos and news on their very own Instagram account: **physedchs**

151 views  
physedchs Mr Hilditch completing the kick up

## Athletes Feat

We were delighted to be able to welcome our partner primary schools to CHS in February to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics competition. All the children had a great time and tried really hard. Congratulations to Black Firs, who were the overall competition winners.



## 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



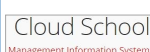
We also have departmental Twitter accounts for area-specific information including sports team fixtures: **@chsartists**, **@CHSBus**, **@CateringCHS**, **@CHSEnglishDep**, **@CHSHumanities**, **@honoursprog**, **@CHSICT**, **@CHSLanguages**, **@LawCHS1**, **@chsmathsdept**, **@chsmediadept**, **@CHSPerformers**, **@PhysEdCHS**, **@CHSSciences**, **@CHS\_Sixth\_Form**, **@CHSSocSci** and **@chstechdept**



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**congletonhs** and **physedchs**



Parents 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 in Year 7. Any queries or problems should be referred to Mrs Isherwood, via email: [kisherwood@congletonhigh.com](mailto:kisherwood@congletonhigh.com) or telephone: 01260 730123.