

Congleton High School Newsletter



Issue 24: September to October 2020

Achieving Success Together

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Welcome to all our new students, parents and carers



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Welcome

to our first Newsletter of this academic year. As I mentioned in one of my letters to parents and carers earlier in the term, we have been incredibly impressed with the manner in which students have returned to school and engaged with our 'new normal'. They really have demonstrated teamwork, respect and resilience during the last eight weeks. We have all had to accustom ourselves to new ways of doing things at school, but this has been made so much easier by the excellent behaviour of our students.

We were disappointed that we were not able to showcase the school with our annual Open Evening last month but staff have been working hard behind the scenes to bring this to prospective students, parents and carers virtually on the website. We have also dedicated sections of the website for our Year 7, 10 and 11 Parent and Carer Information Evenings.

Whilst we have not had our usual diverse range of trips, visits and extracurricular activities this half-term, we still have plenty to celebrate as a school. I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and that it gives you a real sense of the wonderful work achieved by our students and staff. I read a quote recently: *"Of the subjects taught in school, reading is first among equals - the most singular in importance because all others rely on it."* There are several articles in this newsletter that demonstrate the importance we place on reading at CHS, which I hope you find interesting.

I am very grateful and want to thank you for all the supportive messages we have received in recent weeks, acknowledging how difficult it can be to manage an ever-changing situation. I know that by working together, we can maintain a happy and purposeful learning environment in school.

Mr J Barlow
Headteacher



Update from our Chair of Governors

It is pleasing that the return to school in September has been achieved so smoothly. The new Year 7 students have settled in well and all students have started to make up the ground lost to the COVID lockdown, employing their customary positive attitude.

The school is dealing with some inevitable COVID-related disruptions with comprehensive measures borne out of close collaboration with other local schools, Public Health England and our local authority.

Governors, once again, wish to thank all parents and carers for their unequivocal support in these difficult and challenging circumstances.

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

Stay safe

Rich Benson
CHS Chair of Governors



Celebrating Rewards Success



Our students have made a great start to the new school year with some excellent examples of behaviour and school work. A fantastic 11,346 R3 rewards have been awarded this half-term and a further 122 R4s (and congratulatory texts sent to home) achieved through exemplary performance or 'extra mile' school work. Well done to **Year 11** who top the R4 table with a remarkable total of **60**!

120 Bronze Certificates have been awarded to the students who have achieved 20 R3s and 3 Silver certificates for those achieving 40 R3s.

The year groups, forms and students who have secured the most R3 awards this half-term are:

| | <u>Year Group</u> | | <u>Form Group</u> | | <u>Students</u> | |
|-----|-------------------|------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----|
| 1st | Year 7 | 3042 | 7MXC | 524 | Y7 Isabelle Tyrrell | 45 |
| 2nd | Year 8 | 2734 | 8JSA/8AHA | 424 each | Y8 Diego Morgan | 44 |
| 3rd | Year 9 | 2401 | 9AH | 385 | Y9 Lola Craddock | 35 |
| 4th | Year 10 | 2016 | 10MWA | 299 | Y10 Daniel Bailey Pope | 27 |
| 5th | Year 11 | 1153 | 11NGO | 184 | Y11 Lucy Janes/ | 22 |
| | | | | | Harry Sandercock | 22 |

Equally as important as those students who achieve R3 and R4 recognition are those who have not incurred a single negative consequence during the half-term. Over the last eight weeks, 663 of our students have not received a single consequence. **Year 10** top the leader board with **152** students remaining consequence free, **Year 7** have **149**, **124** for **Year 9**, **Year 11** have **122** and, finally, **Year 8** with **116** students.

The students and year groups have all celebrated their success together in different ways. 7LJO enjoyed a celebration breakfast with form teacher, Dr Jones, toasting their Year 7 Competition win as the form with the highest combined R3 and attendance points.

Congratulations to all these students, forms and year groups on their wonderful achievement. Keep up the great work!

(all figures correct at the time of writing)



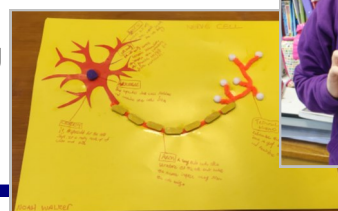
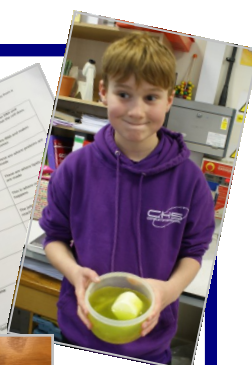
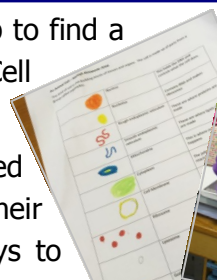
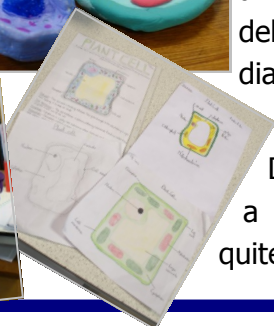
Year 7 Cellfies

Miss Jackson-Moss challenged her Year 7 Science group to find a way of demonstrating their knowledge of Cell Structure.

The group put all the information they had learned in lessons about the different types of cells and their structure to good use, finding many different ways to identify and label all the key parts.

Using modelling clay, jelly, papier-mâché and good old paper and pens, the students delivered an impressive range of models and diagrams that clearly showed that they had been listening!

Despite a few 'edible' offerings, including a giant marshmallow, there was nothing quite as appetising as last year's Cell Cake.





Key Stage Three Science Challenge Competition

The CHS Science team is setting you and your parent/carer/sibling a challenge to team up to discover how Biology and 'Biomimicry' have influenced modern technology; from the aerodynamics of cars to engineering turbines and buildings.



The Challenge:

For your chance to win a £20 Amazon voucher and have your work displayed in the CHS Science area, simply:

1. Research an example(s) of the way(s) Biology has influenced how something has been developed/made (Biomimicry), **AND**:
2. Take a photo of yourself and your research partner (parent/carer/sibling) with a poster displaying your research, **THEN**:
3. By **Thursday 5th November** post it on CHS Facebook: **Congleton High School** OR Twitter: **CongletonHS** using **#CHSsci**, OR email to: Scicomics@congletonhigh.com



Your Help with Road Safety



We have an ongoing issue with road safety around the school site. There are a number of cars parked on Box Lane at the end of the school day, blocking both the pavement and the road, causing a dangerous obstruction for pedestrians and other cars. It also results in traffic chaos as the road becomes blocked with single lane traffic unable to move in either direction due to the parked cars.

Please would you help us in the following ways to prevent an accident and help the traffic to flow:

A) Avoid parking on Box Lane - there are plenty of safe parking areas, away from the school and only minutes' walk that also do not inconvenience our very patient neighbours. (Please also park considerately and not across driveways/ junctions, in turning circles etc.)

And


B) Remind your child of their own road safety responsibilities including staying alert when next to roads and also waiting for crossing lights to turn green before stepping into the road.

Thank you for your support.

Covid 19 Test Results

Please ensure that you notify school ASAP if a student receives a positive Covid-19 test result. If outside school hours or at weekend, please email Mr Barlow directly on jbarlow@congletonhigh.com





PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS!

Dear students, parents and carers,

We currently have hundreds of books missing from the LRC.

- Please have a hunt at home and in bags over half-term
- Please return all books you find to the box outside the LRC, even if they are long overdue (no fines will be charged)
- If you have lost or damaged a book, please send us a sensible replacement if you are able

Thank you

Life as a New Year 7

Starting a new school can be a daunting prospect for students at any age, particularly when moving up from primary school.

We were delighted then to hear how well our new Year 7 students have been settling in. Some of the year group shared their experiences in the first few weeks of term, you can read their thoughts, in their own words, below:

Year 7 first impressions

"I have learnt the map and learned how to move around the school." - George

All the teachers are really nice. Someone should come to CHS because it is a really good school and the teachers are really nice and friendly to everyone and help us learn lots of important things. All the teachers are caring and nice - Macy

1. I have settled in well because the teachers are really nice and help you find your way.

2. I have really enjoyed meeting friends.

3. The science experiments are really fun.

Congleton High made sure I was happy and comfortable and completely settled. I used to not really like science but CHS makes it come alive. I think Congleton High is the right choice as the staff are lovely and the classes are great.

"I have enjoyed meeting lots of different people and making a couple of new friends who have been really nice. The school has always made the right decisions and I am really enjoying my time here" - Amelia

Congleton High
Try and make new friends and keep the friends you already have.

2) I have enjoyed the smiles of the teachers and the kindness of the children.

3) You should come to CHS because it is a friendly school and every day is exciting.

Rie

"We have Settled well into school because we have made friends. I've loved Drama because we get to direct each other, the food is nice, there's lots of funny moments." The teachers are nice, we are also enjoying subjects we wouldn't think we would enjoy."

Thca

1) I have settled in very well. All the teachers were very welcoming and I made lots of great friends.

2) I have really enjoyed all the classes. They are really fun as well.

3) I think people should come to CHS because it is an amazing school and it is so welcoming. The classes are really fun.

Time to STOP and Consider

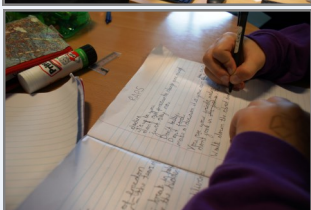
On Tuesday 13th October, students in Year 7 to Year 12 took part in our first whole school STOP morning of the year. It was a wonderful and very beneficial opportunity for them to STOP and consider a range of important life issues.

As a school, we recognise the value of giving our pupils opportunities to help them develop as people as well as learners. Our STOP mornings aim to help students improve their life chances as well as teaching them how to keep themselves and their friends safe.

A diverse range of age-appropriate topics were addressed during the STOP morning activities:



- Year 7 focused on making and maintaining friendships and increasing their awareness of peer pressure in both its positive and negative forms.



- Year 8 were able to hear and discuss the risks of substance misuse and the short and longer term impact on physical and mental health.



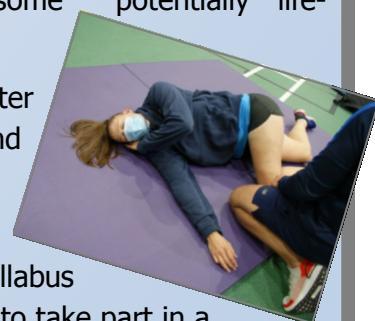
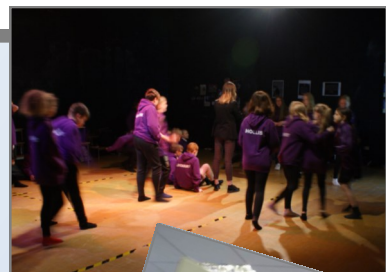
- Year 9 learned about peer influence with a specific focus on gang behaviours and also received some beneficial careers support.



- Year 10 enjoyed careers support sessions and also spent time during the morning investigating healthy and unhealthy behaviours; including cancer screening and the risks associated with cosmetic procedures such as tattooing and piercings.

- Year 11 also accessed targeted careers support and learned about the risks associated with gambling, managing their own personal safety, and emergency situations they may find themselves in outside of school - at work or at University for example. This year group were also able to undertake some potentially life-saving emergency first aid training.

- Year 12 focused on the study skills that will help to better prepare them for higher-level learning and exam success, and they too benefited from careers support



The team at Congleton High School will continue to deliver student support and a comprehensive and targeted PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) syllabus through virtual assemblies and form tutor sessions each week. Students will be able to take part in a further four STOP mornings throughout this academic year, which provides us with the opportunity to deliver high quality support to all our young people, keep them safe and help them to improve their life chances.



Year 7 Science on a Roll

If you've ever wondered about the performance of your favourite brand of kitchen roll or whether there's another product that is stronger or more absorbent, then look no further!

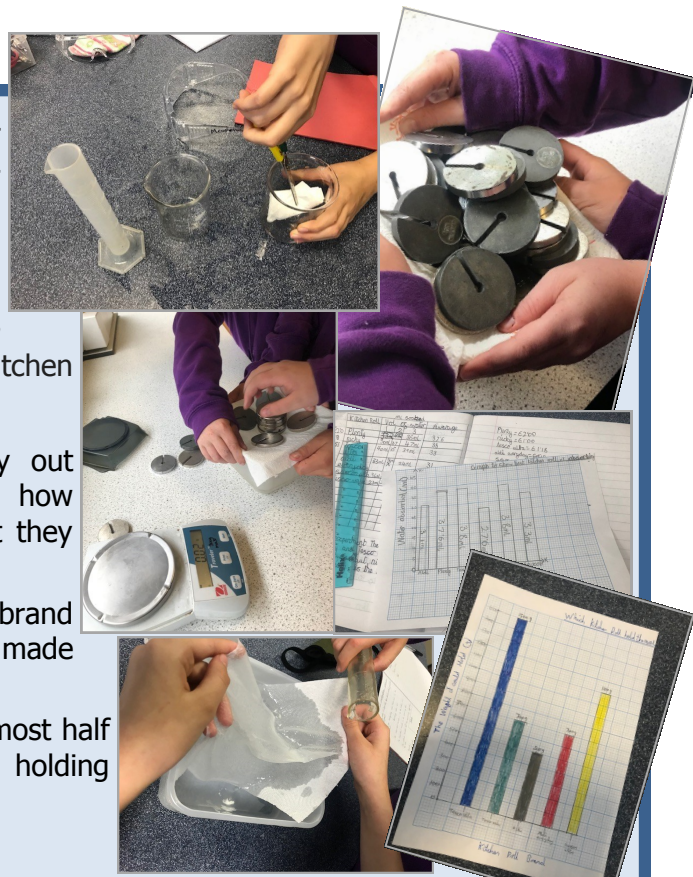
Thanks to a series of experiments undertaken by Mrs Figiel's Year 7 Science group, we can now share with you which kitchen roll has the best overall performance.

The students used their science skills to plan and carry out experiments to test absorbency and strength, measuring how much water each sheet was able to hold and much weight they would bear before breaking.

Measuring the performance of leading, value and own brand products, they then practiced their graph-drawing skills and made their conclusions based on the results.

In both tests, a supermarket own brand product, which is almost half the price of the premium brand product, performed best, holding 38ml water and supporting 1500g of weight.

Great work, Year 7!



If You Have to Isolate

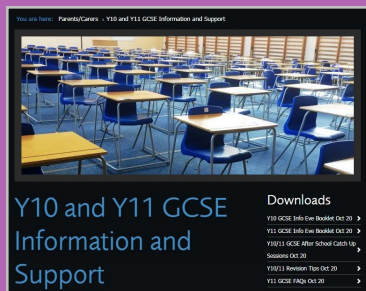
If students have to isolate for any reason in the coming months, Mr Curry has set a task on [satchel:one](https://satchel.one) for them to work on.

satchel:one

iDEA

Students can choose to either access the work they are missing in class through MS Teams or work on the IDEA award. <https://idea.org.uk>

GCSE Guidance



Our annual Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Information Evening is always welcomed by students, parents and carers alike, all keen for as much support and information as possible

at this important stage.

As we are unable to deliver the evening in person this year, our Assistant Headteacher and Head of Science, Mr Tyrrell, and his team have worked together to put all the information you need online, where you can access support and guidance from any internet linked device.

Located in the Parent/Carer area of our website, in the Information Evenings section or via this link: <https://www.congletonhigh.com/330/y10-and-y11-gcse-information-and-support>

students, parents and

Books We Love

The Percy Jackson series is my favourite series but *Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters* is my favourite book because so much happens.

It's about a boy called Percy Jackson (a child of Poseidon - the Greek god of the Sea and water) who has powers over water. He finds out he has a new half-brother who's a cyclops. His name is Tyson. Percy decides to go back to Camp Half-Blood (a place where only people like him can survive) but when he finds out that the borders around Camp are failing, he must go on a dangerous quest to save the Camp.

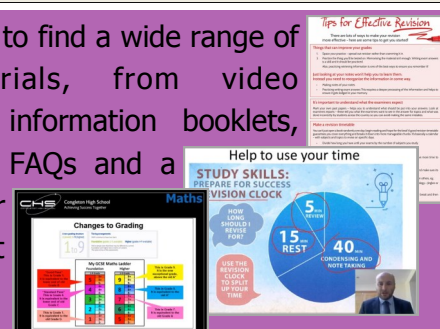
This book makes you feel like you're in the book. It takes you on a rollercoaster of emotions. Every now and then Rick Riordan throws in some humour so it's not all action.

I would recommend this book to all genders of the ages 10-13.

Andrew Sparey Year 8



carers will be able to find a wide range of essential materials, from video presentations to information booklets, top revision tips, FAQs and a list of all the after school support sessions available.



Books We Love

THE
BOOK OF DUST

VOLUME ONE
LA BELLE SAUVAGE

LEARN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN PULLMAN'S HIS DARK MATERIALS WITH THE NEW BBC SERIES

PHILIP PULLMAN

WITH NEW ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS WOODSELL

I liked this book as it is full of action, adventure and suspense. If you are a fan of Philip Pullman and His Dark Materials then this is the book for you.

Matthew Welsby Year 8

Reading Age Testing

To help our students foster a love of reading early on, we are developing our reading strategies across Key Stage 3. In addition to encouraging independent reading for pleasure, Year 7 use the online book platform [Fiction Express](#). Year 8 will be given a free book as part of the [Book Buzz](#) scheme run by The Book Trust and a new Year 9 Reading Challenge Scheme is to be launched with rewards for regular reading. Teachers are reading novels to their Key Stage 3 classes in English and tutors will also be reading to their forms later in the year.

The national picture tells us that once students arrive in secondary school, their reading decreases. There are many other demands on students' time but we hope that raising the profile of reading in school will encourage them to find books and authors they enjoy and get into the habit of reading regularly - for fun! To quote Frank Serafini, Professor of Literacy Education and Children's Literature: *"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read, there are only children who have not found the right book."*

We also have a number of reading resources throughout the [LRC pages](#) in the School Life section of CongletonHigh.com. Here you can find a recommended Key Stage 3 reading list, Books of the Week, student book reviews and a number of useful websites.



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

Uniform, Kit, Books and More

Our 2020 Virtual Open Days



One of the key events at CHS every year is our Year 6 Open Evening, which is always a busy and bustling occasion.

Like so many things this year, we have had to find new ways to share the CHS story with prospective students, parents and carers.

We have chosen to hold a virtual event, enabling visitors to meet the team - our staff and students, find out more about our curriculum areas and the courses on offer.

The page includes lots of links to useful information and visitors are also able to watch videos from Mr Barlow and each of the Curriculum Teams to get a real flavour of the school and our ethos, learn how lessons are taught and hear the sort of things that Year 7 students study in each subject.

The [Virtual Open Day](#) is still live on CongletonHigh.com to enable you to visit as many times as you need to help make the right decision.

Applications for a 2021 Year 7 place must be made to your own home Local Authority (to whom you pay your council tax) by 31st October.

Our Year 11 students, along with those currently studying at other schools in the area, can go online from 22nd October to find out more about what CHS can offer them after GCSEs.

Our Sixth Form team have put together their own extended [Virtual Open Evening](#), to enable students coming to the end of their main school journey to see how CHS can continue to offer them access to high quality learning and enrichment opportunities.

The Sixth Form team are using video to introduce themselves and the subjects available. These are supported with lots of additional information to help students and their parents/carers make the Post 16 choice that is right for them and their future education and career aspirations.

Students can apply to the school directly for a Sixth Form place and all relevant information and forms are on the page, along with information on the maintenance and transport bursaries available.

The application deadline for a Year 12 place in the CHS Sixth Form is 15th December 2020 although later applications will still be considered.



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](#)



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