

# Newsletter

Issue 27: April to May 2021

**Achieving Success Together**

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# Welcome

to our May Newsletter. It hasn't been the usual sunny month of May that we have enjoyed over the last few years. As well as mixed weather, there have also been mixed emotions for us all. We have been able to go out more and even hug our loved ones but we are also having to say farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have worked so hard during the last few weeks completing important assessments.

I hope you enjoy the range of articles in this edition of our newsletter. Parents and carers of Year 6 children will find some useful updates on the transition arrangements. Making the move from primary to secondary school is an exciting and significant milestone in any child's education, and can invoke a mixture of emotions for students and their families. We understand that this period of transition can be unsettling and we want to reassure you that we will be working alongside you to aid a smooth, positive start to life at Congleton High School.

With only six school weeks left until the end of the year, we are excited about some of the plans for the next half term. We are planning various activities, including some musical concerts, sporting competitions and careers events. Despite the recent concerns over new Coronavirus variants, I am optimistic that we will be able to provide our students with some normality and an opportunity to enjoy the activities that traditionally mark the end of an academic year.

I was very proud of the way our students returned to school following the extended period of home learning at the start of the year and that strong start has continued. External applicants that we have been interviewing for teaching posts due to start in September have also praised our students. Interviewees have commented specifically on how welcoming they are and have noted the calm and purposeful atmosphere in lessons and corridors. Uniform, good manners and a pride in their school have also been mentioned on several occasions. I am delighted to say that we have made some excellent internal and external appointments from many high quality applications for each vacancy for our growing school.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading a selection of nominations for our 'A Seat on the Plane' rewards trip. Kindness, generosity, resilience and determination are just a few of the qualities that our students have demonstrated, for which they have been deservedly nominated.

**Mr J Barlow**  
Headteacher



## Recovery Plans

Covid has affected us all in different ways and many feel that we have lost out or missed opportunities along the way. We have put up posters around our school to encourage students to consider how the pandemic has impacted their own lives and think about what they feel they have missed out on.

They are being invited to share these thoughts and ideas to enable us to help put everyone on the journey to recovery. Over the coming months we'll be working together to find ways to fill in the gaps, to restore what we have lost, whether that is learning time, school trips, sports, extracurricular clubs or just time with friends.





# New Beginnings

It's now only four short months until we welcome our new Year 7 students in to the Congleton High School community. We are really looking forward to it and hope that they are too.

If you are one of our September 2021 new starters, or you have a child/children starting with us in the new school year, we understand that you will have lots of questions and maybe even a few concerns about what will happen between now and then and once you actually start with us.

Mrs Darling, our Deputy Head, Miss Franks, our Student Support Services Team Leader, and members of our Learning Support Team have been visiting Year 6 children in their own primary schools to talk with them in groups and individually about starting at CHS. They also aim to find out more about each pupil for when they start with us in September; their likes and dislikes, friendship groups etc. We are able to use this information to help place new students in mixed ability tutor groups, which contain some of their friends from primary school.

Year 6 pupils will also be able to spend a whole day with us on their New Intake Discovery Day in July. We usually invite all new starters to visit on the same day but we will follow Government advice on this. Pupils will meet their new Form Teacher and also be able to take part in a variety of lessons and activities, a whole school tour and sign up for our cashless catering system.

We also hope to welcome our new starters' Parents and Carers in to school for our New Intake Information Evening in July. They can meet their child's Form Tutor and also ask any questions they may have about the Transition process, uniform requirements, school transport, lessons, homework etc. It is also a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet other parents and carers, a real benefit where children are coming from smaller schools.

Many of our year groups have Facebook groups set up by parents/carers following the New Intake Evening and prior to their children actually starting at CHS. These are a great way of sharing information, asking questions, checking homework requirements or simply getting to know one another.

If you or your child have any questions, our website [September 2021 Transition page](#) (in Starting at CHS/ Transfer from Primary School) is a great place to start. We have a series of short films that contain lots of useful information about CHS, the school day and our facilities. They also include lots of advice and wise words from our current Year 7 students, who are still able to remember exactly what it was like to be about to start at high school for the first time and can recall how it feels as one of the new faces at CHS.

If you can't find the answer on our website, you can also contact Mrs Darling or Miss Franks either by email or the main school number (details on our website) and they will be happy to find the information you need.

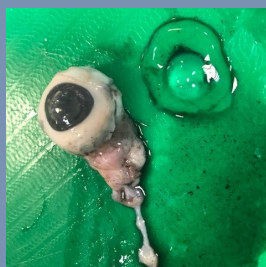
We look forward to welcoming you all in September.



## See View

As part of their study of Light and how the eye works, Mrs Fitzsimmons' Year 8 Science students dissected an eyeball this term.

Throughout the practical work, they were able to identify the various parts and their function within the eye and how each of those elements helps us to see.



## Recovery Reporters

Our Year 12 Economics students recently completed their first year project. The students were challenged to produce a ten minute video report in the style of Newsnight to examine the economic impact of the pandemic.

They conducted research, interviewed members of the public and produced a balanced viewpoint as to how well they feel the economy will rebound.

It was fabulous to see the teamwork in action and how the students developed their editing and filming skills to produce such professional and well-considered reports.





# Double-Decker Learning Opportunity

Passers-by cannot have failed to notice the colourful double-decker bus parked up on our Sixth Form car park earlier this term. We were delighted to welcome back the Staffordshire University Great Minds Bus at the end of April, offering our Year 12 students a unique, remote Open Day experience.

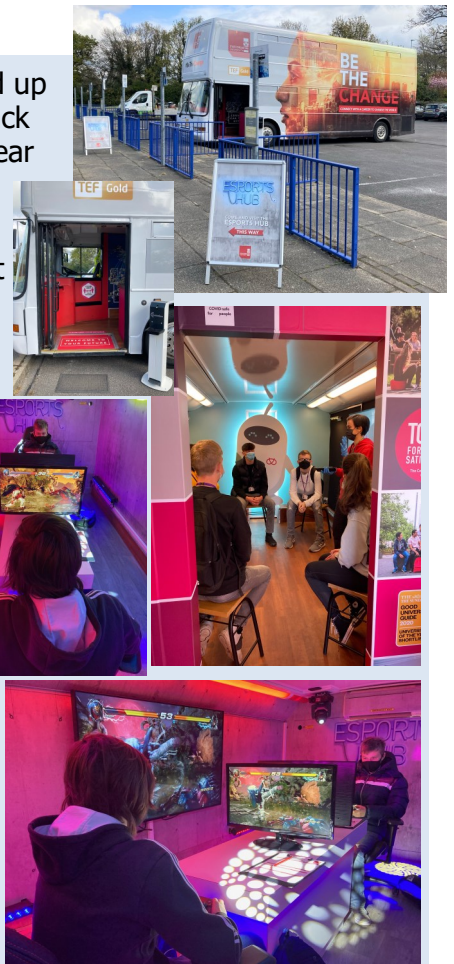
The specially modified double-decker gives students the chance to experience what their future could be like as undergraduates at Staffordshire University. It provides a fun and informal setting for these young people nearing the end of their high school chapter to speak with the Student Ambassador advisors and find out all about studying at the University.

The Sixth Form students visited the lower deck to find out what Staffordshire can offer them via a short film and Virtual Reality (VR) 3D tours of different campus locations, including the crime scene house, mock law courts, ceramics studios, journalism newsroom and motorsport labs.

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

Although the Great Minds Bus has toured regularly in previous years, calling in at CHS, it is perfectly suited to the current pandemic climate, where many university Open Days are not taking place or students and their families are cautious about attending events.

Congleton High School and the Sixth Form team would like to thank all the Staffordshire University students who ran the event and who spent time talking with our Year 12 students.



## Career Congratulations

Congratulations to our former student, Kayley Taylor, who has joined the Business Relations Team at [Franklyn Financial Management](#), supporting marketing and events projects.

Kayley, who left CHS in 2019, is also undertaking her Level 3 Digital Marketing Apprenticeship qualification with the company.



## Evidence Gathering

Mrs Figiel's Year 9 Science students were able to use DNA sampling in their research work earlier this term.

Unfortunately, it wasn't on the scale of Line of Duty, and they weren't using the technology to track down master criminals or even to reveal the identity of H!

The students were actually learning about Genetically Modified Organisms and as part of this, managed to extract a sample of DNA from a kiwi fruit (the white substance in the boiling tube).



## Buy, Sell, Donate

If you haven't already joined our Facebook group, **CHS Buy, Sell, Swap and Donate**, 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.



## Free Office Software

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





# Snoozers Not Losers

Each year, the Fashion and Textiles students at Congleton High School are able to take part in the Berisfords Design Award, which the school runs in conjunction with the Congleton based company. Competitors are challenged to design a product using the incredible range of ribbons manufactured locally by Berisfords. In previous years, students have been asked to design and produce bags, cushions and skirts but this year, the brief was to create a unique pillowcase design.



Many months of planning and hard work (and some unpicking) followed and an array of highly creative and intricate designs worked up in to finished products. Normally the competition would take place and be judged in the Autumn term, with winners being notified just before Christmas. However, as with so many things, Covid stopped play and the judging by the Bersifords team was only able to take place recently.



All the entries were of exceptionally high quality and worthy of a prize so choosing just three was no easy task. Eventually a winner was selected and Year 10 Isabelle J won the first prize of £70 with her magical, woven pink unicorn creation, which featured a multi-coloured flowing mane and floral embellishments. Crafted from a variety of ribbons in a range of pink and white tones, Isabelle's finished product demonstrated a wide range of techniques and a great deal of skill and effort. Year 10 Libby B scooped £40 for second prize with her beautiful blue sky rainbow design, which had added NHS significance this year. Year 10 Emily T was awarded third prize of £20 for her stunning tartan inspired submission, featuring flamingo and polka dot ribbons, interwoven with shades of pink and coral.

Our Fashion and Textiles teacher, Mrs Paling Sparkes, added "We really appreciate and enjoy the marvellous partnership that we

*have formed with Berisfords and we would like to thank them for their generosity in time, materials and prizes each year. The annual event is a great all-round experience for our Fashion and Textiles students and it really makes a difference to the quality of their coursework and final examination grades."*



## The Art of Puppetry

In May, two of our Year 12 Drama students took part in a Puppetry Workshop with our Teaching Assistant, Mr Aled.

Mr Aled has a great deal of experience in the theatre industry as an actor and puppetry director, so the students were able to tap in to this throughout the morning as he shared many different techniques and ideas with them.

Both girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and learned a lot about the art. They also picked up lots of useful hints and tips that will enable them to continue to improve their own puppetry and performance skills.





# Who Goes? You Decide!

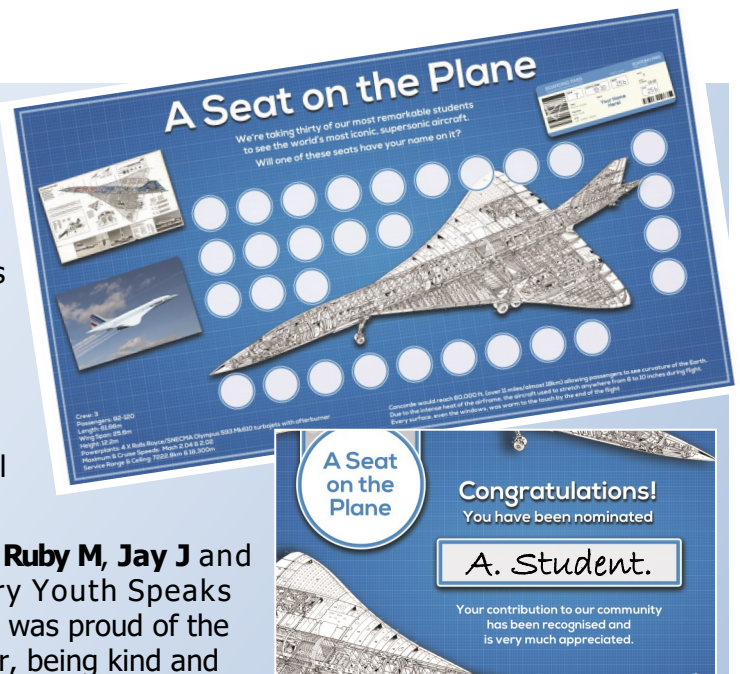
Nominations for A Seat on the Plane, our special summer reward trip, have been pouring in, which is no surprise to us as we are all well aware that our students are truly 'remarkable'!

Here are just a few examples of the many nominations so far:

- Year 10 **Lilly-Ann R** has been nominated after finding and returning a wallet, containing a lot of money, to its owner (via the Police Station). She received a lovely card and gift from a very grateful owner.
- Mrs Dearnaley nominated three Year 10 students, **Ruby M**, **Jay J** and **Olivia K**, after they volunteered for the Rotary Youth Speaks competition, winning second place. Mrs Dearnaley was proud of the way they all supported and encouraged each other, being kind and helpful throughout.
- Year 8 **Tyler Y** and Year 11 **Harry S** have both been nominated by parents for the positive change they have made in their attitude to schoolwork. Tyler has *"Flipped his life around inside school and at home"* and Harry has *"Buckled down to complete his work and tried really hard. One result of this is a fantastic 120 R3s to date."*
- Year 9 **Daniel C** has been nominated by his mum for the positive difference he has made to customers on his paper round. When Daniel had to isolate, his mum and sister temporarily took over the round and were amazed at all the wonderful comments and stories customers shared about Daniel.
- Miss Boulton has nominated Year 12 **Sam H** in recognition of the help and support he gives his mum with his severely disabled younger brother. Family days out aren't often an option and Miss Boulton thinks Sam is a superstar who really deserves a treat.
- Our Catering Manager, Mr Wilcock, and his team nominated three students, Year 7 **Lola C**, Year 8 **Jasmine S** and Year 10 **Robert H**, who they say stand out for their good manners, politeness and general demeanour in the refectory.
- Year 8 **Isabella S** has been nominated by her mum for showing resilience and making a fresh start when she came to CHS after being badly bullied at her previous school. She has had a great start at our school, made lots of new friends and receives amazing feedback from teachers.
- Miss Kirkham has nominated Year 10 **Adam D** for working exceptionally hard in Maths, which has seen him move up a set. He's a caring and respectful student who has also contributed to lots of charity work.
- Matthew M** in Year 10 has been nominated by his parents for being mature, caring, understanding, loyal and supportive to his family during a very difficult time when his Nan was diagnosed with cancer and the family dog passed away.
- Year 11 students, **Sophie H** and **Harry M**, have been nominated by Sophie's mum for speaking out and preventing a potentially dangerous issue and also for being great, supportive friends to one another and other students.
- The staff at the Greengables Nursing Home nominated Year 7 **Luke F** for being thoughtful and kind after he visited them with a gift bag full of treats and a beautiful card.
- Mrs Fitzsimmons nominated Year 11 **Lucy P** for entertaining children at Macclesfield Hospital Children's Ward. At Christmas, Lucy arranged to dress up as a Disney Princess and sing all the children's favourite songs to help take their minds off being in hospital.
- Year 12 **Jack B** and Year 9 **Harry B** have been nominated by their mum for volunteering at the local swimming club to teach younger children to swim.

If you'd like to nominate one of our students for being 'remarkable'; a kind act, helping out, success in their hobby/sport, personal achievement, commitment to schoolwork or part-time job etc, there is still time.

Please email the details to Mr Barlow: [jbarlow@congletonhigh.com](mailto:jbarlow@congletonhigh.com)





# Spring in a Frame

Our Science team's Spring in a Frame wildlife photography competition, in conjunction with [Cheshire Wildlife Trust](#), attracted almost 100 entries from students, primary school pupils and staff. The photographs were fantastic and judging was very difficult but a winner and a runner up in each category were eventually chosen.

The CHS and primary school winners both won a pack of three smartphone macro lenses, a bee hotel and a Cheshire Wildlife Trust gift bag containing a soft toy, a seed growbar and a nature journal. The runners up both received a Cheshire Wildlife Trust gift bag. A box of chocolates was awarded to each of the winners in the CHS Staff category.

Congratulations go to:

- Year 7 Isaac L, who won first prize at CHS with his beautiful Swallowtail Butterfly photo.
- Year 13 Amelia L, who took second prize at CHS with her vibrant image of daffodils at Astbury.
- Peter B from [Astbury St. Mary's Primary School](#), who took first prize in the Primary School category with a lovely photo of spring lambs peeping round their feeder.
- Callum C, a Reception pupil from [Quinta Primary School](#), who came second with his inquisitive highland cows picture.
- Mrs Jackson Moss, whose Hoverfly photograph won her first prize in the CHS Staff category.
- Our Science Technician, Mrs Haran, who shared her photo of a cheeky squirrel stealing food from the bird feeders, which won her second prize.

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part and also to Year 13, Lily H, who designed the poster for the competition. We have shared more of the wonderful competition entries in the news pages of our website.



Above: Isaac L  
CHS Winner



Below: Amelia L  
CHS Runner Up



Above:  
Mrs Jackson Moss  
Staff Winner



Above: Calum C, Quinta  
Primary School Runner Up



Right: Mrs Haran  
Staff Runner Up



Right: Peter B,  
Astbury St Mary's  
Primary School Winner



# Footie Face of the Future



Year 9 Jayden T's footballing career continues to go from strength to strength. In May he signed for a further two years with Stoke City Football Club Academy.

He is working hard to gain a football scholarship and is a great example of hard work and determination.

Jayden originally signed with Stoke City Academy last February and also took part in an 8 week trial with Liverpool FC Academy squad in 2019.

Jayden's Form Tutor, Mrs Figiel, says: *"Congratulations and good luck, Jayden. We are all very proud of you!"*

We are looking forward to hearing more great football news of him in the future

# Reaping the Rewards

We are delighted that, despite Covid disruptions, our students have continued their hard work, positive attitude and good behaviour. As a result we have been able to award almost 14,000 Rewards since January! 13,238 R3s have been handed out, along with 733 R4s. Well done, everyone!

Across the year groups, students have consistently performed to a high level, attracting multiple rewards and earning them the following certificates:

- 166 Bronze certificates (20 Rewards)
- 270 Silver certificates (40 Rewards)
- 151 Gold certificates (60 Rewards)
- 122 Platinum certificates (80 Rewards)

The students receiving the most Rewards in each year are as follows:

Year 7	Edie S	(7TST)
Year 8	Barney M	(8AHA)
Year 9	Ashton P	(9MBU)
Year 10	Robert B	(10RCH)
Year 11	Harry S	(11NGO)



Our *Achieving Success Together* motto really rings true when it comes to Rewards, with students all keen to work together to put their year group and their form group at the top of the leader board!

	R3 Rewards	R4 Rewards	Top Form
<b>Year 7</b>	3816	238	7AHK - 605
<b>Year 8</b>	3859	199	8RTU - 722
<b>Year 9</b>	2609	175	9MHO - 456
<b>Year 10</b>	1959	65	10MH/10RCH - both 317
<b>Year 11</b>	995	56	11TP - 182

## Thank You

We were delighted to receive a thank you letter and certificate from the NSPCC this term in recognition of our £60 donation.

The money was part of the funds raised from our 2020 Christmas Jumper Day, which was split equally between the NSPCC, Brake and BHF. Thanks to everyone who took part on the day.



## Keeping in Touch



Our main switchboard **telephone** number is **01260 730123** and will show as this on caller ID



We use **e-mail** as our main method of communicating with parents as it's quick, efficient and cost effective. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address so you don't miss important communications.

We also distribute up-to-the-minute information via **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram**

**@CongletonHS** - for general school news and announcements **@newsta1** - for news from the MAT



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