

Newsletter

Issue 29: September to October 2021

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Introducing our 2021-22 Sixth Form Leaders *Turn to page 4*



Welcome

to the first newsletter of the academic year. I am delighted to be able to share with you the many things that we have enjoyed across our school community this half term.

Despite the rise in positive Covid cases throughout the Cheshire East area, you will see from this newsletter that we have still been able to return to many of the aspects of school life that we hold so precious at CHS, such as our Year 7 Team Building Day, extracurricular clubs, theatre visits and our work with our Partner Primaries to help ease the primary to high school transition process.

We were delighted to welcome 200 new Year 7 students to our school in September. Many had already spent a week with us in August at our fantastic Year 6 into Year 7 Summer School (see p15). It is clear that the experience really benefitted many of these students as we have seen the mature and confident way in which they have gone about their first few months at CHS. Despite only being at the school for three weeks, many of our Year 7 students volunteered to help out at our Year 6 Open Evening and confidently acted as guides for our guests. A much-anticipated event, we were all so excited to be able to open the doors and greet nearly 650 people from our local community. This is the first time since the pandemic that we've been able to hold such an event and it made the whole affair that much more special.

I am very proud of the progress made by our many student leadership groups, such as our LGBTQI+ Ambassadors, Body Positivity Group, Act Civil Group and Charity Ambassadors, who are all leading projects in school as well as providing valuable peer support. Over the next year, we will bring you more information about these valuable groups and the work that they do across the school to ensure that we continue to be an inclusive and supportive community

Over the page you will see our CHS Promise. If you ask any of our students about the "CHS Experience" they will tell you that it is about more than just classroom learning but embodies the many and wide-ranging extracurricular opportunities available to them. Our Promise to students is that we will continue to provide them with experiences to build-on and expand their learning and help to develop them in to well rounded individuals. Our 'Filling the Gaps' programme (see p13) addresses how we plan to reinstate many of those key events they have missed over the last eighteen months.

Finally, I would just like to congratulate our 2021 Year 13 and Year 11 students on the wonderful results they received this summer (see p5). These results were a true reflection of their resilience, commitment and hard work despite the challenging circumstances with which they were faced. As a school, the progress and development of our students both academically and personally is extremely important to us and we are incredibly proud of the achievements of all of them.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter as much as I have.

Mr Barlow
Headteacher



Reminder for Year 6 parents and carers

If you are planning to apply for a September 2022 Congleton High School Year 7 place for your child, the deadline is **Sunday 31st October**. Applications will need to be made via your home local authority (ie. the local authority where you live).

All parents and carers of Year 6 children should have received an information booklet and application form from their local authority early in the autumn term, setting out in detail the procedures and timescales for admissions. If you have not received this, please contact the relevant local authority.

You should complete the Common Application Form (CAF) and return it to your home local authority, naming Congleton High School as your preference. Following the application closing date (31st October), places are allocated by the local authority according to strict criteria and all offers are sent out to parents and carers on 1st March. Where the number of applicants for admission to CHS is greater than the published admissions number (PAN), applications will be considered against the criteria set out in our Admissions Policy.

More information on applying for a Year 7 place, and a copy of our Admissions Policy, can be found in the [Transfer from Primary School](#) page in the Starting at CHS section of CongletonHigh.com.



The CHS Promise

As a student at CHS you'll have opportunities to get involved locally, nationally and internationally - from community charities and green projects, to visits and competitions, even work experience and travel to countries around the world.



Community projects - volunteering/raising money for charity.
Outdoor Education Experience - Astbury Team Building events.
National Competitions - across the UK in a wide range of subjects.
Gallery Visits - see some of the country's most inspiring exhibitions.
Leadership - developing skills that reinforce future abilities.
Enterprise - projects that inspire creativity, such as the Summer Market.
Theatre Visits - experiencing the thrill of live performance.
Opportunities - to develop talent in subjects from Art to Sport.
Next Steps Advice - including Careers Fairs and workplace visits.
Honour Programme - recognising ability in our Sixth Form.
International - actively involved in global projects and experiences.
Green School Projects - embracing environmental concerns.
Higher Education Visits - first hand experience of university life.



The leaders of the future



Each year our Sixth Form Team appoint a Senior Student Leadership Team, comprising Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputies and Senior Student Leaders. Students nominate themselves, apply for the roles and are interviewed by our Head of Sixth Form, Miss Boulton, and her team to establish each candidate's suitability for the role.

For 2021-22 we were delighted to appoint **Zara Eardley** as Head Girl and **Tyler Cartwright** as Head Boy with Deputy roles assigned to **Lucy Brightwell, Jemima Hollins, Connall Lynch, James Nelson** and **Lily Smith**.

Supporting them are the team of Senior Student Leaders:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| • Mia Brady | • Abi Douce | • Deema Shanati |
| • Louise Brindley | • Chris Gray | • Daisy Smith |
| • Ashleigh Buckley Hughes, | • Bailey Hall | • Ellie Tierney |
| • Isobel Cater | • Amelia Large | • Jake Tomkinson |
| • Katie Conway | • Laura Pass | • Joshua Vaughan |
| • Sian Coward | • Madison Rushton | • Jessyka Walker |

The Leadership Team have an important part to play in our school community, with each role carrying a lot of responsibility. They contribute to the general running of the Sixth Form and school, meeting on a weekly basis to deal with questions from students, discuss any requirements/needs, any concerns and organise social events. They work closely with Miss Boulton, Assistant Head Teacher - Sixth Form, and also with Mr Barlow, our Headteacher. Our Head Boy and Head Girl also regularly present at school events such as our Open Evenings and attend School Governor meetings to update Governors on the work they have undertaken in their role such as their charity initiatives.

A position on the Senior Student Leadership Team gives students a very useful insight into leadership at a personal and whole school level. They develop useful skills such as organising events, contributing to key decisions, taking minutes and liaising with members of staff and the wider community. Being part of the Team is also a very positive achievement to add to a university application personal statement and CV and will work towards a Leadership Certificate.

We understand that being part of the Sixth Form Leadership Team isn't for every student though so we offer a wide range of additional opportunities for our Year 12 and Year 13 to develop the skills and qualities valued by employers and universities.

We have a number of Ambassador roles in areas including: Charity, Science, LGBTQI+, Safeguarding, Body Positivity, SEN and Performing Arts. Sixth Form students become mentors and positive role models, lead assemblies and workshops, run groups, liaise with relevant external organisations and act as a point of contact for lower years. They can also become Reading Influencers, PE Leaders/ Primary Liaison, Peer Mentors and support lower school students.

As with the CHS Promise, we aim to provide our Sixth Form cohort with a wide range of enrichment opportunities to supplement their classroom learning and help them to grow as individuals and achieve their goals.

Our 2021-22 Head Girl, Zara, and Head Boy, Tyler



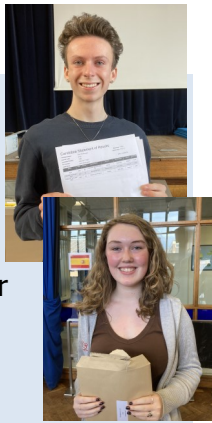
What a result!

The Congleton High School team was delighted to welcome students in to school in August to collect their A Level, GCSE and vocational grades. It was a time to celebrate not just a fabulous set of results, but also the way that students, families and the school had successfully worked together to overcome the challenges of the previous eighteen months. Headteacher, Mr Barlow, and his team were both impressed and inspired by the resilience and determination of these students. The majority have achieved and surpassed the results they need to progress on to their chosen pathway and are excited to start the next chapter of their life.

In a break from the norm, Year 13 students were invited to collect their A level and vocational results on a Tuesday and we were delighted and proud to be with them when they discovered their grades. CHS has supported the cohort to ensure that they are able to move on to positive destinations and fulfil their potential. Many students have chosen to continue their education at university, or combine it with employment in a degree apprenticeship.

Among the students receiving top A Level A*/A*/A* grades this year were:

- **Sam Worthington**, who is reading Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Durham University,
- **Amelia Lehm**, reading Medicine and Surgery at Newcastle University,
- **Ru Morgan**, who also achieved Maths A* in Year 11, reading Maths at University of Bristol,
- **Amy Cosgrove**, reading Geography at Loughborough University,
- **Matt Owen**, reading Economics at the University of Bristol
- **Immy Miller**, reading Mathematics at Durham University
- **Molly Johnson**, reading Paramedic Science at Staffordshire University



It was the turn of our Year 11 students on Thursday 12th August to celebrate their results and, once again, the majority met or exceeded their expectations, enabling them to continue with their chosen route.

Mr Barlow was proud to be able to celebrate with the students, commenting:

"I was thrilled to be able to greet our students on the two Results Days. Their results are testament to two years of hard work by these young people but, more than that, it is a clear demonstration of how they have successfully navigated their way through uncertainty, disruptions and truly unprecedented circumstances."

"Across lockdowns and periods of isolation, our teaching and support staff alike have worked tirelessly to ensure support for students, both academically and emotionally and maintain our expected high levels of education. I would also like to pay tribute to the parents, carers and families of our students for their own exceptional level of support for both our students and the school throughout these challenging months. The ability for students, home and school to work together as a single team has really helped us to achieve far more than we could have done alone."

"Throughout their A Level, GCSE and vocational courses, the teachers have worked with these students, and are fully aware of what each is capable. In order to produce the required Teacher Assessed Grades, the team worked professionally and with great integrity to ensure that each student was awarded results based on their consistent, overall performance, that truly reflect their hard work over the last two years."

"I am very proud of all our students and particularly delighted that a record number of our Year 11 cohort chose to stay with us and continue their learning journey with our Sixth Form team, it was wonderful to be able welcome them all back to Congleton High School in September. We wish all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, whatever their next step, every success for the future and look forward to hearing great things about them in years to come!"

LRC for yourself



Our fantastic Learning Resource Centre (LRC) got even more fantastic over summer, with the installation of sixteen new desktop computers.

These new computers will be a great benefit for students in

their LRC lessons and also anyone wishing to use them for their own study.

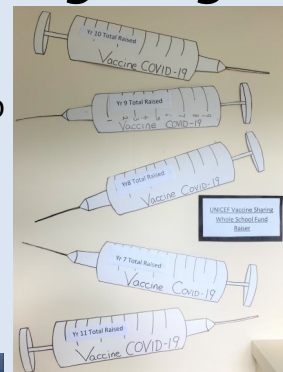
The LRC is open to students for an hour after school (3:00 - 4:00pm) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students may use all the LRC facilities, including the computers, for homework or research

As all of our students know, we have a strict rule about the equipment that they need to take to each lesson. If they find themselves without any item, the LRC has a well stocked Stationery Shop with pens, pencils, dictionaries and recommended calculators etc. at prices comparable or significantly lower than high street shops e.g. a 15cm ruler at 15 pence and a 30cm rulers at 23 pence.

More than just giving

This year, we have a special whole school fundraiser, which will help [UNICEF](#) share vaccines across the world.

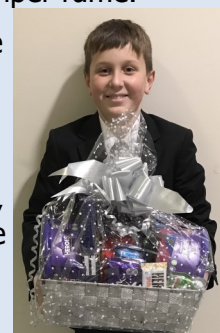
We will display each year group's growing total in the main school corridor on our Syringe Totalisers!



Our fundraising has already got off to a great start thanks to 7CE who have raised £100 with their fabulous chocolate hamper raffle.

The lucky winner, drawn by Mrs Darling, was Year 7, Louie D.

Not to be outdone, 7JF held a lunchtime Cake and Bake sale, raising a fantastic £136 for the charity



Last March, our PE Team organised a Half Marathon and a combined effort by students, staff, parents and carers helped us to raise over £2,000. This was split equally between road safety charity, Brake, and The British Heart Foundation in memory of two of our students who passed away in 2020. We were delighted to receive thank you letters from both charities, acknowledging our contribution.



Your help with road safety

We still have a serious 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 chaos as the road becomes blocked with single lane traffic unable to move in either direction due to the parked cars.

Please work with us in the following ways to prevent an accident and help the traffic to flow:

A) Do not park 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.)

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.

C) Please also turn off your engine while waiting

Thank you for your support.



What happens next?

Eighty one Year 12 and Year 13 students from our



Sixth Form visited the UK University Search Autumn Fair at Old Trafford in October. With a huge range of exhibitors, students were able to find out more about the many Post 18 options, including university, college and apprenticeships, to help plan their next steps.

Spotlight on Student Success

We are delighted to again be able to bring to you more stories sent in by students, parents, carers and family members about our students' amazing success outside school.

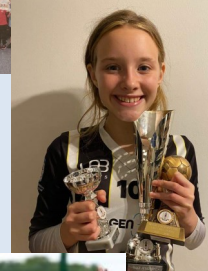
Although they're still only in their first term, we've already had lots of stories about our fabulous new Year 7 students. They're definitely going to keep us busy sharing news of all their achievements.



Reading is something we really value and encourage at CHS so we were delighted to hear that Year 7, **Archie W**, had completed the Summer Reading Challenge with Congleton Library and was included in a piece in the Congleton Chronicle.



We were very proud that Year 7, **Francesca C**, was awarded a Congleton Town Council Coronavirus Civic Award in October. Francesca and her friend, Lydia, had spent lockdown litter picking in the town. Great work, Francesca and Lydia!



Looks like our PE team will have no worries finding students to join our teams this year. We've had lots of stories of Year 7 sports success including, **Nyla BM**, who is making her name in football, racking up the trophies, including Vale Juniors Player of the Match! Another Year 7 footie superstar is **Gracie C** who joined us from Quinta Primary School. After working hard on her game, this season she was signed for the Stoke City Football Club Academy U13s. We look forward to seeing Nyla and Grace scoring goals soon wearing a CHS kit!



Year 7, **Savannah H**, is definitely a safe pair of netballing hands! After winning the U12s Nottingham tournament, one of the largest in the country and attended by teams from all over the UK, with her team, Kingsway Power Netball Club, she was picked to play for the Manchester Thunder squad. Great work!



We were buzzing to hear that Year 8, **Annabel J**, made it to the final 20 out of 13,000 entries to the BBC Radio 2 RHS Big Bee Challenge. Children were challenged to design a "bright, buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects." Annabel also gave a speech about her garden at the Town Hall to the Congleton in Bloom Society, who plan to use her garden design in the near future. We will bring you more information on this soon.



Year 9, **Lily P**, impressed us all recently, running the Congleton Half Marathon in 2hr 20m. She was the youngest competitor in the race and ran completely on her own.



Year 10, **Isabel C**, is enjoying continued success in her Skeet shooting. In October she shot for Cheshire, winning both the individual Colts and Ladies team shoots. In September she chose to shoot in the adult rather than junior category of the World Skeet Masters and took an amazing 4th place!

Ladies									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
2	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
3	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
4	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
5	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
6	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
7	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
8	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
9	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
10	IN BATES	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21



Well done to Year 11, **James B**, who immediately stepped up when Sandbach United Football Club asked for a volunteer to assist a partially sighted boy to access the U8s training sessions each week. What a fantastic example he has set for our younger students with his kindness!

Haydyn hoping to paddle his way to place in Team GB



We loved the photos sent in of a very happy Year 11, **Daniel BP**, who joined the Police Cadets earlier in the year. He was delighted when they started meeting face-to-face again, which meant he finally got his uniform!



Year 12, **Haydyn CB**, has been canoeing competitively for many years so we were very proud to hear that he had been selected to represent GB at the Olympic Hopes Canoe Sprint Regatta in Czech Republic in September. After we featured his story in our social media, it was picked up by the Congleton Chronicle, BBC Radio Stoke and Silk FM. We look forward to sharing more news of his success.



If you have something you'd like us to share in our newsletter and social media, please email details and photographs to: Success@CongletonHigh.com.

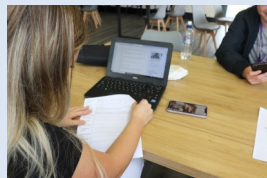
Not so common room

Our Sixth Form students have been delighted with the makeover of their common room over the summer.

The new look facility, in the dedicated Taylor Building Sixth Form Centre, provides them with both an area to relax and chat with friends and a much appreciated purposeful working area, with more capacity for group and individual study.

Previously just sofas, the room now features a combination of sofas, tables and raised bar-style tables, which should offer something to suit everyone's study and relaxation needs.

The Sixth Form Café has also been improved with a new coffee machine!

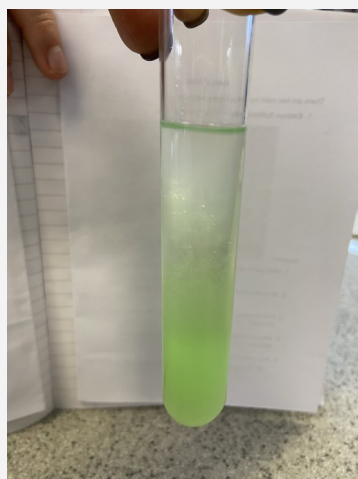


What's green and slimy?

Fascinating Science stuff alert: It's not ectoplasm or pond slime, it's kiwi fruit DNA!

Mrs Fitzsimmons' Year 9 Scientists have been studying genetics and genetic engineering this term and, as part of this, attempted to extract DNA from the furry fruit.

This fantastic example of CSI style Science was by Emily D and Marcia M. Well done, both!



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.

Bear on the wall

Our new Congleton Bear mural has been a real hit since it was installed on the XL courtyard wall. We have had so many positive comments from students, staff and visitors.

Great work, Mr Walsh, and your Year 8 (now Year 9) team: Abi, Alyssa, Amelia, Daisy, Edward, Harriet, Imogen Jade, James, Jasmine F, Jasmine S, Lillie, Lily, Maddie, Nicole and Sarah. (see photo)

Also, a big thank you to the two Year 12 students, Sophia G and Amelia M, who helped to finish off the design.



Wellbeing matters at CHS

We would like to begin our Wellbeing page with a huge 'well done' to all the students who have joined CHS since September 2021. It isn't easy moving schools when everyone is already in friendship groups but you have all very quickly become part of our community. During 2020/21, over sixty 'in year' students joined us, which can not have been easy, moving during a year full of lockdowns and face masks. It is an absolute pleasure to have you all as part of our school community.

In addition, we congratulate our amazing Year 7, you've made such a great impression since you joined us!

ACT CIVIL is our student group set up to address the national issues of sexual harassment and violence. We are delighted that this student group, who meet each fortnight, led by **Isabella M**, has been busy planning their second assembly, based on the dangers of sexting. Their first assembly raised the issues of sexual harassment and inappropriate, sexualised behaviour, following a national survey of 900 English students by the DfE.



The group includes students from Year 13, 11, 10 and 9, and we would welcome any students from Year 7 and 8 to give us their perspective too. We are proud that our students are educating the whole school on national issues and what we, as a community, can do to minimise the issues in our area.



We're so excited to be able to announce that we will be welcoming **Alex Staniforth** in to school in January to speak with our students.

Alex has an extremely impressive CV - Adventurer, speaker, author, charity ambassador and the fastest person to climb all 100 UK county tops in 72 days - and still only 25! We'll definitely be inspired and enthused after his visit! Roll on, January!

In order to Achieve Success Together, we know it is important that students receive praise for the things they do well and this is where our **Hot Chocolate Friday** comes in. We recognise and praise students who do something for their school or wider community, students who make excellent progress and, most importantly, students who try their very hardest. We have really enjoyed celebrating with our students over a hot chocolate and piece of cake and are very proud of the kindness, resilience and respect they have shown themselves and others. A huge thank you to our Catering Manager, Mr Wilcock, and his team for providing the treats.



A large number of our students access **SWANS** <https://swanscic.org/> counselling services in school and this usually involves six, weekly appointments. If you feel your child would benefit from having someone to talk to, please contact your child's form tutor. Alternatively, we are able to recommend a private counsellor if you would prefer.

We were excited to 'virtually' welcome the band **Here At Last** into our school in October to raise awareness of wellbeing, cyber bullying and self-care. Having all had their own issues with cyber bullying and mental health they were able to talk with students in Key Stage 3 about the issues and give advice from their own experience. We also enjoyed hearing some of their latest music. We hope in 2021/22 we can invite the band back in person for autographs and photos!



We are very proud of our **Guidance Team** and the pastoral support we offer here at CHS. The Learning Mentor Team, led by Ms Franks, includes Mr Smith, Mr Morris, Miss Haney, Miss Mapes, Mr Hodgson, Miss Bates, and also our Family Support Worker, Mrs Roach.

Each child also has a form tutor and guidance team leader for support but they can speak to a member of the Learning Mentor team by popping into the LRC. Please encourage your child to speak with any adult at school if they need support. There is also a lot of information on our website, on the Student Welfare page, about who else can help <https://www.congletonhigh.com/205/student-welfare>

We have set up a new Twitter page for **CHS Wellbeing Matters** @WellbeingatCHS. We will use this to share with students, parents and carers all the latest information and advice on wellbeing and mental health.



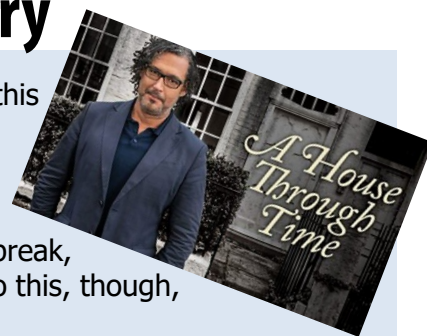
Humanities' hunt for a home with a history

Our Humanities Department has been loving the BBC's "A House Through Time" this year and have been inspired to challenge students to undertake some historic research of their own.

The teachers would love to complete their own version of the show in the new Key Stage 3 History Scholar's Programme, launching after the October half term break, by challenging students to research the history of a house in our local area. To do this, though, we need to have a house to study!

If you would be willing for us to study the history of your house and its previous inhabitants, we would love to hear from you. All we ask is that the house is in or near Congleton and over 100 years old. If your house is chosen, we will present you with a copy of all the research the students complete and you will have the chance to help us judge the final projects.

Please contact Miss Bennett by email: ebennett@congletonhigh.com if you can help and are interested in getting involved.



Year 7 STOP to consider

In October, all students took part in a PHSE STOP



morning. The focus for our Year 7 students was Health and Wellbeing with lessons in personal safety, friendships, study skills and first aid, all delivered by CHS teachers.

The CPR lessons were particularly useful and could help to save a life in the future.



Drawing on experience



Our GCSE and A Level Art students and teachers enjoyed a sketchbook and drawing workshop with artist, Ian Murphy in September.

The workshop included using new materials, making different drawing surfaces and new ways of looking to produce artworks.

Following Ian's advice and guidance, and using the information from the workshop, the students also created several different drawings (see examples below), which will be used as part of their GCSE and A level projects.

Thank you to Ian for giving up his time to work with our students.



Travelling show



Our Performing Arts team took a group of our Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students (and some from Year 9 who are opting to take the course next year) to the Storyhouse in Chester, to experience for themselves Willy Russell's iconic musical, Bloodbrothers.

The musical was already familiar to the group after some students chose excerpts to recreate for our Year 6 Open Evening in September.

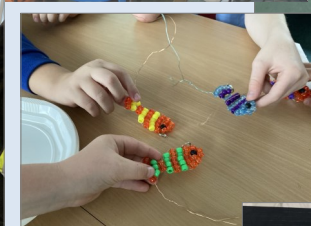
The students absolutely loved the show and will use it to inspire and develop their own work.



A welcome return

It was wonderful to be able to welcome our Year 6 Partner Primary pupils in to school again for our annual Cultural Diversity Day in September.

We were able to give these pupils a small glimpse into other people's lives through a programme of fun games and activities throughout the day. The children from primary schools in and around Congleton Beaded, Danced, Drummed, Basketballed, Fair Traded and generally had fun while learning.



Learning to achieve success together



Starting a new school can be a scary time at any age and is particularly daunting for those eleven year olds moving up from primary school to become the youngest members of a much larger school than they have been used to. It's with this in mind that in the first weeks of term all Year 7 students are invited to take part in our New Starter Teambuilding Day at Astbury Waterpark. It's a full day of activities aimed at helping students get to know each other, learn how to achieve success together by working in teams and, most of all, have fun!

Students enjoy a whole range of events including kayaking, climbing, bushcraft, archery, raft building and even toasting marshmallows! New friendship groups are formed, which is a real bonus for those joining from one of the many smaller schools in the area, who often make the move up in ones and twos.

This Year we held two days, one for each side of the year group. Year 7 Guidance Team Leader, Ms Figiel, organised and supervised the days, helped by Mr Goodwin, Mr Lister and Mr Hilditch. They were all delighted to receive some very lovely comments about the students' behaviour from members of the public at the mere.



All dressed up

In Mrs Lindsay's after school Year 8 Art Club, students have been working hard, designing and constructing a range of high fashion dresses made purely from paper!

They have been researching different designers for inspiration for their creations and each design represents a great deal of dedication and skill.

The group have made a fantastic start demonstrating a high level of both design and construction skill.

We can't wait to see the dresses when they are all completed.



Stamp of approval

Earlier this year our students took part in the Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Design competition, featuring their own Covid Heroes, including Marcus Rashford, scientists and Captain Sir Tom Moore, in their amazing designs.



We were delighted that Congleton High School students were among the 696,049 children who helped to make this competition a Guinness World Record.

Invest in futures

Over five days in the summer, Year 13 student, Lily S, attended the InvestIN Young Lawyer Programme in London.

Throughout the course, she was immersed in all aspects of the Law: arguing for the prosecution in a mock murder trial (which she won), attending lectures by top barristers and Law academics, arguing a human rights case in the Supreme Court, social networking with commercial lawyers at Canary Wharf, and undergoing advocacy training and one-to-one mentoring with representatives from City Law firms.

Lily plans to study Law at university and found the programme to be a fantastic experience, giving a great insight into the Law, as well as invaluable advice and contacts for her future.

This was a course that Lily was determined to attend; to the extent that she started a part-time job to help cover the cost. Mr Franklin, Assistant Leader of Sixth Form, was particularly impressed with her dedication:

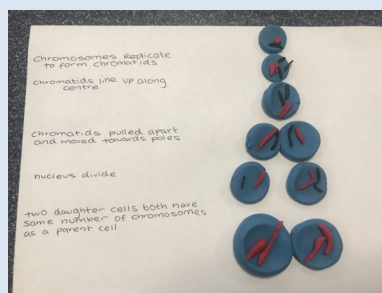
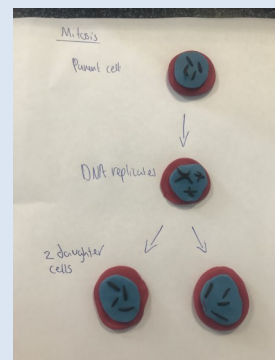
"I think it is a tremendous example of what can be achieved if our students are intent on making something happen and see the value in gaining fantastic experiences such as this."



Modelling mitosis

Ms Figiel's Year 10 Biologists took a modelling material more often used by preschool pupils and put it to great use recently in their lessons.

They used different colour plasticine to demonstrate their understanding of Mitosis, one of the stages of cell division.



Happy Languages Day!

In September, all across the school, we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the European Day of Languages.



Students enjoyed lots of fun languages themed activities in form time and throughout our Modern Foreign Languages lessons.

We also ran a competition to win a £10 Amazon voucher by creatively representing a European language - for example, with a poster design, a poem, a themed cake (yum), a short film, a piece of music etc. Students were given lots of scope to experiment and we can't wait to see what they delivered. Watch this space!

Preparation and practice makes perfect

As part of our Careers Programme we gave our Year 11 students valuable experience of interviews and interview preparation with our Mock Interview Event in September.

The students were asked to 'apply' for a job in a wide variety of sectors including accountancy, catering, marketing, public services, armed forces, business, construction, agriculture, retail and childcare. They each prepared a CV and covering letter and then took part in a 15 minute interview with one of the 25 employers who attended the event.



It was particularly rewarding to be able to welcome back our former Head Girl, Chloe Tatton, in her role as Business Relations Coordinator with Franklyn Financial Management. Chloe has been a keen supporter of our careers initiatives and serves as a great inspiration and role model for students.

We were delighted to receive some great feedback from the employers and volunteers who attended our Year 11 Mock Interview Day last week, with one commenting:

"I was blown away by the confidence and quality of the pupils I interviewed. They are a real credit to the school, teachers and parents."

We would like to thank everyone - all the employers, volunteers, our Chair of Governors, Rich Benson and our Governor, Uriah Smith - who gave up their time to help these young people develop and improve their application and interview skills and help them to build their confidence.

This valuable opportunity will help all students to prepare for the future, whichever route they choose to take after Year 11.



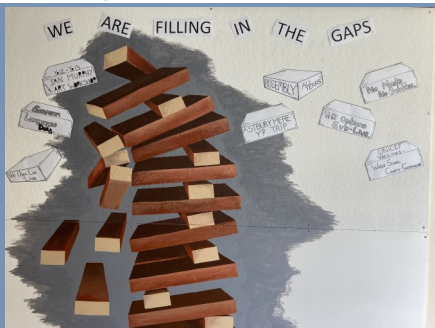
Filling in the gaps

Like all schools across the world, Covid has meant that we lost big chunks of learning last year. We have done our best to catch up with online

learning and face-to-face lessons since we returned to school and are making steady progress.

However, as any of our students will tell you, the 'CHS Experience' is not just about classroom lessons, it is also all the other fantastic opportunities that they enjoy - extracurricular clubs and activities, trips, charity events, assemblies, visiting speakers, revision groups, STOP Days, sports clubs, rewards trips, proms..... the list is endless and each and every one has been sorely missed.

We have asked students to tell us the aspects of their own school life that they feel they have lost over the last year. We have had a great response to the survey we sent out and have added these 'missing pieces' to our Jenga Wall to reassure students that over the year we will be refilling the gaps so that they can once again begin to enjoy and benefit from the CHS Experience.



Bold as brass



Our amazing new Brass teacher, Mr Scarterfield, ran some Brass taster sessions for Year 7 and Year 9 students in their lessons in October. He totally wowed them with a

demonstration of the versatility of the trumpet and trombone, playing some fantastic pieces, from the James Bond theme tune to a more classical repertoire.

Afterwards, students had the opportunity to try out the instruments themselves, which they loved.

Brass lessons will be available after half term and students wishing to sign up should see Mrs Hall-Gillions or Miss Blundred in the Music Department for a letter.



Other Music lesson opportunities include violin, viola, cello, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, singing, piano and drums.

A taste of the future

To help them with planning for their 16+ Pathway, our Year 10 students were able to take part in a range of taster Sixth Form lessons in the last week of the summer term. This enabled students to get a better idea of the courses available to them and the type of study involved in those lessons. A sample Biology session included dissecting a locust, maybe not to everyone's taste but an integral part of that course.

In addition to the classroom lessons, the year group was also provided with lots of useful information on university learning and apprenticeships. The aim of this week was to help students to discover exactly the right pathway for them and is part of an overall Careers programme run at CHS, which equips students with the information and advice they need from an early age.



Revising revision

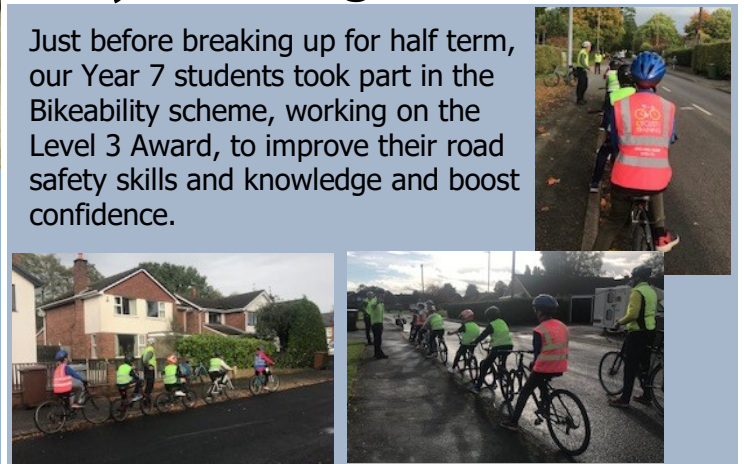
Revision isn't always easy or fun but Ms Figiel's Year 9 Scientists found a great way to make it a little less of a chore. They made 'chatterboxes' to help them revise for their Particles test.

This is such a great idea that can be used across all subjects easily and get family members involved too.



Easy as riding a bike

Just before breaking up for half term, our Year 7 students took part in the Bikeability scheme, working on the Level 3 Award, to improve their road safety skills and knowledge and boost confidence.



Art from the heart

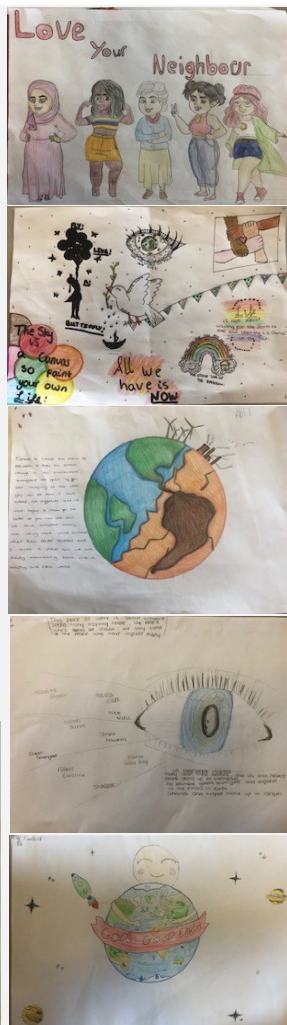
Our Year 8 RE students took part in a Spirited Arts competition last term, where they were challenged to produce a poem or artwork on one of three themes:

Diversity/Community: inspired by the Jo Cox quote *"We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."*

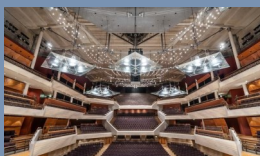
Planet Earth: exploring ideas and beliefs about the natural world, human responsibility for the earth and ways of praying about climate justice.

Inspiring People/Places/Music. Identifying what inspires them from religion or from their own world view.

Students delivered some wonderfully thoughtful and creative pieces (a selection can be seen here) and, once judged, prizes will be awarded at CHS and the best entered into a national competition.



Bringing music to life



In October, a group of our Year 11 GCSE Music students, and Year 9 students planning to study Music, visited the [The Bridgewater Hall](#) to enjoy 'The Orchestra Through the Ages,' by [The Hallé](#).

The concert was created in collaboration with music educators to provide a unique resource for students studying GCSE Music and featured a number of orchestral pieces from the syllabus.

It took the audience "on a guided tour of music from the Renaissance to the twenty first century" and demonstrated the development of the symphony orchestra, with a brief history and musical analysis of some key pieces.

Experiencing live music bringing to life some of the works covered within their GCSE syllabus with additional commentary was an amazing opportunity for these students, which will make a real difference to their studies.



Summer School fun

In August, we ran a special week-long Summer School programme for our new Year 7 intake, with sessions running from 9.30am until 2.30pm each day. It was incredibly successful and we were delighted with the take up of places. It was offered to the full year group and over 120 students actually attended.

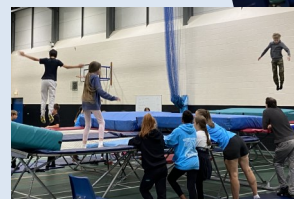
During the week, the children had the opportunity to get to know the school a bit more, meet some of our staff and make friends with the other Year 6 children who would be joining us in September. The year group really benefitted from being taught by our specialist teachers and experienced some activities which they had been unable to do during Year 5 and Year 6, due to being in and out of multiple lockdowns and school closures.

Each day was organised so that the children experienced three activities that were designed to inspire and enthuse their love of learning and adventure, ready for their next stage of education.

The activities that took place included:

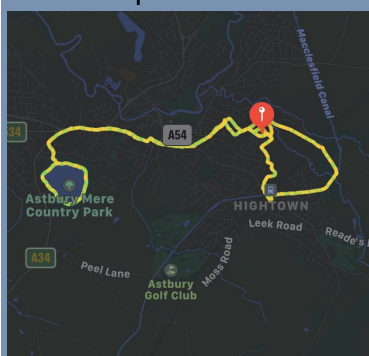
- The chance to become 'logophiles' (word lovers) and news reporters
- Drumming and Guitar workshops
- Designing, building and testing a race car in Science
- Introduction to the microscopic world of bugs
- Trampolining and outdoor sports
- Art and Design Workshop
- Bollywood and Flamenco Dancing
- Dragon's Den Activity

We received some excellent feedback about the Summer School from pupils, parents and carers. It increased children's confidence about their transition to high school, allowed them to begin to forge friendships with their peers and had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

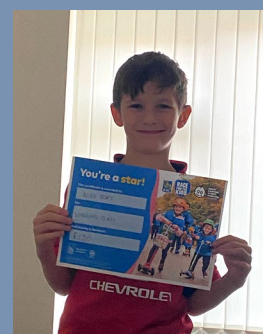


Reading raises awareness and money

To help our Key Stage 3 students (Years 7-9) improve their reading, vocabulary and news awareness, we've subscribed to a digital newspaper, [First News](#). It's a great way to keep up-to-date with what's going on in the world, see different points of view, learn about lots of new subjects and enjoy puzzles and competitions.



In terms of students' awareness of the world around them, there's no doubt that this is beginning to pay dividends and Year 7, **Alex T**, is a perfect example of this. Alex was completing his English homework at the beginning of October, which was reading First News online. After reading one of the stories in the 1-7 Oct issue about the RBC Race for Kids, the Great Ormond Street Charity fun run, he straight away wanted to sign up to help.



So on Sunday 17th October Alex completed a tremendous 15 kilometre walk to raise money for The Great Ormond Street

Hospital. His efforts raised over £100 in sponsorship, which will help the charity continue their pioneering work with children. Fantastic work, Alex, well done! Reading benefits so many people in so many different ways!

Students should login via the quick link on the CongletonHigh.com Student Welcome page or here: <https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/subscription-login/> They can also download an app from the App Store/Google Play to access the newspaper on their phone.



Playing for time



Our Music Department's Guitar Club runs every Monday after school from 3:00 to 4:00pm with Mr Procter in our large Music Room, E0-15.

This is one of our many free Music tuition after school (3-4pm) clubs open to all students in all years.

In addition, we also run clubs for students interested in playing other instruments. We have Woodwind Club on Mondays, our Drumming/Samba Club on Wednesdays and our Strings Club on Thursdays.

Don't worry if you don't have your own instrument, we have plenty at school for you to borrow.

If you have any questions or would like to join, see Mrs Blundred in the Music Department for more information.

All smiles for a while

After so many months without sports competitions and matches, our students and staff were all excited to hear that fixtures could again be played this term. Our joy was to be short lived, however, when only a few weeks in to term it was announced that Public Health England had advised us to postpone all fixtures until further notice.

We had managed to squeeze in a few matches before then though and were thrilled to achieve some strong results.

Our first win of the season was for our U14s Girls Football Team in the English Schools FA and it was a 4-2 win against a strong Sandbach girls team.

Next came a match for our Sixth Form team and, despite some great play, it was a loss. Maddy Hopley was awarded Player of the Match.

The Boys were next up, with an U16s match in October against the Weaverham team. They won with a fantastic 5-3 final score.

At the beginning of October we were able to have a night of Netball fixtures for all year groups, with the icing on the cake definitely the wins for our Year 7a, Year 10 and Year 11 teams!

Following that, the U16s team took part in the County Tournament on Saturday 9th October, scoring a great win against the Helsby team.

We are all keeping our fingers, toes and everything else crossed that we will be able to start playing some fixtures again when we return from the half term break. We'll keep you posted!

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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chsp performers



Parents and carers can access a wide range of information regarding their child's school day, attendance and performance via SIMS (formerly Cloud School) and will receive log in details when their child starts in Year 7. Any queries or problems should be referred to Miss Casey, via email: **kcasey@congletonhigh.com** or telephone: 01260 730123.