



# Congleton High School Newsletter

Merry Christmas

Issue 1

Achieving Success Together



National  
Competition  
Winners!



## Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to our new look Congleton High School newsletter. We have much to celebrate and I hope that you enjoy reading the many achievements of our students and staff this term. I do hope that you have been following our school website for regular news updates.

In our recent parent survey you told us that you would value a wide range of communication and I am pleased that we also have a sports blog which can be located by going to <http://www.congletonhighsports.blogspot.co.uk/>. This will keep sports fans up-to-date with the achievements of our students this term.

I would welcome your views on our termly newsletter and if you have any ideas or contributions for future editions please contact me on [principal@congletonhigh.com](mailto:principal@congletonhigh.com).

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas as we end yet another successful term.

Regards

David Hermitt  
Principal



# Extra Curriculum



**National  
Competition  
Winners!**



Congleton High School has a strong commitment to reduce its impact on the environment. Year 7 are publicising a 'reduce, reuse, recycle' motto of the ECO committee around the school, ensuring that we are learning and living in a sustainable environment. The school is supporting them with this aim, with the installation of solar panels, a green water recycling system and a strong commitment to recycling of suitable materials. There is also a weekly gardening club that is held in the sensory garden to connect pupils with the outdoors and their surroundings, whilst honing a sustainable lifestyle.

The science club at Congleton High School decided to take on the climate cops challenge by promoting the outdoors through integrating modern technology with nature. The students chose to give their fellow classmates a scavenger hunt, where they would need to go out into the school grounds finding specific plants and animals. The competitors were given a list of plants and animals to find that had a point score depending on how difficult the object was to find. To give our scavenger hunt a modern twist the competitors had to take photographs on their phone of the species, highlighting that we should continue to protect the environment. The group with the highest point score won!

## CHS students off to the Olympics!

Five delighted Congleton High students were rewarded with free tickets to the Olympics in July! As part of the Get Set London 2012 Olympics Network, Congleton High received free tickets for students and accompanying adults to go Old Trafford on 31 July, to watch Olympic Football.

Nathan Stirk (Y11), Emily Henshaw (Y11), Reuben Gittings (Y10), Katie Archer (Y7) and Hollie Massey (Y7) were all nominated by staff and students for free tickets because of their commitment to living out the Olympic and Paralympic Values of respect, friendship, excellence, equality, inspiration, determination and courage. Their special visit this summer was extremely well-deserved!



## Competition Time!

Congratulations to Hollie Massey, Y7, who won £25 in a recent competition to name a McCarthy and Stone building development. Hollie's entry, 'Dane Court', was chosen by the company. Hollie is pictured here with Eric Cruice, Pre-Marketing Executive at McCarthy and Stone.



## Climate Cops Continued...

...You may have seen the Climate Cops Champions banner outside school. We were presented with this to help celebrate the success of our Climate Cops team, who were placed in the first 10 in a national competition last term for their work on promoting the environment. The prize for the team, led by Miss Dixon and Miss Moorhouse, was a week's residential in November at the Ullswater Outward Bounds Centre, where they were challenged to step outside of their comfort zones, appreciate the natural environment and explain sustainability – and in doing so, to achieve the John Muir (Environmental) Award. The week, which involved many exciting activities including gorge walking, a survival master class and a night in a cave, culminated with the delivery of a presentation on sustainability. Our team were commended for their positive attitude and determination, proving themselves to be 'true ambassadors for Congleton High School', with two students nominated to take part in an eight day course in the summer holidays.





# Junior Masterchef - Well Done Jamie!

We were all rooting for Jamie Casey in Year 7 as he battled it out with other contestants in the finals of the BBC's Junior MasterChef competition. Jamie did incredibly well in the competition and was one of the final four contestants, trying to impress judges John Torode and Donal Skehan with their culinary skills.

The four were given some difficult challenges, including cooking in a professional kitchen in a boutique hotel and delivering a Caribbean-inspired lunch to 50 members of a Notting Hill Carnival band. The series concluded when Jamie and the other contestants had to cook their best three-course menu in just 2 hours in the hope of being crowned Junior MasterChef 2012.

Asked what it was like cooking for John Torode and Donal Skehan, Jamie said "It was nothing like cooking for your parents, I can tell you that for sure!" He added "The first challenge was the hardest for me in front of the judges, as I was just getting used to everything and what was happening around me. I breathed a big sigh of relief when John said my plate was pretty much perfect. After that my confidence grew."

Jamie's whole year group cheered him on too. Mrs L Pyatt, Year 7 Head of Student Services said "We have celebrated Jamie's success in Junior Masterchef in the Year 7 assembly on - we are all very proud of Jamie - he is our hero"





## NUFFIELD SUCCESS

Y13 student, David Kemball was presented with the prestigious Nuffield Foundation Science Award and Gold Crest Award at a Celebration Evening held at the World Museum in Liverpool in October. David received the award for a month long research project he carried out in the summer, under the guidance of Manchester University Medical School. David exhibited findings from his investigation 'Does Inflammatory Arthritis exist?' at the Celebration evening and was congratulated by judges on the very high level of his work.

The Nuffield Foundation provides the Science Bursary Awards to enable the highest achieving students to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians. David is one of several Congleton High School students who have received Nuffield Bursary Awards over the past few years.



David Hermitt, Principal, said: 'The inspiration offered by high achievers, including Olympians and Paralympians, who strive to achieve their dreams is incredibly powerful and can really reach out and engage our young people. I am delighted to welcome Dr David Hemery and Chris Cook to launch this exciting and transformational Programme'.

Following the incredibly successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer, Dr David Hemery CBE, Olympic Gold Medallist and former World Record Holder, visited the school on 29 October, to lead and inspire staff in a Development Day as part of the launch of the 'Be the Best You can Be' programme, that has been officially designed to be part of the legacy of the 2012 Games.

Dr Hemery, founder of 21st Century Legacy, believes that 'everyone has a spark of greatness within them' and 'can achieve their potential, as long as they positively set their mind to it, believe in themselves and are prepared to work hard.'

Our Students were lucky enough to have been visited by Olympic Swimmer Chris Cooke where he explained the challenges that he

had faced and overcome in his career.

Students were inspired by Chris and engaged brilliantly with him, leading him to praise Congleton High School as one of the best schools that he has worked with so far.

Be the best you can be...



# DID YOU KNOW?

Our under-16 basketball team, defeated St Thomas More 38:25 recently in the national U16 basketball championships. By half time Congleton had opened up a lead of 12 points, thanks to some excellent shooting from Paddy McGovern and Alfie Stone. George Blinkhorn and Luke Richards played a key role in handling the ball and creating fast break opportunities. Mathew Finley, Matthew Jones, Owen Gough, Tom Spender, Ryan Merrill and Bibo Webb (from Year 10) made excellent contributions to secure a memorable victory.

Over the last 2 months, students at CHS have been working on a project to send books to a South African school and orphanage in Cape Town.

The final number of books collected amounted to 48 boxes, or 1200 books, an amazing figure that reflects the staggering generosity of our community. This shipment of books will mean that they arrive in Cape Town and will be delivered to the children by Christmas.

**Keep us informed of the activities you do outside school...**

Coronation Street star, William Roache, delighted staff and students when he spent a whole day in the Creative and Media department.

The actor, who is best known for playing ladies' man Ken Barlow in the popular TV soap, spent time watching various student drama performances, then took part in a question and answer session where he offered advice on working in the acting industry and finally performed with students in a specially written comedy sketch show.



Our Chair of Governors, Richard Hinckley, has been elected as a National Leader of Governance. This enables him to provide support to other Chairs of Governors to improve school performance.

National Leaders of Governance are selected after a rigorous application process.

On being awarded this prestigious title, Richard Hinckley said "Every child deserves a good education and I hope I can play my part in bring this about."

Congleton High School has been awarded the prestigious Specialist Schools Trust Cultural Diversity Quality Standard (CDQS) Gold Award for its outstanding work in promoting cultural diversity and equality across the curriculum and in all areas of school life.

The school has held the International Schools Award since 2007 and has strong links with schools in South Africa, Germany and France, with reciprocal staff and student visits taking place, funded by the British Council.



# School Life

## The Sixth Form Honours Programme

The success rate of our students in securing places at the highest ranking universities is outstanding. Excellent exam results, extensive enrichment opportunities and high quality university application programmes have ensured that this is the case. But we are not complacent. In an increasingly competitive national market we want to do more still to challenge our most academic students so that they continue to be selected by the most prestigious universities and for the most oversubscribed courses. We have been working collaboratively with Eaton Bank Academy to develop our Honours Programme which enables our students to access an even broader array of opportunities, such as masterclasses, university visits, subject specific conferences and extension studies. Both schools will host events. Some of the activities will take place on specified days of the school year, some after school and others during a common timetable slot.

## High Achievers day

On Tuesday 26th June, a group of 22 Year 8 students took part in a High Achievers day. The students attended five different sessions, including: Psychology, Japanese, Mathematics, Philosophy and Ethics, and Historical Artefacts. Special thanks go to visiting speakers Jeff Cutts (New Life Church) and Shane Wright (Wellspring Church) who helped lead the Philosophy and Ethics session, and to John Dean (Year 12) who led the Japanese session and assisted with the Mathematics activities. The students all enjoyed the day and the opportunity to gain an experience of subjects and topics which they would not normally encounter in lessons.

## High Achievers Poetry Day with Ash Dickinson

On Thursday 11th October, 30 high achievers from KS3 at Congleton High School took part in a poetry day with a visiting poet, Ash Dickinson. Students spent three hours with Ash, listening to his poetry, writing their own poems, and discussing writing and the power of words. Selected poems from Ash's book, "Slinky Espadrilles", went down very well with the students! There were a number of excellent poems written and the students had a great day.



# ART



On Saturday 10th November at the town hall in Congleton, **Rebecca Barlow (middle), Maisy Clarkson (centre) and Olivia Roberts(right)** were awarded certificates for their entries into the Rotary Club competition. They all produced incredible art work based on the theme of London. The overall winner, receiving a prize of art equipment was Rebecca Barlow. Congratulations to all y8pupils who entered. Work will be displayed around school shortly.

Congleton High School played host to a very special art exhibition this term, comprising artwork by primary school children from across the town. Primary schools from Congleton and surrounding areas were invited to submit artwork from their students into the competition, with entries from Reception class right up to Year 6.

This is the second year that the High School has hosted the competition, and the standard of entries was once again outstanding. The children had to produce an original piece of two or three-dimensional work using any media.

Inspired by the Olympics, Congleton's SEAL Partnership, led by Mrs Isherwood, Head teacher of Marfields Primary school, chose the theme of "Movement" for this year. The winner of each age group received a folder of art materials, sponsored by the SEAL Partnership.

The local artist and jewellery designer Beth Matthews was there on the evening to judge the winners and award the prizes.

Helen Vale, Curriculum Team Leader for Art at Congleton High School said "The work submitted by these young artists was of an extremely high standard. It was wonderful to see the young talent of Congleton celebrated in this exhibition."





# What you think about us...

Thank you to the 236 parents who completed our annual online survey.

We are very pleased that the vast majority of parents and carers agree with the 13 statements. Over 90% agreed with 10 of the statements, which is the best result for 5 years.

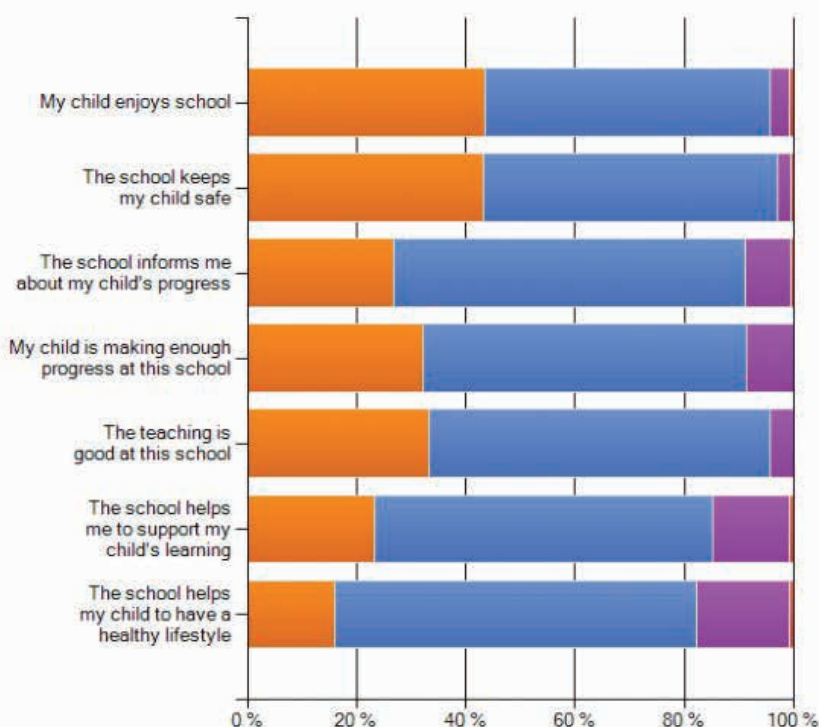
Around 40% strongly agreed with statements like "Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school", "My child enjoys school", "the school keeps my child safe" and "The school is led and managed effectively". The attached charts show the detailed results for each question.

We believe that we can improve our work and take your feedback very seriously. We have already begun to

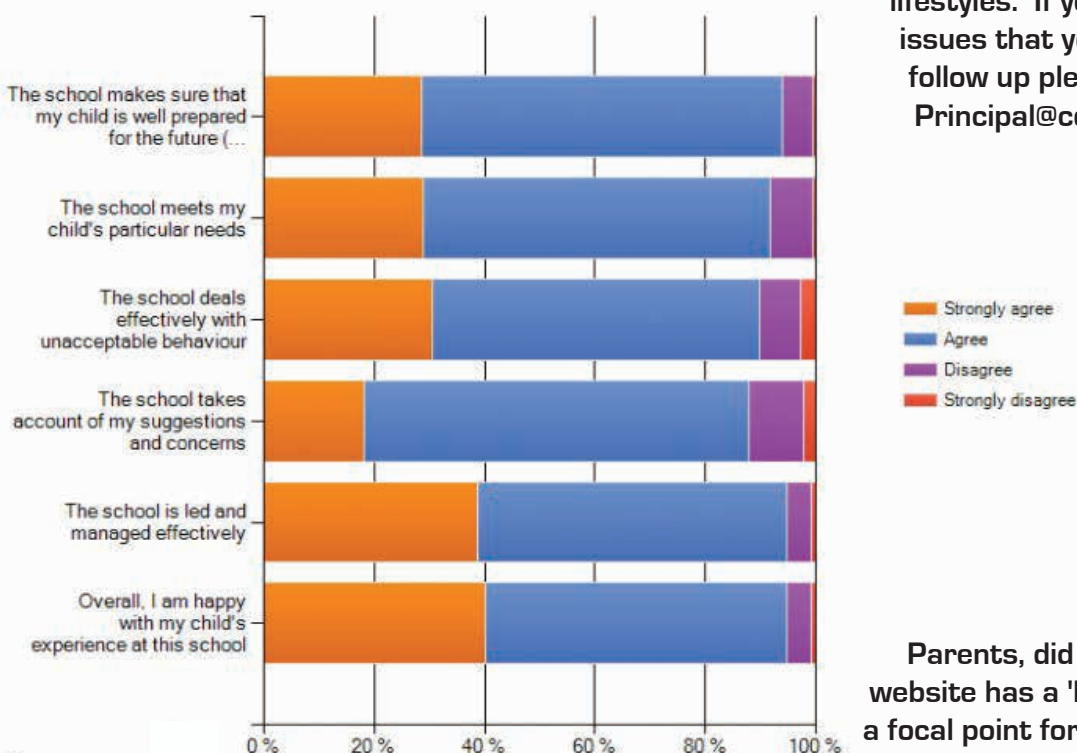
act on your

constructive feedback regarding areas of our work that can be improved such as communication, helping parents to support their child's education and healthy lifestyles. If you have any specific issues that you would like me to follow up please contact me at [Principal@congletonhigh.com](mailto:Principal@congletonhigh.com).

My views about Congleton High School



Further views



Strongly agree  
Agree  
Disagree  
Strongly disagree

Parents, did you know that our website has a 'Parent Area' which is a focal point for all of the information and resources we think you might need during your child's time at CHS. We have added a new sub-section for 'Parental Feedback', where we will keep you updated with future survey results and other views from parents.





The logo for BLU PRINT DESIGN is located in the upper center of the banner. It features the word "BLU" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with "PRINT DESIGN" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font directly below it. The text is enclosed within a thin blue oval border.

**BLU**  
PRINT DESIGN

# **BLUE PRINT DESIGN**

## **at Congleton High School**

**Leaflets | Posters | Banners | Canvases | Business Stationery**

**e: [blueprint@congletonhigh.com](mailto:blueprint@congletonhigh.com) | t: 01260 387000**  
**Congleton High School | Box Lane | Congleton | CW12 4NS**



## Key Dates for events

**Monday 17 Dec**

**Thursday 24 Jan**

**Wednesday 30 Jan**

**Tuesday 12 Feb**

**Wednesday 13 Feb**

**Thursday 14 Feb**

**Monday 04 - Friday 08 Mar**

**Tuesday 05 Mar**

**Wednesday 13 Mar**

**Thursday 14 Mar**

**Monday 18 - Friday 22 March**

**Monday 29 - Friday 03 April**

**Wednesday 24 April**

**Ex-Year 13 Awards Evening**

**GCSE Awards Evening**

**Parents in Partnership Meeting**

**Year 9 Options Evening**

**Year 12 UCAS Parents Information Evening**

**Year 12 RE Stop Day**

**Year 9 Review Week**

**Parents in Partnership Meeting**

**Year 7 - 9 Disco**

**Congleton 'Big Kiss' Careers Fair**

**Year 11 Review Week**

**Year 10 Review Week**

**Parents in Partnership Meeting**

**Thursday 20 Dec**

**School closes  
for Christmas  
holiday**

**Monday 25 Feb**

**School re-opens  
to students**

## Key Dates for school closures

**Monday 07 Jan**

**School re-opens  
to students**

**Wednesday 27  
March**

**School closes  
for Easter  
Holiday**

**Friday 15 Feb**

**School closes  
for half term  
Holiday**

**Monday 15 April**

**School re-opens  
to students**

**Friday 19 April**

**School closed  
for INSET Day**