

Congleton High School Parents' Newsletter

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Issue 9—May 2012

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter. It is now twelve months since we became an Academy and the school is already experiencing the benefits. We have been able to refurbish one of our science labs and are preparing to refurbish the entrance to the school which will include a new reception, student reception, meeting room and toilet facilities. The entrance will have automatic doors and internal security locking making the school an even safer place. This is a very exciting project which we hope to complete by September 2012.

We have also reviewed our Equality Policy and have set the following targets

- To improve the access to the site for wheelchair users
- To gain the Cultural Diversity Quality Standard
- To increase the number of ethnic minority staff to better reflect the student profile

If you have any comments feedback please contact me on
head@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk

The Y11, 12 and 13 exam season has now begun. Please join with me in wishing them the very best in their forthcoming exams.

We are all looking forward to the Olympic Torch procession on Thursday 31st May. The school will open at 11am for students following the re-opening of the local roads. More information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

D Hermitt, Principal

Equality^{and} Diversity Matters

at
CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL

Do you think we could improve
our work in this area?

Why not join a discussion group?

race^{disability}
age^{gender} barriers
bullying

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

Mr Hermitt

email: head@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk
Tel: 01260 273013



Disability
Access

Cultural
Diversity

Staff
Diversity

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

On March 7, Year 8 took part in the school's Cultural Diversity Day to promote equality and diversity within the school community. The students had a chance to experience a variety of activities, from energetic Bollywood dancing to inspiring workshops on Fair Trade and a chance to test their skills at flag making. They also gained an insight into Paralympic sports with participation in wheelchair basketball and blind football. The day culminated in a presentation of the students' dancing skills followed by a medal presentation, for students who best demonstrated the Olympic and Paralympic values, from current Team GB Olympian Emma Jackson. All who took part, including staff, shared an enjoyable and enlightening experience.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

South Africa

In April, 6 students who had applied to go to South Africa finally realised their dream as they joined Mrs Davis, Ms Morgan and Mr Franklin for the trip to Cape Town. Adam Bailey, Sophie Hammond, Matthew Jones, Leah McCusker, Eloise Toft and Eleanor Roberts flew out to represent Congleton High School and delivered brilliant presentations about life in Britain to students at both Muizenberg Junior and High Schools. A bumper week ensued that included Table Mountain, Boulders Beach (to see the Penguin colony!), Paarl Mountain, Cape Point as well as emotional visits to an orphanage and disabled support centre. All students were true ambassadors for the school and have been complemented on their enthusiasm, friendliness and maturity by South African school staff and have returned determined to create a long lasting legacy for future trips. Congratulations to them from all of the staff at Congleton!



Comenius Visit

Congleton High School is involved in a project with schools from France and Germany looking at energy supplies. The project which is funded by the British Council, allows our students to participate in exciting trips and activities free of charge. At the end of March, we were joined by our partner schools for a visit. During their stay our visitors joined staff and students at school for a series of presentations on the project. Those involved in the project then travelled with the visitors to Connahs Quay where they visited a gas fired power station. Following an overnight stay at the picturesque Snowdon Ranger Youth Hostel the group visited Caernarvon Castle and then had a tour of "Electric Mountain" before dropping our visitors off at their Youth Hostel in Manchester. On the final day they all visited the Science Museum in Manchester. The visit was a tremendous success and all involved learned a great deal.

Engineering Education Scheme

One of our flagship programmes for students in Year 12 is the Engineering Education Scheme. This is run for a small team of students and involves them working with industry on a project. The project has to be delivered to meet a specification, a budget and a tight timescale so they would experience all the pressures (and hopefully the triumphs) of a real engineering project.

This year our team of Henry Williams, Michael Pettit, Chris Davis and Lauren Bennett worked with Siemens on a project. They were asked to make an eye-catching way of demonstrating Siemens' motor drive units. Over a six month period they designed and manufactured a racing game that was displayed and assessed at Liverpool University. The team passed with flying colours and hopefully will be considering careers in engineering or allied subjects.



Engineering Education Scheme Team



Comenius visit to Connahs Quay

YEAR 13 FASHION SHOOT AT CREWE HALL

Students studying the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Fashion and Clothing have had the unique opportunity of displaying the garments they have made in a professional fashion shoot against the magnificent back drop of Crewe Hall. This amazing experience was only made possible by Frank Henshall Photography who have been instrumental in the whole project being a fantastic success. These professional photographs will now be used by the students to create our own Fashion Magazine, which will be produced and on sale later in the year.

Enormous thanks go to Frank Henshall, Crewe Hall, Beauty Secrets makeup and Vanity Corner hairdressers. All these professionals have kindly given their time, knowledge and resources to help our students produce quality coursework and achieve stunning results.



Y10 / Y11 TEXTILE STUDENTS WIN BERISFORDS AWARDS

Over the last few months Y10 and Y11 textile students have been involved in designing a corset based on a theme including Olympic / Diamond Jubilee / Pop Art. Berisfords Ribbons provided up to 100m of ribbon for each student and Managing Director, Peter Bowes, came into school to judge the competition and award the prizes. Our thanks go to Berisfords for all the support they give to the textiles students in their studies.

Pictured left to right are:

Jade Pirie who won £100 first prize, Rachel Walters £70 second prize, Georgina Hancock £30 third prize and Peter Bowes.



LINKS WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

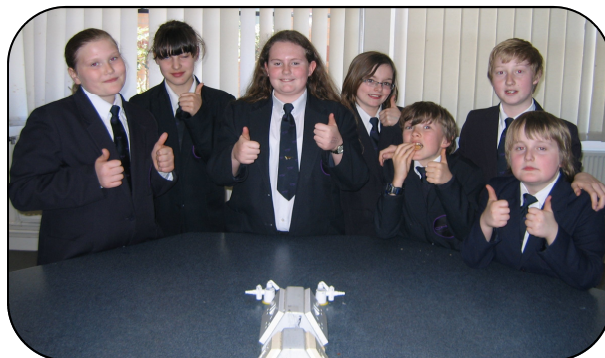
Design and Technology Training for Primary Schools

As part of our engineering specialism, we offer Primary Schools the chance to undertake some training on a DT project. To make it even more worthwhile, those schools that send teachers get a free class set of materials to allow them to deliver the project in their own schools. This year, teachers from Daven and Astbury joined us to do a project on pneumatics. Mr Watkins showed them how to make a versatile project that demonstrated the principles of pneumatics and the teachers were soon inspired to use the project in their own schools. They went away with some new knowledge and their kits. Miss Kenny will also be going to Woodcocks Well to deliver the training in-school for them.

Eco-Committee

A group of enthusiastic year 7 students have formed an ECO-Committee. They hope to help the school to gain the coveted "Green Flag" award for high environmental standards. Fortunately the team includes a number of members who have helped their Primary Schools to achieve the award so they should be able to make rapid progress.

The school already has excellent environmental credentials having won awards recently for its Sensory Garden and an award from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust for its work in establishing biodiversity.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students for their recent achievements:

- Jodie Benson 10KSM passed her Grade 6 Trinity Guildhall Trumpet examination with Merit
- Paige Jepson 10AMO competed in the Young Kennel Club finals at Crufts with her dog 'Poppy' finishing 7th in the Obedience category and 6th in the Grooming category.
- Sophie Pyatt is one of this year's 50 'Rising Stars' at the Jaguar Academy of Sport and will receive mentoring from very well known sports personalities as well as a bursary of £2,000. Ambassadors include David Beckham, Jessica Ennis, Chris Hoy to name but a few. Sophie's resume can be viewed on the Academy's website <http://www.jaguaracademyofsport.co.uk/the-academy/rising-stars.aspx>, where her progress can be followed over the next 12 months.
- Patrick McGovern 10AMO has played in both under 15's and under 16's national league basketball this season for the Cheshire Jets. The under 16's secured runners up in their league and were narrowly beaten in the play offs. As part of the team Patrick was presented with certificates from the England Basketball Association at the Northgate Arena in Chester, where they also had their photos taken alongside QPR and Ex Liverpool player Djibrel Cisse whose wife is a huge Cheshire Jets Fan

OTHER NEWS AND MESSAGES

BBC School News Day

In March the Media Club took part in the BBC School News Day along with thousands of schools from around Great Britain. The students in small reporting teams to produce a range of news items that were then brought together in Congleton High's own 'news broadcast' that was uploaded to the internet and available to view on line by going to: <http://www.chs.itqsolutions.net/bbcnews/index%202009.html>. We were extremely proud of the student's achievements as the club has only been running for a few months. The skills and professionalism that the students demonstrated were amazing.



The team are pictured with Media Studies Teacher, Mrs Brookes

Olympic Torch Procession Thursday 31st May

A reminder to parents that the school will not open to students until 11am on Thursday 31st May on the morning that the Olympic Torch travels through Congleton. Full details have been provided in a letter that has been sent home via students. If any parents have not received a copy of the letter and / or not yet returned the slip informing the school what is to happen to their child that morning can they please contact Mrs Taylor in school.

We would like to inform you that there will be various activities happening prior to the Torch arriving in Congleton. This includes our Samba Band who will be performing outside the school at around 8.15am and a range of street acts who will be entertaining the crowds.

The Torch will start its procession outside school at just after 8.45am.

KEY DIARY DATES

School closes for half term on Friday 1st June and re-opens on Monday 11 June

Please note that a full list of calendar events can be obtained from the school website at

http://www.chs.itqsolutions.net/parent_resources.html



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