



Congleton High School

**Newsletter
Issue 2**

Achieving Success Together

Dear Parents/ Carers

This Term's edition is full of examples of how our students have been successful in a variety of ways. It is amazing to read about the number of competitions that have been entered, and won by our students. These achievements are closely linked to the support that parents and teachers have provided to encourage a wide range of interests.

I am particularly grateful to the support of the Parents in Partnership group who not only raise valuable additional funds but act as friends to the school to provide further improvements. A special thank you must go to our Town Mayor, Councillor Sally Ann Holland, who has been involved in a number of school events this year.

Is attitude more important than ability? We have many examples of students who have developed the right attitude by completing their homework, wearing their uniform well, caring for others, participating in teams and going the extra mile. Successful adults develop their attitudes so that they see obstacles and difficulties in positive ways. The fact that our children are developing these skills at such a young age must bode well for the future. I would encourage parents to look closely at the Attitude to Learning grades since they are a simple way of encouraging the habits that lead to success.

Ofsted wrote to us this term after they had analysed the academic results for 2012. We are delighted that they have deferred our next inspection based on those fantastic results. The current groups in school are well on their way to matching this level of success and hopefully exceeding them by setting some new school records. We wish all our students the best as they prepare for their exams this summer.

We say farewell to Mr Johnson who has been spearheading our professional services to other schools. He will be taking up a post as Deputy Headteacher in Manchester after Easter. We also wish Mr Lynch, one of our technical services staff, the best as he moves on.

Many thanks to those of you who have written to me to keep me updated on achievement outside of school. We would like to hear more from you about the successes of current or former students. Simply email me at principal@congletonhigh.com.

I wish you all a happy Easter! When we return the majority of the building work will be complete and it will be great to be able to make use of the enhanced facilities.

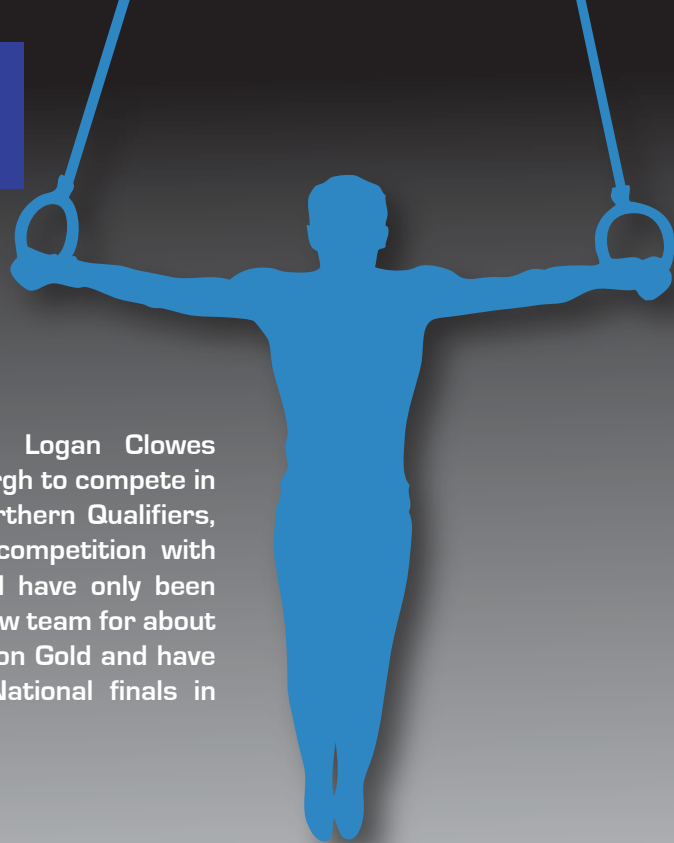
David Hermitt
Principal

Don't forget 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

STUDENTS SUCCESS



Oliver Dainty and Logan Clowes travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the Team Gym Northern Qualifiers, this is their first competition with their new club and have only been training with the new team for about four weeks, they won Gold and have qualified for the National finals in May.



READY, STEADY, COOK!

On Wednesday 13th February, year 13 tutor group representatives took part in the first ever Ready Steady Cook Competition as part of their Guidance programme looking at creating nutritious and interesting meals on a tight budget.

Winners were Jess Rae and Ashley Slater with their chilli breadcrumbed chicken with home made potato wedges and coleslaw, and Kayleigh Casewell, Charlotte Farr and Laura Winship with caramelised tarte tatin and a Caribbean cheesecake.

A big thank you to the Food Technology dept for giving their advice, time, judging skills and their tastebuds!



Budding Chef Wins Through To Next Round In Springboard Future Chef Competition

Year 10 catering student, Megan Geimer, was recently invited by the Academy of Culinary Arts to compete in the Cheshire Young Chef of the Year competition at the local heats which took place at Macclesfield College. Judges were a collection of representatives from The Academy of Culinary Arts, Chester Food & Drink Festival, Springboard Future Chef, Macclesfield College, and industry chefs.

Using local in season ingredients to promote Cheshire produce, Megan had one hour to prepare, cook and serve her main course dish for two people - one plate for judges tasting and one plate for presentation and photographs. Students were asked to use their time as wisely as possible to show off their culinary skills and techniques. Megan did extremely well as she was asked to cook in an industrial kitchen with equipment that is very different to a domestic kitchen.

She produced a main meal of Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb with a Cheshire Cheese Mash, Savoy Cabbage and Honey Roasted Shallots with a Red Wine Jus. This stunning dish won her a well-deserved first place.

Megan, who will receive mentoring from a professional chef, is now preparing to go on to the regional heat final for the Springboard Future Chef Competition later in the year.

EXTRA CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

Town Mayor interviewed by students

Congleton Town Mayor, Councillor Holland, visited CHS on Monday 17th December to be interviewed by Year 10 students studying the ASDAN course. The course helps students develop personal effectiveness and improve their basic skills such as Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. Students take part in a range of activities to improve their ability to work with others and increase their ability to solve problems. The course is split into a variety of modules such as communication, work related learning, morals and beliefs and independent living. The Mayor's visit came under the Community module and the students were looking at her role within the community.

Councillor Holland spoke about how she became a Councillor and about her role as an ambassador for Congleton. The students really enjoyed the experience and found the interview both interesting and informative.



Basketball trip to Birmingham

In January, students and staff travelled down the M6 to Birmingham on recently to watch the British Basketball League Cup Final between the Leicester Riders and Newcastle Eagles. The trip was organised because basketball has become a really popular sport at CHS with high numbers of students from years 7 to 11 participating in lunchtime and after school practices.

Prior to the main event, there was an England Select vs. Ireland Select International fixture which went down to the last 5 seconds before Ireland snatched the victory. Another big crowd pleaser was the All Star Dunkers Acrobatic team who wowed the students with their high risk and entertaining skills.

The main event was worth the wait, with lots of International players on show giving the students inspiration and drive to improve their own basketball skills. The Newcastle Eagles went ahead in the first quarter with some exciting basketball, before the Leicester Riders came back and then gained a 10 point lead at the end of the third. The final quarter was electrifying with Newcastle staging an amazing comeback, but with 6 seconds to go Newcastle's Damon Huffman missed a 3 point shot which inevitably sealed the victory for the Leicester Riders.



Congleton's schools join forces to solve a murder!

In February High achieving sixth form students from CHS and Eaton Bank Academy held a Murder Mystery evening based around the theme of an American Block Party. This was a social activity for the students from the different schools to get to know each other.

Table Tennis Championships

Since the beginning of the school year staff and students at Congleton High School have been running a hugely successful lunch time table tennis club, which now meets four days a week. Students from all ages attend and many of them competed against other students and staff in a whole school tournament.

Riding high on this popularity, three talented students were put forward to represent the school, competing in the Cheshire Schools Table Tennis Association Championships at the Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre (part of the Stobart Rugby League Stadium) in Widnes on Thursday 7 February. James Hodgetts was entered in the under 16s and Elliot Darmon and Jamie Casey in the under 13s.

In unfamiliar surroundings and a hall large enough to accommodate 18 table tennis tables, all three players performed really well. Elliot had the toughest of groups, but he competed in all three of his games playing some great rallies and shots.

The evening started with cocktails (non-alcoholic) and a little bit of interrogation, trying to find out something about the characters of the people at the party: an intimidating police officer, a psychopath and a hippie to name just a few. This was followed by food, party games and a murder!

Everyone gathered around to see the body lying on the stairs. The victim, a blackmailer whom everyone had a bad word to say about, had had a fatal blow to the head with a small jester statue. The investigations then began, which proved to be a hard task as most people at the party seemed to have a motive to kill.

James and Jamie showed that all the practice at school was paying off, both winning their groups and advancing through into the knockout stages of the competition.

The knockout games were tightly matched, and played to a very high standard. James and Jamie played some more great rallies, but unfortunately both narrowly went out 2 games to 1. Congratulations to all three students.



The only person who guessed correctly who the murderer was, was the murderer herself. She had been blackmailing other people in the town but was on the point of being uncovered. She could not afford for this to happen and so the only option was murder!

After all the preparations by staff and pupils, the evening was great fun. Students had the chance to get to know sixth formers from each other's school and they will be working together in the future as they continue on the Honours Programme.



Year 12 student selected for Cricket Academy

We would like to congratulate Year 12 student Jack Goode on being one of only 5 boys selected for the Northamptonshire Cricket Academy. Jack is the only fast bowler selected and he is receiving one to one coaching from the ex-England and Surrey swing bowler, Geoff Arnold. Jack travels to attend the Steelbacks programme at Northants every other Sunday. He also plays for Cheshire under 17's squad where he was awarded most improved player last season.



First class honours for former student

We have been delighted to discover recently that former CHS student, Laura Dawson, has graduated from Birmingham City University with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Media and Communication with a specialism in Radio.

It was an Option K Media course during her GCSE year that first sparked Laura's interest in radio production and she enjoyed it so much she went on to study Media at A Level too. During her university course, she produced a 30-minute radio documentary about music and clubbing in Berlin, which was published by an online music magazine and broadcast on local Birmingham radio stations. She has worked for a production company editing radio documentaries and spent a few months at Global Radio in London working for XFM.

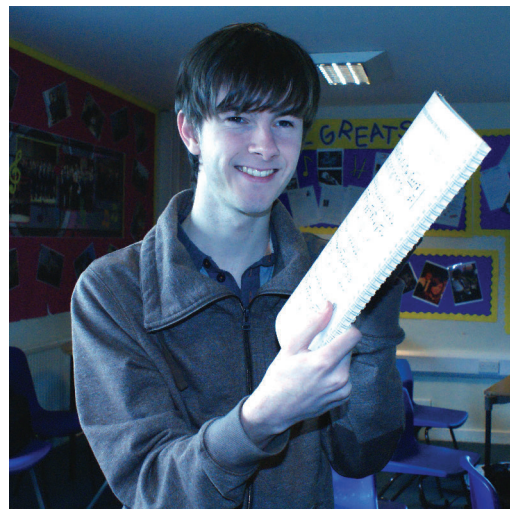
Later this year, Laura plans to travel to Tokyo for a few months to teach English and learn more about Japanese culture and language, where she plans to create her own series of short factual radio documentaries about Japanese culture. We wish Laura all the best with her future career.

Students excel in music competitions

Congratulations to the school Drum Ensemble who recently won the preliminary round of the Cheshire East Music Competition putting them in the top 3 school music ensembles in the whole of the county. The boys will now go on to represent the school in the final at Clonter Opera in May. The Drum Ensemble has been running for roughly two years and consists of three year 10 students - Jack Luinen, Bibo Webb and Thomas Fastiggi. They are excellent musicians who have performed at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Also congratulations to Sixth Form Student, Jordan Harding-Pointon who won the District Final of a Young Musician of the Year Competition at Crewe. On Sunday 17th March he travelled to Clitheroe where he took part and won the Regional Final. This means that he will be representing the School and district at the National Final in Kent later this year.

Jordan is a highly talented musician who regularly performs at local community events. He is hoping to go on to study Music at University.



DIRECTORS FROM BERISFORDS RIBBONS JUDGE 'THE BERISFORDS DESIGN ' AWARD AT CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL

On Tuesday 19th March Managing Director Peter Bowers and Marketing and Design Director, Fiona Hampton came into school to judge the entries into 'The Berisfords Design Awards'. The judges agreed that "the work displayed was made to a very high standard; it was very difficult to judge and chose the best three designs".

The winners were, Isabel Cooper 1st Prize £100, Lou Webb 2nd Prize £70 and Emily Shaw 3rd Prize £30

This competition followed on from a visit to Berisfords Ribbon Factory on Tuesday 8th January when 18 Fashion and Clothing students were welcomed by the Peter Bowers and Fiona Hampton who took them on a tour of the factory. It was a great experience to see all the looms weaving, the smell and cold of the dye room and the speed of the screen printing machines putting designs onto ribbons. Students were grateful to get a first hand view of an industry that they have studied and would like to thank Berisfords for their generosity in time, ribbons and prizes which makes such a difference to their coursework.

Local Barclays' employees raise £5600 for CHS

We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to parents of students at CHS who are Barclays' employees at Radbroke Hall in Knutsford. They took time out from their day jobs to get involved in fundraising activities to support our Parents in Partnership.

Through door collections by staff at Radbroke Hall and the annual Barclays Families Day event, Barclays' employees, members of CHS Parents in Partnership and students from the school raised an incredible £5600. This sum includes contributions from Barclays who matched the amount raised pound for pound.

The Community relations officer for Barclays said, "At Barclays we strive to strengthen local communities in which we live and work by supporting a range of causes from local schools to centres for older people. This is a fantastic example of Barclays' staff fundraising with the local community to achieve something which we hope will make a real and lasting difference."

Congleton High School said: "Thanks to CHS Parents in Partnership and Barclays the funding has been used towards the acquisition of a new school minibus with disabled access."



CHS remains a 'Good' school

We are delighted to have received excellent news. Ofsted have written to the school to inform us that they have deferred their next inspection until summer 2014 at the earliest.

Ofsted carried out an interim assessment based on information from a variety of sources and have concluded that the school remains a good school. They see no reason to inspect until the summer term of 2014 at the earliest.

Congratulations once again to the class of 2012 for their remarkable examination outcomes. Supported by their teachers and parents, they have helped the school to be rated amongst the top 17% of secondary schools.

Chair of Governors, Richard Hinckley, stated "This is excellent news. As Ofsted have raised the bar, it is much more challenging to achieve a Good status and this shows the improvements made by the school since the last inspection. Staff should be congratulated"

Principal, David Hermitt, said "The commitment and determined work of staff and students at the school have helped to bring about this excellent result. I am certain that the best is yet to come and we continue on our journey to becoming an outstanding school."



CHS gains prestigious national ICT Mark award



On Friday 1st February, Chris Curry, our Director of E-learning and Curriculum Leader for ICT and Business Education, attended the BETT Show at Excel in London where he received the ICT Mark Certificate on behalf of the school. This award is the culmination of a process of reviewing and developing the use of information and communications technology (ICT) within the school.

The standards of the scheme, which are set nationally, are designed to ensure that the school's investment in ICT equipment is matched by its effective use within lessons. The school had to demonstrate that ICT is used effectively to improve learning and teaching; to record pupils' achievements and to underpin other key aspects of the school's management. In addition, the school had to show that it has effective Safeguarding policies and procedures that ensure the school community is operating best practice in e-safety.

Developing appropriate policies and teaching plans, training teachers and ensuring that the school's ICT equipment is being used effectively involved many members of staff over several months. An ICT Mark Assessor visited the school to ensure that the school had met all the necessary standards and that the use of ICT is having a real impact on the experience and progress of students within the school.

Principal, David Hermitt, commented: "On behalf of Congleton High School, I am delighted that we have received this award as recognition of the high standard of ICT at our school. The award celebrates the excellent levels of ICT that all our staff and pupils are working at.

We are very proud to include the mark on our website and our mailings and this has been noted on a number of occasions, which has further raised the profile of ICT at the school. Our last OFSTED report positively acknowledged that we had received the ICT Mark in the description of the school."

Mr Curry (ICT team leader), involved in ensuring the school was ready for ICT Mark assessment, commented: "I am really pleased that the presentation of this award shows recognition of the excellent ICT work that is taking place in the school. Applying for the award really brought into focus the ICT work that we are doing each and every day. All the children and staff deserve credit for this achievement."

Mark Chambers, Naace CEO, said "Congleton High School thoroughly deserve the accolade of an ICT Mark accreditation. They clearly demonstrate how important it is to take a whole school approach to using ICT in schools. We look forward to working with them to demonstrate how ICT can have a substantial impact on learner outcomes in the future."

School News



MORE than 250 students, parents, staff, governors and guests packed into the school hall on Thursday 24 January for our annual GCSE Awards Evening. They joined together to celebrate the success of students who took their GCSE examinations last summer.

The guest of honour was Councillor Sally Ann Holland, Congleton Town Mayor. After presenting students with their GCSE certificates and other awards, Mrs Holland congratulated the students on their achievements and told them that they were an inspiration to her. She explained how she had got to where she was now and encouraged them that with determination and hard work, they too can achieve whatever they set out to do. She said "This has been yet another superb evening at Congleton High School, with a fantastic turnout of parents, students and staff. A wealth and myriad of awards and achievements have been celebrated here tonight and it has been a complete privilege to be part of this special evening. As a Congletonian through and through, I feel very proud of our youth."

Students were presented with awards for outstanding attainment and outstanding effort in each subject area. In addition to rewarding academic success, the evening also provided the opportunity to acknowledge excellence in all aspects of school life. There were awards for special categories sponsored by local businesses and partners of the school, such as Pecks Restaurant, New Life Church, Macclesfield College and South Cheshire College. Students also received prizes for Contribution to Performing Arts and Outstanding Contribution to School Life. Helping to present the awards alongside Mrs Holland were Richard Hinckley and Richard Benson, Chair and Vice Chair of Governors respectively and Steve Hodgkinson, Church Leader at the New Life Church.

The audience were extremely moved later on in the evening when Mr & Mrs Steve Marsh presented the Stacey Marsh 'Inspiration' Award, sponsored by the School's Parents in Partnership group. Stacey was a former student at the school who suffered from Cystic Fibrosis. Despite her physical difficulties, she always remained positive and was truly an inspiration to all who knew her. Stacey was the first recipient of the Inspiration Award when it was set up in 2003 then after her death in 2009, the school renamed this award in her memory.

Jim Barlow, Deputy Principal, who was master of ceremonies on the night commented "The evening was a fantastic celebration of the achievements of the 'Class of 2012' and it was extremely gratifying that so many students and parents turned out on such a cold, snowy night."

After the formal prize giving, parents, students, staff and guests came together to enjoy a glass of wine and catch up with old friends.



Students in Year 12 at Congleton High School Sixth Form have been giving serious thought about what they might go on to do after they leave school in the summer of 2014. In February parents attended an evening explaining how students will apply for university and identifying ways in which they can support their children through the process. Later this year, a similar event will be held for parents of students who do not wish to attend university but who, instead, wish to seek Apprenticeships or join training programmes for school leavers at age 18.

The parents who attended the event were pleased to be given advice on the UCAS process, with one of them stating, 'Having never been involved in the university application process before, it was good to get some idea of what to do and when to do it, so that I can support my daughter through it'. A comment by another parent was, 'The wealth of knowledge shared by teachers on the application process, accommodation, finance and other aspects of university was extremely informative'.

It is this year group who achieved the school's best ever results in their GCSE examinations in 2012. On the strength of their achievements, OFSTED have recently written to the school to confirm their view that Congleton High School remains a Good school. As such, Ofsted has recognised Congleton High's status as a high-performing school and so inspectors will not visit the school until, at earliest, summer 2014.

It is therefore appropriate that students in this year group have high aspirations, with some students intending to apply to Oxford or Cambridge University, some keen to enter professions in law, veterinary science or medicine. Others are not yet sure what career they may wish to pursue. Therefore, they will be encouraged to participate in a forthcoming careers event where representatives from different professions will attend school to tell sixth form students about their careers.



We were very pleased that some of our Year 7 students were invited to participate in an online five-day masterclass to consider 'Is this the right room for an argument?' The event was run by Oxford University professionals who specialise in critical thinking and was designed to develop the critical thinking skills of argument, reasoning, communication and debate.

Jenna Cox 7JSA was one of the students who enjoyed completing the master-class. She says that she found the developing argument section particularly interesting as she learned facts about badger culling and paralympians. Jenna found it interesting to discover new information and express an opinion about the topics.

Helena Cresswell 7JC felt the course permeated her mind with new ideas, thoughts, knowledge, argumentative skills and wow words, as well as helping her focus her mind throughout the holiday. It kept her mentally alert.

We look forward to more of our High Achievers in all Key Stages participating in events like this so that they can continue to develop the skills they will need to achieve great success in the future.

High Achievers

**EDT**Inspiring future
engineers & scientists*Incorporating Industrial Trust*

Each year a small team of Year 12 students get the chance to take part in the prestigious Engineering Education Scheme award. This year's team is Dan Bond, Robert Watts, Rob Ede and Dean Cameron. They have been set a problem by local company SMS-Mevac to investigate the flow of powders into a blast furnace. The work has been carried out under the instruction of Dr. Robey from SMS Mevac and with the University of Liverpool. The project culminates in a detailed evaluation by independent engineers in April at Liverpool Uni.



The school recently hosted students from France and Germany as part of a pan European project on Energy Supply. Although there are many similarities between our schools, there are also some significant differences. When hosting overseas students we always try to give them a little taste of school life here. This time was no exception and Mrs Stanier organised a cake baking session where the students baked Victoria Sponges. This was great fun and was a novel experience for our visitors. During their visit they also enjoyed/endured a wet and windy day in Buxton and bowling in Macclesfield organised by Mrs Hilditch.

Sainsbury's

Try something new today

Please help us to collect Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year, vouchers available in store, from petrol stations or groceries online until 22 May 2013.

Collection box for vouchers in Student Reception. Thank you.



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Newsletter



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Now that we are producing this larger, termly newsletter, we are introducing alongside it a monthly E-Newsletter aimed at parents who like to be kept more regularly up to date with what is going on in school.

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Key Dates for events

Wednesday 24 Apr

Monday 29 Apr

Wednesday 08 May

Thursday 09 May

Monday 20 May

Friday 07 June

Monday 17 June

Monday 24 June

Friday 28 June

Tuesday 02 July

Wednesday 10 July

Friday 12 July

Monday 22 July

Year 7 Parents Evening

Parents in Partnership Meeting

Year 10 Review Week

Year 8 Languages Day

Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 8 Review Week

Year 12 Mentoring Day

Year 7 Review Week

Reading Week

Parents in Partnership Meeting

Year 10 RE Stop Day

Sports Day

Sports Awards Evening

Year 9 Africa Day

Year 10 Enterprise Day

**Wednesday 27
March**

**School closes
for Easter
Holiday**

Monday 06 May

**School closed
for May Day**

Key Dates for school closures

Monday 15 April

**School re-opens
to students**

Friday 24 May

**School closes
for Half Term**

Friday 19 April

**School closed
for INSET Day**

**Monday 03
June**

**School re-opens
to students**

**Wednesday 24
July**

**School closes
for Summer**