

Congleton High School Parents' Newsletter

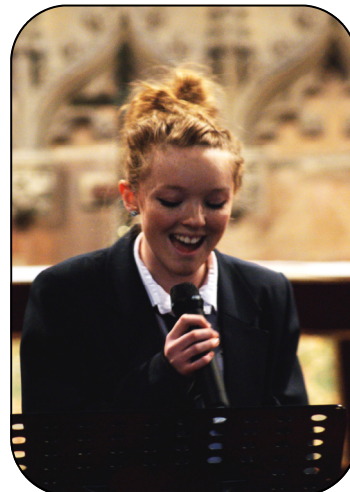
ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Issue 5 — January 2012

Christmas Concert at Astbury St Mary's Church



Members of the school choir



Y11 student Katie Barlow

Ex-Y13 Awards Evening (see article on page 2)



Emily Heades who obtained 3A at A level pictured with Ann and Robbie Brightwell*



Tom Mullins who received the Martin Strawson Award for outstanding achievement pictured with Mr and Mrs Strawson

BBC Sports Personality of the Year Ceremony (see article on page 2)



Adam Bailey interviewing Mark Cavendish



Jack Carson interviewing Amir Khan

Dear Parent / Carer

Wishing you all a very happy new year and welcome to the Spring term. We have a busy schedule ahead over the next few weeks. Y13 Awards evening has already taken place with Y11 Awards evening due to take place on the 31st January. I am sure many of you will be looking forward to coming to see the school production of 'Grease' which takes place on the 25th, 26th and 27th January. I hope you will enjoy reading the school news in this edition.

D Hermitt, Principal

EX YEAR 13 AWARDS EVENING

On 5 January, we were delighted to welcome back to school the students who sat their A Level examinations in June 2011. In this, the year of the London Olympics, it was particularly appropriate that our special guests for the evening were Robbie and Ann Brightwell, Olympic medal winners. Students were presented with their certificates by Ann Brightwell and by Richard Benson, Vice-Chair of Governors for our school. They were also able to award over £800 on prizes to recognise our former students' achievements and efforts in their subjects and their contributions to school life. Robbie Brightwell gave the address, focussing on the values stressed by the Olympic movement - resilience and determination - to urge young people to strive for excellence in all that they do and to ensure that they never, never give up. (Pictures on front cover)

STUDENTS MEET THEIR SPORTING HEROS

The Media Club were extremely lucky to have been offered two VIP tickets to the televised Sports Personality of the Year Awards held at the BBC Centre in Media City, Salford, on 22nd December. It is a very prestigious evening and Adam Bailey and Jack Carson (year 9) donned their uniforms to join celebrities on the red carpet as they arrived for the event. The boys were an absolute credit to the school and demonstrated a natural flair for journalism as they interviewed Luke Donald, Darren Clarke, Andrew Strauss, Rory McIlroy, Mo Farah, Dai Greene, Amir Khan, Alastair Cook, along with the winner Mark Cavendish and many more. Adam said *"My sporting hero is Mark Cavendish and while I was interviewing him, it was like I was in a dream."* For Jack his highlight was interviewing Amir Khan *"he's been my boxing idol ever since I first saw him fight. He told me if you're disciplined, you can achieve anything in life"*. Both Adam and Jack said that being sports journalists for the evening felt really professional, *"It was exciting to be part of something so big and really good to be on the red carpet with a microphone interviewing celebrities."* (Pictures on front cover)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Creative Writing Club

Each Week 2 Tuesday lunchtime Miss Weir holds a creative writing club in Room 233 for year 7 students. She has chosen the poem 'Peaceful Nights' by David Speed 7TP as the piece of the month. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The Importance of Reading

During December Mr Convey delivered a series of assemblies to Y7-10 students to promote the importance of reading. The assemblies focused on the massive educational benefits of reading, the impact that reading can have on our understanding of the world and highlighted how reluctant readers could get into the reading habit. The assemblies are just one of the many methods the English Curriculum Area are using this year to develop the reading ethos in the school.

Peaceful Nights by David Speed 7TP

My eyes become dark and heavy.
My eyelids shut tight and I'm in a world of my own.
I open them again,
No longer in bed, I am in a completely different world.
Recognizing my surroundings, I swivel round,
I am at home, no one to disturb me.
Opening my front door, I see a whole new paradise...

Footsteps behind me,
I spin round searching for the noise,
My eyes fall on the person who made it,
My mother, beckoning me towards her

Walking forwards and the room starts to spin and twirl,

Darkness!

I open my eyes, to find myself back at home.

Journalism Training at the BBC

On 8th December, through our links with the BBC and the BBC School Report project, CHS Media Club members Sophie Hammond, Katie Archer and Faye Hooley spent the day writing and reporting on local and national news. They created a 10 minute news programme at the BBC studios in Salford in collaboration with three students from Malbank High School, Nantwich. After brainstorming their news ideas, the students broke off into small groups to produce packages about the recent public sector strikes, teenage stereotyping and the BBC Celebrate Sports event. Faye from Congleton and Will from Malbank were lucky enough to catch a last minute interview with footballer Phil Neville as part of their report on the BBC Celebrate Sports event. Each package featured in the group's live news broadcast was filmed at the BBC.



Congleton High School welcomed to London 2012's Get Set network

Our successful application to the official London 2012 education programme has ensured that Congleton High is eligible for Ticketshare tickets for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



Staff and 6th Form students kicked off this Olympic year with a bang on Monday 9 January, by completing an 'Olympic Gold Challenge' – cycling 201.2 km in a day (on exercise bikes in the School entrance hall) and raising funds for a new school minibus at the same time. The whole school plans to do a sponsored walk (for 20mins 12 seconds) later in the Spring.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has awarded Congleton High a plaque and certificate to acknowledge our involvement in the London 2012 education programme. We are now a part of an active London 2012 community of schools and colleges across the UK – the Get Set network - and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities over the coming months.

Sebastian Coe, chairman of LOCOG, said: *'When London won the right to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we made a clear promise to use the power of the 2012 Games to inspire young people. I am proud to welcome Congleton High to the Get Set network for their exciting work around the Olympic Values of friendship, excellence and respect and the Paralympic Values of inspiration, courage, determination and equality.'....'By joining the network Congleton High now has a golden opportunity to give some of their pupils the chance of a lifetime – tickets to see the greatest show on earth. More than 18,000 schools have taken the first step towards claiming their tickets by registering with Get Set.'*

Many activities have already taken place at Congleton High to generate interest and enthusiasm for the Games and Values. Students have learned about the 2012 Games and the Olympic and Paralympic Values in assemblies and in IT, students have designed an Olympics logo, medals, running vest, gift bag and t-shirt. Olympic champion, Martin Cross, inspired Y10s in 'Gold Fever - Be the Best you can Be' workshops, where they learned a powerful lesson - that Olympic heroes and other superstars are 'ordinary people who achieve extra-ordinary feats by developing qualities that we all have within us'. We were also delighted to have Olympic champions, Anne and Robbie Brightwell as guests at our Awards Evening on 5 January.

David Hermitt, Principal of Congleton High School said: *'I am delighted that we are part of this initiative. We are also looking forward to the Olympic Torch coming to Congleton in May and hopefully passing our school'* To earn the right to use the London 2012 education logo on headed paper, website and school sign, and receive tickets for the Games through the London 2012 Ticketshare initiative, schools and colleges had to apply to join the Get Set network reward and recognition scheme by completing an application and submitting it before 16 December 2011. The education logo was designed by Reiss Evans (18), a design student from Canterbury College, who won a national competition in September 2009 to create an education-themed infill for the London 2012 Olympic logo.

Engineering Education Scheme

Lauren Bennett, Chris Davis, Henry Williams and Michael Pettit visited Liverpool University in the last week of the Christmas term for an engineering workshop. This forms part of a project that they are doing with Siemens to develop a product demonstrator. As with most complex projects, several things did not go quite as planned at the start but working as a team with two of Siemens engineers they overcame the problems to create a successful product. This will be displayed at the University in April when their project will be assessed by an expert panel of engineers. The EES is just one of many ways in which we use our status as a specialist engineering school to provide additional opportunities for our students.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students on their amazing achievements:

- Steph Edmondson 10JC and Jessica Day 10RN were both in the Gang Show at Christmas.
- Olivia Coutts has been picked out of hundreds of hopefuls to be part of the National Cultural Olympiad Performance at Chester Racecourse in May and July 2012.
- Nina Collins is a member of Wheelies, a Wheelchair sports club based in Macclesfield. She also swims regularly and has recently taken part in a swimming gala organised by CP sport (a national organisation that provides sporting opportunities for disabled athletes). She came first in one of the finals, and third in the other.
- Amy Rodgers continues to play for Everton FC
- Jack Carson & Adam Bailey - attended the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards, interviewing all of the nominees and more sports stars for the BBC! (See full report on page 1)



Nina Collins



Amy Rodgers

Special congratulations to 9AJF form reps Jordan Duckworth and Charlotte Bullock who with the help of their form, raised £77 by selling cakes and sweets in school. The money raised was used to purchase small gifts for children who attend Springfield Special School in Crewe. Daisy Moston, Isobel Cooper and Phoebe Powell baked cakes and gingerbread men. *"We chose to do this project with Springfield School to raise awareness of special schools around our area. Everyone who bought a cake or gave a donation had a part in this project and we are truly thankful because we wouldn't have done it without their help! It was an experience in itself to first raise the money, to produce the presents and then give the child something that put a smile on their face. To walk up to a total stranger and give them something to make them smile, especially a small child is a lovely feeling"* said Charlotte Bullock.



Phoebe & Jordan presenting gifts at Springfield Special School

If you are proud of your child's achievements please share them with us by sending photographs and information to Mr Franklin at: staffpaf@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk

MESSAGES FOR PARENTS

Holiday Requests

We would like to ask parents and carers not to take students out of school during term time for holidays. While we appreciate that it can be more expensive to go away in the holiday periods ultimately, losing valuable school time is at the expense of your child's education.

- Leave of absence for holiday purposes is only authorised under very exceptional circumstances. **At Congleton High School we do not believe that children should be removed from school during term time for this purpose and parents and carers should certainly not expect such leave to be granted as of right.**
- If you feel that the circumstances are exceptional then an application should be made to school, **prior** to any arrangements being made. School will then decide whether or not the absence can be authorised.

KEY DIARY DATES

Thursday 12 January	Y11 Parents Evening
Thursday 19 January	Governors Sub Committee Meetings (4.30pm / 5.30pm)
Monday 23 January	PIP meeting (7.00pm)
Wed 23-Fri 25 January	School Production (GREASE) - 7.00pm
Tuesday 31 January	Ex Y11 Awards Evening
Thursday 2 February	Y8 Parents Evening
Thursday 9 February	Governors Sub Committee Meetings (4.30pm / 5.30pm)

Please note that a full list of Calendar events for 2011/12 can be obtained from the school website.



Lewis Kestaven and Ollie Dainty who won the Lego League Best Team Award pictured with Mr Hermitt at the Y9 Praise Assembly



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