

Congleton High School Parents' Newsletter

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Issue 6 — February 2012

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope many of you were able to join us at the school production of 'Grease'. Those of you unfortunate enough not to have obtained a ticket missed a magnificent performance. Congratulations go to all staff and students involved in the production.

Tuesday 31st January saw our ex-year 11 students come back to school to receive their awards. We were delighted to welcome Adrian Derbyshire, International Wheelchair Fencer, who was our special guest this year.

School closes for the half term holiday at the normal time on Friday 10th February and re-opens on Monday 20th February.

D Hermit, Principal

School Production— 'Grease'



Ex-Year 11 Awards Evening



Winners of the South Cheshire College Award for Outstanding Achievement—John Dean, Eleanor Roberts and Jessica Smith pictured with guest speaker Adrian Derbyshire.



Jack Hodges (Citizenship Award), Charlotte Farr (Pecks Award for Excellence in Catering) and Hollie Greatbatch (Governors Award) pictured with Steve Hodgkinson (New Life Church), Andy Pear (Pecks), Richard Hinckley (Chair of Governors) and Adrian Derbyshire

FIT FOR WORK - 'THE BENTLEY PROGRAMME'

The Confederation of British Industry published a survey in 2011 which showed that the top business requirement for 14-19 education is to develop employability skills. There are many ways in which schools can respond to this challenge but surely the best way is to work with industry to develop the skills they need. We are fortunate at CHS in having links with a number of local businesses both large and small. Perhaps the most well-known of these companies is Bentley Motors. We have worked with Bentley for a number of years to deliver "The Bentley Programme". The programme is designed to deliver employability skills to students in the context of the requirements of a major prestigious employer. It is an intensive nine week course during which students complete assignments both in school and at Bentley. It shows students the types of work skills that industry needs, why it needs them and finally how the students can develop those skills within themselves. The programme is one of our Option K choices and is open to students from years 10 and 11.

This year eight students opted for the Programme and were soon immersed in team-building exercises, practising interview skills, CV writing techniques and presentation skills. The programme culminated with the students doing presentations on the subject of "My Future" in the lecture theatre at the Bentley factory. Naturally for a programme developed by Bentley, attention to detail was vital and the students were under considerable pressure to deliver quality as well as content. Mr Ian Grant, Bentley's Apprentice Development Officer attended together with Richard Hinckley, our Chair of Governors and Irene Bartley, our Director of Engineering. The remainder of the audience were proud parents.

After a brief tour of the Bentley factory where we learned more about "the Bentley way" where quality is a top priority, the students delivered their presentations, confidently delivering their material without the need to read notes. Afterwards, Mr Grant commented that they were the best set of presentations he had seen. Mr Hinckley then awarded the students their certificates of merit for successfully completing the Bentley programme. At least two now have their eyes on gaining a job at Bentley and we expect that their participation in the Programme will give them a head start. On leaving, one of the parents described the event as being a "privilege to attend".

Congratulations to this year's participants, who were: Kyle Frain, Maddy Summerfield, James Shackley, Ellen Booth, Jayne Booth, Jamie Bernardi, Lewis Cooper and Emma Ashton.

Comenius Visit to France

A group of Year 10 students have been working hard over the past few months on a European project we are running with schools in France and Germany. This month, a team from Congleton travelled to France to present the results of their work on European Energy supply to an international conference held in Les Sables d'Olonne. Our students presented their information in the form of a play, based on "Who wants to be a Millionaire?". The French and Germans loved this innovative idea (and were sorry not to have thought of it themselves!). The French and German groups had to present in English, tricky for them but they did a great job.

So was it all worth it? We think so! How many teenagers can say they have addressed an International Conference? Such opportunities are rare and we congratulate our students on having risen so well to the challenge. They were truly a credit to themselves and the school - something that both the French and German Headteachers were keen to tell us.



Students at Bentley Programme with Ian Grant.
Back Row: James Shackley, Maddy Summerfield and Jamie Barnadi.
Middle Row: Lewis Cooper and Kyle Frain.
Front Row: Jayne Booth, Ian Grant, Ellen Booth and Emma Ashton



Students and staff on the Comenius trip
Left to right: Tristan Roberts, Calvin Lau, Ben Harris, Emma Ashton, Leah McCusker, Mrs Hilditch, Elizabeth Borland and Mr Newstead

SPORTS NEWS

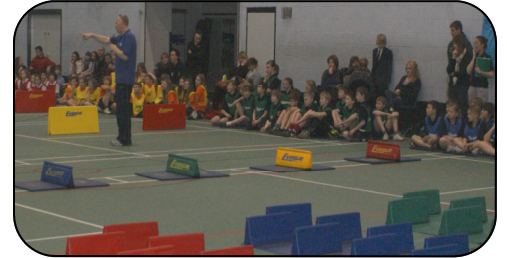
Partner Primary Gifted and Talented Sports Afternoon

13 pupils from our partner primary schools joined Miss George and Mr Abel at Audley Climbing Centre on 17th January for a gifted and talented sports afternoon. All pupils are competing for their schools at county or national level in a variety of sports including Martial Arts, Swimming, Dance and Football. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were given the opportunity to gain an insight into what is available within PE at CHS. We hope to see many of them in September.



Primary School Sports Hall Athletics Event

On Thursday 26th January, CHS was host to the Primary School Sports Hall Athletics event. 6 Primaries from across the partnership turned up to compete in numerous athletic events. It was a great display of young people becoming involved in competitive sport and all children worked extremely hard. Congratulations to Havannah School who are the winners for 2012. A big thank you to all CHS students who came to assist with the running of the event, their contribution was invaluable.



CURRICULUM NEWS

Year 8 Art Trip to The Walker Art Gallery



On the 9th, 13th and 18th January all of our Year 8 students visited the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. The trips are part of the National Curriculum and the artworks will assist their art projects in school. The behaviour of all the students was excellent and they all had a very enjoyable experience. Many thanks to all the Art staff, Year 8 tutors and Mrs Eckersley for accompanying the students on the trips.

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 Next Poem I Write' by Lucy Collins in Year 7 as the piece of the month. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The Next Poem I Write... by Lucy Collins 7TW

In the next poem I write
there will be a sea of chocolate
and sand made out of sherbert.
Me and my friend will be there all day.

In the next poem I write
there will be a land of liquorice
and a sky with candy floss clouds.

In the next poem I write
there will be grass made of green laces,
trees made of treats,
stars made of sweets
and a moon made of...

Well, you'll have to wait to read my next poem!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students on their amazing achievements:

- Adam Bailey, Laura Bailey, Chloe Carter, Daniel Carter & Eleanor Swindells have all completed 10 performances in the pantomime, Ali Baba, at the Daneside Theatre.
- Jenna Baxter (Year 9) recently competed in the Puma Taekwondo British championships in Swindon. She competed in the black belt under 16 division winning gold medal in the sparring
- Abby Sadat-Shafai (Year 9) took part in a New Year's Day swim in Saundersfoot, near Tenby last week. She raised over £100 for Breast Cancer Care which will be donated to Christies Hospital.
- Paige Jepson has trained her dog Poppy at home and at dog training classes at Danesford Dog Training Club, taking her through the Good Citizen Award scheme achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold. Paige and Poppy won 1st in the obedience starter class which means she qualified for the national finals to be held at Crufts 2012.



Jenna Baxter



Abby Sadat-Shafai



Students in Pantomime

If your son or daughter has similarly achieved and you are proud of it, please send photographs and information to staffpaf@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk.

Congratulations to former student, Amy Reeve, who has been accepted onto a seventeen day 'Study China Programme'. She will be attending Zhejiang University in Hangzhou during the Easter break when she will experience tours, language classes and cultural enlightenment (taiji and wushu classes). This opportunity is not widely publicised; applicants have to be in higher education and have an interest in China and learning Mandarin.

KEY DIARY DATES

Thurs 9 February	Governors Sub Committee meetings (4.30-6.30pm)
Thursday 9 February	Y8 Valentine's Disco (7-9pm)
Friday 10 February	School closes for half term
Monday 20 February	School re-opens
Thursday 23 February	Y9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 24 Feb	UCAS Parents Information Evening
Thursday 1 March	Full Governors meeting (6.00pm)
Tuesday 6 March	PIP Meeting (7pm)
Wednesday 7 March	Y8 Cultural Diversity Day
Thursday 8 March	Y12 / 13 Parents Evening
Wednesday 14 March	Y9 Options Evening

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

HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Completion of homework to the best of a student's ability is an important aspect of school life at CHS. However, sometimes students need support with this. Therefore, every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3pm - 4pm, we offer a fantastic opportunity for homework support. We have a great team of 6th Formers who can help your child, if necessary, covering all subject areas. It is based in the LRC with access to the computer suite. Students are welcome to attend every week or just when they feel they need to. Please encourage your child to attend.

For further information please email Mrs Figiel at staffllg@congleton.cheshire.sch.uk



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