

Congleton High School Parents' Newsletter

ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

Issue 8—April 2012

Dear Parent / Carer

We have now completed our first year as an Academy and we are delighted that the academy financial freedoms has supported a number of changes. More details regarding the changes and future improvements can be seen on page 2.

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. We are entering the exam season with Y11, Y12 and Y13 students soon to finish for their study leave. Please join me in wishing all students every success in their examinations.

On Friday 20th April the school will be closed to students for an INSET day and will reopen as usual on Monday 23rd April.



D Hermitt, Principal



Room 102—Old Science Lab



Room 102—New Science Lab

YR 13 BTEC LEVEL 3 FASHION AND CLOTHING STUDENTS WITH FRANK HENSHALL FROM FRANK HENSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY



Back row: Jennifer Westwood, Lyndsay Ramsden, Becca Hermitt, Jessica Lawrence, Heather Murray
Front Row: Holly Bromfield, Charlotte Atkins, Frank Henshall, Melissa Roberts

ACADEMY BENEFITS

Since becoming an Academy twelve months ago, we have been able to provide

- New Science Laboratory

"The New science Lab has improved our facilities beyond recognition" Ed Tyrrell , Curriculum Team Leader for Science

- Library Refurbishment

"I am pleased that we have been able to buy kindles and ipads which will be used by students as part of their library experience" Denise Parker, Librarian

- New Language Laboratory

"We have seen more students studying languages. A recent survey of students said that better use of the languages lab enhanced their learning experiences, which is excellent news" Deborah Wilkinson, Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages



Section of the refurbished library



Section of the languages lab

Additional benefits mean that:

- We have recently taken delivery of a new School minibus

"The old school minibus is very near to the end of its useful life, the parent in partnership bought the original one for the school nearly 10 years ago and we are delighted that with academy funding the school has been able to lease a minibus based on our continued fundraising" Steve Archer, Chairman of the parent in Partnership

- A new Management information system will be installed and operating in the summer term

- Improved conditions for staff, students and visitors

Work will commence in the summer to refurbish the existing entrance and reception area. Many visitors have pointed out the problems with the current reception area and the toilets. These problems require significant capital investment and the governors have agreed that the school should do something about it. Our Architects have prepared draft plans which will include incorporating a new toilet block at the back of the main entrance which will include staff and student toilets as well as a disabled toilet. *"We are very excited at the prospect of these refurbishments which will make the school a safer place and provide a much improved working environment for support staff"*, Mike Warren, Assistant Principal.

Y13 FASHION STUDENTS WORK WITH FRANK HENSHALL PHOTOGRAPHY

On Friday 16th March Frank Henshall visited our Year 13 group to discuss an exciting project we are planning. The students have an opportunity to model the garments they have made as part of their BTEC Level 3 Fashion and Clothing Subsidiary Diploma course in a professional fashion shoot with Frank. The fashion shoot took place at Crewe Hall on Wednesday 18th April and the photographs will be presented in our CHS Fashion Magazine that will be printed and sold in May, watch this space. Enormous thanks go to Frank for all his support and professional advice.

Y7 STUDENTS VISIT THE BIG BANG FAIR

The Big Bang Fair is an annual exhibition for school-age children that showcases the best organisations in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It's a huge event that was held this year at the NEC in Birmingham. Nearly 140 Year 7 children went this year and had a great day trying out various STEM related activities. In the middle of the day they saw a live show by the BBC's "Bang goes the Theory" team. This inevitably and appropriately involved several bangs as they brought together the science and engineering of rocketry with the skills involved in football. If the link seems tenuous, you had to be there!

The students all came back with bags of "goodies" that the various stands were giving away. But hopefully, the most important thing they will have returned with is the realisation of how many and varied are the jobs that the STEM subjects can lead to – which was the main purpose of the day.



Y7 Students at the Big Bang Fair

SPORTING NEWS

Swimming

Congratulations go to Year 11 student, Sophie Pyatt, who recently took part in the Olympic Trials at the British Open Championships held at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in London. Sophie reached the semi final 200m back stroke where she finished 12th overall. This was an amazing achievement as Sophie was swimming against women outside her age group. Sophie who swims for Stockport Metro Swimming Club has also represented England at various events including the Canada Cup in Toronto. More news on Sophie's achievements next month.



Under 16's Badminton Team



Sophie Pyatt

Under 16s Badminton

Our Under 16s girls' badminton players recently represented the Sandbach partnership at Wilmslow High School. The girls performed to an excellent standard. They remained unbeaten until the final where despite playing very well they were beaten by Wilmslow. Well done girls.

Rugby 7's

The Sixth Form Rugby team came fourth in the recent South/Mid Cheshire Rugby 7's after winning their first two games emphatically with a number of tries from Tom Wakefield, Scott Summerfield and Andy McLeavy. The team ran out of steam when they were asked to play three more matches on the run and resulted in them finishing fourth.

Under 13s Stoke City Girls Football Tournament.

On Tuesday 13th March we took our under 13s girls football Team to Stoke City to play in a National Competition. The girls played extremely well. In the groups stage they were unbeaten and in the quarter finals they beat Discovery Academy. They were finally beaten in the semi finals. There were over 30 schools that took part so to get all the way to the semi finals was an excellent performance. The team was Hollie Massey, Amy Rodgers, Emma Nisbet, Lydia Bennett, Beth Jones, Lucy Wright, Zoe Tweats and Poppy Jones.

Year 3 & 4 Siemen's

CHS held the annual inter-primary school Siemen's Cup for years 3 & 4 on Friday 9th March. 12 local primary schools entered the competition and the event was split into an A and a B league. All pupils played really well and it was a great chance to see some budding players for the future. The Quinta Primary School were winners of both leagues so well done to them. A special well done to our Year 11 referee's and Year 7 runners who made an excellent contribution to the tournament. It couldn't have run without: Gareth Roberts, Marcus Hulme, Max Barber, Amy Rodgers and Hollie Massey.

Year 9 South Cheshire Netball competition

The Year 9 Netball team went to a South Cheshire Tournament at Alsager School on Tuesday 13th March. They came second in their league, only one point behind Holmes Chapel Comprehensive, but lost out to Alsager School in the semi finals. All girls played really well and CHS obtained a massive 22 goals throughout the group stage. Well Done to Louise Forster, Hannah Tatton, Emma Ingle, Charlotte Ingle, Millie Henderson, Robyn Houston, Sophie Herrington, Amy Johnson and Lucy Vaughton.

Cross Country

Sam Whitehead finished 177th overall (out of 315 runners) in the Aviva ESAA English Schools Cross Country Championship (held in Ilton, Somerset recently) in the Intermediate Boys category. He was placed 6th out of the Cheshire runners and was less than 3 minutes behind the overall winner with a time of 22:35. Well done Sam.

Tumbling

On Sunday 25th March Oliver Dainty took part in a West Midlands Tumbling Competition in Coventry he won Gold and now goes to the National Tumbling Finals in May, he will also represent the school in the Schools National Tumbling Finals also in May after winning Gold in February after competing in Wigan.

WORLD BOOK DAY

South African Skype Communication

To celebrate World Book Day some of our students (Eleanor Roberts, Sophie Hammond, Matthew Jones, Leah McCusker, Adam Bailey) made 'Skype' contact with fellow students from our partner school, Muizenburg, in South Africa. The students discussed their favourite books, reading habits and school life in general. The students from CHS are going to take a copy of their favourite book to present to students in South Africa when they visit there later this year.

Favourite Childhood Books

We would like to offer our thanks to the many parents who contributed to World Book Day by emailing in the names of their favourite childhood books. These were displayed on monitors around school on March 1st. Enid Blyton was by and away the most popular author!

ART DEPARTMENT

Y9 G&T Art Workshop

Thirty of our Gifted and Talented Year 9 Art students had an inspiring day working along side local Artist Jeff Teasdale. They had the opportunity to work in clay to create their own mask inspired by examples from different cultures around the world. The pieces they produced were excellent and students truly enjoyed the creative experience.



Primary Art Exhibition

The school hosted a European Exhibition by 10 of our primary schools in our LRC on Thursday 29th March. 15 Primary schools brought along groups to visit the exhibition throughout the day.

MEDICAL CAREERS DAY AT KEELE UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 14th March five Year 11 students, Leah McCusker, Zahra Jamati, Megan Hull-Steward, Eleanor Hodgson, Dion-Kelsey Hancock, joined others from schools across the North West and Midlands to find out more about the demands of training to be a doctor. The morning session saw a full lecture theatre where speakers gave an overview about choosing a Medical School and the selection requirements. In the afternoon there was a series of interactive sessions including the laboratories. The day provided an excellent insight into what this career requires and the pupils concerned now have a realistic picture of this profession.

KEY DIARY DATES

Friday 20th April
Tuesday 24th April
Thursday 3rd May

INSET—School closed for students
Y10 Parents Evening
Governor's Sub Committee Meetings 4.30-6.30pm

MONDAY 7th MAY

BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

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

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS / TESCO FOR SCHOOLS AND CLUBS

Once again, Active Kids vouchers are available in store and on line between 15 February and 10 April and Tesco for Schools and Clubs Vouchers will be in store from Monday 12 March to Sunday 20 May. Parents are encouraged to collect these vouchers and a collection box is available in Student Reception for students to deposit them. Many thanks for your support.



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