



Dear all,

It seems incredible that there are now only around 5 weeks until the end of the summer term marking the end of my 28th year in the profession. During each of those 28 years I have seen around 220 year 11 students move on to the next stages in their lives. Added up this makes over 6000 young people. Some of those are still in touch with me and some are now 40 years old with children of their own. I've learned a huge amount just by being with these people and I never forget the enormous privilege that it is to have the trust of families as we work together to help forge the future of the next generation.

As I write, I am particularly aware of our year 11 and 13 students who are ploughing on through the final stages of their examinations and are approaching the next stage of their young lives as they become adults. Browsing some of the websites and podcasts that explore the issues of parenting, especially with regard to teenage children, I read much about the importance of building resilience, recognising positive rites of passage, discussing how we can help our children transition into independent adults and how we can let go of our children whilst establishing safe build boundaries for them. Sites such as mumsnet, the-father-hood, fatherly and huffpost parents offer some quality advice that's good for all of us to reflect on at such an important time.



Last week our current year 11 students had an assembly at which I was invited to talk. I still find it a very emotional experience to see another year group come to the end of their 'compulsory' years in school. I know that they will all go on to further education, training and employment but I still feel the tug of letting go. I'm looking forward also to having some time to talk to the year 13s as they exit our college and head off to the next stages of their lives

Some of the year 11 students asked for a copy of what I said to them so I have attached a link here if you too are interested in reading it. [To the class of 2022 - Wear sunscreen](#). Part of the speech adapted from a piece of writing by the columnist Mary Schmich, originally published in June 1997 in the Chicago Tribune. I have borrowed heavily from it and adapted it to reflect some personal messages. I certainly don't claim credit for the structure of the piece or the idea behind it but I found it a positive way of sharing my feelings with this amazing group of people one last time. Thank you for supporting this group of children as well. As families, I am mindful that you have also been through a great deal.

Here in school we are already well advanced in our planning for the new year. We have a new structure to our curriculum giving the children in Lower School more of a weekly rather than fortnightly timetable. This is to ease the complexity of the day and to help the younger children get used to how secondary school works. We've also reduced the number of teachers per subject so that there are less 'shared' classes resulting in better continuity so that the children get to know their teachers better. The number of subjects that the children in Lower School study remains the same so there's no danger of them having a narrower curriculum as they enter this important phase in their education.

The Upper School is also benefiting from some changes. From September, we have dedicated one extra session each week across all years to deliver a re-written personal development curriculum as well as an enhanced programme of support and intervention.



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Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



This significant investment of curriculum time for our children is intended to support their wider learning, growth and development as well as supporting their mental health and wellbeing.

Planning and creating the very best quality material for this programme is a monumental undertaking and I am pleased to have a dedicated team of staff who are investing their energy into this. As we grow this provision, you will start to see it appearing on our website during next term and across the year



Finally, thanks to everyone who has been in touch or attended meetings with a calm, respectful and collaborative attitude. This is always the most effective way of dealing with life's challenges and modelling positive and polite behaviour towards each other is a powerful message to our children about what we expect from them.



Take care and talk soon

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS

23rd JUNE 2022, 4pm – 6.30pm

Our Year 5 Open Evening is next Thursday 23rd June. The event starts at 4pm and ends at 6.30pm.

There will be three talks by our Headteacher Mr Bielby. There are a small amount of tickets left for the first two talks so be quick and book by visiting our website or [clicking here](#).



INTRODUCTORY TALKS

Our Headteacher, Mr Bielby will be giving introductory talks in three slots.

Talk 1 – 4.15pm

Talk 2 – 5pm

Talk 3 – 5.45pm



****PLEASE NOTE – SCHOOL FINISHES EARLY FOR STUDENTS FOR THIS EVENT ON 23rd JUNE @ 2.15pm****



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School Drop Offs and Pick Ups

Please be aware of the following clarification with regards to the safety of students and staff at the start and end of the school day. For a number of years, we have operated a restriction on vehicles entering and leaving the school site at the times that students are entering and leaving school. This includes the bus turning bay, which should strictly only be used by buses. This policy has not changed and there will always be a member of staff in 'high vis' enforcing this. At these times, the only vehicles entering and leaving the site should be staff members, sixth formers and the school buses. Exceptions include students who have mobility issues whose parents have been given permission.



This policy is clearly grounded in ensuring the safety of all of our students as they enter and leave the school site. We would kindly ask that all parents respect this protocol. If you are coming in for a meeting, please either park off site, or arrive at a time outside of these restrictions. Site entry restriction times:

- 8.20-8.45am
- 3.10-3.30pm

Toilets, vaping and vandalism

You will know that we have raised the issue of toilet vandalism and vaping a number of times during the course of this year. Sadly, this is an issue that many schools are facing and one which we have still not resolved. One way we are trying to solve this issue is by increasing the number of staff on duty, monitoring toilets with a 'two out, two in' policy. This will help us to control the number of children in the toilets at any one time and will reduce antisocial behaviour. It is of great concern to us that some of our younger students may feel intimidated by large groups of older children in the toilets, and it is intended that this move will help.



To help facilitate this, we have closed two of the toilets at break and lunch to make it easier to monitor. Whilst this does reduce the number of available toilets, this week we have had manageable numbers using each of the toilets during the break and lunch periods.

To help us continue to improve this situation we would be grateful if you could speak to your children to remind them of the following:

- There will always be enough toilet provision at break and lunch
- Students should use the toilets during their lunch and break, rather than at the end once the bell has already gone - this is of paramount importance to ensuring punctuality and the monitoring of the toilets.
- Students should never be in the toilets in large groups.
- We have asked staff to avoid letting students out of lessons to use the toilets unless they have a medical pass or unless they are desperate.

Many thanks for your support in helping us to resolve this ongoing issue.



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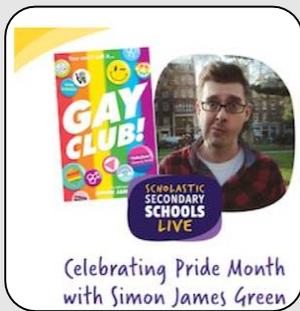


Learning Resource Centre News

Isaac W had a surprise this term, when he was awarded with not one, but two certificates and a set of signed goodies from his favourite author, Tom Palmer. Isaac has managed to read through two of Tom's popular series of books at an impressive speed. It is great to see such enthusiasm around reading. Well done Isaac!



If you are interested in taking part in the Tom Palmer challenges and receiving your own set of signed goodies, please speak to Miss Moores in the LRC for details.



Celebrating Pride Month with Simon James Green

On June 8th, a group of students joined Miss Moores in the LRC to celebrate Pride Month.

Taking part in a live stream with LGBTQ+ author Simon James Green, students were able to hear from Simon himself and his editor Linas about the importance of Pride Month, Simon's writing process and the value of working with the right editor.

Students were also able to read part of his latest YA Novel, Gay Club which is now available to loan from the LRC.

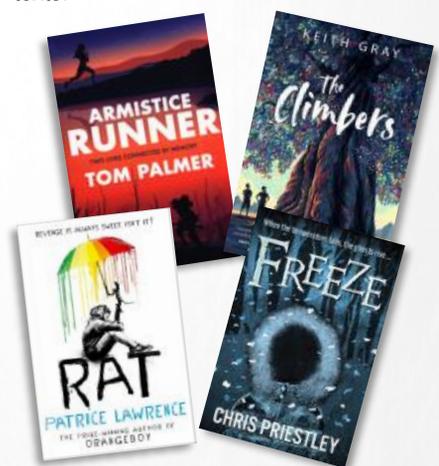
Latest Arrivals Available in the LRC

Check out our 'Latest Arrivals' display in the LRC for more of our new arrivals.



Dyslexia Friendly Texts Available in the LRC

Please speak to Miss Moores if you would like to find more of our available Dyslexia friendly texts.



CHESHIRE SCHOOLS' BOOK AWARDS 2022



Win a haul of bookish goodies for your school library AND a £10 book token for yourself!

Deadline: Friday 24th June

Email your review to educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk



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AcceleratedTM
Reader



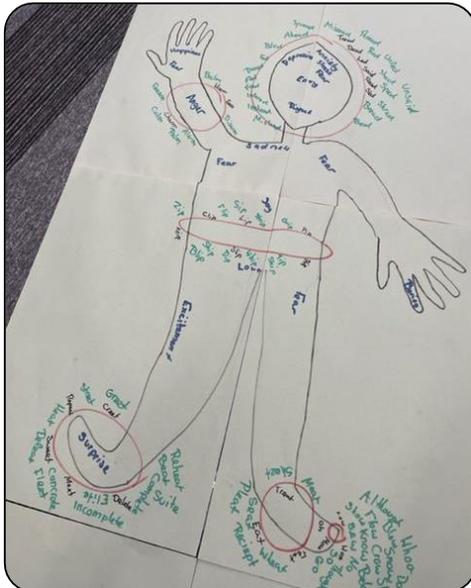
Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires

Megan C (9MH) - 3,133,967
 Georgia B (8CC) - 2,375,703
 Charlie E (9AC) - 1,841,986
 Jack M (8AC) - 1,648,098
 Harry S (8MC) - 1,371,148
 Sam M (8AH) - 1,280,366
 Jack B (7CH) - 1,253,664
 Luca P (8TC) - 1,218,717
 Hannah R (8MH) - 1,164,960
 Hannah S (9AC) - 1,140,506

Chloe T (8MC) - 1,138,957
 Elizabeth T (7TH) - 1,134,505
 Naomi G (9TH) - 1,088,578
 Emily E (8TH) - 1,086,649
 Marley PL (8MC) - 1,078,127
 Katie H (8TC) - 1,016,637
 Freya W (9CH) - 1,006,310
 Eleanor B (9CH) - 1,002,078
 Inaara R (9CC) - 1,001,069

Poetry Club - Bodies of Work

Our poetry club in the LRC started last week. Through a mixture of drawing and writing, students are learning how to create emotion in the body. Sessions are running up until the end of the term, every **Tuesday, 3:15pm - 4:15pm**. New members welcome!



U3A Creative Writing Club

This term we have been lucky enough to welcome the ladies from Holmes Chapel's U3A Creative Writing Club, who have volunteered to work with our students after-school in our own Creative Club. The two remainder sessions will be running on **Monday 27th June and Monday 11th July, 3:15pm - 4:15pm**. New members welcome! Please speak to Miss Moores in the LRC for more information.



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Sixth Form – Student Leadership

Having returned to my post as Director of Sixth Form this week, following maternity leave, I was delighted that one of my first tasks was to take part in appointing the new student leadership team. This task is always a privilege and the confidence and maturity of our students never fails to surprise me.



Ms Camm

Mr Bielby, Mr Fu and I took part in a series of interviews with a shortlist of Year 12 students, all hoping to secure a position on the student leadership team.

Students were tasked with preparing a presentation, focusing on why they wanted to be a student leader and what they hoped to achieve in their time on the leadership group. We were each astounded and impressed by every student's professional and committed approach to the task. Each student arrived at their interview fully prepared and impassioned about the potential that they could bring to the role. They answered each question, asked of them, articulately and confidently. We decided, following the process, that this year we would appoint an Executive Leadership Team, rather than appointing the more traditional roles of Head Boy/Girl. This is quite a change in what we are used to doing but we believe this change reflects the needs of the school community and the strengths of the team. All students raised common themes and strands in their interviews and will work together to see the change they so passionately wish to see. We believe that every student on the team will bring something special and unique and will be a fantastic asset to the team. We trust that their contributions, as a team, to the school and college will be tremendous and long lasting. Can I please congratulate the following students, who have all secured a place on the Executive Leadership Team. I very much look forward to seeing them flourish as leaders and to see what a difference they will make.



Above – Mr N Bielby (Headteacher)
From left to right - Lucas Ball, Bailey Lightfoot, Cerys Dingle, Harvey Saunders, Frankie Wood, Ruby Munday, Isobel Green, Caitlyn Gaynor.



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It's Back! Tuesday 5th July, 6pm

Battle of the Bands



After a 2 year break, once again we have the opportunity to celebrate the independent live musical talent here at HCCS.

Features students from Year 7-13, a judging panel and of course the Staff Band!

Tickets now available from the Arts Faculty Office.

Students/ Concessions £3, Adults £5

HCCS Music Summer Concert

Tuesday 19th July, 6pm

Join us for a celebration of the work of our highly talented students in an evening of musical entertainment.



Tickets £3 Students, £5 Adults

Tickets available from the Arts Faculty Office.

Refreshments included.



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PE News

Congratulations to Emily Edgar who represented South Cheshire in the district athletics competition, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Also congratulations to Emily & Jessica Edgar & Lucy & Grace Butler who represented Crewe Alex Salt Wars girls' team in February this year at Villa Park indoor training centre. They were invited to the Premier League's Kicks 15-year celebration event and a stadium tour of Aston Villa's ground .





Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Hairstory

Like Medusa there is power in my hair,
People feel compelled to stop and stare.
Don't touch my hair without permission!
This fiery mane is my tradition. Hairstory

Like Medusa there is power in my hair,
People feel compelled to stop and stare.
Don't touch my hair without permission!
This fiery mane is my tradition.

You see...

Every coil speaks my history,
Of ancestors who are part of me.
From the roots it grows up and high
Like the baobab tree kisses the sky.
I can style it a hundred ways,
In twists, knots, locks and braids,
Or a tsunami of curls that roll freely:
These strands express how I'm feeling.

I don't take this journey alone.
With gels, sprays, creams and comb,
My head rests in my mother's lap
As she carefully paints an intricate map.
She spends hours threading my hair under and over,
Whilst our bond gets stronger and closer.
Braiding and twisting has lasted for generations,
A legacy of ancient African civilisations.
Long ago, mothers would sit and chat about what they may
As they combed, brushed and styled away for days.

This hair was also beauty to explorers of old,
To the sailors of the sea looking for gold.
What really left them in wonder and awe
Were the hairstyles they saw on the African shores.
But it wasn't long before racism began to unfold,
Invaders started to cart people away and sold
Them, told them to be ashamed of their identity
Even long after they were freed.

This textured hair still comes under attack,
For people at work and even in class,
Children have been sent home from school
For having hair that's thought to bend the rules.
Sometimes seen as messy or untidy,
But why is this hair another's enquiry?
Flattening and concealing these natural tresses
Fails to honour the natural beauty it possesses.

Why do I take pride hair in my hair?
Because of the many others who were previously there.
The ones who possessed courage and resilience
And showcased this hair's pure brilliance.
From the Panthers and their afro crowning glory
To Ruby Williams and her inspiring story.
There's a lot of things about my hair heritage I have learned.
But the one main thing is, I wouldn't give it up for the world.

By

Ashira Odutola

Please take some time to read this thought provoking poem by Ashira Odutola. Ashira writes candidly and beautifully about her hair.



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News From a Former Student

Congratulations to former HCCS student Eve Rodgers – a former student at HCCS and HC6F who was shortlisted for Student Children’s nurse of the year.



“I’m currently in my final year of Paediatric Nursing at Staffordshire University and due to qualify in August, where my job awaits. I have massively progressed over the past three years; academically and personally, and have really come out of my shell. I love my career and the children I care for; it genuinely is my dream job. I have engaged in all additional opportunities, allowing me to publicly speak at conferences and writing nursing publications. Recently, my lecturers entered me into the National Student Nursing Times Awards for the Student Children’s Nurse of the Year category. Which was crazily overwhelming. Even though I did not come home with a physical award, I not only got shortlisted to the top ten, but after the award ceremony I am now in the top three of the country! Honestly it is just the cherry on top.

I feel extremely grateful for my academic and practical mentors, who supported my development, and it just shows that you can excel in your area of interest. A profession such as nursing is unbelievably rewarding to see children recover and grow as individuals, but there are also challenging and emotionally draining moments too. Although, making a difference to countless lives makes it all worthwhile. My next ambition is to expand my nursing competence; therefore, I am volunteering in a children’s hospital for four weeks in Tanzania in August. Super exciting, and nerve-racking too!”



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Toby Hurstfield Wins the Colts Class

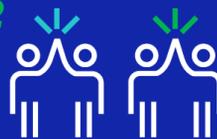
The weekend of 11th and 12th June was the Dougall Memorial shoot and the English Open. Toby Hurstfield won the Colts class on Saturday and was Runner up on the Sunday.

This was enough to secure him a place on the England junior DTL team, he was also selected for the England Junior European championship team and the England junior World Championship team in South Africa next March



NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT WEEK 2022

Belonging – a place in sport for every child



HCCS will be doing field events for sports day in support of the National School Sport Week.



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



HCCS Rounder's Fixtures

The South Cheshire Rounder's Tournaments started this week, and in the blazing sunshine the students hit it out the park with fantastic performances.

Y7 and Y8 tournaments took place at Holmes Chapel on Tuesday 14th June, with both teams finishing in second place. The Y7 team demonstrated outstanding batting skills achieving 12 rounder's in just one game, whilst the Y8 team were very efficient fielders limiting the scoring potential of other teams.

Y9 and Y10 tournaments were away at Congleton on Thursday 16th June, Y9 finishing 3rd and Y10 finishing 2nd. Both teams were slow to start, losing their first matches, however, the Y10 team then went on a winning streak and won all remaining games. The Y9 team found some good batting and catching form and finished the competition strong.

Well done to all those who took part, it has been a fantastic week seeing the Rounder's fields filled with friendly competition and a hive of activity.

We have another fixture in a couple of weeks time, so we are eager to improve during practice this week and compete for the title next time around.



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