



Dear Families,

I hope that this Newsletter finds you well. We are now coming to the end of what has been a very busy and productive first academic term. This term has seen a lot of activity and hard work from members of our Sixth Form College.

The Year 12 students have now settled in and fully immersed themselves into College life. It truly has been a pleasure to have them in College for the last term. Students are now well under way with their chosen courses and are in full swing of balancing College life with other commitments that occupy this age group, such as driving lessons and part time work. All have adjusted well to the routines and expectations of College life.

Year 13 students have sat a successful series of Trial Assessments, followed up shortly after with a well timed parents evening. Students have been busy acting on detailed feedback and advice from their teachers. We thank you all for your continued support with this now and as we continue forward into the new year.

Year 13 Students have now completed the UCAS process and a large number of our Year 13 students are now holding offers from a diverse range of aspirational Universities. Students will no doubt be using some of the Christmas break to consider where they want to study after College as well as preparing for the next Trial Assessment series which will take place in February.

Recently, I have had the pleasure to lead a series of Sixth Form Learning Walks. This has been done as part of our ongoing quality assurance measures. I, along with the Senior Leadership Team, have visited over 30 lessons across the different subject areas. The team and I relished the opportunity to see our students hard at work in their chosen lessons. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience the range and variety of high quality lessons. It was great to see our students so engaged with their learning. I saw some excellent examples of student discussions and debates. I was delighted to see such high levels of focus, maturity and engagement in the lessons I visited. It felt really good seeing the high level and commitment from our wonderful students. The information gathered from these Learning Walks will be used to help us to identify areas of good practice and also what areas we need to address to ensure that all of our students in the Sixth Form are receiving the best possible quality education.

All of the Sixth Form Team wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable break and look forward to continuing our partnership in 2024.





Headteacher's reflections 21st December 2023

So here we are at the end of a very long term and I expect that like me, we are all ready to enjoy some time with our families and friends and to take some time just to be together.

Christmas is now many things to many people. For some, the religious aspects of Christmas are still the most important but even though this doesn't apply to everyone, many of the christian traditions associated with Christmas are the ones which I feel are the most meaningful.

In Charles Dickens 'A christmas Carol' the two main characters, Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge represent two very different social contexts but at the heart of the story is a message about self reflection, thinking about our values, actions and principles and about what really matters. This happens to Scrooge, a bitter, miserly, ageing man by being visited by three spirits who cause him to examine his past, his present and his future. At the end of his ordeal Scrooge emerges as a changed man. His characteristics of selfishness, greed, unkindness are replaced by characteristics of generosity, care, charity, kindness and integrity. He recognises Bob Cratchit, sees his situation and acts to help. He lifts him up and shows that he values him. Bob is seen and heard. Scrooge realises that he has social responsibility and is in a position of being able to improve the lives of those around him. By embracing these acts, by focusing on giving, welcoming and sharing, Scrooge finds that he is included, valued, cared for and belongs. He becomes someone who is loved and is happy.

At the other end of the literary spectrum is the film Scrooged made in 1998. It's not Dickens but it's a great film even though it's decades old! Right at the end of the film, the main 'Scrooge' character, Frank Cross, makes a speech about Christmas. I've paraphrased and chosen a few bits of it here that I really like:

(Christmas is) 'the time of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more, we can be the people that we always hoped we would be. It's a miracle.You have to do something... you do have to get involved'

So this Christmas, make the time to be together as much as you can and ask, are we expecting to receive or to give? To be involved or to sit apart? To talk or to focus on our mobiles? To share, smile and laugh together? How generous are we going to be with our time for those around us?

You are an amazing community of people and I am so proud to serve you and the children who come to our school. Thanks for working with us this term and thanks for your trust and support. Let's build more of the same in 2024

Warm regards and however you spend it and whatever your beliefs are, have a happy Christmas time
Nigel



HC6F musicians at Holmes Chapel Christmas Market

Thank you to our students who volunteered to perform on the stage at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Market, which was held on Sunday, 3rd December.

Headliners for the evening were The Kulaks (Henry, Charlie, Harvey and Ed from sixth form) who performed many Christmas tunes, including a brand new one they had put together especially for the event. Despite the rain and cold weather it was fantastic to see so many of their friends and family in the audience enjoying the performance.

Please pass on our thanks and a huge well done to them all.





Year 12 News and Information

Students continue to attend well, in all aspects of Sixth Form life, including Tutor Time, Enrichment and Supervised Study periods. Students have been continuing to take part in Personal Development Curriculum sessions with their tutor on each alternate Monday. In these PDC sessions, this last half term, they have reviewed their interim grades (indicating where they are currently working), looked at literacy skills for Sixth Form, covered spiritual values (in the run up to Christmas) and have finished in the final week with a Christmas quiz. These sessions continue to provide an important understanding of knowledge required for the successful transition into College life, as well as reinforcing the importance of being part of the College community.

Interim Grades

Year 12 Interim grades were published at the end of November. These provide students and their families with an accurate account of where they are in their progress in lessons as well as in their approach to learning. This will provide a useful point of conversation and allow students to see where they are at and more importantly, what they need to do to improve. This will provide students with a point of reflection to allow them to come back in January with renewed focus and vigour.

Academic Conference

On Wednesday 22nd of November, a group of Year 12 students, accompanied by Mr Fu, attended an Academic Conference at Malbank School. The Academic Conference was aimed at Higher Able Learners and those who might intend to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry or other competitive courses. This day consisted of a number of exciting and valuable activities. Activities included: debating, 'Hot Topic' discussions, 'How to get to Cambridge' and an Oxbridge presentation. The students who attended all made a really excellent account of themselves and found it really useful. Hopefully this will have helped to raise aspirations as they move towards their next exciting steps.



Sixth Form Football

Our sixth form team played a great match against a strong Great Sankey School. We were winning 5-3 at one point but unfortunately fitness told and we lost 7-5. Some great individual performances and we played in a spirit that showed a lot of class.

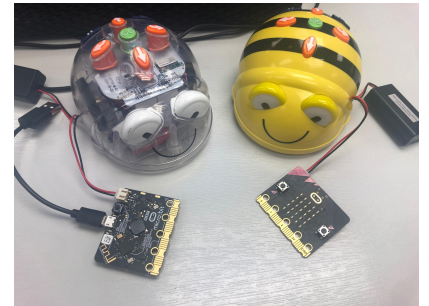


Year 12 Computer Science Students - Goostrey Primary School Visits - A Student Account

On Wednesdays, we arrive at the Goostrey Primary School at roughly 1:00pm. Once there, we are greeted by the lovely staff who bring us into the building. For the first hour we teach Computer Science to the year fours. We have been showing them how to use the Microbit. This is essentially a very small computer that can perform various functions such as showing images and making sounds. In the first couple lessons, we focused on teaching them how to perform the basic functions of creating flashing lights and making simple melodies. The Year Four class even had a go at creating radio systems that would allow them to send messages to each other. They all behaved exceptionally well and were very good at understanding the topics quickly. All of the children were very polite, always making sure to raise their hand whenever they had a question.

Once we finish with their lesson, we then head upstairs to teach Year Three. So far, we have been going through the lessons at about half the speed of the year fours. However, I must admit that it is incredibly impressive how well they are able to understand these topics, which may seem a bit too advanced for their age. They share their laptops between pairs, each taking turns to play with the Microbit. In the latest lesson with them, we showed them how to create songs and tunes with the computer. They had great fun doing this and it was a joy to see the smiles on their faces.

Both years teachers were very accommodating, and made sure that we wouldn't have any troubles with teaching the classes effectively. Everyone was (and I'm sure will keep being) outstandingly welcoming and it is a true pleasure to be able to teach these children about the wonders of technology and what we are able to achieve using them!



Ethan Haylett

Health and Social Care Students

This term, we saw Year 12 Health and Social Care students supporting a Year 8 English group with their Private Peaceful letter writing. It was so lovely to see how our amazing Vocational Health and Social students rose to the challenge of working with Year 8. Together they discussed Michael Morpurgo's novel and empathised with the character Tommo as they wrote a letter from the trenches to their loved ones back home. This gave our Year 12 students a wonderful opportunity to put into practice some of the important skills that they have been learning about in this course. They demonstrated their ability to work with people, to communicate effectively, to listen and the demonstrate patience and empathy. This also allowed some of our lower year students to receive more support in their learning. A truly rewarding lesson and experience for all.





Year 13 News and Information

UCAS

Year 13 students have now completed the UCAS process. This means that students will, in most cases, have submitted an application to five different Universities or courses. At this point, students will no doubt be keenly awaiting offers from the different Universities. When students receive their offers, they will usually be in one of the following formats:

- **Unconditional** (increasing number of these offers - grades will still be checked by employers so students must still try)
- **Conditional** (must meet certain grades)
- **Dependent of interview** (might have to show portfolio or do admissions tests)

Once students receive all of their offers they will be required to select a **Firm** and an **Insurance choice**. The Firm choice is where a student will be placed (if they meet the entry requirements). The Insurance choice is where the student will be placed if they do not meet the conditions of the Firm choice but meet the conditions of the Insurance choice. We must stress here the importance of ensuring therefore that the Insurance choice has lower requirements than the Firm choice. We will continue to support students in the New Year, whilst they make the all important Firm and Insurance choice.



For the number of students who wish to pursue an Apprenticeship, there will be continued support for these people. They will continue to work with staff to support them with their preparation for this. In addition, we would urge students to begin, from March, the active pursuit of available apprenticeships. Students have been shared into a number of resources available to them in order to direct their search appropriately. The application process for Apprenticeships can be challenging and competitive so we encourage students to fully engage and prepare for this process.

Careers Adviser

Emma Jackson, our Careers Adviser, continues to be available to students who wish to seek further support on apprenticeships or other possible pathways including Gap Year or a direct route into work.

Tutor Time Changes from January and Revision Opportunities

From January, Year 13 students will be invited to change how they attend Tutor Time. Year 13 students will be expected to attend College each Monday. This is when we have assemblies and allows for Tutors to meet with their whole tutor group. For the remainder of the week, students will be invited in for one to one mentoring appointments. This will provide an opportunity for tutors to discuss, with students, their progress and their preparations for their Post 18 steps.

In addition to this, where staff are available, there will be an opportunity to attend revision classes for some of their A Levels during tutor time. There will be a timetable of subjects available, along with the venue, published and shared with students on the Sixth Form Google Classroom. I would actively encourage students to engage with the available revision sessions which will be highly focussed preparation for upcoming exams. Please note: other subject areas may also be offering revision at other times.



General Reminders

Attendance and Absences

All Year 12 students must attend Tutor Time from Monday to Thursday. When this is not possible, for a medical reason or appointment for example, please do get in touch with Mrs Greeney, either by email or contacting the school by telephone, so that we are able to correctly record any absences.

Thank you for your support this term

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support over the last term. We continue to recognise the importance of a good working relationship with yourselves. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child and the Sixth Form please do get in touch.

Contact Information:

General Sixth Form enquiries: sixthform@hccs.info
Director of Sixth Form: Joanne.camm@hccs.info
Personal Development Manager: ann.bentley@hccs.info
Careers Adviser: emma.jackson@hccs.info

Key Dates for Spring Term

Monday 8th January: INSET day
Tuesday 9th January: Students return to College (This will be Week 2 of the timetable)
Thursday 1st of February: Cheshire East Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair
Friday 16th of February: Last day of half term

Monday 26th February: Students return to College (This will be Week 2 of the timetable)
W/C 26th February: Year 13 Trial Assessments Commence
Tuesday 19th of March: Sixth Form Apprenticeship Fair in Manchester
Wednesday 20th of March: Year 13 Interim 2 Published
Thursday 21st March: Year 13 Intervention Parents Evening
Thursday 28th of March: Last day of term



Kindest regards,
Ms J Camm

Director of Sixth Form