



## Dear all

The week following our successful Ofsted inspection has been very much concerned with picking up from where we left off and business as usual. Having a team of very experienced industry professionals in school is always a benefit in helping us reflect and challenge each other's thinking. Looking back, I was impressed with the quality and rigour of the inspection process. Furthermore, it was great to see that the outcomes of the inspection are very strongly matched to our own internal audit, planning and implementation process. The inspection clearly shows that we are on a continuing improvement journey driven by actions we are already underway with to continually improve the lived experience at our school for all who come here.

It's true to say that although the feel around the school remains generally positive, welcoming and happy, children and colleagues are a little more tired than they were a few weeks ago. This is, in many ways, normal and half term 3 is always a busy period even without an inspection. Both children and staff have risen to multiple challenges over the last few weeks and months and most have worked really hard to live and breathe our four values of ambition, learning, belonging and pride. Diligence, that quality of persistent, enthusiastic and consistent application to work is a highly valued characteristic and, coupled with resilience and determination tends to lead to successful and fulfilling outcomes. When we instill this in our children, encourage and expect it in each other, we create a positive 'can do' culture which is infectious and drives ambition and learning for all of us.

On that note, there are three things where I really need some extra support from all parents and carers.

Firstly, vaping: This week, we uncovered some information and evidence that there may be a rise again in vaping. This was once a very widespread problem across the community and we are aware that we need to be constantly vigilant and need to hard manage this issue at school but also at home. Worryingly, we now know that some of our younger children are vaping and bringing the vapes on site. The usual claim is that they 'found' the vapes 'somewhere in the village'. This, it seems, is rarely the case. Please urgently talk to your children about this issue. We must remember that vaping is illegal until a person is 18. The health and safety of our children is a serious matter so bringing a vape into school will result in a suspension.



Secondly, the use of discriminatory language: Later on in the newsletter you will read more about a second issue that we want your support with to tackle it at the very root. The use of discriminatory language and insults of any kind, especially based on characteristics such as race, gender, religion, sexuality, etc etc are not something any of us should be comfortable with. Our values, especially pride and belonging should engaged actions, language and behaviours from all of us and all children that embrace, celebrate and welcome everyone to our school as a valued individual. Again, I respectfully ask you to talk to your children about what we mean by discriminatory language and insulting language and how to safely and confidently report it to an adult in school. Please spend some time discussing and exploring these issues. With regard to racism for instance, 'Show Racism the Red Card' is an accessible and highly regarded place to start. Link here: [Show Racism the Red Card](#)

Thirdly, mobile phones: Whilst most of the children, especially younger ones, are generally compliant and always lock their phone away, there is now a rise in the number of children in all year groups who bluntly refuse to follow this rule, hide their phone, lie about having one or pretended to lock it away but actually just return it to their bag or pocket. Some of you will not remember the time before the ban on phones and the sheer volume of online harassment, the loss of learning, the level of addiction to screen time, the constant distraction of social media and the poor behaviour that was directly linked to phones.



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We are trying very hard in school to maintain this very very important policy of banning phones so that our children can be social, can interact as children should and are free of the addictive nature of screen time. We need all families to explicitly support us in maintaining this ban so that our children are safe together and can learn together as effectively as possible.

There are plenty of articles about the benefits to our children of being phone free for part of their day. Here's just one example: [What happens when a school bans smartphones? A complete transformation](#)

Whilst there are always views on both sides of the argument, HCCS operates a policy of a full ban on mobile phones. This policy is available on our website.

In the coming weeks and months, these issues will be followed up in school in tutor time, assemblies, personal development lessons etc. I am sure that you all share my view that our children should grow up to be accepting, understanding, tolerant, kind, caring people who make sensible informed choices about their health and wellbeing and recognise rules and boundaries. I am grateful in advance for your help in these three matters.

Warm regards

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher

## Curriculum Matters



### Our Curriculum Website

Before Christmas we told you about our plans to go live with our curriculum website at the start of this term. Our aim has been to put all of the information about what we teach when and why we teach it in one place so that parents and students can have a clear understanding of this.

We have now published [our updated Curriculum & Learning webpage here](#).

This page gives access to:

- Parent forums
- Exams information
- Information on how we assess
- Information on Smart Learning - how to support your child's learning and revision
- Careers and reading information

However, the biggest update has been to our [Our Curriculum page](#). Here you will find

- What subjects we teach at each key stage
- When we teach specific content in Years 7-11
- Information about courses at KS4 and KS5
- How our faculties currently assess and feedback to students
- Our faculties' homework expectations.

You will understand that this is a work in progress - but we feel that now is the time to share that progress. Gaps in information will be filled in over the coming weeks, but more significant changes will be made through the summer term. In the meantime, if you have any feedback about how we can improve this information, we will look forward to receiving it.



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## Curriculum Matters...Continued

### Parent webcast

As parents in Years 7-10 will know, our Ofsted inspection meant that we had to produce our webcast on how we group students differently from how we had planned it. Instead of going live we have instead published our presentation on grouping in maths in the [parent forums](#) page of our website. If you have any further questions about how we group students away from maths lessons, then please contact Mr Munro ([tim.munro@hccs.info](mailto:tim.munro@hccs.info)) and we will add these to an FAQs document that we will also publish on this page.

We look forward to returning to a live webcast format for the next 2 parent/carer webcasts:

19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Personal Development
21 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	Knowledge Organisers and how we share the curriculum What can you do as a parent to support

## Year 11 Trial Assessment

Following a successful Trial Assessment period at the start of this term, we were delighted to see Year 11 collecting their results this week. Students congregated at the end of period 5 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of February, to collect their results. There was much excitement and anticipation in this 'mock' results day process. This, in itself, provides students with the opportunity to experience what it might feel like on 'Results Day' in August. This process can act as a positive reinforcer or a valuable lesson in preparing themselves for the actual results day.



This process forms part of the preparation for GCSEs and formed an important focal point for discussion at the Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening this week.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to view the webinar sent home this week, please do take some time to view this. It provides a good opportunity to discuss how Year 11 students can best prepare over the next few months in the lead up to GCSEs.

## Singfest

Last week we hosted a great Singfest workshop in conjunction with the Love Music Trust (our local music service). Thank you to the wonderful ambassadors from our Choir who helped us to welcome a large number of students from Holmes Chapel and Brereton primary schools to HCCS and enjoy a morning of singing.



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## Racism, Homophobia and Discriminatory Language

During the last two years at HCCS we have regularly emphasised the importance of our school being a diverse community with high levels of respect for all the individuals, and where differences are celebrated and embraced.

We continue to be committed to fostering an environment where all students and staff are valued and respected for who they are. Equality and diversity are at the heart of our community, and we stand united against all forms of discrimination, including racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia.

In particular in the last two years, we have tried to emphasise our expectations and values as a school through a variety of means. We have run a number of assemblies, written to parents on several occasions, and ensured that this important issue is regularly explored and addressed through our personal development programme. Many of you will know that we have chosen to take a zero tolerance approach to any behaviour and language which is in any way racist, homophobic, sexist, or discriminatory. Despite this, we remain concerned that some members of our school community are not adhering to this, and whose behaviours are not consistent with our expectations.

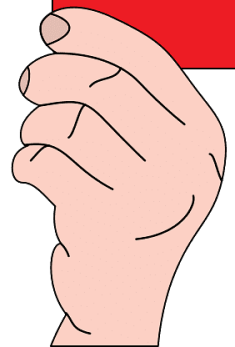
Our 'Show Racism the Red Card' staff training session last year highlighted the importance of being 'anti-racist', by ensuring that we call out all discriminatory language, in whatever form. We expect this from all of our students, staff, and parents.

As a school community, we are dedicated to the principle of respect for all. This means not only condemning acts of racism and homophobia but also actively supporting equality. It's about celebrating the rich diversity that each individual brings to our community. Whether through participation in school events, diversity workshops, or simply taking the time to listen and learn from each other, we can all contribute to making our school a better, more inclusive place.

At this point, we also want to make it clear that as a school, we will be taking a tough stance on any form of discrimination, discriminatory language towards more marginalised groups. We will be continuing to stress the importance of this during our assemblies and tutor time provision in the coming weeks, but as a key influence in your child's life, we would greatly appreciate your support in discussing these important issues with them at home. The following links might be useful in any discussions that you have at home. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

- <https://www.theredcard.org/>
- <https://www.youngcitizens.org/resources/citizenship/british-values/>
- <https://www.hccs1978.co.uk/my-curriculum>

**SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD**



## Cheshire East Family Hubs

Family hubs support children and young people from 0-19 (or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities). If you are a family that feels like you may need more support across a range of areas, the family hubs offer a range of services, through Local Authority provision, to families across Cheshire East.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children/family-hubs/family-hubs.aspx>

Over the coming months, we will be partnering more closely with the LA to ensure that our families at HCCS can be signposted to a variety of support services, spanning all age groups, and up to 25 for children with EHCPs.

Please feel free to seek more information via the link provided, and watch this space for further initiatives over the coming months.



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## Careers

### National Apprenticeship Week Feb 10-14th

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is a yearly celebration of apprenticeships. It's a week-long event that brings together apprentices, employers, and others to celebrate the benefits of apprenticeships.

In addition to tutor time activities, each year will have a talk from an outside speaker who are each responsible for running their organisation's apprenticeship scheme



### The Big Assembly

We are taking part in the country's 'Big Assembly' this year on the morning of Tuesday 11th February. The assembly will be online and will comprise a number of video clips, interviews and information about Apprenticeships

### Unifrog Apprenticeship fair

For students

Wednesday 12 February @ 16:00 UK time



Get involved with National Apprenticeship Week by attending our apprenticeship fair and speaking to over 30 employers in just over two hours! Learn all about the world of work by exploring the latest opportunities, attending live sessions with employers, and chat to experts and apprentices from organisations including BBC, NHS, British Army, KPMG, Lloyds Banking Group, EY, and Unilever! Follow the sign up link to register on our exciting external events platform, iVent.

To take part students need to sign up through the Unifrog portal



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### Jobs of the Week



### Staff Vacancies



We currently have various vacancies at HCCS. These include:

- Resource Provision Teaching Assistant
- Data Officer
- Temporary Teacher of Girls PE
- Teacher of Girls PE
- Teacher of Physics

READ MORE 



# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College



## Year 7 News

This half term our year 7 students have been leading assemblies based on our 4 values: Learning, Pride, Belonging and Ambition.

Congratulations to the tutors and leaders in 7TG and 7SP for two very inspirational presentations.



### 7SP Assembly - Extracurricular activities

High school provides everyone with a chance to learn, and use what they learn to become whatever they want to be.



School isn't just about learning subjects, like Maths, English or even Geography. It is about becoming a better person and challenging yourself to be the best version of you.

To help you become the best, school offers lots of opportunities to do that outside of lessons.

This can be shown if we demonstrate the 4 core values of HCCS: **Pride, Ambition, Learning and Belonging.**



We learn together  
We belong to this community  
We are proud of ourselves and each other  
We have consistently high expectations

### Living the impacts every day

**LEARNING** - When you have a positive attitude to learning it can create amazing outcomes for you and others.

**BELONGING** - You can make others feel excited to come to school.

**PRIDE** - Being happy for what others have achieved creates a sense of community.

**AMBITION** - We can all continue to reach our goals.

### Our Year 7 Netball Teams

Congratulations to our Year 7 Netballers on two great games over the last two weeks against Congleton and Sandbach.

Players of the matches:

**Esme, Agnes, Poppy, Bethany**

## Pride - Celebrating Success

Encourage  
one another  
and  
build  
each other  
up.



Gus Fisher 7EC- Saturday won the Cheshire Minor Boys cross country championships representing South Cheshire



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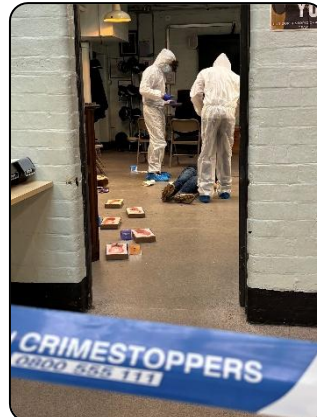
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## Year 13 Prison Trip

In January, Year 13 Forensics students had the opportunity to learn about the history of policing, and development of forensic science to aid law enforcement.

Ted, Reilly, Jack, Phoebe and Kezia toured West Midlands Police Museum with a retired detective, and experienced life as a prisoner in victorian times.



After lunch, the students then got ready to examine a mock crime scene, where they used their scientific skills to record, collect and preserve evidence from a murder. Samples included: fingerprints, footwear castings, blood, bullets and fibres.

They will now analyse the evidence collected in the hope they can identify the person responsible.

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

We're excited to announce that all Year 8 pupils have now received their BookBuzz book as part of the BookTrust initiative! This fantastic program is all about promoting reading for pleasure, and we're thrilled to see our students dive into their new books. We hope this encourages a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

To keep the excitement going at home, we encourage parents to ask their children about their books and spark conversations around what they're reading. Discussing characters, plot twists, and favorite moments can not only enhance their reading experience but also strengthen their love for stories.



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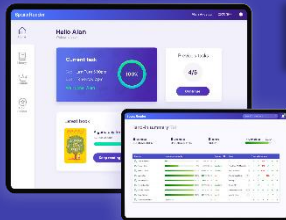


## Millionaire Readers & SPARX Celebrations

Big congratulations to our latest students who have officially joined the ranks of our Millionaire Readers! Your dedication and hard work have paid off. We're thrilled to see your success and can't wait to watch you continue to succeed throughout the year. Well done!



Celine A (7TG), Emily L (7SA), Immy S (8KK), Mia D (8LB), Brianna H (9AW), Isabelle K (9LJ), Jessica H (9IW), Gus F (7EC)



## Sparx Reader Leaderboard

### Year 10

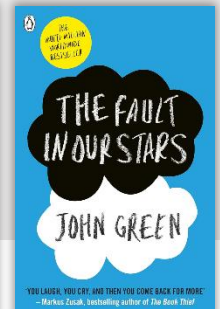
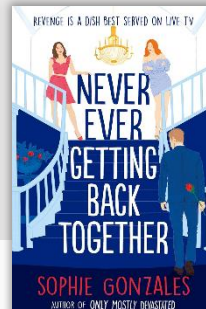
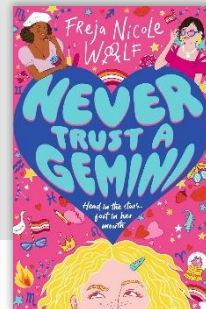
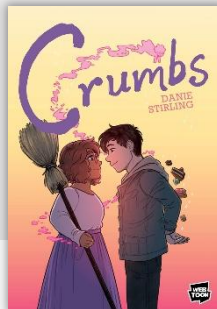
- 1st - Ashira O (10CPR)
- 2nd - Evie C (10CK)
- 3rd - Oscar S (10CPR)

### Year 11

- 1st - Eddie W (11AD)
- 2nd - Lottie C (11JB)
- 3rd - Grace M (11LB)

## Book Recommendations

This month, as we celebrate the season of love, we're excited to share some of our top book recommendations that capture the magic of romance!



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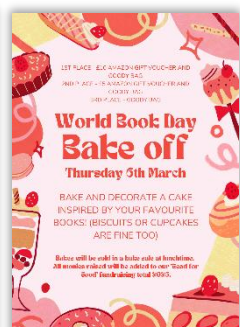
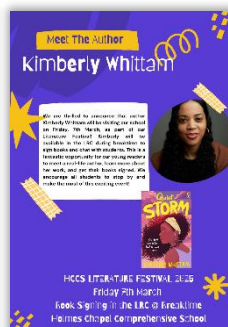
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## HCCS Literature Festival 2025

We are thrilled to announce that our Annual Literature Festival will take place from Monday 3rd March to Friday 7th March! This event is designed to ignite a love for reading and writing in our students, while creating a fun and inspiring atmosphere for both pupils and staff.

Throughout the week, students will take part in a variety of exciting activities including fun quizzes, engaging workshops, author visits, and much more! Our goal is to spark curiosity, foster creativity, and celebrate the joy of literature in a way that captivates everyone.

We look forward to seeing the excitement build as we embark on this wonderful week of literary adventures!







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## Year 7 Girls Football

On 23rd January the Year 7 Girls football team displayed some excellent resilience and courage in very cold wintery conditions away at Shavington Academy. Across the four matches they played they won two and drew two of their games, this included not conceding any goals in one of their games due to a strong set of defenders. In attack they demonstrated some excellent pace to outwit the opposition with plenty of goals on target.

### A few special mentions:

Well done to Everleigh for scoring an extremely difficult goal from her corner kick!  
Well done to Maisie for her goals and some fantastic leadership as our captain!



### Year 7 Gus Fisher places 1st at the Cheshire School Cross-Country!

A huge congratulations to Gus Fisher in Year 7 for placing 1st in Cheshire in the Minor Boys race at the Cheshire Schools Cross-Country event on Saturday 1st February!

## Netball results vs Sandbach at Home

After our Winter Break we were back in action with our first netball game of the second half of the season. The girls did themselves proud performing to the best of their ability even after the Christmas holidays and some time away from training, they never gave up. They were up against a tough Sandbach side. Positives to take from this is that we are closing the gap, scoring more goals and reducing their goal count which is a fantastic achievement. The students played with passion and commitment, a real credit to the school and our community. Well done Girls.

Well done to all and a special mention to the player of the match voted by the opposition.

**Year 8a / 8b - Hannah G - had an amazing two games stepping up at GA - fantastic commitment well played.**

**Year 10 - Izzy F - always dedicated and takes pride in competing**

**Year 11 - Charlotte T for her overall enthusiasm and captancy**



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## Year 7 Netball

Congratulations to our Year 7 Netballers on two great games over the last two weeks against Congleton and Sandbach.

Players of the matches:  
Esme, Agnes, Poppy, Bethany



CAMP KENYA FUNDRAISER

## VALENTINES BAKE SALE

Help raise funds towards our expedition to  
Camp Kenya in July 2025

Friday 14th February  
10:10am - 10:30am (Break Time)  
Big Canopy Area

ALL CAKES £1.00 EACH



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