



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Issue: 143

Date: 10th December 2021

Dear all,

So the last newsletter of the term and with only a week of lessons to go until the Christmas break it feels like the right time to say a few thank yous and to bring the term to a close.

To all of our families, thanks for helping us to keep our children on track in their learning and for your support in keeping us all safe. We have all benefited from our consistent approach to safe behaviours during the ongoing pandemic and our school continues to have very few children having to learn at home. Also, we have had very small numbers of staff isolating and unable to come into work to teach our children or to do their job. We've stuck to our covid safe behaviours such as masks, hand cleaning and ventilation in school as well as having very high levels of uptake for voluntary testing and vaccination. I believe that we have taken our individual responsibilities towards community safety very seriously and this has led to collective actions that have kept our school a safe place to learn and work.

During the term I've seen some exemplary behaviour from our children. They have been a highly positive part of our day to day life here at school and have contributed greatly to the success of the term. On a personal level, I am inspired by the children in my school. They're great to be around and a testament to our community and their families. The highlight of my day is, and always will be, spending some time every day with the children and enjoying the privilege of being part of their journey.

This term, more than ever, I've felt your support in dealing with some challenging behaviours from a few of our children. You have given me the personal confidence to openly share these challenges so that we can all deal with them together. I believe that this positive approach to parenting and caring for our children is something that makes our school a very special place. To all of the parents, carers and families who have been positive, understanding, trusting, respectful and calm even during difficult conversations, thank you very much.

I'm obviously a huge advocate for all of our students from all years and of all ages. After all, they are the reason we all do what we do and why we all work so hard at home and school so that these young people have every opportunity to grow and learn so that they are happy, fulfilled and successful. They are a resilient and reflective group of people with opinions, views and ideas that astonish us. However, across the pandemic we have all seen our children cope in different ways, support and care for each other. We have also seen them struggle with the limitations imposed upon them and keenly felt their challenges, frustrations and pain. Later on in the newsletter you'll find a link to a short film that was produced by Cheshire East in collaboration with our school and exploring the views of our children. What is astonishing is that the whole process of making the film was entirely unscripted. Please go and have a look. It's a reflection of how amazing our children are.

As we move into the final week, I'm looking forward to seeing the children enjoy a normal set of lessons delivered with professionalism and enthusiasm and where they continue to make progress. As you know, the last day of term is Friday 17th December. Periods 1 and 2 will be normal lessons and end of term assemblies will happen during period 3. The children will leave school at about 12:20 with school buses departing at about 12:30. I'm sure all of our children will enjoy a well earned break before coming back full of enthusiasm and vigour on the 4th January.

Thanks for being part of the ongoing success of our children, school and community.

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



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Please Be Respectful

Over the last four weeks, a number of staff have reported that they have been subjected to rude, impolite, abusive and even aggressive telephone calls and emails from parents and carers. We have even had a small number of parents and carers making direct and personal threats of one kind and another to members of staff. Even though these kinds of calls and emails are relatively rare, the frequency in the last month has risen. I hope everyone would agree that this kind of thing is entirely inappropriate and that no one, under any circumstances, should be subjected to this or any other kind of abuse.

Even though we might have things we disagree on, or feel a sense of frustration about, approaching any problem in a way that is respectful, polite and calm should be a basic and fundamental expectation that we have of each other.



Sixth Form News

Life in the 6th Form has been racing through the term at its usual 100mph. 6th Form leaders have taken nearly 80 families on tours around the 6F facilities and are visiting Year 11 tutors to support their post-16 options.

They collected over **£100 for the Children in Need** cake sale and another £100+ figure for the Formal Friday last week. As usual the students looked stunning in their smartest and finest and the charity team of Alex K and Evanthe T have now collected over £400 from their campaigns so far. Absolutely incredible work from these ladies and the rest of the 6th form team.

Our next campaign involves the local **Middlewich Food Bank-More** on this later in the newsletter. I hope we continue our success and continue to show that our 6th form community are at the heart of our wider community.

BBC
**Children
in Need**



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THE WINTER FESTIVAL

Over the last year or so, we have invested heavily in covered outdoor spaces. Winterfest was the first time that we were able to see how these would work as a way of opening up our school and allowing parents and the community to visit, join in the fun. The first of our new Holmes Chapel traditions, 'Winterfest' was a great success last Wednesday evening. This, the first of three annual celebrations taking place each year in winter, spring and summer allowed us to test out how an outdoor event might work and how to make the event full, rich and engaging.

Winterfest was organised by Graham Baker and Sam Whyte with a small army of helpers including staff from all of our teams across the school and students from all years. There's no doubt that the evening was everything we hoped it could be and that the format will be able to be applied to the Spring and Summer festivals.

Several parents said that they were interested in helping us organise the next event so if you would like to get involved, please email pauline.challinor@hccs.info who can collect the details of anyone who is interested and we will see about putting a small team together to work with us.

The biggest thanks as ever goes to the children who gave up an evening to help out, raise money, sing, play, help tidy up and sell cakes, drinks, wreaths and so much more. They made the evening everything that it was

Looking forward to **Springfest 2022** already so watch this space for dates and times.



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UCAS Applications & Other Sixth Form News

UCAS Applications are nearly complete and many of the students have already received a fantastic range of offers that points to the potential and talent that we have in this year group. Any late applicants must make sure their details are completed and tutors notified before the end of term (Dec 17th). We have also been running mock interviews for prospective Medics, Vets and Oxbridge candidates- good luck to you all in the final stage!

Both year 12 and 13 are preparing for their mock exams in the new year.

Year 12 Week beginning 10th January

Year 13 Week beginning 14th February.



On top of that we have some Extra Curriculum opportunities for Year 13, with First Aid Awareness and Road Awareness courses set for January.

I would like to thank the whole of the 6th Form from Mrs Greeney, Mrs Thomas and myself for an excellent first term and look forward to seeing you all fresh, revitalised and REVISED in the spring term!

Living and studying through a pandemic.



During the pandemic we have worked closely with the Public Health and Covid Response Teams at Cheshire East Local Authority to make sure that we are always accessing the best advice and support needed to help keep our school community safe.

We were therefore delighted to be asked to work with them to produce a short film about what it has been like to live and study through the pandemic. The film is very much about students talking about their feelings and experiences in their own words. It is a perspective that is so often missed. These students are in effect making a historical record.

In this short, 6 minute film, they discuss how it has affected their wellbeing, at school, at home and their relationships with friends and with family. They share their hopes for the future along with the importance of Covid-19 safety such as wearing masks, testing and vaccination.



We hope all families will just take a few minutes to take a look. We are all very proud of the way our school community has pulled together during the past two years and between us, the way we have looked after each other. Watching this short film is just another indication of how resilient and inspiring our students can be.

Thank you to the students for taking part.

As we look towards the Christmas break and the start of a new year, the importance of the messages in this video are so important if we are to continue to provide the very best and safest school experience for all of our students. Let them tell you themselves...

The film which will be used across other schools in Cheshire East can be accessed by clicking the image.



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Year 10 Parents' Online Consultation Evening Thursday 6th January 2022

Click here for more information



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Introducing 'The High Council'

In September 2021, we set up the Holmes Chapel 'High Council'. This is our student led leadership body representing the whole school. 32 Students are now part of the student high council. In addition to this we advertised for a chair and a vice chair.

We had 4 applications, and due to the strength of them decided to appoint all 4 students to the position of 'Inner Council'. These four students are really looking forward to making a positive difference in our school community. The High Council has already provided initial feedback to Senior leadership about our current uniform. This will filter into decisions made in the future.



Here is a bit of information and background, and their vision for the High Council moving forward.

Tabitha Alcock-Bailey

Hi, my name is Tabitha Alcock-Bailey, and I am currently in Year 10. I am very excited to begin my new role as one of the four chairs of the Holmes Chapel High Council, and am looking forward to collaborating with them! Some of my hobbies include dance, gymnastics, theatre and piano - and I also love to read!



I am often described as an organised, hard working person, who is always willing to help someone. I wanted to represent the student body to make sure our voices are heard and our feedback and ideas are built upon in a positive, inclusive environment. Part of my role will be managing the Media committee; this includes promoting events in newsletters, writing reports on student feedback and perhaps organising events in school. I am looking forward to making a positive impact on our school community and helping everyone enjoy learning!

Milly Edwards

Hello, I'm Milly Edwards and I'm currently in year 10. Being appointed as one of the inner council members is very exciting and I'm thrilled I get to help make the school a better place. I just love performing in shows, where I can sing, act and dance which many people would say is reflected in my confident, expressive and bubbly personality. In addition to this, I enjoy playing the piano, cooking and playing netball.



I am often described as a positive, smiley person who is organised and hardworking. I wanted to represent the student body because I feel very passionate about the environment and because I wanted to help give the students of our school a voice. As the leader of the environmental committee I look forward to helping make our school more eco friendly and sustainable!

Lydia Davenport

Hi, I am Lydia Davenport and I am currently in Year 9. I am very excited about the opportunity I have been given to make a real difference to the school and students. I am interested in reading (especially Jane Austen) and languages. I enjoy learning German and I have a German pen pal, Pia. I think I am a good listener. Part of my role will be leading the mental health committee to support all of our students and to ensure everyone feels happy and safe at school.



I hope that the high council will be a democratic environment where all students can have their voices heard. We are already making a difference in a positive way and we have more to do in the future!



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Marcus Fu

Hi. I am Marcus Fu, and I am a Year 10 student (14 years old). I am delighted to become one of the members of the Inner High Council, because I want to create a larger impact. I believe that I have the right qualities to represent the student body, because in my opinion, I believe that I am hard working, determined, resilient, studious, respectful, clever (most of the time...), enthusiastic, ambitious, and willing to help and cooperate with all of you.



From this experience, I am looking forward to...

- Working cooperatively with all of you.
- Become a better leader and person.
- And of course, to somehow make a difference to the school community (and I am hoping I can do this via leading the diversity committee, so that by the end, we will have achieved something, whether that is improving our cooperation skills (this is something I want to see happening within our High Council and school) or achieving a change that will benefit and improve our school.)

A Christmas message from the Middlewich Foodbank Charity.

This week saw us launch an encouraging new link between HCCS / HC6F and the Middlewich Food Bank Charity. Spencer Hope (6th form leadership team) delivered an assembly to Year 12s outlining the cause and how we can support them in their vital work to support local families in the most difficult of times. Donations and collections from the 6th form have begun heading into Christmas, but we will be launching a whole school campaign in the new year with all year groups through the Houses, so look out for this coming up!



Please watch the video and see the different ways in which you can support this fantastic local cause. 

Nutcracker Dance Trip - December 2021

We had a wonderful trip to see the Nutcracker by Matthew Bourne at the Lowry Salford Quays on a beautiful crisp winter's evening last week. It was an amazing performance and got us very much into the festive spirit.



As year 10 students, we thought that the Nutcracker was a brilliant performance. We thought the costumes were gorgeous and the story made us ready for Christmas. We loved the experience and it will be a lovely memory together.

Maddie Bown & Megan Barker



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MFL Partner Schools



Germany: As part of our long-standing partnership with the Münsingen Grammar school near Stuttgart, students this week have been recording a Christmas song to send to our exchange students in Germany. Our partners over there have been preparing Christmas cards to send in return.



Spain: We are now in close contact with a school in Spain, IES Valderrobres, and are developing an exchange project where students will be able to meet a Spanish student and practise the language (initially in writing). The school is very close to Cataluña, so most of the students are bilingual! (they speak Spanish and Catalan fluently). This part of the exchange will be open to our Y9 Spanish students - keep an eye on your Google classrooms for more information!

Our Year 10 students are preparing short podcast presentations to exchange their Spanish partners at the school.

We look forward to hearing from all of our exchange students next term.

Maths Star of the Month - November



The maths department has been nominating students for the November Star of the Month awards, for diligence, perseverance and a positive attitude to maths.

Nominees and winners for November were as follows:

Year 7:

Lanark Malgas
Ben Couch
Lois Whalley
Neve Wakefield
Jack Walklate
Cally Wheable
Archie Fellows
Jude Nelson
Oliver Woolgar

Winner: Cally Wheable

Year 8:

Ruby Meadowcroft
Evie Maltby-James
Austin Bellis
Annabelle Seed
Lilly Wood
Sophie O'Connor-Ritchings
Aimee Halewood
Felicity German
Chloe Nicklin
Jack Smith

Winner: Austin Bellis

Year 9:

Georgina Castle
Dezi Hamilton
Megan Croxton
Harriet Graham
Phoebe Cousins
Holly Jeffries
Charlotte Croucher

Winner: Georgina Castle

Year 10:

Daisy Wilson
Will Paterson
Theo Lawson
Isobel Lawson
Ethan Haylett
Elliot Bayes
Ollie Whitby
Charlotte Ridley

Winner: Ethan Haylett

Year 11:

Izzy Wray
Poppy Kyneston-Perez
Gabriella Wood
Holly Kay
Heather Barry
Prodan Curtis

Winner: Izzy Wray



Huge congratulations to all the nominees and the lucky winners. Merry Christmas from the maths department!



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I= Eedi



Eedi Competition

Congratulations to Marcus Fu (10MC) for winning a national competition with Eedi Educational Software. Marcus's entry beat off 1,000s of others to claim one of the top prizes (£60 Lego voucher).

More great competitions like this are available on the Eedi Website <https://eedi.com/>.

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Top Tips On Motivation and Goal Setting with your Child
15th December at 7:30pm

Following the recent success of our Maths Anxiety webinar our next free webinar for parents created by Rachel (Maths Author & Educational Psychology Lead at Eedi).

Click here for more information



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Holmes Chapel U16 Pupils will be playing for Cheshire U16's

HCCS takes pride in the achievements of our students and therefore we wanted to let you know that 2 of our Year 11's will be playing for Cheshire against Lancashire this weekend at Lymm. Rory Fitzgerald and Will Bowbeer have both been selected in the Cheshire squad off the back of their performances for Sandbach RUFC and we are very proud of them..



Primary Dance event - December 2021

Our second Year 5/6 primary dance event was a huge success. Thank you to Lower Poever, Peover Superior, Hermitage and Goostrey primary schools for attending. The students were incredible, they all learned a full dance based on transition into high school. Well done to our leaders again, who gave up their time to help to support the event.



Holmes Chapel Girls Active Leaders are shortlisted for National Award

Congratulations to the Girls Active Leaders! Their hard work, innovation and enthusiasm has been nationally recognised during the Girls Active and Youth Sport Trust Changemaker awards, which took place on Wednesday 24th December.



The Girls Active Leaders were shortlisted for TWO awards during the event. The current Y8 leaders, which comprises of Emily Edgar, Jessica Edgar, Charlotte Thornhill, Kizzy Swain, Holly Thompson, Annabelle Seed, Lucie Butler, Grace Butler, Maddie Holford and Violet Chapman were shortlisted for

"Innovative project" award and the current Y9 leaders, which includes; Sofia Preece, Petra Hamilton, Lydia Davenport, Georgina Castle, Emily Butler and Amelia Truman, were shortlisted for "Best Girls Active Group" award.

Fantastic work ladies, looking forward to lots more activities coming up!

CHRISTMAS FUN for Girls Active

Well done to the Girls Active Leaders and girls in Y8 for being active during the Christmas fun tutor sessions over the last 2 weeks of the term.

The leaders planned and delivered a fun dance session which encouraged more girls to be more active and have fun, as well as enjoying time with friends and busting some stress.

It was great to see lots of smiles and enthusiasm, encouraging a positive culture in our school community.



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PRESENTS

@HolmesChapelCommunityCentre



RON'S GONE WRONG



Saturday 11th December at 2pm

Tickets £4 each

Available from...

Holmes Gifts & Interiors
Holmes Chapel
Community Centre



Cinema Snack & Drinks
Available to Buy



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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F