



# NEWSLETTER

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

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024



*Dear all,*

This has been a great half term and has been incredibly busy with lots to celebrate from our achievements within and outside of the classroom.

Throughout the academic year, we continue to share our four school values with students and staff:

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

It has been excellent to see these values permeate our ski tour to Sestriere. It is a real privilege to spend time with students and see them grow in confidence. We started the week with a range of ski skills, however, by the end of the week, we were all confidently and safely skiing at an advanced level. I have loved learning alongside our students. It's great to see our community be enriched by culture and new experiences. I am so proud of our children and the manner that they have conducted themselves. During the visit we received compliments numerous times from others who have also recognised the exemplary behaviour of our children whilst on the tour.



It is a privilege to see our children acting as ambassadors; setting and demonstrating the highest standards for themselves. I have seen students demonstrate kindness and compassion whilst looking after one another within and across year groups. Our school community is a fantastic team to be part of. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who have supported this visit.

After the holidays, we will enter the final phases of GCSE provision for our Year 11 and will continue to support them to respond positively and constructively through their challenges ahead. Our final stages of in school provision will ensure that our students have continued access to the support on offer from their subject teachers, tutors and pastoral team.

The next half term is also a crucial one for our Year 10 students who will take part in our work experience programme in order to gain insight into their chosen professions and help to develop transferable skills. Our Year 10 students will also begin the formal stages of GCSE preparation during this next half term with internal examinations starting after the Easter break. These examinations provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress so far and also proactively prepare with a clear focus on revision. This experience ensures that students are aware of the expectations in a formal examination environment and understand the process that we will follow for their GCSE examinations. Thank you in advance for your support to ensure that your child is prepared for these key assessments with the correct equipment, uniform, revision and attitude.

I hope that you have an enjoyable Easter holiday and I look forward to the summer term ahead. Our next term will be filled with challenges and opportunities, and I have every confidence that our students will rise to meet them with determination and resilience.

**Laura Warren**  
Director of Upper School  
Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School



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## Key Dates:

- WB15th April:** Year 10 internal examinations begin
- 19th April:** GCSE PE moderation
- WB22nd April:** GCSE MFL speaking examination
- 25th-26th April:** GCSE Drama practical examination
- 26th April:** Year 9 interims published
- WB29th April:** Year 10 work experience
- 1st-3rd May:** GCSE Art practical examination
- 3rd May:** Year 9 photographs
- 7th May:** GCSE written examinations begin
- 10th May:** Year 10 interim published



## Drop offs and pick ups at the start and end of the school day



The approach roads to our school and around the estates are narrow and a number of residents have mentioned that traffic has increased and parking is blocking roads. Some have expressed concerns about road safety. Please be mindful of the amount of traffic at the beginning and end of the day around the school and how you might contribute to this. Encouraging our children to walk to school is a healthy way to start the day and arranging a safe drop off and pick up location a little further away will greatly help ease congestion.

Note that in the interest of keeping our children as safe as possible, the existing policy which has been in place for some time is that no vehicles except for the busses can drive onto the school site between 08:25 and 08:40 and 15:10 and 15:25. Thank You in advance

## Mobile Phone Lockers for Year 9 and 10

Following on from the implementation of this with our Lower School students this year, after the Easter holidays, our students in Year 9 and 10 will be expected to lock their mobile phone away during tutor time and for the remainder of the day.

This will commence on:

- For Year 9 students - **Tuesday 16th April 2023**
- For Year 10 students - **Tuesday 4th June 2023**

The students will be shown how to do this and what they should be doing in the coming weeks. The process involves students entering a 4 digit code to personalise their locker (like the ones you may be familiar with in gyms, spas, trampoline parks etc.)



It would be extremely helpful for us if you could help your child to choose a memorable 4 digit code for their locker.

## Year 11 Offer Morning

On Wednesday and Thursday morning of this week we invited Year 11 Applicants to our College along to the Sixth Form Social Area. Students were each issued with an offer letter to Sixth Form.. They each had the opportunity to share in breakfast together and speak with some members of staff and the current Student leadership Team. This was a really lovely event at the end of term. We hope this will give our Year 11 students an opportunity to get themselves ready for their GCSEs and consequently their next steps



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## Outlines for Half Term 5 Studies for Year 9,10 & 11

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students.

More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

Year 9  
[Click here](#)

Year 10  
[Click here](#)

Year 11  
[Click here](#)

## 'Careers Corner'



### Year 10 Work Experience w/b April 29<sup>th</sup>

The annual Year 10 work experience is fast approaching. Please ensure any outstanding documentation is submitted as soon as possible

## Job Of The Week



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### International Student Ambassadors Host Lunar New Year Celebrations

Our amazing International Ambassadors are a team of students ranging from years 7 to 11 whose aim it is to welcome and support any of our new international students. This involves meeting students on their first day, giving tours, answering questions, and offering a line of communication and support for those who are new to the school, and often to the country.

As well as welcoming new starters, our ambassadors are keen to celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community, recognising important dates and traditions. In February, one of our Year 10 students from Hong Kong organised and ran a games workshop to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year. It was very well attended and students had the opportunity to learn about, and celebrate, this important cultural event, whilst having fun and winning prizes!

One of the ambassadors said: "We all think it's really important to welcome new students to the school, helping them to feel positive and safe. That's why we are part of this group." The International Student ambassador group is going from strength to strength with more members at every monthly meeting. All ambassadors wear globe badges on their ties (picture below), so if you are an international student in need of support, you can find the right students to help you.





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## Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 9

Class Details:

| CLASS    | 9X1a         | 9X1b        | 9X1c        | 9X2      | 9X3         |
|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Teachers | Mr Edwards   | Miss Keiman | Ms Watmough | Mrs Hall | Mrs Stevens |
| CLASS    | 9Y1a         | 9Y1b        | 9Y1c        | 9Y2      |             |
| Teachers | Ms Laskowska | Miss Keiman | Miss Eustis | Mrs Hall |             |

### WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

Representing data (10)

Measures of Location (6)

- Drawing and interpreting scatter graphs
- Understanding and describing linear correlation
- Drawing and using a line of best fit
- Identifying non linear relationships
- Read and interpret frequency tables
- Representing data
- Calculating averages
- Calculating mean from a frequency table
- Identifying outliers



### ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

Students have been regularly assessed using **green** end of topic tests (EOTT's) and have been receiving feedback from their teachers on **purple** sheets. This feedback focuses on key misconceptions, correcting their errors and improving their exam technique.

### STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



| 9X1a           | 9X1b               | 9X1c      | 9X2            | 9X3          |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Oscar Schaffer | Poppy Ryan         | Ben Couch | Phoebe Watson  | Grace Ashton |
| 9Y1a           | 9Y1b               | 9Y1c      | 9Y2            |              |
| Alys Whitney   | Charlie Heathcoate | Max Perry | Claudia Dawson |              |



### KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 26th April: Interim 2 Published
- 22nd May - Spring Festival

### WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Look through your child's interim assessment **review sheet** with them; encourage them to work on their action tasks in order to keep improving
- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



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## Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 10

### Class Details:

|          |              |             |             |              |            |            |
|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| CLASS    | 10X1a        | 10X1b       | 10X2        | 10X3         | 10X4       | 10X SB     |
| Teachers | Miss Sneddon | Mr Barrett  | Mrs Stevens | Ms Watmough  | Mr Edwards | Mr Barratt |
| CLASS    | 10Y1a        | 10Y1b       | 10Y2        | 10Y3         | 10Y4       | 10Y SB     |
| Teachers | Ms Laskowska | Miss Kelman | Miss Eustis | Mrs Buehling | Mrs Hall   | Mr Barratt |

### WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

- Solving a Simultaneous equation when one solution is known
- Solving Simultaneous equations by substitution
- Solving Simultaneous equations by elimination
- Solving Simultaneous equations graphically
- Four operations with fractions
- Rounding and estimating
- Calculating with error intervals
- Converting decimals to fractions including recurring decimals
- Understanding surds
- Calculating with surds
- Financial maths
- Exam technique for breaking down problem solving questions

[Simultaneous Equations](#) (16)

[Non-calculator methods](#) (14)

### ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:



Students have been regularly assessed using **green** end of topic tests (EOTT's) and have been receiving feedback from their teachers on **purple** sheets. This feedback focuses on key misconceptions, correcting their errors and improving their exam technique.

### STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



|                      |                |               |               |                   |                |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 10X1a                | 10X1b          | 10X2          | 10X3          | 10X4              | 10X SB         |
| Eddie Hoile          | Sam Theobald   | Charlie Coath | Hannah Wilson | Heidi Wilkinson   | Sasha Smith    |
| 10Y1a                | 10Y1b          | 10Y2          | 10Y3          | 10Y4              | 10Y SB         |
| Gabriella O'Sullivan | Hannah Russell | Jess Hull     | Kiera McCann  | Lily Maltby James | Holly Thompson |

### KEY DATES COMING UP:



- 23rd April - Mock Paper 1 Non Calculator
- 25th April - Mock Paper 2 Calculator
- 5th May - Interim 3 Published
- 22nd May - Spring Festival

### WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?



- Look through your child's interim assessment **review sheet** with them; encourage them to work on their action tasks in order to keep improving
- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



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## Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update

Year Group: Year 11

Exam Season is fast approaching!



"The best way to revise Maths is to DO Maths!" - Revision, Revision, Revision!!

GCSE MATHS PAPER DATES (for both Higher and Foundation)

Exam Board: AQA



Thursday 16th May - AM - NON-CALCULATOR 90 minutes

Monday 3rd June - AM - CALCULATOR 90 minutes

Monday 10th June - AM - CALCULATOR 90 minutes

**A few common messages that our students will be hearing from all members of the maths teaching team:**

- If you haven't started revising yet, **START NOW!!** We have 7 weeks until the first exam, and even starting to revise from this point on, and doing a little bit every day, will have a big impact.
- **Avoid "cramming."** "Little and often" revision strategies are proven to work best. 30 minutes to an hour spent doing maths every other day is better than 3-4 hours twice a week.
- The best way to revise maths is to **DO** maths. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!** Whether it's working through a past paper or a specific topic based worksheet, any practice is helpful. The more questions that are done, the more likely a student is to see a question in an exam and realise it's very familiar.
- Be brave; try to revise the topics that you don't understand very well. We'd all prefer to spend time doing questions we already know how to do, but that's not the best way to improve!
- The night before the exam, aim to go to bed early and get a good night's sleep. The morning of the exams, have breakfast! Your body and brain needs fuel!

| EQUIPMENT  |
|------------|
| Black Pens |
| Pencil     |
| Ruler      |
| Rubber     |
| Compass    |
| Protractor |
| Calculator |



**On the morning of each of the maths exams, we will be offering a free breakfast of hot chocolate and toast to all year 11 students from 8am in the school restaurant.** Our maths teaching team will be in the restaurant from 8am to offer some final advice, to help settle nerves and to wish them good luck. Please encourage your child to come into school a little earlier, if they are able to, to join us.

### STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



| 11X1           | 11X2           | 11X3a        | 11X3b          | 11X3c               | 11X SB        |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Elliott Griggs | Hattie Walsh   | Mason Hunter | Alex Moulding  | Esme Wilson         | Beth Buchanan |
| 11Y1           | 11Y2           | 11Y3         | 11Y4           | 11Y5                | 11Y SB        |
| Oliver Perry   | Linton Macklin | Noah Hankey  | Lydia McMullen | Freya Williams-Rowe | Nathan Mahan  |

Finally, a huge thank you for all the support you have given and continue to give your child as they approach their GCSEs. We know it can be a stressful time for all involved, but we, as a teaching team, are incredibly proud of the work they have done in order to prepare for their exams and we hope that they all achieve the success that they deserve.

If you have any further queries regarding your child's maths exam, please contact their teacher via the office.

**The HCCS Maths Team**

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## WHAT CAN I DO TO MY CHILD TO REVISE MATHS?

### Revision Resources:



- **CorbettMaths** - <https://corbettmaths.com/contents/> → Videos, Questions and Solutions, and "5-a-day" revision sheets; A useful daily activity.
- **Sparx Maths** - <https://hegartymaths.com/> → our regular online platform that our students are familiar with which also now has interactive predicted papers on there
- **Maths Genie** - <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/> → a website with access to past exam papers and their mark schemes. Our exam board is AQA, but any practice is good practice! Worksheets are available based on topic and grade, along with the answers and helpful videos.
- **The Oak Academy** - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/maths/tiers/foundation> → topics split into lessons with videos and teacher explanations
- **OnMaths** - <https://www.onmaths.com/> → this is a brilliant website which lets students complete mocks and mini-mocks - students have used this before and instructions can be found on our google classroom. (students must select AQA and either Foundation/Higher as appropriate when choosing a paper)
- **First Class Maths** - <https://www.1stclassmaths.com/> → this website has a number of predicted papers that students are able to work through as part of their revision.
- **Mock Feedback Sheets** (on purple paper) → these were given to your child after the February mocks. Each sheet has a specific breakdown of what topics your child needs to prioritise working on. We would encourage you to sit with your child and talk this through with them to help them build a timetable of what they should focus on and when. Their priority should be the topics where they performed below their class average.
- **Google Classroom** → here's where we post all of our lessons and extra revision tools.

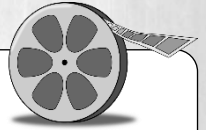
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## Languages Film Night

The year 10 and 13 Languages Students organised a fantastic film night for our younger students on Wednesday evening. It was a brilliant turn out with snacks and face painting whilst enjoying watching Coco together in Spanish! Hopefully the first of many. Thanks to Lottie and Amelie in particular!



## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS



### Millionaire Readers

Congratulations to our second set of Millionaire Readers this year!

Year 9

Abi H & Sarah G

### Remembering Nell Creative Writing Competition 2024

Every year, we run a creative writing competition for Year 9s in honour of Nell Jones. A pupil who tragically lost her life in the Manchester Arena Attack. Students worked hard on their entries with their teachers during our Literature Festival week, exploring how to write a successful short story and were then invited to enter their stories into the competition.

Congratulations to the following students who have been shortlisted for the award:

Immy R, Kal I, Lynn S, Max P, Eleanor W, Sarah G, Davina T, Keaton H, George S, Alice G



The stories will now be read by our panel of judges before the results are announced in due course. We look forward to updating you all.

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AI and Assessments

**A quick guide for students**

Please click here





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## Another great day today at English schools

Sofia Preece Year 11 represented Cheshire at both UK Counties Athletic Union Inter Counties Cross Country Championships in Wollaton Park, Nottingham, last weekend and this weekend she represented her County again at English Schools County Champs at Pontefract. Massive well done to Sofia for qualifying for both these prestigious races.



## Manchester Schools Climbing Competition

Our very own Alice Mendham came 3rd in the Gr Manchester Schools climbing competition today - Ks3 female. She did really well, 200 pupils there overall. We are very proud of her after competing against such a high number of competitors. Well done Alice!! Such a Fantastic achievement.

*Mrs Mee*



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## Year 7 and Year 10/11 Football game vs Brine Leas in the South Cheshire Cup.

Please congratulate the year 7, 10 & 11 team who fought hard to compete against Brine Leas on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March in horrendous weather. They were fantastic, showing great determination, spirit and commitment to play through these conditions, but unfortunately they did not progress to the next stage of the cup with the year 10/11 team losing 1 - 0 and the year 7's losing on penalties after a 2-2 draw. Well done to all the girls on their efforts. You should be very proud of yourselves. Well done, *Mrs Mee*





Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024



*Happy Days Club  
and Nursery School*

## Student Team Members Wanted!

**Job Title: After School Club Assistant**

**Hours: 3:45pm to 5:30pm**

**Days: 2 per week**

**Age: 17 or over**

### Duties include:

- To work in close liaison with the Happy Days staff group leader.
- To work as a member of a team to provide a safe, stimulating, and hygienic environment for all children in Happy Days' care to enable our children to have a fun and relaxing time after their school day.
- Assist with snack time and carry out general housekeeping duties as directed by staff.
- Follow the plans regarding activities for both indoor and outdoor play for the children.
- Contribute new ideas for change and improvement when necessary.
- Assist with end of day routine as required.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Helen Hall as soon as possible on 01477 544373, drop your CV with a covering letter at Happy Days, Jubilee Walk, Holmes Chapel CW4 7FN, or email Helen at: [helenhall@happydaysnursery.net](mailto:helenhall@happydaysnursery.net)