



Date: 26th May 2023



Happy Half Term Lower School families!

We hope that you are looking forward to a week ahead of sunshine and relaxation. Many of our Lower School students have shared their exciting plans with us and, as always, we all deserve some time to relax after a busy half term. We look forward to hearing what you have all been up to when we return in June.

This is the first of our half termly newsletters from each school (Lower School, Upper School and Sixth Form College). This is thanks to a discussion at a parent forum earlier in the year where it was suggested that having a more personalised newsletter with the specifics of the half term ahead would be really helpful. Therefore, this Lower School newsletter will include:

1. Some focus on what we've been doing (and loving) this half term until today
2. Key dates for next half term
3. An outline of the curriculum content for next half term

We hope you find the new format helpful and we thank you for your suggestion to make this improvement. As Nigel Bielby, Executive Headteacher, often says in his whole school newsletters: we are better together.

What have Lower School students been loving this half term?

The weather

What we're doing in maths
- adding and subtracting

In music, in my class, we're
doing Caribbean music and I
can really connect with that
because I am from there

Seeing my friends

Being allowed on the field

PE - rounders and football

Making collages in art



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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This week, we asked students to take some time to reflect. This has been particularly helpful as we all had to hear, process and try to cope with the tragic news of the passing of Kath Lamb, a much loved colleague, teacher and friend. [These slides](#) were used in our My Curriculum session for many of our tutor groups this week and the outcomes of our appreciation task were moving to see. Friends, family and pets were the most common things that students were grateful for. The final link in these slides is particularly useful for everyone in our school community.

This half term saw the introduction of our green card system. These are for students who are demonstrating excellent behaviours. Our students and tutors have turned this into a brilliant challenge to see who can get the most and it is giving our young people real encouragement to show us how kind and supportive they can be. We often give them out for acts of kindness to others and for picking up litter without being asked to.



Students have shown their gratitude to the adults who help them in school this half term, choosing who to send out appreciation cards to; this has been another joyous part of our half term and further demonstration of what a lovely community we are part of.

Our end of half term assembly was delivered by Matt Lowe, Deputy Headteacher, and focused on the importance of every child having a champion. In this assembly, the students were shown a Youtube clip that has previously been shared with staff about the importance of building positive relationships.

This half term has also seen the opening of our school field. This has meant a change to the way our Year 7 students spend their lunchtime. We have shut the concreted space they used previously which allows there to be no disturbance to the neighbouring exam hall at breaktime and they are now able to use the space at the back of our 3G pitch. As with the previous area, this is separated from the older years in school. Year 8 students have a designated space on the field for playing football and continue to queue on the back tennis courts for lunch (unless it is their day at The Snack Shack).



With these changes to break and lunch, we have also used assemblies and tutor times this half term to discuss the importance of following safe and calm behaviours and routines at all times in schools, reminding them of our following standards and expectations:

- Walk on the left of the corridor
- Be polite and friendly to all other students and staff
- Open doors carefully and hold them open for others
- Arrive on time - go directly to your destination
- Pick up litter
- Support your peers
- Help other members of the school community
- Show kindness
- Make sensible choices
- Get involved with our community



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Our expectations



START HERE >>
and see how far you
can go



Helping others when they seem to be struggling with any of the below.

Modelling this expected behaviour to everyone else and persevering with that - even when others might make that challenging.

Being safe. Being kind. Trying your best. Showing respect to yourself, others and your environment.

Please remember to send your child(ren) into school with refillable water bottles as students are not allowed out of lessons for cups of water. They need to be filling their water bottles at break and lunchtime.

Next half term, we would like to invite parents in Year 7 to attend our parent forum. These forums are an opportunity for parents and carers to engage in discussions on key areas of school development, and most importantly to offer valuable feedback on your child's experience so far this year. Please register your interest in attending with lowerschool@hccs.info. The forthcoming forum will also give parents and carers a relaxed and informal place to meet with our Lower School team to share their views on how things are going at the school and how we can improve. It will run alongside a forum for Year 9 and 10 parents. Our Year 8 parent forum took place earlier in the year and is where the idea for this specific newsletter came from. We hope you have enjoyed it and found it useful.

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



Key Dates for
the next half term

5 th June	Students return to school
8 th June	Year 7 Parents forum
12 th – 16 th June	Year 7 & 8 Assessments: English, Maths, Science
13 th June	Year 7 - 9 Evening of Performance
19 th – 30 th June	Accelerated Reading Test 4
30 th June	Mixed group trip to Wildshore
4 th July	Year 6 Transition Day 1
5 th July	Year 6 Transition Day 2
6 th July	Year 6 Welcome Evening
7 th July	Sports Day
12 th July	Summer Fair & Songs from the shows/cabaret
14 th July	Year 7 & 8 Interim 3 published
18 th July	Summer Concert
20 th July	Last day of term



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Here are the outlines for curriculum content for the next half term.



Year 7 Curriculum Overview letter



Year 8 Curriculum Overview letter



For our newsletter at the end of next half term (year), we would also love to be able to share some of our students' achievements outside of school. If you have anything you would like to share with us for publication in the newsletter, please send it lowerschool@hccs.info with the subject: celebration newsletter.



Remembering Nell Creative Writing Competition 2023

The standard of the entries was incredibly high. Congratulations to our three winners.

- 1st - Lottie
- 2nd - Esme
- 3rd - Claire

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REQUIRED:

Students with Food Allergies/Intolerances
If you haven't already done so, and your child has an allergy to food or intolerance to food, please complete the attached form no later than the 9th June and return to

Helen.cliff@hccs.info

This information is required, even if your child only has packed lunches.

You do not need to return the form if your child doesn't have allergies or intolerances.

[Information about my child's special diet - Click here](#)

Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2023

On Tuesday evening we were lucky enough to be invited to the Cheshire Schools' Book Awards which are organised annually by the fabulous team at the Cheshire Education Library Service. Students had been busy reading, reviewing and voting throughout the year eagerly awaiting the final results. On the night, we met five of the shortlisted authors, Our very own Mrs Martin, Simon James Green, Cynthia Murphy, Tom Palmer and Lisa Thompson! We look forward to attending again next year.



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



Save the Date

Summer Fair

12th July 2023 – 4pm – 6.30pm



Date: 26th May 2023



Kathryn Lamb

At the end of last week, we received the devastating news that we had lost one of our own, Kathryn Lamb. After the news was shared with the school community, we have spent time this week reflecting on the impact that Kath made on our school community, and the lasting impression she has made on so many. The outpouring of emails, letters, cards and messages of condolences from staff, students and parents that we have received have been appreciated so much and have been a huge source of comfort to us all. They are a heart-warming reminder of what a fantastic woman Kath was to know and work with.



Over the coming weeks, we will be putting together a book of memories for Kath's family. Anyone who wishes to, will be invited to share their favourite memories and stories of their time with Miss Lamb and these will then be collated and shared with those closest to her. Students and staff will be given the opportunity to partake in this activity during tutor time in the first week back. We would like to invite you to send any contributions you'd like to offer via email to news@hccs.info.

Kath is without a doubt an immeasurable loss to our school community. Her passion and dedication to her students, for whom she cared so greatly, shone above all else. She was renowned for her wicked sense of humour and her immense talent for acting and play-writing.

Kath was, above all, a dear friend to many in our school community, and a cherished member of our maths department; she will be so greatly missed by us all.

Team HCCS Maths



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Key stage 3 drama evening of performance!

Since January students in years 7-9 have been preparing for an evening of performance on the 13th of June. During this time, students have been working really hard to write their own scripts and choreograph their own scenes based on the theme of 'Summer'. Parents, friends and family are welcome to join us from 5.45 on the 13th of June in the Theatre, where refreshments will be provided. Letters to purchase wishing to purchase a ticket.



We look forward to seeing you there,

Miss Plant and Mr Head



Karaoke/ Cabaret 12th July 2023

[Click here to read more](#)

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

11th July

[Click here to read more](#)

School Production November 2023



Are you ready to take the stage?

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South Cheshire Athletics Championships - Year 7

On Tuesday 23rd May we took a group of year 7 Athletes to compete in the South Cheshire Athletics Championships. These students had the potential to be selected and represent South Cheshire, what a fantastic opportunity.

All of the students were outstanding, performing to the best of their ability. It was great to see such team spirit from all, as they cheered each other on in their events.

We also had some fantastic results from both the boys and girls in year 7. Well done to all. A Huge thank you from the PE department, as it was such a pleasure to take an amazing group of students, you all did the school and yourselves proud showing fantastic character, determination and resilience. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck representing Cheshire. Go Team HCCS!!!!



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS

  22nd JUNE 2023  

4pm – 6.30pm

SELKIRK DRIVE, HOLMES CHAPEL, CHESHIRE
CW4 7DX



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