



# NEWSLETTER

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

Issue: 174 Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024



*Dear all,*

Welcome to our newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition. There's been an enormous amount going on in the last few weeks so you'll need some time and space to enjoy a read and maybe a pot of tea as well. It's great to celebrate our children and what they have been doing as well as reflecting on what's been going on at our school. Occasionally I get feedback that the newsletter has too much content and it's too long to read but personally I love the fact that we have so much to share with you. Our school is so much more than just lessons. We have a wealth of enriching opportunities that our children engage in both inside and outside of school and this is such an important part of learning and growing. I do understand that in our busy lives, immediacy and the desire to find things out quickly and succinctly has become a preferred way of processing information. We live in a world where news is rapidly and readily available through our mobile phones where we scroll quickly to the content that we most need and is most relevant to us. However, can I invite you to take a little time to absorb yourself in our newsletter for just five or ten minutes and reflect on how this information links to the values of our school... learning together, belonging to our community, being ambitious, having high expectations and importantly, being proud of each other and ourselves



Remember that you, your family and our staff are part of a school community where together we make up a population of over 5000 people. Communication and passing on news and information is a powerful way of building a high value and high quality narrative that celebrates who and what we are as well as showing how proud we are of our children and of each other. Please use your social media networks and groups to share and retell our story.

Our newsletter reflects some, but not all of the events and activities that the children in our community are involved in, especially extra to the school day. If you have something that you'd like to share or would like to celebrate. Please let your child's Form Tutor know and we will feed it into our subsequent newsletters.

This has been a short but intense half term so far and with only two weeks to go until the spring break, I'd like to reach out and say a genuine thank you to all of you who have supported us, have given us your trust and have worked with us with kindness, understanding and openness. The journey through childhood is often a joy, often fun and often fulfilling but sometimes there's a stretch of bumpy road to navigate. When we work together in a way that is calm, caring and supportive we are always better at helping our children avoid the potholes and make it through those stretches of road when things are not as smooth as they might be.

We have a great school in our community that I'm proud to serve and to be part of your children's lives is a privilege that I never take for granted. Have a great weekend and enjoy our newsletter

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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## HCCS Literature Festival 2024

Last week we hosted our second HCCS Literature Festival. We first organised the Literature Festival in 2023 with the aim to foster a love of literature and writing amongst the school community. The buzz we felt amongst the students throughout that week was certainly special and something we wished to create over and over again. This year we went even bigger, with more external visitors and activities.

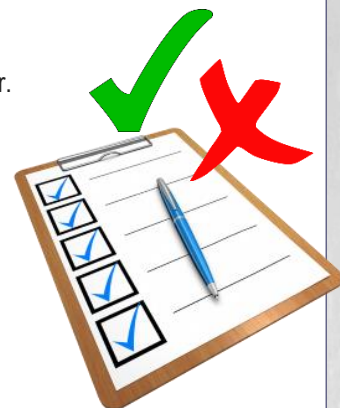


Please [click here](#) to read our bumper edition of a special HCCS Literature Festival newsletter

## Lateness to Lessons

Lateness to lessons can lead to a significant amount of learning time lost over a year.

Minutes Late Per Day	Learning Time Lost In 1 Year
5 minutes	3 ½ days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	10 ½ days
20 minutes	14 days
30 minutes	21 days



From Monday 18th March any time a child is marked late to a lesson they will automatically receive a behaviour point. These will be monitored and further sanctions will be put in for any student who is persistently late to lesson over the week.

The number of minutes late that your child is late to lessons is recorded via Bromcom. This data will now be shown on interim reports; and letters will be coming out to parents regarding lateness to lesson if your child has a significant period of time that they were late to lesson. We appreciate that the data provided on your My Child at School App only provides information on punctuality at the start of the school day and period 4 lessons in the afternoon. Therefore we feel it is important to share this information with parents so that you are aware if your child has a pattern of persistent lateness throughout the school day.

## 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.)

In our next Upper School newsletter we will provide you with some additional information.

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



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## Students show racism the red card in poignant racism workshops

This week, we opened our impressive new building with racism workshops run by the charity Show Racism the Red Card delivered to our enthusiastic Year 8 students. Students learnt new terminology, implemented knowledge learnt in tutor time diversity sessions and challenged stereotypes of the sort of categories we unconsciously put people into. We were so proud of our students' knowledge, open-mindedness and willingness to learn, adapt and grow as young people; we are creating a kinder and more accepting HCCS culture. What was also particularly moving was certain students who had sadly experienced racism sharing their stories and discussing how the school, and in particular the weekly diversity sessions, had helped to tackle discrimination. We then asked certain students who had engaged positively and proactively in the workshops to return in period 5 to create a student task force to further tackle racism and engage directly with Mr Bielby in this issue.



The organisers of the event repeatedly praised our students for their respect, engagement and evolved attitudes towards race so please speak to your child at home about these workshops and what they learnt from it.

This is what our school is all about!

**Liam Beard**  
Diversity and Inclusion Lead

## Show Racism the **Red Card**



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## Year 11 Masterclasses

As in years past, we will be placing additional support for Year 11 students in their final weeks of GCSE provision. This will result in students having access to highly focussed masterclasses scheduled to take place at strategically important times before an examination. Masterclasses provide an opportunity for students to access specialised support with direct guidance targeted towards an examination. Masterclasses build confidence and reinforce critical exam skills.

Additional information and a schedule of masterclasses and key dates for Y11 will be published before the Easter Holiday. A general link to the exam schedule can be accessed at the bottom of this page:

<https://www.hccs1978.co.uk/exams-information>

## 'Careers Corner'

### Year 10 Visit to Edge Hill University



## Edge Hill University

### Job Of The Week

A group of year 10 students attended an aspirational day at Edge Hill University. The day focussed on what life is like for students when they begin Higher education. They were worked on activities in the lecture rooms, visited the many different parts of the campus and had many conversations with present university students. They were shown what courses are available, how to apply for places and accommodation and what life is really like 'first hand'. They also sampled university cuisine and got a real 'taste' of university life.





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## Jambo Kenya Expedition - Summer 2025

We are very excited to announce that HCCS is partnering with Camps International to offer our current Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students the opportunity to go on a life-changing, 4-week expedition to Kenya, during the summer of 2025. Students will work on a variety of meaningful and sustainable projects, having a lasting, positive impact on the local communities, as well as trekking in the Marungu Hills and heading out on safari!

Students and parents are invited to join us to hear more about Camps, the expedition and fundraising, as well as how to join the team.

**SAVE THE DATE TO COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE:  
WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH AT 6:30PM IN THE THEATRE**

In the meantime, to get an insight into the expedition, you can see photos from previous teams on the Camps Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/campsint/>

As students are encouraged to raise the funds for this expedition themselves, why not get started straight away with some helpful tips and advice: <https://www.campsinternational.com/fundraising-for-your-expedition/>  
We look forward to letting you know more about the expedition soon!



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## Sixth Form Review

Over the past few weeks the Senior Leadership Team, along with an external partner, have conducted a Deep Dive review of the Sixth Form. Over this two week process a number of quality assurance measures were taken including visits to tutor time, a wide variety of lesson visits, extensive work scrutiny and student voice has taken place. The purpose of this process is to challenge a number of assertions made relating to the Sixth Form in order to establish good practice and drive forward improvements. It was important to have external input to help us to remain objective throughout the process. The Sixth Form is a valuable part of HCCS and it is important that we ensure that our students are getting the best experience that they possibly can.



Following this worthwhile process we were able to establish lots of evidence and examples of excellent practice. This was seen in the lessons that were visited as well as through student folders and discussions. It was overwhelmingly apparent that students feel well supported in the Sixth Form. There were a number of strengths of the Sixth Form identified and these include: the positive relationships between staff and students, the positive and purposeful learning environment, the ambition and challenge for all of our students as well as the clear progression made through impactful teaching and learning practices leading onto ambitious and exciting Post 18 options. The review has given us a strong basis in which we can build on in order to ensure we provide an exceptional setting fitting for our young people.





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## Next Steps for HC6F:

Over the next couple of weeks, those students who have applied to HC6F, will receive an offer letter. This will be done during tutor time on either Wednesday 27th or Thursday 28th of March. Year 11 students will be invited along to the Sixth Form area where they will receive their letter. There will be an opportunity for students to enjoy some complimentary breakfast items from the popular Sixth Form cafe as well as ask questions that they might have. This should be an enjoyable event and hopefully get our young people excited about their next steps.

If you have any questions about HC6F please do get in touch.



**Ms Camm**  
Director of Sixth Form



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On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March we attended the Year 12 UCAS Convention in Manchester.

At this Discovery exhibition our students:

- met over 100 **unis, colleges, and apprenticeship** employers face-to-face
- found out about different options and pathways
- listened to live expert talks
- took part in a range of Q & A sessions
- received the latest advice and information on different career choices.



This was an exciting opportunity for our students to start to focus their minds on their next steps. Following this, students will begin following this up with tutors. Later in the year we will be holding an information evening, to discuss the start of the UCAS or apprenticeship applications

This was an exciting step and we look forward to supporting our students along this journey.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form **#LETGIRLSPLAY**

This week saw a keen group of Sixth Form Year 12 girls taking part in the national #letgirlsplay initiative with girls of all footballing abilities and experiences ranging from those that play professional women's football to those kicking a ball for the first time enjoying an hour session in the spring sun on the HCCS 3G pitch.





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## A level students at HCCS help Friends of Goostrey Station

Friends of Goostrey Station are thrilled that they've won another award! The **prize for an Art Project** was presented on 12th March at The Grange Theatre, Northwich during the 21st Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) award ceremony.

Over the last 2 years, vice chair of FoGS and professional artist **Debbie Goldsmith** has led two projects to mark significant events in our nation. One project was to celebrate the **platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth**; the other commemorated **the coronation of King Charles**.

During 2022, Debbie worked with teachers and pupils at **Goostrey Community Primary School** to produce the **Platinum Plaque**. They were helped by A level Art students from **Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School** and by mosaic artist **Tracey Cartlege**. The finished Plaque can be seen in the shelter on the Crewe platform at Goostrey station. A film was made to record the children's thoughts about the jubilee, and this is still available on YouTube.

During the weekend of the coronation in 2023, members of our local community joined Debbie at her studio in the restored wooden building at Goostrey station. Adults and children were decorating small clay **Coronation Discs**. After colouring, glazing and firing, the discs were attached to the platform planters.

Many thanks to all who helped Friends of Goostrey Station to win their ninth award in the CBKS competition since our volunteers adopted the station in 2012 - a remarkable achievement!



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## Equestrian Team Success!

Congratulations to our school Equestrian team who have qualified to represent the school at the Nationals championships in Buckinghamshire in October. The teams all took top spots in the arena eventing competition against other schools. Here are the results from their competition in February.

### 75cm class - 1st Place

Lydia Hunter  
Felicity German  
Emily Hemming

### 85cm class -3rd Place

Lydia Hunter  
Felicity German  
Isabelle Harris  
Freya Richmond-Gu



Furthermore, Emily did a lovely fast clear round to take individual 3rd and qualify for the National Show Jumping championships. Last weekend, Emily went on to represent the school in the Eventers Challenge at Eland Lodge, Staffordshire, where she won her class, qualifying for the National Championships at Hickstead, Sussex in May.

We are really proud of the team and Emily's achievements and wish them all the best in the championships.







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On Friday a group of girls across the entire school all took part in some fun Football competitions. It was a fantastic turn out of around 40 students from years 7 right through to year 11 displaying their talents and their love of football.



## What is #LetGirlsPlay?

By 2024, The FA's is for girls to have the same football opportunities as boys in schools and clubs.

#LetGirlsPlay is a campaign to influence and drive change, showing that football can and should be played by girls. It is bringing together a growing community of people of all genders, ages and backgrounds who want to champion equal access for girls, helping create independent, resilient young girls who will be a force for good in all local communities.

This day also coincided with international Women's day, of which all the girls knew and were very proud to be taking part in an all female football event in school. All the students had the opportunity to play in their favourite / team football kits. It was lovely to see all the girls enjoying themselves and interacting with other year groups in school. A huge thank you to the Year 11 girls who helped in the preparation of the day. Thank you to all for ending the week on such a high, well done and keep inspiring girls to participate in football and all sports. Mrs Mee



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## Year 9 and 10 South Cheshire Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 12th March our year 9 and 10 teams went to Brine Leas to compete in the South Cheshire Tournament. It was a tough afternoon of netball with both teams competing against tough opposition.

The girls worked tirelessly especially after they only created these teams that week due to players missing. They worked well as a team to play to the highest standard. Both year 9 and 10 only lost to the other teams by narrow margins and this was amazing considering the teams. Both teams only lost by 1 in their final game and with more time we definitely would have come away with the win. Well done girls you all did yourself and the school proud. We have much to take away from this in preparation for next season.

Well done girls, always super proud of you. Mrs Mee



## Year 5&6 Primary Basketball Festival

Over the last two weeks our partner primary schools have attended a Basketball and Girls Football Festival led by our Sportsleaders.

Well done to all students who played and thank you to the staff of these schools for giving up their time to bring them along.

Also a BIG thank you to our Year 10 Sportsleaders who helped to run the event. Photo below - we didn't manage to capture you all.



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## Lower School Trampolining and Gymnastics Club

Our Lower school Trampolining and Gymnastics Club has been very well attended this term. Thank you to Made Brady and Neve Wakefield from Year 9 for helping to lead our gymnastics.



## Eva Guest – English Youth Ballet

Congratulations to Eva Guest who performed in 'Cinderella in Hollywood' with the English Youth Ballet at Manchester Opera House.

This is a huge achievement.