



## Dear Parents and Guardians

There's been a lot going on at school and a huge amount for us to share and for you to read and enjoy. I hope this latest edition of the newsletter lets you glimpse into the life of a busy school and the rich and valuable experience that we strive to provide for your children.

I have one of the most privileged roles I can imagine. Serving this community and especially the 1178 or so children who come here is something I never take for granted. I'd like to thank all of those families who consistently support and trust us to take care of and educate their children as they grow into fulfilled and thriving adults.

I also have a job that occasionally throws up interesting opportunities and surprises. Last week, Harry Styles, who as you all know was a student here, offered 100 tickets for our children to attend his concert in Manchester last Friday. We quickly put together a ballot and randomly selected 50 names from the 600 or so responses. I gather from some of the children who attended that a great time was had by all and the concert, which I watched on Netflix last Sunday night, was amazing. Harry was always a kind and caring person when he was here at school and always had good manners, was polite and worked hard. Even during his time on X Factor, he kept up with his studies and didn't make excuses.



His attendance and punctuality to lessons was excellent. In so many ways he is a fantastic role model to our children. He has worked hard in his career but has always remained grounded. It's good to know that some of his qualities and characteristics that make him who he is now were forged at HCCS in collaboration with his family and a circle of good friends. I doubt he will read this but if he does, then I'd like to say thank you for the generous gift on behalf of everyone from HCCS who came to see your show. I am so proud of how you have grown and the success you are enjoying.

I want to draw your attention to something that is perhaps a little more mundane but highly important. Please read very carefully the information about the ban on mobile phones. In consultation with the whole staff, the policy and procedure has changed around this and we, along with your full support are intending to secure a **full ban** during the school day. Currently, the older the children get, the more we are aware of them finding ways around the ban. Hiding their phone under their clothes, hiding it in a bag or bringing in an old phone to lock away so that they can keep their own are just a few examples. Some children are now outwardly rude, defiant and a few are even aggressive towards staff when challenged about following the rules on phones. This is not remotely acceptable and I know that you will fully agree with this. So that each and every child has a phone free day, there are tighter rules and systems in place to protect this right. In addition are tighter sanctions for breach of these rules. Please talk to your child about these changes and thank you for your support for the times when we need to act.

[Click here to view the policy](#)



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# NEWSLETTER

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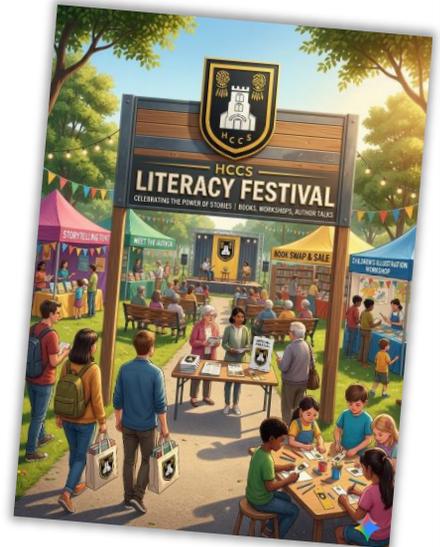


I am also sad to report that we have seen a small but significant recurrence of something we worked hard to eliminate. Vapes. Recently, we have seen children bringing vapes into school and where they have been caught, sanctions have been imposed in line with our policy. Some of these vapes have been found to contain THC, the psychoactive compound found in cannabis. In these cases, sanctions have been issued at the most serious end of the spectrum. Imposing these sanctions is not something I enjoy but the health and safety of all children is paramount. Vapes of any kind are neither healthy or safe which is why when children are found in possession of them, it carries an appropriate penalty. Please also watch out for 'snus'. These are little white pouches that are placed in the mouth and deliver a very high dose of nicotine. Possession of snus in school carries the same level of sanctions as vape. I apologise if this part of my letter sounds punitive but it is important to provide objective information so that you, as well as us, can help keep our children safe. I want to be very clear that neither of these issues are currently at a high level and we are working hard to make sure that we are vigilant. As with all things like this, your full support and help is needed if we are to be effective in eliminating these risks.

On a much brighter note, last week we held our literacy festival. A huge amount of work and time was put into making this a success to promote one of the cornerstones of education. The ability to read and write as well as a passion for the joy of storytelling and creating. There's already a lot of material for you to see in regards to this so I won't repeat it here.

Finally, Comic Relief is coming up soon which is a fantastic opportunity for us all to engage with important charities and to have some fun too. Our House Leader Team has been busy planning for this and I am grateful for their joint effort on making this a success.

Thanks for reading our newsletter and, as always, thank you for your support. It's a privilege to serve this community as the Headteacher of our school



**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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## Alternative Learning Week 2026 Trips

As we approach the summer term, our plans for ALW 2026 are being firmly established. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our current progress and what you can expect to receive from us in the coming weeks.

We are currently collecting trip letters from trip leaders for local and national trips to create Phrase Two of the trips package. As you can imagine, these trips take a substantial amount of planning and we wanted to ensure all the trips were ready to go before releasing them to you as a package. This will ensure that you are aware of all the options before deciding which trips you would like to send your child on. This trips package will be released to you via email **before the end of the half term (27th March)**.

Our attention will then turn to in-school activities that expose our students to culturally enriching activities throughout the week. There are lots of exciting opportunities for them already arising during ALW that will make this an ALW to remember.





## Curriculum Matters

As we wrote last time, we are very much approaching the 'business end' of the year with regard to exam classes.

**Year 10** will sit English literature, biology, chemistry, physics, history and geography papers in mid-April (15/4-17/4). This is our second set of exams, and we have spaced them through the year to ensure students spend significant time preparing. Revision info has been sent home to parents - but you can also check it [here](#). The final set of Year 10 mocks runs from 18-24 June. Miss Connolly is available in CR1 after school every Thursday and has consistently been delighted with the attendance of students to these study sessions.

**Year 11** [revision plans](#) have been updated for some subjects since the start of this half term. If you have a child in Year 11, they should now be using these to support their revision every day. We look forward to sharing with you our plans for how we will support them from April to June at the end of this half term.

Attendance to Study Base (Mon-Weds) has been amazing, and when other revision sessions are running as well, huge numbers of students are choosing to stay and revise in school. This provision will carry on all the way through the exams, and when no after school events are taking place on a Thursday we will put on an additional session then as well.



**Year 13s** completed their second mock exams in the week after half term. They will now be receiving feedback on those, as well as their interim grades. Please support your child in following the plans that their teachers are giving them.



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## Celebrating Excellence: Our First Lower School Showcase Event



A huge thank you to the many families who joined us for our Year 7 and Year 8 Showcase events. This event was a direct result of feedback from our March 2025 parent survey, where families felt that they would welcome more opportunities to visit the school, build rapport with teachers and discover practical ways to support learning at home.

Our event provided a dedicated space for our students to demonstrate pride in their achievements. We are really pleased that our students took the lead through presenting examples of work they were most proud of.

We feel that this highlights the incredible learning taking place across the curriculum every day.

As this was our very first Showcase event, your presence and initial feedback is incredibly valuable. Please be aware that we will send out a formal feedback questionnaire to help shape and inform our school calendar for the next academic year.

Events like these don't happen without a massive team effort from both home and school. Thank you!

A final thank you to our dedicated staff and our brilliant students who helped manage the evening and support the delivery of the event.





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



## A Night of Golden Memories: Celebrating Our Very Own Harry Styles

Last week was truly "Late Night Talking" turned into a reality as we celebrated the phenomenal achievements of our former student; Harry Styles. In a gesture that proved he's still the same thoughtful person, Harry kindly donated 100 tickets for our students to witness his magic at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester.

We feel incredibly humbled that Harry still feels connected to our school. Even though he's now a global icon, it's clear he hasn't forgotten where he came from - proving that he still knows how to "Treat People With Kindness".

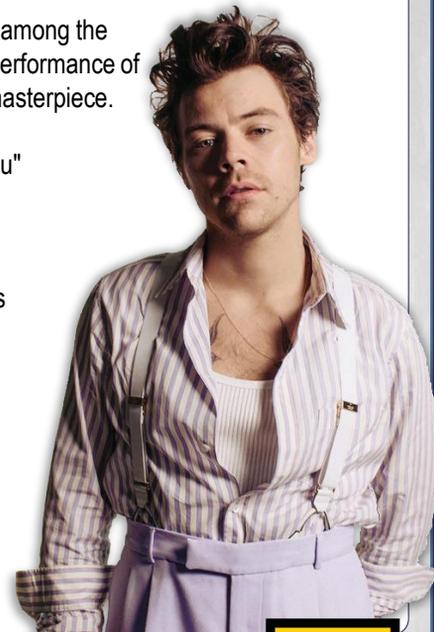
The event celebrated the release of his new album, allowing students to be among the first to experience the "Disco Occasionally" era live. From the high-octane performance of "Aperture" to the soul-stirring notes of "Sign of the Times" the night was a masterpiece.

As the crowd sang along to "As It Was," it was a moment of pure "Adore You" energy, watching our Harry truly "Golden" under the spotlight.

While the world knows him for his "Watermelon Sugar" highs, we celebrate Harry as a thoughtful and polite student. He is someone who showed others kindness.

We are incredibly proud of everything he has achieved. Harry has shown our students that you can reach for the stars (and maybe even land on a "Satellite") whilst still keeping your feet firmly on the ground.

Harry, thank you for the tickets and for being a reminder that the "Canyon Moon" always leads back home. We'll be watching your journey ahead as you achieve your "Cherry" on top!



## Parent Governor Vacancy

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARENT GOVERNOR?

We are looking for anyone with parental responsibility for a child at this school to join our Board of Governors. We are currently recruiting for 1 parent governor to join our Board.

Your input on areas such as finance, behaviour & wellbeing, teaching & learning and site development will help to influence and improve school performance.

No previous experience is needed as free training is available to develop skills and provide support.

**If you are interested**, please [click here](#) or check out the Governor pages on our website.

Please contact Pauline Challinor, Clerk to the Board of Governors on 01477 410500 for further information.

**Deadline for nominations is Friday 27th March 2026 at 12 noon.**



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## Important Update: Our Phone-Free School Environment (Spring 2026)

The purpose of this update is to engage all families in implementing the ban on mobile phones and to secure the support of all families should there be an infringement of the tighter rules around mobile phones. All families should make their children aware of the rules and expectations around mobile phones in school and the consequences should these clear conditions be breached.



At Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College, our top priority is providing a safe, calm, and focused learning environment for your children. To support their academic progress, mental health, and encourage face-to-face social interaction, we are implementing an updated Mobile Phone Policy, effective when we return from the Easter break on Monday 13th April. The update is in line with the latest Department for Education guidance

Policy:

We fully recognise that mobile phones provide important peace of mind while your child is travelling to and from school. However, once safely on site, phones are a distraction and are not required for learning.

Here are the key expectations you and your child need to know:

### For Main School Students (Years 7–11)

- **A Fully Phone-Free Day:** From the start of tutor time until the end of the final lesson, mobile phones must not be accessed, used, or kept on your child's person.
- **Secure Storage:** Devices must be switched off and locked securely inside the student's personal locker for the entire day, including during break and lunch times.

### For Sixth Form Students (Years 12 & 13)

- Students may only use their phones in designated social areas within the Sixth Form college.
- Phones are strictly prohibited in the main school building and during lessons, unless explicitly permitted by a teacher for a specific learning activity.

**Getting in Touch During the Day** We ask that you do not message or call your child's personal mobile phone during school hours. If you need to reach them urgently, please call the main reception, and we will ensure the message is passed on immediately. Likewise, if your child needs to contact you, they can do so via reception or their hub office.

**Working Together** Staff will be strictly enforcing these rules to ensure fairness and consistency. Breaches of the policy—including using a smartwatch to bypass the rules or refusing to hand over a device—will result in sanctions ranging from confiscation and warnings to loss of free time or further disciplinary action for repeated offenses.

We kindly ask that you discuss these updated rules with your child to ensure they fully understand the expectations.

For complete details on the rules, exceptions, and procedures (including our policies on loss/damage and confiscation), please review the full Mobile Phone Policy on our school website.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making Holmes Chapel a highly focused and positive place to learn.



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## Education Record Roll Out

We are rolling out the Education record to Y11 students w/c 23rd March. Students will need to download the DfE Education record at home so that we are able to help them sign up in tutor time.

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/education-record-pilot/id6477397118>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.gov.education.educationrecord>

### Have you got the Education Record app yet?

- 1 Download app
- 2 Get your record
- 3 Receive your results
- 4 Share your record



DfE  
Department  
for Education



## House Leaders Update

With Easter fast-approaching, and Red Nose Day around the corner, we'd like to update you on recent and upcoming events for this half term.

The week beginning Monday 16th March, we will be running a series of activities and events to celebrate Red Nose Day, raise money for Comic Relief and raise awareness for the Show Racism the Red Card campaign. This will include activities in tutor time as well as competitions and events around school, with opportunities to win house points along the way.

<b>Monday</b>	Taskmaster Red Nose Day Activities
<b>Tuesday</b>	Show Racism the Red Card Design Competition
<b>Wednesday</b>	Surprise Competition!
<b>Thursday</b>	Wear Something Red
<b>Friday</b>	Guess the Sweets in the Jar

Donations for Wear Something Red on Thursday will be payable by Scopay, and students will need 20p per guess for the Guess the Sweets competition. All money raised will be donated to Comic Relief.

Designs for Show Racism the Red Card will be entered into a national competition, with the winners invited to an award ceremony at a Premier League football stadium.

We have been extremely impressed with the students' engagement with house activities so far this year, and the competition between houses is close. We look forward to seeing their continued enthusiasm and sense of community with upcoming events.

Best wishes,

**Miss Lawrence, Miss Gudjon, Miss Brown and Mr Gamble**



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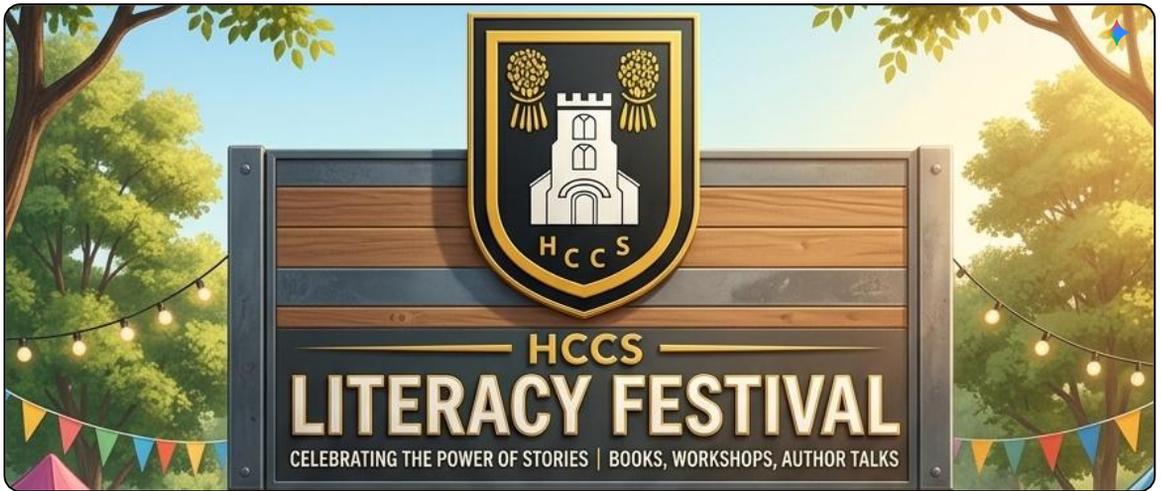
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## Year 12 attend UCAS Discovery!

On Wednesday 4th March, our Year 12 students attended the annual UCAS Discovery Event held in Manchester. Students were able to meet over 150 representatives from universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers. It was a fantastic event and certainly got our students thinking about the many options available to them!



Last week we celebrated our annual Literature Festival, organised and run by our Literacy Team. Throughout the week, students enjoyed a wide range of activities across the school day, including tutor-time challenges, lunchtime events, special assemblies and a variety of competitions celebrating all things literary. The festival created a wonderful buzz around the school, encouraging a love of reading, writing and storytelling among our students. It was a great week and a brilliant celebration of literature for our whole school community.

### Jake Evans

Day 1 of our Literature Festival kicked off with a visit from the fantastic storyteller, Jake Evans. Year 7 and Year 8 students were lucky enough to attend a special morning assembly where Jake captivated the audience with a mix of mythical tales and real-life stories. In the afternoon, he led an engaging workshop for our Millionaire Readers, which even included a lively sing-along. It was a brilliant start to the week and a wonderful way to celebrate the power of storytelling.



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## ManACTco - Macbeth Performance

Key Stage 4 students were treated to a live performance of Macbeth, delivered by the fantastic ManACTco. The performance brought Shakespeare's tragic tale to life, helping students to experience the characters, themes and dramatic tension in an engaging and memorable way. Events like this are an important part of supporting the curriculum, giving students a deeper understanding of the play they study in lessons and helping to build confidence as they prepare for their GCSE English Literature exams.



## Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School

Jemima and Sophie joined us this year for our annual visit to Holmes Chapel Community Pre-School, one of our favourite parts of our Literature Festival week. They shared wonderful stories with the children, who listened attentively and with great excitement. It was a joy to see the children's faces light up as they enjoyed the stories, making it a memorable visit for everyone involved.



## HCCS Lit Fest Bake Off 2026

We were blown away by the entries in our annual Bake Off competition. Josh Silver proved to be a very popular theme, with lots of incredible cakes inspired by his books HappyHead and Traumaland. The creativity and effort on display were fantastic.

Congratulations to our winners:

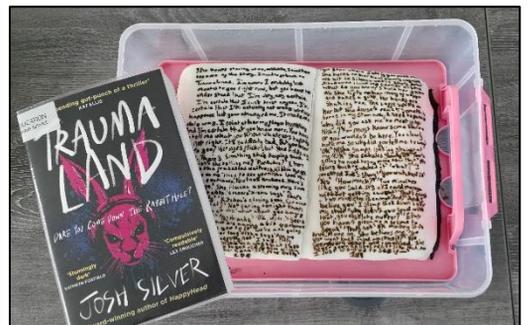
**1st place – Sophie B (9KC)**

**2nd place – Cara D (9KK)**

**3rd place – Sophia M (7KM)**



Thanks to everyone who took part and supported the event, we raised an amazing **£192.64** for our chosen LRC charity, Read for Good, which helps provide storytellers and books for children in hospitals across the UK.



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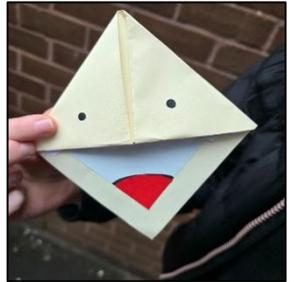
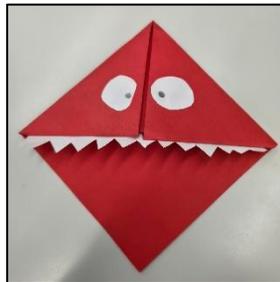


## LRC Activities

We had a fantastic week of activities in the LRC as part of the HCCS Literature Festival. Highlights included an Open Mic session, where students shared stories and poems alongside our guest storyteller, Jake Evans.

We also enjoyed Horrible Histories: Sensational Shakespeare, held a cake sale, bookmark crafts, scavenger hunts, and much more.

A big thank you to everyone who got involved and helped make the week so memorable!



## Competitions

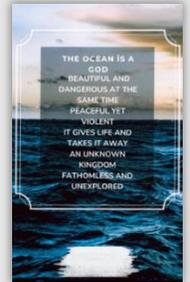
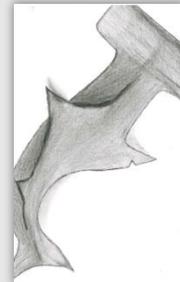
Our first competition of the Lit Fest was the Jake Evans Wildlife Competition, where students were challenged to create a wildlife-themed story, poem, or piece of artwork. We received some fantastic entries!

Jake chose two winners when he was in school on Monday.

Congratulations to:

- Luke H (11CPR)
- Ryley P (9MS)

Well done to both!



## Creative Writing Competitions – Now Open!

Our Creative Writing competitions are running for all year groups, from Year 7 through to Year 13. Entries are open until Friday 20th March 2026, so be sure to drop off your stories, poems, or other creative pieces into the LRC before the deadline.

We can't wait to celebrate the winners and share their work with you in upcoming newsletters!

## Nathanael Lessore Virtual School

On World Book Day, Year 9 students tuned in to a special virtual event with award winning author Nathanael Lessore. He introduced his World Book Day title for teens, 'Against All Odds', a funny and authentic story about the joys and challenges of dreaming big and showing the world you don't have to fit into just one box.

During this 45-minute interactive session, Nathanael gave students a behind the scenes look at his books, shared where he finds his ideas and inspiration, and revealed some of his writing techniques. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with a contemporary author and gain insight into the craft of writing.



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## World Book Day 2026

As a follow on from our Storytelling Week theme, “*Soundtrack Your Story*,” staff and Sixth Form students embraced the occasion by dressing up as a wide range of musicians, musical genres and traditional book characters that have helped shape our life stories. The creative costumes sparked some excellent conversations with students about the stories and music that inspire us.

Tutor time also saw the return of our popular Tutor Kahoot quiz, which quickly became very competitive. A huge congratulations to 10RG for taking the top spot this year!

Break and lunchtime activities included a whole-school scavenger hunt, where students solved cryptic clues to locate different areas of the school, each revealing a literary character and the next challenge.

The day finished on a high with our Year 7 Showcase Evening, where the LRC welcomed pupils and parents to celebrate the fantastic work taking place across the year group. It was a brilliant end to a fun and engaging day of storytelling and creativity.



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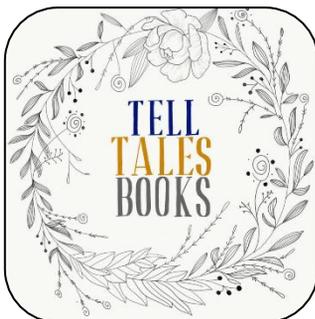
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## World Book Day Books and Tokens

As always, our Year 7 students received a free World Book Day book of their choice to take home, and it's always a delight to see the wide variety of titles they pick. It never fails to surprise us! Students in Years 7 to 11 also received a World Book Day token, which can be used in participating stores to claim a free World Book Day book or as a £1 voucher towards a book of their choice.



## Tell Tale Books

We would like to extend a huge thank you to **Tell Tales Books** for generously sourcing this year's World Book Day books for our school. If you are ever in the Warrington area please pop in to support this independent bookstore.



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## Caydee

In a truly remarkable effort during her final weeks of primary school, Caydee has proven that determination can overcome any obstacle, raising an incredible **£1,048** for a new Special Educational Needs (SEN) Nurture Area.

Caydee, decided to set herself a massive goal: to complete a "Swim a Mile for a SEND Smile" challenge. Caydee dedicated her weekends to swimming lengths and ultimately smashed her original goal by completing over two miles in the pool!

Caydee's hard work will create a lasting benefit for hundreds of current and future students. The £1,048 she raised will be used to create a much-needed SEN Nurture Area at Wimboldsley Community Primary school, a dedicated space designed to especially benefit children with the greatest needs.

Caydee attended the opening ceremony of the "nurture nook" at Wimboldsley a few weeks ago. Caydee officially opened the learning space and spent time with both staff and students to celebrate her fantastic achievement for the school.

Caydee wanted to show others that if you are really determined to do something, you can. We are incredibly proud of your achievement and the wonderful gift you have given to the students and staff at Wimboldsley Community Primary School.



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**FANTASY PREMIER LEAGUE**



Click here for the latest on the HCCS Superleague

**Fantasy**



Click here for the latest on our HCCS Fantasy F1 League



**LAUNCHING SUMMER 2026**

### Calling all Cricketers! Yr9-11

MCC and the MCC Foundation (MCCF) are delighted to be launching the Barclays Knight-Stokes Cup, a new hardball cricket competition exclusively for state schools in the UK.

If you are interested in representing the school, and you are in Yr 9 10 or 11, please speak to Mr Pirie or Mr Lowe for more information.



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## House Darts

House Staff Darts has started this week! Knock-out rounds this week and then Quarter finals next week where staff will be coming out to walk-out songs and nicknames!



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## Year 7 Drama Club



Students have started to begin a new script within drama club called 'Asbo'. In the spring term, they aim to showcase a series of scenes and select appropriate costumes. Students have really enjoyed getting their teeth stuck into a rather gritty script focusing on teaching pupils about anti social behaviour.





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## PE News

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, we will begin focusing on our summer sports during lessons, including cricket, rounders, athletics and tennis. In addition, we are introducing pickleball to some year groups, which is an exciting new addition to the practical curriculum.

In Lower School lessons, our character education will focus on decision-making, collaboration and self-motivation. Our Year 9 groups will continue working towards completing their Life Skills Award, which we aim to finish by next half term.

### GCSE PE

The GCSE PE moderation will take place on Friday 20th March during the school day, with further details to be shared shortly.

Please ensure that students are focused and fully prepared for their moderation day by attending the rehearsal sessions scheduled after school during last week and this week.

Theory intervention sessions will begin after the Easter holidays to further support students in their preparation.



#### GCSE PE Written Paper:

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems **Friday 22 May Morning 1h 30m**

Component 2: Health and Performance **Monday 01 June Morning 1h 15m**



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## Extra Curricular Activities

### U12 Cheshire Netball Tournament

Congratulations to our U12 netball team who took part in the county tournament on Wednesday 4th March, competing against strong opposition and demonstrating excellent team spirit throughout.

The netball season has now come to a close. However, students who would like to continue playing outside of school may wish to explore local clubs such as Northwich Sapphires, Knutsford Netball Club and Cheshire Stars.



### Trampoline Club

Attendance at Trampoline Club this week was very positive. The club runs after school on Mondays and is open to students in Years 7, 8 and 9, with all students welcome to attend.



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## Reminders for PE Lessons

**Kit** - Please ensure that your child comes to PE lessons with the correct kit. They should have a **separate pair of trainers specifically for PE**, distinct from those worn for everyday school use.



**Excused from PE** - If your child is unable to participate in PE, please email [pe@hccs.info](mailto:pe@hccs.info). Alternatively, you may send a note directly to their teacher.

## PE DEPARTMENT TRAINER DONATION

Do you have any pre-loved trainers that are still in good condition? The PE Department is collecting trainer donations to support our students in lessons and extracurricular activities.

We are looking for:

- Clean trainers
- Good condition (no large holes or damage)
- All sizes welcome

Please drop donations to: PE Office

Thank you for your support!



## SPONSORS

We are seeking sponsors to help fund new netball dresses for our players. If you are able to support the team, please get in touch with the PE department. Any support would be hugely appreciated



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## We're here to help.

Middwich & District Foodbank is here to support your school community.



### EMERGENCY FOOD

Parcels are available with essentials like milk, tinned foods, cereals, pasta, rice, biscuits.

### REFERRAL

Your school can facilitate a confidential referral to ensure you receive the help you need.

### NEXT STEP

Get in touch with the Food Bank via the details below, through your school office, doctor's surgery or social worker.



Telephone  
0771 227 9949



Email  
[info@middwichdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@middwichdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)



## CAYP Psychology



### The CAYP Webinar Series

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
8:00-9:00pm

### Overview:

#### What's Really Going on with My Child's Focus and Emotional Regulation?

With Consultant Clinical Psychologist  
Dr Daniel Weisberg

This session is going to explore what may be driving ongoing difficulties with focus, emotional regulation and impulsive behaviour in children and young people.

We'll look at why some young people feel constantly overwhelmed or emotionally reactive, and how this can impact daily life at home and school.

Alongside this, we'll be providing practical strategies and tools to help support both your child and the whole family.

- Why some children have focus and attention difficulties
- What's going on behind emotional reactivity
- Why small things can trigger such big reactions
- Co-regulation and supporting big feelings
- When focus and regulation difficulties raise bigger questions
- When to think about seeking an assessment or specialist support and how this may help
- Practical strategies to support focus, attention, regulation and behaviour at home and school

### Who can join:

This session is primarily for parents and carers of primary and high school aged-children, but anyone working with children is welcome to attend.

[Click here to book your place.](#)