



Dear all,

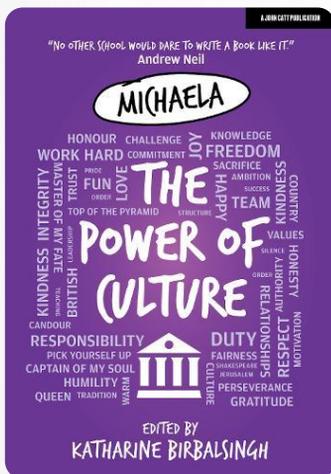
It's been a really busy couple of weeks here at school with lots going on, much of which has been within the 'normal' range of what goes on with 1300 or so students and 180 staff. School remains a vibrant, exciting and amazing place to be and the best part of my day is when I take some time to walk around the school, visit lessons, catch up with staff and spend time with the children. It's always a grounding, fulfilling and deeply uplifting experience to soak up the energy and excitement of a regular day at our great school.

As well as being an inspiring group of people to be around each weekday, It's important to remember and celebrate the fact that many of our children are hugely invested in groups, teams and organisations outside of school. As a couple of examples, two of our children have recently been successful in securing roles with the Cheshire Youth Commission on Police and Crime. Three of our children have been invited to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea, August 2023 and are busy fund raising. Then we've got national and regional level sports players in netball, hockey, rugby and football. Several are involved in equestrianism and we've got runners, gymnasts, boxers, singers, dancers, artists, photographers, musicians and everyone in between. As one small example of how amazing our children are, our A level PE students went to Salford University last week to learn about their physiological response to exercise and analysing measures of fitness such as VO2 Max. One of our students, a runner with national records to his name, came out with a VO2 score at an astonishing 77. The average person's score would perhaps be about 30 to 40 and an elite, olympic athlete would score in the 80s. The researcher said they'd never seen a score like it in someone of his age.



When you step back a bit and look at what we are, the whole is infinitely greater than the sum of the parts. What a privilege it is to be part of this community and to play a positive, valuable and meaningful role within it.

I've talked a lot about culture and partnership in these newsletters. Establishing what a positive culture is and how people act, speak and listen to each other is a journey that we are all on. I've now been the permanent Headteacher here at Holmes Chapel for just one year and the time has flown by for me. Given where we have been with Covid, it's been an atypical year or two but I've been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of families who have been supportive, respectful, kind and importantly, on board with the changes that I am trying to make. Developing our culture, ethos, values, belief and actions so that all children have an exceptional experience of school underpins all of the decisions I make. I have valued all of the many one to one conversations I have had with you and have listened carefully to your views. Thank you and let's keep talking.



I've been reading a book called 'The power of culture' which is edited by the Head, Katharine Birbalsingh, at Michaela Community School & Sixth Form in London. The book is inspiring and I'd encourage you to have a look at this or to read some of the comments and conversation about it on social media. The chapters on ethos, the transformative power of values and the culture of gratitude for instance are incredible. As a community in rural Cheshire, we can learn a huge amount from a school in the middle of London. The book references the importance of teaching about the acceptance of personal responsibility, understanding what we mean by duty and the belief and trust in authority. The real power of this work is how we, and by that I mean teachers, parents, carers and extended family, can empower children to make positive choices and recognise their own capacity to build resilience and a sense of belonging as part of a safe and inclusive community.



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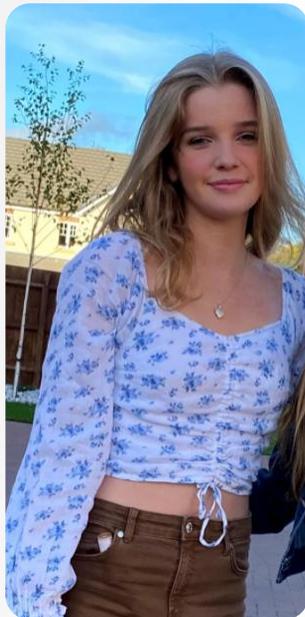
Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Children, as we all know, occasionally make mistakes or choices that are not in keeping with this ethos. In many ways, this is a normal part of growing up. In school over the last two weeks, there have been a few difficult conversations regarding aspects of behaviour that have been challenging. I'd like to thank those families that have worked alongside us, positively supported us and maintained high levels of trust and understanding so that in partnership, we create the space and environment where our children are able to accept what they have done, reflect, restore and move forwards.

As the restrictions of the last two years have lifted, the job market has once again opened up and recruitment has really taken off. A number of our staff have recently been successful in gaining promoted positions in other schools. HCCS is a very successful teaching school and this year alone we have placed almost 40 trainee teachers across a wide range of schools in the local area. Our staff development programme offers leadership and career development opportunities too and it's great to see colleagues grow and flourish so that they can take on promoted roles within the sector.

Because we are at the forefront of teacher training, the quality of applications for jobs here has been incredible and we have appointed very high calibre staff to replace colleagues who are moving on. I'm really excited to see how these new colleagues fully engage with our school and community. Although we are sad to see some of our colleagues leave and move on in their careers at other schools, we are also ready to welcome new colleagues into our community. The fresh perspective and ideas that they bring always allow us to make positive changes and improvements to the work we do here and help us all to be better at what we do.



Finally, as I write this, I am mindful of the fact that in a few hours we will be saying our goodbyes to Imogen whose funeral it is today. We are all still reeling from the loss of this wonderful young person. I, along with a number of staff and students, friends and peers who knew and loved her will be there from school to share with Imogen's family and friends in celebrating her life. In school, we will hold a minute of silence at 2pm to pause and reflect.

We are joined with her family and friends in grief.

In school and college, we will continue to offer support to any student who needs it and to signpost additional provision. These are on our website at the following link [Support Services | HCCS](#). At our spring festival on the 30th March, Papyrus and Visyon, two charities focused on suicide prevention and mental health will be there and any profits from the Spring Festival will be given to these two causes. Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



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Spring Fest

You are invited to join us for our Spring Festival on 30th March.

Please see page 6 for further details

Raffle/tombola

Please send in to reception any items for our tombola (chocolates, unwanted gifts) and any raffle prizes you can donate for the Spring Festival by Friday 18th March 2022

Many thanks in advance





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Year 10 Bronze D of E

We are delighted to be able to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for another year, and recently hosted an information session after school. This was well attended by students and parents alike. We were lucky to be able to book Steve Wilson, the D of E Leader for Cheshire East, to come and talk to us and answer questions. We now have a large group of year 10 students who are about to embark on this fantastic adventure. As well as the Bronze award in year 10, we offer Silver D of E as part of our enrichment programme in the 6th form.



World Book Day

Pupils (and staff!) enjoyed World Book Day last Thursday. Pupils received their free book vouchers, completed book quizzes in tutor time and listened to a short story by Anthony Horowitz throughout the day whilst also trying to guess what literary characters their teachers were dressed up as?



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Year 10 Work Experience w/b March 21st

Year 10 will soon be embarking on their week's work experience. Given the circumstances with Covid etc. it has been very difficult for some students to arrange placements but I am very pleased to say that nearly 95% of our students have found work experience. This is a fantastic achievement considering many businesses are still not offering work experience to school students. A very big thank you to all parents, carers, friends and relatives who have really gone out of their way to offer an amazing range of placements.

Good luck to Year 10 and have a great week!!

Mr Baker





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Holmes Chapel Youth Council Survey

The HC Youth council would like to know if the young people of the village would like a youth shelter. This project will potentially benefit all young people in the village, providing somewhere safe for people to meet.

Please complete the very quick questionnaire to tell us your thoughts.
[Click here for the survey.](#)



MFL – Exchange Project: Our Postcards Have Been Sent!

Our Year 9 classes are working closely with two different partner schools in Europe: IES Matarraña (Spain) and Münsingen Grammar (Germany). Our students are writing postcards to their buddies, and we are sending them all this week! Spanish and German students will receive beautiful postcards from Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School; an amazing way to develop language skills and enjoy learning about different cultures around the world.

Well done, linguists!



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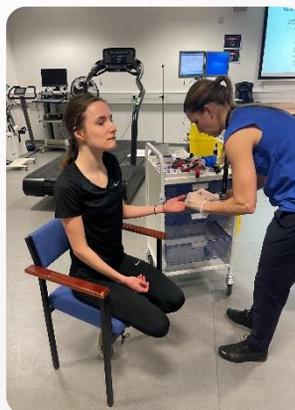
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Salford University Fitness Testing Day

Year 12 A level PE students were invited to participate in a variety of fitness tests at Salford University to assess their fitness as part of their coursework. This was an unbelievable opportunity that was afforded to us through the links of Mrs Robbins. The testing involved numerous different protocols that examine different components of fitness. The gold standard for V02 max testing includes running to exhaustion on a treadmill whilst, O2 consumption, CO2 exhaled and lactic production are measured. To experience this level of testing is very rare. Manchester City academy players and Scott Quigg, British Welterweight boxing champion have all been tested here. However, the data we gathered confirmed that Jake Wilson had the greatest V02 max recorded!! 74ml.kg.min This puts him in the 95th percentile for V02 max data collected according to the American College of Sports Medicine. That is an incredible achievement! Below are a few photographs of the day and the test experience. For any future A level or GCSE students this is an experience that we would be looking to repeat in years to come. Many thanks to all the staff at Salford University for being so generous with their time and also giving us this amazing experience





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Year 7 Artwork

An example of a Year 7 art work, working in the style of Roy Lichtenstein.



Netball County Finals Match Report

On Saturday 5th March HCCS Year 9 netball team played in the County Netball Cheshire Tournament against a tough draw. The girls had a long break from netball after Christmas so we had a few nerves but that didn't defeat them.

It was an early start to the day, kicking off against some strong opposition in Lymm High School - The girls had a great first game, settling those nerves beating them 6 - 2. What a start to the day. They then went on to play in some challenging games against Christleton, Kings Chester and Upton, only losing by a few goals and showing that if we stay focused and on task we can most definitely beat those teams next time. This did not dampen the spirits as the girls and they pulled together showing great team spirit, resilience and determination to come out on top, keeping composure winning some of those games by 1 goal.



All of the year 9's did themselves proud, such a fantastic group of friends with an array of talent.

Our Girls played with commitment and dedication to win and challenge in every game. It was a great day of netball, the girls were outstanding ambassadors for Holmes Chapel. A special thank you to all of our parents and staff who came along to support the girls.

Well done everyone, one very proud teacher.
Mrs Mee

Girl of the games –



- Game 1 - Mia Kirkman
- Game 2 - Tilly Birks
- Game 3 - Megan Croxton
- Game 4 - Charlotte Thornhill
- Game 5 - Erin Van Tonder
- Game 6 - Tilly Birks



Coaches player for the day –
Tilly Birks for her outstanding leadership as their captain.



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Spring Fest

Wednesday 30th March

4:30pm - 7pm

Grand Canopy, HCCS

Tombola • Raffle • Crafts • Cake Stall • Photobooth • Many More

Bidlea Dairy • U7 Street Food • Cheddleton Oatcakes • Tatton Perk Coffee



Open to all HCCS Students and their families.



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VISION WORKSHOPS - MANAGING EXAM STRESS

We know that taking exams can be hugely stressful. This two part workshop is aimed at students in years 10-13 and is designed to offer insight into how our brains and bodies react to stress and to provide practical tools to help you cope with exams and look after your wellbeing.

**WEDNESDAYS 9TH AND 16TH MARCH
6.30-7.30PM (MS TEAMS)**

**TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE:
PHONE VISION ON 01260 290000 OR EMAIL
ADMINISTRATION@VISION.ORG.UK**

CHARITY NO. 1107951

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY TEAM



SLEEP WORKSHOPS

Supporting your child with sleep

Visyon's Family and Community Wellbeing Team are pleased to offer a **Parent Workshop** which will support you in understanding why your child may be struggling to sleep. We will explore the science of sleep and practical strategies to support sleep. The Programme is available to families in **Cheshire East** and will be held at Visyon in Congleton for **face-to-face** delivery. If you would like to book a place on the Programme, please contact rachel.roberts@visyon.org.uk who will contact you with further details. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.



Parent Workshops – Sleep (2-hour workshop)

Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 10:30am – 12:30pm

- The science of sleep and practical strategies plus tips and advice.
- One-to-one support arranged individually with a sleep practitioner.

WWW.VISION.ORG.UK
01260 290000



FELLOWSHIP HOUSE, PARK ROAD, CONGLETON, CW12 1DP

CHARITY NO. 1107952
COMPANY NO. 5250756

Click the image of the flyers to view a bigger pdf version



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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F