



Dear Parents and Guardians

As the mornings and evenings start to get lighter, I want to say thank you to you all for your support for your children in what can be the hardest half term. Supporting them in getting up, getting ready for school, being equipped and doing their revision and homework can be a challenge when it's dark, wet and windy.

On Wednesday I had the privilege of watching our Year 11 and 10 boys play rugby against Macclesfield Academy under the lights at Macclesfield Rugby Club. Mr Bielby often talks to you in these notes about our 4 values of Learning, Belonging, Pride and Ambition. The 18 boys in the squad for Wednesday showed every one of these values. **Some play rugby out of school, some don't. But they came together as a team and, in appalling conditions, played with real determination.** Each of the boys has their own challenges to overcome in their lives in and outside of school, but for those 70 minutes on the pitch they were a team - focused on one outcome. A 20-20 draw was undoubtedly a fair result - but if the second half had been only 2 minutes longer, I know we would have come away with the victory.



Thank you to Mr Gamble and his team for making me proud of our school and our community. They represent all of our teachers and students whose actions every day, living our values, make our school a great one to work and to learn at.

The half-term holiday is a well-earned chance to recharge all of our batteries. That said, I know that this particular half-term is not a break for our students who are approaching their exams. They will need to show determination as they work towards something where the goal is individual, not collective. But they know that their hard work now will lead to them coming away with their own victories in the summer.

All the best,

Tim Munro
Deputy Headteacher



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Curriculum Matters

Use of Satchel One

Satchel One has been a valuable tool in enabling you as parents and carers to understand the homework your child gets and in helping you to support them. Satchel One also has functionality for seeing timetables and behaviour points. However we have noticed that these do not update in a timely manner and so some parents have reported that they are getting false information. Because you have access to this information via the My Child at School app, we have decided to switch off this functionality in Satchel One. Satchel One should be used exclusively for monitoring homework.



Year 11 and 13 revision

Exam season is nearly upon us. Students in Year 13 have the final chance for formal practice in their second set of mock exams. For most subjects they will sit two exam papers. Please support your child through the revision process over this half term - **however much they might not say it to you, if they don't appreciate it now, they will do come results day!**

Year 11 rounded off the term with the chance for students, parents and carers to have an appointment with their form tutor. We are proud of the level of focus our Year 11 students are showing in lessons at the moment. This must now be replicated at home too - and we really appreciate your support.

Revision information can all be found [here](#). When students return to school, study base continues to be available after school in the LRC - students have requested it stays open longer and on Thursdays too - **and we'll have this in place when they get back.**



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Lower School Information

Please be aware that there are staffing changes within the Lower School team. After the half term holidays, Nikki Thomas will be working within her new role as Head of PE. Nikki is looking forward to continuing to support Year 8 through their extra curricular activities and PE lessons.

Sally Riley will take on the responsibility as Head of Year 8 role on a full time basis. Sally has been supporting Year 8 since their transition from primary school and teaches a number of students across the year group. We look forward to seeing her continue to support those students to help them reach their full potential.



Year 7 Team

Heather Hughes - Head of Year 7
Annie Bentley - Welfare Manager
Gemma Bagnall - Welfare Manager



Year 8 Team

Sally Riley - Head of Year 8
Gemma Bagnall - Welfare Manager
Tina Upton - Welfare Manager



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Year 10 Work Experience W/B 23rd March



The annual Year 10 work experience is fast approaching!!!

Thank you to all parents and students who have successively secured a placement and completed their online Unifrog application.

To access Unifrog; type **'Unifrog'** into your search engine and then select log in. To enter the program you will need to use the student school email and their password. If they have forgotten their password then select the resend password option.

It would be appreciated if all placements and the Unifrog applications could be completed by Friday 27th February



Year 12 Business Pathways Visit to Cranage Hall Hotel

On Wednesday the Business Pathways group visited Cranage Hall Hotel.

This was a real eye opener to the wide range of jobs involved in the hospitality sector, and the students were given an informative tour of the site including the gym areas, restaurants, bars, meeting rooms and hotel accommodation.

Lewis, our very accomplished host, delivered an interesting talk about the opportunities provided by De Vere with their graduate and apprenticeship programmes, but also the value of apprenticeships generally. The students also listened to talks from various employees who described their career journeys.



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Chester Zoo

On Wednesday 4th February, year 13 Biologists went to Chester Zoo for the day. We enjoyed lectures on Classification, primate behaviour and speciation as well as two tours of the Orangutan house and the Islands.

We studied animal skulls looking at specific features of the skull to group them together in their families based on teeth structure and size, jaw size and position of eyes.



We then moved to the Orangutan house for a lecture and a tour to learn more about primate behaviour and which were closest to us as a species.



After a quick stop for lunch, we headed over to the islands for a talk and tour on how evolution and diversification can occur between islands such as those around the Java Sea in Indonesia such as Bali and Komodo. We managed to spot the tree kangaroo and its new baby, the pandemelon, the cassowary, Malayan Tapir, Bali starlings and the very noisy hornbill.



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Animation Club

Join us for an exciting opportunity where your young person will help create a unique piece of local history, a stop motion animation celebrating the River Weaver and its amazing story.

Your young person will learn the full animation process, from planning to filming and **editing, working together towards a final collaborative film. It's the perfect opportunity** for your young person to try animation, meet new people, and work together on an exciting project.

Workshop Details:

Date: Mondays, 2nd February - 16th March (Two-week break on 16th and 23rd February)

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Winsford Library, Winsford

Booking link: [Click here](#)

Please feel free to pass this on to your contacts – any support is much appreciated!





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Cheshire East Singfest

Singfest Workshop

Well done and thank you to our amazing singing ambassadors who helped out and participated in a Singfest workshop on the 29th January, with Mrs Palethorpe from the Love Music Trust and nearly 100 children from Smallwood Primary and Holmes Chapel Primary School.

We learnt songs and medleys for a concert in March, which we will be hosting here at HCCS.

Year 7 Sponsored Walk for 'National Heart Month'

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FEBRUARY HEART MONTH

Members of 7MD enjoying the unexpected good weather!!

At the present over £250 has been raised. Contributions can still be made on Scopay until February 20th.

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution



North of England Championships

Well done to Gus who won the Under 13s North of England Championships.

He's got the English National Championships coming up very soon



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Learning Resource Centre News



Year 7 - Literacy Lounge

We are pleased to announce that the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) will be open during the Year 7 Student Showcase Evening on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March 2026). Parents and students are warmly invited to drop in, browse our wide selection of books, and receive support in finding the perfect book for your child.

We look forward to welcoming you!

National Storytelling Week: House Book Quiz

Last week, we celebrated National Storytelling Week, as part of **this year's National Year of Reading, with a brand new event** in the LRC - our very first House Book Quiz.

Throughout the week, teams from each house went head to head in daily quiz rounds, all battling for a place in the ultimate house final on Friday. The competition was fierce, knowledge impressive, and the enthusiasm for books was fantastic to see. A huge congratulations to Capesthorne, who claimed the final crown after an incredibly close finish with 42 points. The final was nail biting, with Tatton, Arley and Moreton all scoring 39 points, meaning it came down to the final tie-breaker questions to decide the final places.

Well done to all students who took part throughout the week - a brilliant way to celebrate storytelling and our love of reading!



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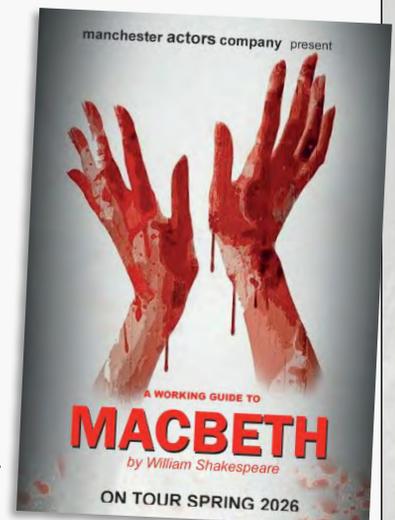


National Storytelling Week: House Book Quiz

It is that time of year again as we look forward to our HCCS Literature Festival, running from Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March 2026. We are thrilled to announce that we will be welcoming storyteller Jake Evans into school, who will be delivering a range of engaging assemblies and workshops for our students.



We are also excited to host ManACTco, who will be performing a powerful and valuable production of Macbeth for our GCSE students, supporting their studies and bringing the text to life. As always, the week will be packed with competitions and plenty of opportunities for students to get involved. We love the buzz the Literature Festival brings to our school and it is wonderful to see the enthusiasm it generates around reading - particularly important during the National Year of Reading.





Learning Resource Centre News...continued

Young Writers' Competition

We are delighted to share some fantastic news! A number of our talented students have been selected to have their work published in the Young Writers' Stranger Sagas competition. This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to their creativity and imagination.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7:

Debbie A, Grace K, Jonathan M

Year 8:

Edith L

Year 9:

Ryley P, Shay C, Evie R

Year 10:

Tania N

We are incredibly proud of all our published writers and look forward to seeing their stories in print.

Well done to everyone involved!

STRANGER SAGAS

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE...



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Blind Date with a Book

February is the perfect time to fall in love with reading, and the LRC has **been celebrating Valentine's Day** with our popular Blind Date with a Book. Students are invited to forget about book covers and familiar titles and instead choose a mystery book based solely on three simple descriptions wrapped around it.

The response has been fantastic - these books have been flying off the shelves all week! To make it even more exciting, students who return a short book review will receive house points and a treat.

We hope this encourages students to discover something new and maybe even fall in love with a book they **wouldn't usually choose this half term.**

Happy reading!





Sports News

Year 10 Semi-Final Win

Congratulations to our year 10 FB team who beat a tenacious Shavington side 3-2. Goals from Morris and Hough gave us an early lead and we were looking comfortable and HT 3-0. However, Shavington won the second half and made it a nery ending. We were deserved winners finishing 3-2. Joe B added a 3rd goal to make it 3-0 at HT pls. Well done gents!

Year 7 Five a Side

Congratulations to our year 7 boys who came second in the 5 a side competition at Congleton high school. Great teamwork on a bitterly cold day! Well done



Netball

Well done to all of our netball teams for your commitment to training and matches throughout this year. It has been wonderful to see the growth and development of our players across the season, and we are incredibly proud of the teamwork and determination you have shown.

We are already looking forward to another fantastic season ahead.

Watch this pace for a netball trip next half term!

In the meantime, if you are interested in joining a club outside of school, there are several excellent local options available:

- Northwich Sapphires*
- Cheshire Stars*
- Knutsford Netball Club*



Please visit their websites for further details on how to join.

Congratulations again to all players on a superb season.

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Mee and Miss Fisher



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