



Dear all,

We are now at the halfway mark in this half term. It's been a month of some amazing successes but also a month with some real challenges. I would like to share some of these things with you.

On the sports field and in the theatre and in lessons many of our children have shown that they are proud, ambitious and have high expectations of each other. In taking part in extracurricular events and activities and fully engaging in learning they show that they are ambitious and belong to our school and community. They are amazing children and demonstrate our four values in their actions, behaviours and attitudes.

We celebrate the fact that many of our children are also involved in so many clubs and groups across the community and extra to school. Scouts, guides, cadets, sports teams, dance groups, churches and places of worship, young carers, singing, bands and orchestras, house riding, ballet. The list goes on and on. These enriching and valuable groups teach our children to be committed, to work collaboratively, to be reliant and to have integrity and dedication. Life lessons that go beyond and support what happens in school.

In the newsletter you'll read some of what has been going on and if you follow us on 'X' (previously Twitter) you'll have already seen some of what has been happening in school recently. Not least the awesome show 'Bugsy



These are some of the celebrations that we need to recognise and call out. However it hasn't all been plain sailing in the last four weeks and I need to reach out to all of you for your support and help. We have a '10% problem' that is proving hard to solve without some direct, supportive, collaborative input from all families .

Since we returned from the October half term break, there has been a noticeable and worrying increase in defiant, intimidating and what I will refer to as arrogant behaviour displayed by children in almost all year groups. Children have directed this behaviour towards each other and increasingly towards staff including teaching and non teaching colleagues. This behaviour is more prevalent in the older year groups but I am very concerned that it has become a feature in lower school as well. In year 8 particularly, there has been a small but significant amount of fighting. A small number of children displaying this behaviour have been issued suspensions and in school sanctions. I am grateful for the support of families in these very difficult decisions and it's clear that we share the view that violence of any kind in school is something that will not be tolerated. Roughly speaking, the number of children behaving in this way either very mildly or more seriously is between 5% to 10% of each year group, hence, a '10%' problem.

Further to this, I have been shocked, as I imagine you will be too, to learn that some of the very negative behavioural traits I have mentioned above including intimidation and verbal aggression are also being directed towards a number of staff here at school by a small number of parents. I have had the difficult but necessary job to write to these parents to express my strong disapproval of this. I hope we all agree that as adults, intimidating and aggressive behaviour is never acceptable and modelling this to children is wrong.

Every one of the children here, as well as staff should be able to come to our school and have a great day in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment, filled with learning, laughter and Joy. It is true that the vast majority of our children, over 90% of them, mostly behave in a way that reflects this. They mostly have great manners, are polite, kind, tolerant and respectful. They mostly work hard, engage in learning, have fun in their lessons, make great progress, enjoy their social time and make great friends. They mostly love being at this school.



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As your Headteacher, my first priority is to do everything in my power to provide a safe, secure, welcoming and inclusive learning and working environment where everyone, students and also the staff who serve here, can enjoy their day as well as grow and thrive here. Occasionally I will reach out to you and ask for your full support in making sure that our school stays this way and we create a strong, positive and rich culture that reflects the very best of all of us. This is a 'we' job not a 'me' job. In other words, we all have a part to play in securing this for the benefit of every child and every member of staff here at school by ensuring that poor standards of behaviour, including and specifically defiance, intimidation and arrogance are called out and tackled.

Thanks for your support

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher

Ofsted Report

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you all to let you know that our school had undergone an Ofsted inspection at the end of the first half term break. The final report has now been issued and I would like to share this with you so you can all read the results of this very thorough and detailed inspection of some key processes and systems in our school. [Please Click here.](#)



Update on the development of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

Over the past two years we have been working very closely with Shavington Academy on the development of a MAT that would see our two schools join forces under one governance structure. Our subject and curriculum development teams have been working closely to share best practice across our schools.



We have put in place a shadow governance structure including Trustees and a shadow management team. We submitted our merger application in September with the expectation that this would be considered one of the monthly approval meetings over the next couple of months. However, during the process, the expectations have changed somewhat and we are being strongly encouraged to consider much bigger changes.

We have decided therefore to 'pause' our proposals whilst we consider the best strategy from this point. In essence, it is apparently about having an ambitious growth strategy for the MAT and a political desire to see large groups of 10 or more schools working under a single leadership team.

Our two schools have put an enormous amount of work, time and effort into this development all based on a very real ambition to best serve the families and children in our local communities. It will come as no surprise therefore that we are extremely disappointed with the outcome at this stage. The needs of our students and families will always be our priority and at the centre of our plans.

For staff, students and our families, our attention remains very clearly focussed on making our school the best it can be. This includes continuing to work closely with colleagues to drive the very best teaching and learning outcomes whilst we consider a range of strategic options. I will, as always, keep you informed of progress.

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher

Drop offs and pick ups at the start and end of the school day



The approach roads to our school and around the estates are narrow and a number of residents have mentioned that traffic has increased and parking is blocking roads. Some have expressed concerns about road safety. Please be mindful of the amount of traffic at the beginning and end of the day around the school and how you might contribute to this. Encouraging our children to walk to school is a healthy way to start the day and arranging a safe drop off and pick up location a little further away will greatly help ease congestion.

Note that in the interest of keeping our children as safe as possible, the existing policy which has been in place for some time is that no vehicles except for the busses can drive onto the school site between 08:25 and 08:40 and 15:10 and 15:25. Thank You in advance



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Bugsy Malone: The Musical



We've had a fantastic week with five brilliant performances of Bugsy Malone and lots of splurge guns!

On Monday morning we performed to nearly 90 older members of the local community - from social groups, churches and care homes. They were delighted to be invited into school and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. They also loved the opportunity to meet the cast at a lunch after the show.

On Monday afternoon, it was the staff performance - it was wonderful to see that this was well supported, with some staff seeing their students in a completely different light!



And then three superb evening performances for families and friends brought the week to a close.

Thank you and well done to all of the students involved - you should be very proud of yourselves for contributing to such a brilliant show.

Looking forward to next year!



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Year 11 Trial examinations - January 9th to 22nd

Year 11 are busy revising for the upcoming Trial exams in January. The format and design of the 2 weeks is to replicate the summer experience as closely as possible, so that students get used to how to prepare and achieve in a formal setting, with exam board papers. We know from experience that students benefit from this experience, and become more confident and used to the systems and processes by the time they reach the summer term.

Important notices:

Below is a list, derived from the exam boards, of what students should/ should not bring with them into the exam venue.

- **Essential Equipment**
- **Black Pens**
- **Pencils**
- **Pencil Sharpener**
- **Eraser**
- **Ruler**
- **Additional Equipment**
- **Calculator**
- **Compasses**
- **Protractor**

Has your child got a calculator? For GCSE, there are many models that are suitable for exams. One of the most popular calculators is the Casio fx-83GT CW. There are always ones on sale online, or quality used ones on sites such as eBay. Please ensure students have got a calculator, and bring it in for exams that allow them. We just don't have spare calculators to give out in exams. It would slow down the start for everyone, and we are helping to make students more self reliant.

Pencil cases must be made of clear plastic.

Students will soon get a personalised timetable, with exams, dates, and seat numbers. This will be published on the Bromcom App. Teachers are also helping them with revision techniques and prioritising their workload in the coming weeks.



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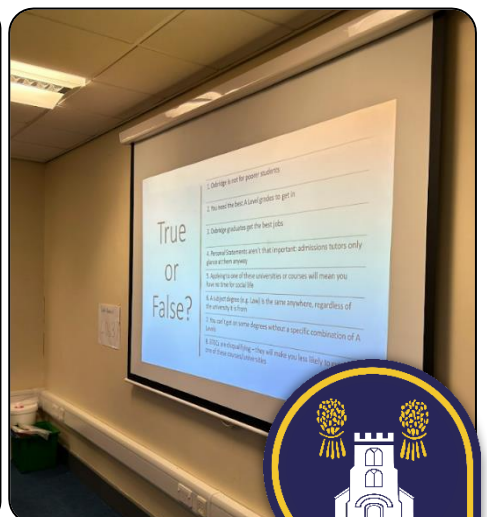
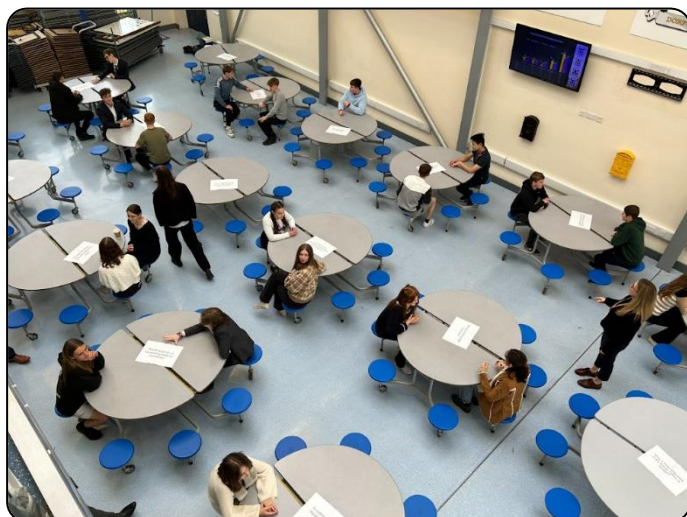
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Year 12 Attend The Academic Conference

On Wednesday 22nd of November, a group of Year 12 students, accompanied by Mr Fu, attended an Academic Conference at Malbank School. The Academic Conference was aimed at Higher Able Learners and those who might intend to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry or other competitive courses. This day consisted of a number of exciting and valuable activities. These include: debating, 'Hot Topic' discussions, 'How to get to Cambridge' and an Oxbridge presentation. The students who attended all made a really excellent account of themselves and found it really useful. Hopefully this will have helped to raise aspirations as they move towards their next exciting steps.



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Police Safety Sessions

We have recently been liaising with Cheshire Police on a schedule of safety presentations for students and parents, linked to some key areas of national concern for child safety.

These sessions will include:

- **Online Safety**
- **Knife crime**
- **Antisocial behaviour**
- **Drugs, vaping and county lines.**

Over the coming months, PC Andrew Cornall, youth engagement officer for Cheshire Police, will be in school delivering assemblies to each year group on the topics above. We are also running parental awareness sessions, to ensure that you as parents can hear some of these key messages, and crucially have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you have with the Police and with our welfare teams. A full schedule of these presentations is below. Further details will follow on how parents can sign up to these sessions.

Upcoming Year Group Assemblies

Date	Year Group	Session
11 th December 2023	Year 9	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
12 th December 2023	Year 11	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
15 th December 2023	Tear 10	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
15 th January 2024	Year 7	Online Safety
16 th January 2024	Year 11	Online Safety
17 th January 2024	Year 10	Online Safety
18 th January 2024	Year 8	Online Safety
19 th January 2024	Year 9	Online Safety
13 th February 2024	Year 11	Antisocial Behaviour
14 th February 2024	Year 10	Antisocial Behaviour
15 th February 2024	Year 8	Antisocial Behaviour
16 th February 2024	Year 9	Antisocial Behaviour
25 th March 2024	Year 9	Knife Crime
26 th March 2024	Year 11	Knife Crime
27 th March 2024	Year 10	Knife Crime

Parents' Information Sessions

Date	Session
5 th December 2023	Online Safety
9 th January 2024	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
5 th March 2024	Online Safety
23 rd April 2024	Drugs, vaping, County Lines



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'Careers Corner'

The careers programme for this year for Years 7-11 can be viewed on the school website using the route: [curriculum & learning/careers/programme](#).

This weeks careers clip. Please click play on the image.



Sign up or miss out

FULLY FUNDED Taster Sessions



Why Creativity Matters; exploring careers in the creative sector with Severn Arts – Severn Arts

DISCOVERY WORKSHOP
Weds 6th Dec 10.00 – 11.00am
Opportunity ID – PL 5188

[Apply now](#)



Dive into Data, AI and Beyond – Intermediate Level + Returning Students. Student must have completed Kainos 'Data, AI & Beyond Beginners Session' to book on.

VIRTUAL INSIGHT DAY
Wed 15th Dec 10.00 – 3.00pm
Opportunity ID – PL 5521

[Apply now](#)



Discovering Boots – A deep dive into the many careers within this iconic brand.

VIRTUAL INSIGHT SESSION
Starts Wed 10th Jan
Ends Wed 10th March
15.30 – 17.00pm
Opportunity ID – PL 5488

[Apply now](#)



Women making their mark in the Army. Come armed with questions, grow your skills by engaging in this unique & interactive session.

VIRTUAL INSIGHT DAY
Tue 23rd Jan 11.00-12.00am
Opportunity ID – PL 4847

[Apply now](#)



Hidden non clinical roles within South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and the NHS

VIRTUAL INSIGHT DAY
Thurs 25nd Jan 10.00 – 12.30am
Opportunity ID – PL 5033

[Apply now](#)



Get plugged in to the Music Industry with the University of Huddersfield

VIRTUAL INSIGHT DAY
Weds 31st Jan 10.00am – 2.30pm
Opportunity ID – PL 5621

[Apply now](#)

Discovery Workshops are group bookings by educators only.

Please click the ad above to access a web page with clickable links!



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Remembrance Sunday

The School was ably represented by members of the Holmes Chapel Youth Council & the Sixth Form last Sunday. Despite blustery and wet conditions, the parade around the village was well supported and the students paid their respects in the service both inside and outside of St. Luke's.



Moments like these are sombre affairs but they always leave a lasting and positive impression on all those who participated.

Amber Fox, Brianna Hamilton, Sophia Dooley & Tabby Gilchrist represented the School and Youth Council and George Hankey & Lucinda Columbine-Corlett represented the Sixth Form.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

BookTrust
Bookbuzz



Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading.

Participating schools and their students are given the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 16 titles. Each book has been carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, sustainability and to encourage reading for pleasure.



Over the next two weeks, our Year 8 students will be receiving their chosen book in their LRC lessons. It has been great to see a huge buzz of excitement around the LRC during these lessons so far!



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Book of the Week

Our Book of the Week is shared with students during tutor time each week. Students are given the opportunity to read the blurb, make predictions and discuss their thoughts.

Each title is available to students in the LRC if this discussion ignites a desire to read.

This week's title is the popular 'The Final Gambit' by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Next term, our Book of the Week titles will all be titles which have been shortlisted for the Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2024!

[Click the image to enlarge](#)

OF THE WEEK

BOOK

JENNIFER LYNN BARNES
THE FINAL GAMBIT

EVERY'S FORTUNE, LIFE, AND LOVES ARE ON THE LINE IN THE GAME THAT EVERYONE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT.

TO RIBERTY BILLIONS, ALL AVERY KYLE GRAMBS HAS TO DO IS SURVIVE A FEW MORE WEEKS LIVING IN HAWTHORNE HOUSE. THE PAPAZZI ARE DOGGING HER EVERY STEP. FINANCIAL PRESSURES ARE BUILDING. DANGER IS A FACT OF LIFE, AND THE ONLY THING GETTING AVERY THROUGH IT ALL IS THE HAWTHORNE BROTHERS. HER LIFE IS INTERTWINED WITH THEIRS. SHE KNOWS THEIR SECRETS, AND THEY KNOW HER.

BUT AS THE CLOCK TICKS DOWN TO THE MOMENT WHEN AVERY WILL BECOME THE RICHEST TEENAGER ON THE PLANET, TROUBLE ARRIVES IN THE FORM OF A VISITOR WHO NEEDS HER HELP—AND WHOSE PRESENCE IN HAWTHORNE HOUSE COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING. IT SOON BECOMES CLEAR THAT THERE IS ONE LAST PUZZLE TO SOLVE, AND AVERY AND THE HAWTHORNE BROTHERS ARE DRAWN INTO A DANGEROUS GAME AGAINST AN UNKNOWN AND POWERFUL PLAYER.

SECRETS UPON SECRETS. RIDDLES UPON RIDDLES. IN THIS GAME, THERE ARE HEARTS AND LIVES AT STAKE —AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE HAWTHORNE THAN WINNING.

#HCCSLRC

Book Recommendations

Over the last few years, Graphic Novels have become a hugely popular part of reading for pleasure amongst Secondary School students. Graphic novels can help to develop both visual and written literacy skills because the illustrations used tell parts of the story. This can help to increase reading comprehension.

They are fast-paced, fun and can attract the most reluctant readers. The LRC holds a range of Graphic Novels for every genre, fiction or non-fiction. There is something for everyone!



HCCS' FAMILY CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Wednesday 6th December
After School
Theatre (Sixth Form Building)

- Tombola & Raffle
- Mince pies & Refreshments
- Festive Music

TICKETS:
table = £10
(max 6 people)

All proceeds donated to charity



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HCCS Christmas Quiz Plea

We are looking forward to welcoming your families to our big fat HCCS Christmas Quiz this year on Wednesday 6th December .

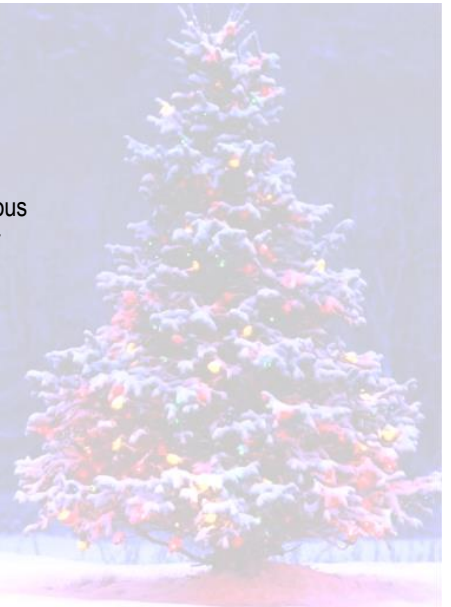
In order to run this fun filled family event, we are appealing to your generous selves in the hope that you can give a little this Christmas. We'd be super grateful if you could donate any items for the raffle & tombola:

**Bottles, Food gifts, Hampers, Gift vouchers, Gift sets
Flowers/plants , Books/DVDs, Toys**

Thank you in advance for all of your support

Your House Leaders

Miss Kelman, Mr Sneddon, Mr Bell & Mr Mitchell



GET INVOLVED WITH THE SHOEBOX APPEAL THIS YEAR....

Teams4u needs **YOU** this year to support their shoebox appeal. From your hands to theirs your shoebox will be given to a vulnerable child or family, distributed, through schools, nurseries, hospitals, and orphanages in Eastern Europe.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

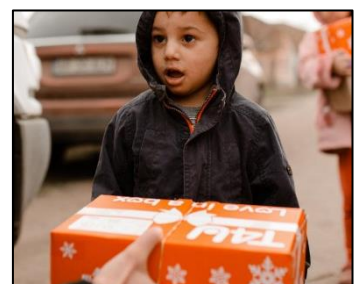
It doesn't take much! It's as simple as bringing in a tube of toothpaste, a pack of colouring pens or even just a small toy. HCCS needs students to get engaged this year and bring in items and/or shoeboxes to help those in need this Christmas.

ANY SMALL ITEMS eg. toothpaste, small toys, colouring pencils can be brought on their own if you cannot create a shoebox!!! Please note that any donation goes towards a box and is greatly appreciated. These donations will be rewarded by achieving **2HP** for your house!! **You can also support by bringing in £1 to cover shipping fees.**

If you are interested in making a larger donation, such as creating your own shoebox, this will earn you **10HP** and this is a... **HOUSE COMPETITION!** **You will also need to enclose £3 to cover shipping fees.**

ALL ITEMS MUST BE GIVEN INTO TUTORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN CREATE, PACK & ORGANISE THESE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE TEAMS4U TEAM.

For more information: <https://teams4u.com/shoe-box-appeal-2023/>



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Football Results

Congratulations to our Year 8 footballers! The girls and boys contribute to March on in the Cheshire cup!

Our year 8 girls await their opponents in the next round whilst the boys this week played Rudheath and Weaverham winning both matches comfortably.

These footballers are epic, and if you ever get the chance to watch them please take it!



Cheshire Netball Nationals Saturday 18th November 2023

On Saturday 18th November was our Year 11 Netball teams final tournament as a squad. This was always going to be tough but our girls were fantastic. They never gave up all day, showing determination, team spirit and friendship. They were up against some tough teams in Upton, The Kings Chester, Wilmslow and Lymm High school. All of our games were close, only losing by 1 or 2 and with a little extra time our girls would have finished the games on top. It's always hard in short 6 minutes each way, but this did not dampen the girls spirits. It was such an enjoyable morning being with the girls and all of their parents who came to watch in support, so a big thank you from me.



Well done to everyone, you have been an unbelievable team on and off the court and it has been a pleasure to have seen you all grow throughout the years at school. Thanks for being amazing and always striving to be the best you can be. I am so proud of all you have achieved.

Mrs Mee

Primary Dance Events

Over the last two weeks 200 primary students have attended our Primary Dance Events. This year the theme was Musical Mayhem, the dancers created dances based on the hit musicals Aladdin, The Little Mermaid and Annie.

Our Dance Leaders assisted with the events. They were a huge success. Well done to all involved! Mrs Thomas



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