



Dear all,

Half way into January seems a bit late for 'Happy New Year' but as it's the first newsletter of 2022, it seems that I can still get away with it. I hope that 2022 is a great year for all of you and that we are all able to feel happy, valued and fulfilled and our children enjoy every success. I hope you all had some quality family time over the festive season and were able to be together and celebrate. Now we are into the new term, It's great to be back in school and seeing all of the children again.



The start of term has been very smooth. We are sticking with our 'safer' protocols and we are making sure that our children are staying on track in their learning. All of the lessons I have seen have been well delivered, calm and purposeful. Our children are working hard, there is a happy buzz about the place and they have been a pleasure to be with.

On the Covid issue, we still have a low number of positives in the school with only a few of our staff affected by the virus. A very small number of teachers have had to isolate but where possible and when they are feeling well enough, they have been delivering live streamed lessons into their classrooms. Our colleagues in the admin and support teams are doing the same, keeping the school running by continuing to work from home if they are having to isolate. I am very grateful for this and I think we all would like to thank staff for their efforts to maintain high quality learning in a well run and well supported school.

It's worth recognising that not everyone has had an easy time in the last few weeks and we are continuing to support a number of children and families as they work through some challenges and difficult times. Our welfare team continues to reach out to families and children so that they are cared for, feel safe, comfortable and valued. This is such important work and is something we should feel proud of as part of a warm and caring community. I'm sure we are all continuing to pull together and look after each other as best as we are able.

As the Covid pandemic further develops, we will keep you well informed about any changes to our existing measures. For now, we are remaining in masks and are still encouraging clean hands and well ventilated classrooms. Thanks to everyone for engaging in testing and vaccination. This week over 500 vaccinations were delivered to our children by the healthcare team and most families continue to log regular test results so that we are well informed.



In the next few weeks, many of our children will take part in some form of assessment process. Keeping the children on track in their learning is key to securing their very best outcomes. I fully expect that external examinations for years 11 and 13 will go ahead in the summer. Whatever our personal views might be about national exams, being fully prepared for these is critical and we must support our children at home and at school so that they are ready to do their best. Our internal trial exams have always proven to be excellent in ensuring that children are familiar with the format of how 'big hall' examinations run and means that children are more confident when the final summer exams take place. Trial exams for years 11 and 13 take place the week before February half term and the time to put in a couple of hours revision every day is now.



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This week, I have instructed all teaching staff not to ask children to use their mobile phone as part of any planned lesson activities. Mobiles can be really useful for some aspects of learning but this blurs the line about when it is acceptable and not to use a mobile phone. It also potentially creates an equality of access issue for children who do not bring a mobile to school. Also, many of the issues we deal with in school have a root in inappropriate use of social media, filming and taking pictures without consent and children messaging each other during lessons. I'm sure you will agree that these issues can distract from learning and impact on our children's sense of wellbeing, safety and happiness. I am looking closely at the issue of mobile phones in school. I intend to establish much tighter rules around this difficult issue and would like to ask for your full support in this. I will communicate any changes to existing rules about mobiles in good time for you to talk to your children about them. For now, can I ask you to remind your children that their mobile should not be used at any time during the school day.

I'm looking forward to another great term at school and a fulfilling, successful one for all of our children. Warm regards and thanks for your ongoing support. Stronger together.

Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



Year 9 Options Process

The process of finalising GCSE and BTEC option choices is now well underway. Thank you to all Year 9 students and families for engaging so positively with the options process and submitting choices on time. Mrs Gosset will contact you directly should any further discussion or refinement of your options be required. We look forward to being able to formally confirm all option choices at the end of February.

Amazing Week in the 6th Form!

Another busy week in the 6th Form.

Year 12 will have completed their first mock exams in the 6th form. For A-level students, it will be the first major review point as they approach the halfway mark of their first year.

The key message is to make sure they take on board the feedback, look at where they are and what they need to do to reach their targets and keep progressing.

Year 11 students joined us in the 6th Form for Taster Days for A-Level, BTEC and Vocational pathways. Taster sessions in 31 different subject areas took place, alongside workshops with 5 visiting colleges and apprenticeship specialists. Students got to experience life in the 6th form and a taste of the 6th form cafe. The energy around the 6th Form and the buzz in the social area were fantastic.

This is part of the enrollment process for the 6th form and post-16 options and hopefully students have more information from which to make their final decisions next month.

Visiting speakers for the vocational pathway sessions from Reaseheath, South Cheshire and UTC Crewe were highly impressed with the ambition and enthusiasm of our students in those sessions. Students should be finalising their choices in the coming few weeks and Entry Forms and Option Blocks for 2022-2023 will be released in February.



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Amazing Week in the 6th Form! – Continued

Year 13 had two incredible enrichment mornings. On Tuesday, Cheshire Police Constabulary and PC Darren Daniels brought home the importance of road awareness and the responsibilities of driving safely. On Thursday, Mrs Thomas and Cliff led the Year 13s on First Aid Awareness. Essential life skills!

I want to add my personal thanks to Mrs Greeney (6th Form Student Manager), Mrs Jackson (Careers Adviser), Mrs Thomas (6th Form Intervention Manager) and Mrs Cliff (School Medical Officer) for all their efforts. It takes an incredible amount of time and dedication to make such events happen and I hope our students have reaped the benefits of all their hard work.



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Alumni News!

It's always great to hear from our former 6th Form students and Dan Cartwright emailed us about work he is doing in Germany.

Daniel Cartwright, one of our former HCCS students is currently volunteering in Germany at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp memorial site. Daniel did a Theology degree at the University of Nottingham, and then went to Belgium to study for a Master degree. He then decided that a bit of life experience was required outside of academia and so is doing a year's internship with Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ASF). He is based in Hamburg and has been involved in exhibitions, archiving, and setting up the first Tiktok account for a concentration camp, with the aim of sharing information about the concentration camp and the work they do. The volunteers also visit holocaust survivors and their families and work towards helping to make a more peaceful, just and tolerant world.

More information on the organisation can be found at <https://www.asf-ev.de/english/start/> and their tiktok account is

<https://www.tiktok.com/@neuengamme.memorial>
<https://vm.tiktok.com/ZM87B7Kde/>

@neuengamme.memorial

Welcome to our TikTok

#concentrationcampmemorial
#neuengamme #historytok #hamburg
#memorial #learningonTikTok
#learnwithme #Shoahawareness
#holocaust

🎵 Stories 2



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Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Lower School News

Happy New Year from The Lower School Team and thank you for a successful first term in The Lower School at HCCS!



Engaging with learning

Google Classroom

Following their first reports last term, thank you to those parents and carers who have worked with children to complete the second part of their Learning Passport on The Google Classroom. If you have not yet completed this with your child or looked at what they have been working on here, please ask them to show you on The Google Classroom. In addition to understanding what your child has particularly enjoyed, remembered or possibly struggled with over the term, you may also wish to view what the different Faculty Programmes of Study look like and, indeed, what is coming this term. This information can be found on the Curriculum tab of our website or by just clicking here.

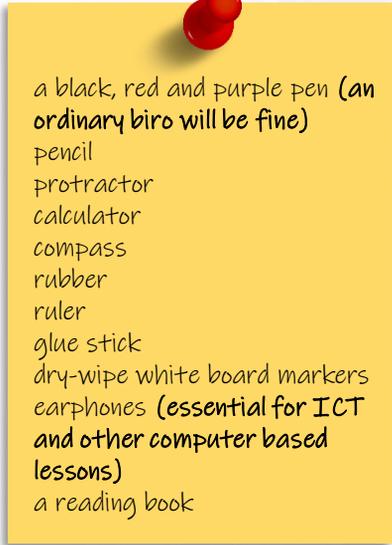
Another brilliant way to engage with your child's learning is to have a look at the work they are completing in their exercise books or electronically on The Google Classroom. We appreciate how busy lives can be but showing interest in learning in this way is a great way to understand your child's experience at school as well as giving them encouragement and support.

Coming up next week

Next week, students in Lower School will be completing their second STAR reading test with Accelerated Reader. This will give us an indication of the level of reading book students should be reading in order to help them make the most progress with their reading development. It will also show us their reading progress from the start of the year.

On Thursday, we are hosting a Year 7 Parent Forum where parents will provide their views on how we might make further improvements to our Lower School provision. We will inform you of the outcomes of this forum in due course.

On Friday tutor time in Lower School assembly, we will conduct a live equipment check. Please be reminded of the following equipment required for the school day:



Coming up in the future

For any families struggling with any of these requirements, please contact tutors or The Lower School Hub Team so that we can help you.

Parents' Evening for Year 7 is on Thursday 3 February.

We were sorry to have to announce last week that our annual trip to Menai has been cancelled and we are working on alternatives so that Year 7 can hopefully partake in a residential experience this year.

We are also planning a Year 8 graduation event towards the end of the year in addition to our Summer Festival.

We have many exciting literacy events, including some performance poetry and an author visit (Tom Palmer) so please watch this space for more information.

In our next newsletter, we will publish a survey so that, in addition to the Year 7 forum, there is a chance for all members of our community to express their views and feedback.

Thank you for your continued support. Keep smiling! The Lower School Hub Team



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Recovery Curriculum

Our Covid Recovery Curriculum support is well under way now with Mr Percival meeting with some of our year 11 students to ensure they are prepared for their upcoming mock exams. He's been meeting with students to go through the feedback in their books and assessments to ensure they know exactly what their next steps are. He has also started on some subject specific interventions and meets students once a week for targeted revision in chemistry and geography and will be starting some additional subject support next week.



At tutor time our intervention specialists have been coaching students through a really vital revision programme ahead of the mocks and the students have responded really well to this; they can already see the progress they have made and are able to replicate the process now for other subjects and at home in their own time.

All About **ME** :Jo Glover



Hello, My name is Jo Glover and I am the new Director of SEND at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive school. Almost two weeks into my new role and I am thoroughly enjoying being part of this school and the community. I will be overseeing the strategic developments of special educational needs at HCCS ensuring that the best outcomes are reached for all pupils and I will endeavour to make sure that our provision is outstanding. As you may be aware we are excited to be opening a new resourced provision for Cheshire East, for students with Social, Emotional Mental Health difficulties. As you can imagine these barriers to education have only intensified for so many students since the start of the pandemic. I am looking forward to being able to share some of my 18 years experience and hopefully reduce some of the barriers for these students, so that they can successfully access their education here at HCCS.

As I continue to learn about the school and its processes I would welcome any feedback from stakeholders of SEN, so please don't hesitate to get in touch. joanne.glover@hccs.info I look forward to meeting many of you in person in the future.



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Year 7 Parents' Online Consultation Evening Thursday 3rd February, 2022

You and your child/children are invited to take part in the Parents' Online Consultation Evening on Thursday 3rd February to discuss your son/daughter's progress with his/her teachers. Appointments can be made between 4 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

The online appointment booking system for Year 7 will become "live" at 7pm on Monday 24th January. The system will close at midnight on Sunday 30th January.



[Click here](#) to read more



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Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Upcoming February Trial Examinations - Year 11 and 13

A reminder that our February Trial Examination week starts on Friday the 10th of February and finishes on the 18th. Please continue to support the revision and learning habits of your children.



Your children should aim for 2 hours of additional study after the school day. This can include activities such as homework to consolidate understanding. More information, including the specific exam timetable, will be published shortly.

There are lots of good resources online to help. Here is a selection.

Revision strategies

- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/revision-exams-making-the-grade>
- <https://www.whatuni.com/advice/student-life/top-gcse-revision-tips-and-techniques/83434/>
- <https://getadapt.co.uk/blog/revision/revision-methods>

Revision sites and apps

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://senecalarning.com/en-GB/>
- <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>
- <https://www.flipdapp.co/>



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Vacancies

We have a number of vacancies in school as follows:

- Resource Provision – Student Manager
- Resource Provision – Lead Practitioner
- General Teaching Assistants
- Estates and Facilities Officer
- Midday Supervisors

If you would like to know more please contact Sarah Bradney for an informal chat and visit the school [website](#) for job descriptions and further information.



= Eedi

A free maths learning platform to boost maths confidence, improve grades and win prizes!

Eedi has offered all Year 5 to Year 11 families at our school free access to the Eedi platform, a free maths learning platform designed to motivate children to build maths confidence and improve maths grades.

[Click here for more information](#)



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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Introducing 'The High Council'

In September 2021, we set up the Holmes Chapel 'High Council'. This is our student led leadership body representing the whole school. 32 Students are now part of the student high council. In addition to this we advertised for a chair and a vice chair.

Tabitha Ranfield - Year 9

Hi, I'm Tabitha and I'm on the Diversity Committee in the High Council. I like to draw and paint and I love going rock climbing with my sister and cooking dinner with her afterwards! I like to think I'm a good friend and make people happy.

I want to represent people who have felt marginalised and I want to try and make school a better and more accessible place for everyone. I want to achieve a fully accessible and joyful school/school experience for everyone, especially people from minorities and victimised communities to make our school inclusive for everyone, and a truly representative place to be.



Aurelia Pemberton - Year 7

My name is Aurelia Pemberton and I am in Year 7. Some of my interests are photography and I particularly enjoy History. I would love to learn about the Battle Of Roses in the 15th century! I am good at Art and really enjoy drawing pictures of beautiful flowers. I want to represent the Student Body because I have always been interested in getting involved in the school, and I feel that I have been given the opportunity to do so in a unique and positive way. I will bring exciting new ideas to the school and be involved in making our school a better place for everyone. I want to raise issues that the students or teachers may be concerned about, making sure that everyone is involved in the decision making process around the school. I am particularly focused on issues surrounding equality in our school amongst our teachers and peers, and I feel that through the high council I will be able to do so. I am enjoying my time on the high council so far, and I am grateful to be chosen for this role.



Millie Allen - Year 9

My name is Millie and I am in Year 9. I decided I wanted to be part of the High Council as I believe it gives me the opportunity to represent and make a difference to the school community. Being part of the High Council, I would like to make sure everybody feels like they have a voice and they will be listened to. I also hope that I can support new ideas in moving the school forward especially with ideas that arise from our meetings, and the voice of the students in consultation with our High Council leads and members of staff.

I like to believe that I will play a beneficial role in the High Council as my special skills include being organised, friendly and approachable, good at problem solving and effective at seeing other's perspectives which I believe could come to great use in the High Council. I am currently enjoying my second year of being part of the student panel. This role is another valuable way of utilising the skills I currently have and additionally to develop new skills that will enable me to grow further. These qualities I also feel will be valuable to bring to my new position as part of the High Council.

My personal interests and hobbies include reading and outdoor activities such as walking, paddle boarding and bouldering.



Ted Bark Jones - 6th Form

Hi I am Ted Bark-Jones in Year 12, I am interested in the environment around school and helping to protect it and keeping it safe and clean for everyone. I would say I am good at understanding lots of things about the environment and persuading people to do things that help benefit our environment, such as stopping litter and waste which contribute to lots of issues, not just in schools but to the wider population.

I wanted to represent the student body as I think it is a great thing to be involved in and I am very passionate about helping the environment and keeping it safe. I hope to achieve an overall more clean environment and stop waste in school by trying to influence members of school to stop littering or potentially harming the schools areas, as they have quite a lot of it, as well as trying to reduce waste in things such as paper.



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Christmas Fun – Staff Vs Students Netball

What a great turn out by students and staff for some festive netball fun.

The students were so excited to be competing against the PE department and staff on Monday 13th December. Staff began warming up, psyching the students out to hopefully gain an advantage.

The students were such good fun, all getting involved in a variety of positions and roles, in particular pulling Mr Mitchell up for constant rule breaking hoping to give the students an advantage, but there was no stopping our staff with Mrs Guy, Mr Mitchell and Mr Capewell in defence linking great with Mrs Thomas at Centre to Mrs Mee and Miss Gossett, who's shooting was on point. Staff definitely edged the win :)

Everyone had such a great time, some much needed fun at this time of year.

It was great to see all the students together enjoying the last week of term, ending on a high with some Festive Netball fun. Fantastic evening.



Year 7 & 8 Christmas Fun Netball

What a fantastic night of netball to end the first term with some festive fun.

The Year 7 and 8 netballers all turned up to play in some Christmas netball games. All the students got fully involved in dressing up in fun Christmas props adding to the festivities.

It was great to see all the students together enjoying the last week of term, ending on a high. Well done everyone on a great term, and we are looking forward to an amazing 2022 of netball getting back on track after a challenging couple of years. Well done to all involved, we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



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CEIAS Special educational needs (SEN) support workshop

Cheshire East Information Advice and Support Service are holding
an online parent and carers workshop on Thursday 10th February
between 10am and 11.30am

This is an online event via Microsoft Teams

To book a place on this workshop please contact us via email:
ceias@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can call us on 0300 123 5166

(Please leave a quick message as the team are continuing to work
remotely at this present time)

**We will send you a link to join online the day before the
event**

Many thanks

The CEIAS Team



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