



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Date: 20th October 2023



Dear all,

At the start of the term, I delivered an assembly on a Finnish value and trait "Sisu". "Sisu" is described as the ability to show determination and courage particularly when there is adversity. This theory can be utilised to help secure high academic performance as it recognises the need for perseverance, courage, inner strength and grit. As we progress through our next half term, (and the final one before the Year 11 internal examinations begin) it is important for our students to demonstrate embrace these principles by:

1. Supporting others
2. Leading by example
3. Maintaining a positive attitude
4. Seeking support and resources
5. Celebrating small wins
6. Setting bold goals
7. Being resilient and maintaining a passion for learning

Throughout this half term, our community has become even more culturally diverse with our new intake of students. This is reflected in the 40 different languages now spoken across the school. It has been great to see new students welcomed into their classes and tutor group. A key component of integration into our community is seen through the positive support and interaction amongst peers. Sharing our cultures and experiences will continue to strengthen us as a school community.

We started this half term with your support at our parent information events. I continue to be grateful for your continued support as the half term has progressed. I hope you have a great half term as a family.

Laura Warren
Director of Upper School

UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



SAVE THE DATE

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING



9th November 2023

4.30pm – 6.25pm

Please see the letter from Mr Gallagher
for more information



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 20th October 2023



UPPER SCHOOL EDITION

Unannounced Inspection by Ofsted

On Thursday of last week I wrote to parents informing them that we had welcomed into school a team of inspectors working for Ofsted with a remit to carry out an inspection visit focussing on safeguarding, behaviour, safety of children, leadership and management and quality of education.

The inspectors met and talked with a wide range of students and staff. The inspectors were free to speak to anyone that they wanted to and observe lessons at any time as well as visiting our tutor time at the start of the day.



In addition, the inspection team spent time in between lessons and at lunch and breaks out and about with the children and also visited the restaurant and snack shack.

The six inspectors carried out a very thorough and wide ranging review of life as a student at our school as well as exploring in great detail our systems and processes.

In addition, 226 responses were received on the Ofsted Parent View site, so thank you to everyone who took part.

Overall, this has been a very positive experience and the inspection team managed the process in an extremely diligent and professional manner. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the students and staff that the inspection team chose to talk to. The inspection team reported to us that they had no concerns about the areas that they came to look at.

Following the inspection, a report will be published by Ofsted and will be made available to all of our families. The safety of our school community is our priority and we welcome this inspection and the opportunity to further support the continued development of a safe and secure environment in which our children can flourish.

Nigel Bielby

Headteacher

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form



Date: 20th October 2023



HOLMES CHAPEL 6TH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING



On Thursday 12th of October we held our Sixth Form Open Evening. The attendance at this event, from both our current Year 11 students and those from other schools, was excellent. All of the Year 11 students who attended did so with a brilliant attitude. They arrived with an open mind, ready to engage and ask pertinent questions of the staff and students there in support of the event. We were delighted with the event and the engaging interest from the Year 11 students that attended.

Next Steps: Year 11 students can find an application for Sixth Form inside the pack they received on Open Evening. Students can complete this form, selecting subject choices from each of the blocks. Please read the information provided on this. If students were not able to attend the Open Evening, they are able to collect a pack from us in the Sixth Form building. Inside the pack you will find information such as the application form, the application process as well as entry requirements. Application forms can also be found online, on the Sixth Form area of the website. We ask that application forms can be returned to us by Friday 24th of November. Students can change their subject options, within the blocks, up until GCSE results day. Students will be given the opportunity to take part in a guidance meeting with a senior member of staff, by the end of January, where they will be able to discuss their future plans.

Taster Days

As part of helping students to decide what subject option choices they would like to make in the Sixth Form, students have been given the opportunity to take part in a Sixth Form Experience day. These will take place on either Tuesday 31st of October or Wednesday 1st of November, depending on which house students are in. Students involved in these days are invited to come in wearing their own clothes. They will attend their tutor time in the morning, as normal, before commencing their day.

The students who have elected to take part in the Vocation morning, will be expected to wear their school uniform and will attend lessons as normal in the afternoon.

If you have any questions at all about this or any part of the application process please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Sixth Form team. You can do this by emailing us on sixthform@hccs.info.

Best wishes

Jo Camm
Director of Sixth Form





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House Points

Well done to the following students who have the highest number of positive house points across the whole school - this is a hugely impressive achievement.



Harriet A 10MF, Louise B 9LS, Eleanor B 11SP, Yasmin B 10MF, Harry C 10MF, Jack C 10JB, Max D 10MF, Emily E 10MF, Charlie F 9NG, Luke HS 10MF, Maddie H 10MF, Charlotte H 11CK, Lanark M 9NG, Bethan M 11DW, Sophia P 11DW, Immy R 9LS, Aaron R 10VM, Riley S 10JB, Meg Stone 9NG, Alfie T 11SP

Year 10 Work experience w/b April 29th 2024

Thank you again to those parents/carers who have so far arranged a work placement for their sons/daughters.

The forms for completion are on the school website: [Key information/work experience](#)

You can also click the icons below to download or fill them in.

Forms can either be done online, or printed and handed in to the school office. It is helpful, if when arranging the placement you obtain the employer email so that the forms can be emailed to them directly.

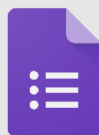
Mr Baker Work Experience Co-ordinator

graham.baker@hccs.info

To be completed by student/parent



Self Placement form - **Student**



Parent/Carer Consent Form

To be completed by employer



Self Placement form - **Company**



Risk Assessment Checklist

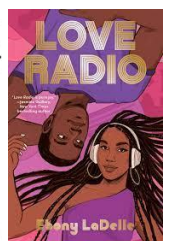
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Black History Month

October is Black History Month, where we collectively recognise the contributions of Black people to British society and globally. The theme this year is 'Saluting our Sister', specifically celebrating and highlighting the achievements of Black Women. In the LRC we have a dedicated display for students with relevant literature, newspapers and articles available.



Here are a selection of recommended reads



UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 20th October 2023

Year 9

Please [click here](#) to find out what Year 9 students will be studying during Half Term 2 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback

Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update

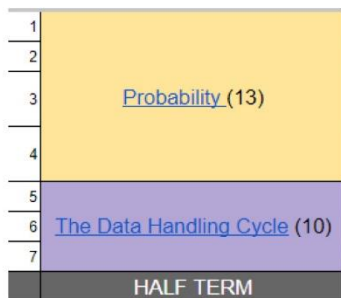


Year Group: Year 9

Class Details:

CLASS	9X1a	9X1b	9X1c	9X2	9X3
Teachers	Mr Edwards	Miss Keiman	Ms Watmough	Mrs Hall	Mrs Stevens
CLASS	9Y1a	9Y1b	9Y1c	9Y2	
Teachers	Ms Laskowska	Miss Keiman	Miss Eustis	Mrs Hall	

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:



- **Probability** - We've looked at the likelihood of events occurring, used words / fractions / decimals / percentages to describe probabilities and also focused on more specific representations such as Venn diagrams, sample space and two-way tables.
- **Data Handling Cycle** - We've spent time looking at each stage of this cycle including collecting & recording data, representing data using charts & graphs as well as interpreting the data.
- **Key Terms:** Likely, Unlikely, Evens, Impossible, Certain, Scale, Sample Space, Hypothesis, Range, Intersection, Union, Complement, Mean, Median, Mode, Frequency

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:



Students have been regularly assessed using **green** end of topic tests (EOTT's) and have been receiving feedback from their teachers on **purple** sheets. This feedback focuses on key misconceptions, correcting their errors and improving their exam technique.

The Y9 Interim 1 Assessment will take place on **Tuesday 31st October**. A revision list for this can be found on the google classrooms - it consists of content covered this year and towards the end of Year 8. Students will receive written feedback on this and teachers will also deliver **Action** lessons. These consist of going through worked solutions, making corrections, discussing the mark scheme and working on similar questions to practise, improve and extend knowledge.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



9X1a	9X1b	9X1c	9X2	9X3
Charlie Fu	Poppy Ryan	Ben Couch	Sammy Birch	Lewis Grundy
9Y1a	9Y1b	9Y1c	9Y2	
Jack Bowden	Chris Houghton	Isabella Summers	Lynn Salem	



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 31st October: Interim 1 Assessment
- 8th December: Interim 1 Published
- 14th December: Parents Evening



WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3

UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

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Date: 20th October 2023

Year 10

Please [click here](#) to find out what Year 10 students will be studying during Half Term 2 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback

Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 10

Class Details:

CLASS	10X1a	10X1b	10X2	10X3	10X4	10X SB
Teachers	Miss Sneddon	Mr Barrett	Mrs Stevens	Ms Watmough	Mr Edwards	Mr Barratt
CLASS	10Y1a	10Y1b	10Y2	10Y3	10Y4	10Y SB
Teachers	Ms Laskowska	Miss Kelman	Miss Eustis	Mrs Buehling	Mrs Hall	Mr Barratt

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

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- Percentages of Amounts (with and without a calculator)
- Percentage increase and decrease (with and without a calculator)
- Repeated Percentage Change, Growth and Decay
- Finding an Original after a percentage change
- Simple and Compound Interest and Depreciation
- Wages and Taxes
- Bank Statements
- Exchange Rates
- Squares, Cubes, higher powers and Roots
- Index Laws (Addition, Subtraction and Multiplication Laws)
- Negative Indices
- Fractional Indices (Higher Content Only)

- **Key Terms:** Increase, Decrease, Debit, Credit, Balance, Profit, Loss, Interest, Depreciation, VAT, Tax, Salary, Gross pay, Net pay, Root, Indices.



ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

This week, our year 10 students sat their interim 1 assessments. The paper they were assessed on was composed of GCSE questions, from previous exam seasons, that were relevant to the topics and content that students have learned this half term, as well as some questions from content taught last year. Students will receive their results by 7th November. Their performance will influence the grade published on the Interim 1 report.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



10X1a	10X1b	10X2	10X3	10X4	10X SB
Peter Invernon	Luca Pacitto	Ollie Ramsay	India-Rose Bibbey	Jack Coulton	Alexa Semych
10Y1a	10Y1b	10Y2	10Y3	10Y4	10Y SB
Charlotte Green	Amelie Barratt	Theo Gloag	Lily Mitchell	Sam Salem	Taylor McCoy



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 24th November: Interim 1 Published



WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



NEWSLETTER

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Date: 20th October 2023

Year 11

Please [click here](#) to find out what Year 11 students will be studying during Half Term 2 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback

Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 11

CLASS	11X1	11X2	11X3	11X4	11X5	11X SB
Class Details: Teachers	Mrs Stevens	Mrs Hall	Miss Eustis Miss Sneddon	Miss Kelman Mrs Buehling	Ms Watmough	Mr Barratt
CLASS	11Y1	11Y2	11Y3	11Y4	11Y5	11Y SB
Teachers	Ms Laskowska Miss Kelman	Miss Sneddon	Mr Barrett Ms Laskowska	Mrs Buehling Mrs Whittaker	Miss Eustis	Mr Barratt

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

1	Working with circles (13)
2	
3	Vectors (10)
4	Types of number and sequences (7)
	Interim 1 Assessment
	HALF TERM

- Parts of a Circle
- Area of Circles and Sectors
- Circumference and Arc Length
- Volume of Cylinders, Cones and Spheres
- Surface Area of Cylinders, Cones and Spheres
- Circle Theorems (Higher Content Only)
- Interpreting and understanding vector notation
- Adding, Subtracting and Multiplying Vectors
- Vector Proofs (Higher Content Only)
- Factors, Highest Common Factor
- Multiples, Lowest Common Multiple
- Prime Factor Decomposition
- Types of Sequences (Arithmetic, Geometric and Fibonacci)
- Finding and using the Nth Term
- Quadratic Nth Term (Higher Content Only)

- **Key Terms:** Radius, Diameter, Tangent, Sector, Segment, "In terms of Pi", translation, Column Vector, common difference, common ratio, generate, product.



ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

Last week, our year 11 students sat their Interim 1 Assessment. This was in the form of a full practice exam calculator paper provided by our exam board, AQA. By the 31st October, students will receive their results in the form of a mark out of 80 along with a grade representative of the level of paper they sat. This grade will be reported as the maths "working at grade" on the interim 1 report. The next official assessment will be the January mock exams.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



11X1	11X2	11X3	11X4	11X5	11X SB
Charlie Ellis	Elizabeth Smith	Finn Morgan	Alex Moulding	Rubyrose Thomas	Alicia Young
11Y1	11Y2	11Y3	11Y4	11Y5	11Y SB
Charlotte Moss	Connie Williams	Kseniia Klokun	Ethan Fiske	Ruby Hillhouse	Mai-Sze Jukes



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 31st October and 1st November: 6th Form Taster Days
- 10th November: Interim 1 Published

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Encourage attendance to our after school sessions which take place on a Tuesday and Thursday afterschool until 4:15pm
- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3





Date: 20th October 2023



Sparx Maths

We have now completed our first half term using Sparx Maths to support the learning and progress of our students. Our new system has certainly created a buzz around school amongst staff and students as we become accustomed to our new and upgraded home-learning platform!

Parents and Carers should now be receiving regular email updates about their child's engagement and attainment on their weekly homeworks, and we are so pleased that these have been welcomed and appreciated by many; we greatly appreciate the support and encouragement that you offer your child to engage with and complete their maths homework.

We would like to remind everyone that we are actively encouraging students to achieve 100% on their homeworks, and the tasks that have been set should take approximately one hour to complete.

We understand that over this first half term, some tasks may have taken a little more or a little less time than this. This is because Sparx is an intelligent system that is in the process of establishing your child's attainment level. If your child has found the questions too easy and has completed the tasks quickly, Sparx will automatically adjust the difficulty level so that future tasks are more challenging. In the same way, if your child has found the questions difficult and the tasks have taken longer than an hour to complete, Sparx will adjust the difficulty level so that the questions become more accessible.

Whilst we appreciate that in the latter situation, your child may ask for help and support from you, it is vital that you don't help them with the maths questions themselves, but instead guide them to watch the helpful videos attached to each question; they should make notes in their books, and become accustomed to having several attempts at a question if necessary. This is how Sparx will establish if the questions are too hard. Too much support will mean Sparx thinks your child is working at a higher level than they currently are, and future questions will be set at an increased difficulty level.

Here's a helpful "how-to" guide for Parents: [Click here](#)

In addition, students must remember to record their answers either in their exercise books or on paper. This is because Sparx conducts "bookwork checks."

Here's a video explaining how the bookwork checks work – [Click here](#)

Your child's maths teacher has access to all of your child's homeworks. They can see which questions they have had several attempts at, the percentage they achieved, and the amount of time they spent on it. We actively encourage your child to see their teacher and seek help if a task is proving to be very difficult, and they will provide any help and guidance necessary.

If your child is struggling to access their homework on an appropriate device, they can work on a computer in the library at lunchtime or after school during any school day, and we also offer a Sparx drop-in session on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime at 12:30 in CR2 and CR3.

We have already seen an increase in the levels of progress being made, and an increase in confidence levels, of those students who are positively engaging with their weekly homeworks. This is a platform that will be instrumental in assisting your child's revision on the run up to exams; thorough and consistent engagement with the tasks we set them now will increase the familiarity they have with the programme, and this will in turn make accessing revision much easier.

If your child hasn't yet engaged with the platform, please support us in speaking to them about this, and we will provide as much help as we can during school hours.

As always, a huge thank you for all the extra support you offer! We look forward to celebrating with and rewarding those students who consistently demonstrate high levels of engagement at the end of each term.

The Maths Team



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 20th October 2023



Cheshire Schools' Book Award Announcement Evening

On Wednesday 11th October, we were lucky enough to be invited again to the Cheshire Schools' Book Award Announcement Evening. A selection of our LRC Assistants had the pleasure of meeting Josh Silver, YA author of Happy Head. Josh shared his expertise as a Mental Health Nurse for the NHS, his journey to becoming an author and his plans for the future. Our pupils enjoyed asking questions, talking to Silver about the books they have read and even shared some of their own writing journeys. Josh was blown away by our students and as a Literacy Team we were extremely proud to hear how impressed Josh was with our students and their maturity throughout the evening.



CHESHIRE SCHOOLS' BOOK AWARD 2024

YOUNGER AGE SHORTLIST

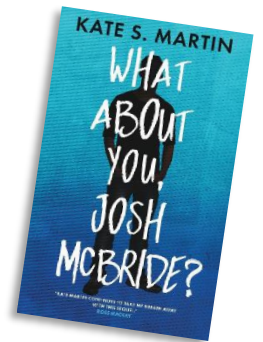
OLDER AGE SHORTLIST

#CSBA24
WWW.ELSCHESHIRE.ORG.UK

ELC
Peters



Congratulations Mrs Martin



Congratulations to our very own English teacher, Mrs Martin! The second book in her Mallowbank Series is released on October 24th, 2023. The book continues to encourage important discussions and empathy for the tough experiences those around us often face.

Synopsis: *Josh McBride was the angry, emotionally avoidant one, while Elliot was the invisible, anxious, carer. When they ended up in Cruxby together and discovered their family's history, that all had to change. Except, old habits were hard to break.*

If life had dealt them a different hand, they could have reached their potential. Elliot should have been a confident performer and Josh should have been able to perform in his courses to go on to joinery school.

But this isn't some fairy tale, and Josh can't stay in class, let alone an exam. He believes he's stupid and that's all there is to it. Elliot has a chance in the talent show if his audition goes well, but the anxiousness from his past creeps in from every angle.

Will these two be able to rise above their pasts and create their own destinies, or will their demons win in the end?

UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



Key Dates:



- 31st November & 1st December Sixth Form Taster Days for Year 11
- 9th November Year 9 Options Evening
- 10th November Year 11 Interim 1 published
- WB20th November School Production
- 24th November Year 10 Interim 1 published
- 6th December Winter Festival
- 8th December Year 9 Interim 1 published
- 14th December Year 9 Parents Evening
- 15th December Deadline for GCSE Option choices
- WB8th January Year 11 Assessments - Trial Examinations begin



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Date: 20th October 2023



Black History Month – Food Tech

To celebrate black history month some of our year 10 students have made Jerk Chicken with rice and peas. This is one of the most popular and delicious Jamaican dishes.



[Click here](#) for the recipe and to find out more on BHM

16-20 October 2023 Biology Week

National Biology Spelling Bee

To celebrate national biology week, students at HCCS competed in a national spelling bee competition.

Students challenged themselves to spell scientific words in tutor groups, with the winner of each year group being entered into the school and national finals.

Under a time pressure of 2 minutes, the finalists had to spell as many words correctly, with their score being entered into a national database.



Congratulations to the

finalists:

- Sam MC
- Ilesha N
- Emma W
- Iona F
- Esme K

UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



Local Cricket Winners

Lanark M in year 9 had a fantastic season in his cricket team, Elworth. They were the South Cheshire Junior Cricket U13 League and Cup winners this year. Well Done to you and your Team. Mrs Mee



British Indoor Karting Championships

John W in Year 9 came 2nd out of 18 in the British Indoor Karting Championships at TeamSport Stockton yesterday. This means that he's through to the National grand final at Warrington on Saturday 11th November streamed live on YouTube



NEWSLETTER

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Date: 20th October 2023



Hello Yellow

Thank you to everyone for taking part in #HelloYellow on World Mental Health Day; Tuesday 10th October. As part of our tutor time sessions we have been raising awareness and informing students about the importance of looking after their mental health.

#HelloYellow is Young Minds biggest campaign, taking place every year to promote World Mental Health Day. As a school we support the charity 'Young Minds' in raising the awareness of mental health.

Young Minds aims to create a future where all young children are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. Promoting the importance for our young people to get the best possible mental health support and developing resilience to overcome life's difficulties. We never know when we might need this support.

All of the proceeds we have raised will go to the charities; YoungMinds, Visyon and Papyrus who work to support young people's mental health.

Congratulations to Lydia Davenport who has raised £500 for Visyon by completing a skydive on her birthday. A phenomenal achievement! we are incredibly proud of you!



Is My Child Too Ill For School?

Please see the current guidelines from the NHS, which covers some of the current, more common ailments and viruses'.

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

Guidelines for sickness and diarrhoea, which may indicate a virus, still state children should not come to school and should remain away from school for 48 hours (2 days) after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.



Netball teams faced a tough day against Alsager

On Tuesday 10th October we faced a strong opposition from Alsager. We arrived at Alsager and firstly had a minute's applause to celebrate the life of an influential netball coach Pat Arnott who had inspired many students including those at Alsager. We were honoured to pay tribute to such an inspirational netball coach and teacher. Our girls yet again were a credit to the school, they never gave up and all wanted to succeed and do their best for each other. There is much to take from this game and plenty to work on in practice, but well done to all the teams on an enjoyable evening of netball.



UPPER SCHOOL EDITION



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Netball Teams Faced Congleton In Game 4 of the Season

Our year 11 team was outstanding, communicating as a team working together to come out with the win. The year 10's, who have been still finding their feet, were amazing today. I was so proud of their performance, their ability to all work together in a new squad of students was fantastic to see. Macy Parkinson-Sykes shooting was outstanding. Well done to all the teams, we still have lots to work on in training but it has been great to see so many students enjoying competing for school and improving their netball skills. Well done to all.



U16 Cheshire County Netball Tournament

On Saturday 7th October our year 11 team competed in the Cheshire county finals. It was an early start and the girls came ready to compete and do their best. The girls had to re-group only competing with a straight 7, but this did not phase them. All the team worked hard all morning, competing against the best in Cheshire. The day finished with the team making the Plate demi finals to be beaten narrowly by Bridgewater High school. Thank you girls for a fantastic weekend of netball, it is always great to see you perform and work together as a team. Thanks again to all the parents and for Mrs Thomas to come and support the girls on a Saturday.



UPPER SCHOOL EDITION

Parenthood...
The most rewarding job in the world
And also the toughest
Need some advice about your child's behaviour or emotions?
Contact YoungMinds Parents Helpline
0808 802 5544
youngminds.org.uk/parents



YOUNGMINDS

Holmes Chapel Village Volunteers

Gardening & Litter Picking

SATURDAY 28th October 10.00am

Come and join us at the Precinct at 10.00am everyone welcome.





NEWSLETTER

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Fluenz Booking Form



Please [click here](#) to download the booking form for the Fluenz nasal spray immunization clinic during October half term.



Parent Governors

Congratulations to our newly appointed governors **Anh Nowotny, Michael Woods, Rebecca Cowell and Jody Darlington.** Many thanks to all of our nominees and to all the parents who voted in the election. Your support is much appreciated.

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM PARENT CARER WORKSHOP

Supporting children with anxiety

Visyon's Families and Communities Team are pleased to offer a **90-minute Parent Carer Workshop** which will provide information, advice and strategies to increase knowledge and understanding to empower parents to support their children confidently and effectively.

The Workshop is **available to the families of the children** at Holmes Chapel comprehensive School and **will be held at the school** for **face to-face** delivery.

If you would like to book a place on the workshop, please email nikki.thomas@hccs.info who will contact you with further details. Please include a contact number in your email. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis.



Parent Carer Workshop:

Monday 6th November at 9.15 am - 10.45 am. Tea and coffee will be available from 8.30 onwards

UPPER SCHOOL EDITION