



*Dear all,*

It has been a busy few weeks as we near the last half of the final half term of the school year. September 2022 seems like yesterday and September 2023 feels like it's just around the corner! How much have our children grown and changed in what seems like such a short time? The pace of life can be incredible and it can feel very intense at times so I'd like to invite you to take a few moments to look back at the last year and think about the joys, successes, events and celebrations our children have been a part of as well as to think about the challenges and bumps in the road that they and we have worked through.



When our lives are so busy, it's sometimes tempting just to plough on through the year. On a very personal level, I always find it good for my own sense of wellbeing and mental health to pause now and then and to try and be still for a while and just be in the moment. Following a period of counselling and therapy, I've kept a 'well being' journal for about the last three years or so. It sounds like such a small thing but when I feel the need, I sit down somewhere quiet, outside in the fresh air if possible and take a step back from the mobile phone, the iPad, my laptop, Alexa, Netflix and all the other distractions and worries I have. Whilst I'm sat thinking, I write down all the good things that have happened in previous days, the people who have helped me, what I'm grateful for, positive experiences that I've had, what has made me feel happy and the things I feel I've had some success with. This isn't necessarily work oriented, it might be about family and friends, my life in general, about the sports and pastimes I enjoy or whatever else pops into my head. At a time when we are all so busy, half an hour of stillness and writing privately in this way is amazingly refreshing and it helps me reset myself so that I feel happy, grateful and resilient. It helps me to be a better person, to positively manage my emotions and to be more mindful. Have a go....our mental health, just like our physical health, has to be nurtured and invested in.

I am incredibly proud of the school and community that I serve. The vast majority of people who I have the privilege to encounter in my role as your Headteacher reflect the values we all hold dear here at school and behave in ways that reflect them.

**We learn together, we belong to this community, we are proud of ourselves and each other, we have consistently high expectations**

I have had a string of very kind emails from people who have reached out to say a thank you to someone here at our school or to find a reason to comment positively on how we are doing, and what we might consider to do better. The words that many of you have used express our four values so perfectly. Staff here have had a mountain of cards and gifts from year 11 and 13 students who have come to the end of their exams and wanted to express their gratitude and we have had countless examples of kind, grateful and warm emails, cards and even letters from families. These make such a difference to us here and always generate a positive feeling and lots of smiles so thank you to everyone who has taken the time.

Over the year we have had far more constructive, helpful and thoughtful conversations with families that mean that we can all feel valued, seen and heard and these are becoming the norm, even when the conversations are about a challenging or difficult situation. This is a really positive thing for us all to know and always means that we are more likely to be able to resolve issues collaboratively and with everyone feeling included and understood. It's not always like this though and as we near to the end of the year, I'd like to respectfully ask that although there might be aspects of school life and decisions that not everyone agrees on, rude, impolite, disrespectful behaviour and as well as using sensationalised and sometimes abusive language should not be something we ever expect of each other. It's perfectly normal for families to have questions and concerns but we should have a shared expectation that we approach these situations in a way that demonstrates that we value each other's contributions, we are able to share our thoughts in a safe space, that we listen and that we work together. I am sure that this is something that we all agree is important.



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# NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form College



## Preparing Learners for a Changing World

Here at school, we are busy continuing to improve our school in terms of our infrastructure. As we continue to grow as a school, maintaining a high quality environment is a key part of our planning. The 10 classroom new build is coming along at pace and looks amazing. The build is on track and is a final part of our current five year site development strategy. This extensive piece of work has delivered, amongst other things, a more secure site with fencing all around our perimeter, a refurbished Sixth Form college, three large outdoor covered spaces with access for all, a new reception building, a reconfigured and



refurbished suite of classrooms, new corridors to ease the flow of children from the front of school to the back, a new library, a new 15 place 'Resource Provision' for children with social, emotional and mental health needs and more recently fully renovated suites of toilet facilities. This was all made possible and managed by our Director of Operations, Tony Halsall. Tony is a member of the Core Leadership Team here at school and works with our external contractors and architects, the Local Authority, the Department for Education etc to make these improvements to our school possible. He also leads on our financial strategy, HR, site maintenance and IT infrastructure. Ensuring that our site remains high quality, our Core Leadership Team is meeting our architects to explore the site development strategy for the next five years so that we have a sustainable and affordable plan for a safe, high quality environment for our children and staff moving into the future.

Thanks for reading this newsletter again and I hope you enjoy the wealth of celebration about our children that it contains.

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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### Strike Days - 5th and 7th July

I wrote to you earlier this week about the next round of industrial action that will affect our school in the coming week. There is a great deal about this in the news which I'm sure you are all aware of and are following.

I'm aware that parents and carers have particular and sometimes very strong views and opinions about the industrial action and which year groups should be prioritised in terms of coming to school. I'd like to repeat that this is national industrial action being taken by the trade unions across the whole country regarding issues such as underfunding of the education sector, and pay. It is not a local dispute that Headteachers have control over



What I'd like to make clear is that my decision regarding how to act on any strike day is based on a case by case view of what we know we can safely deliver in terms of learning here in school and what we have learned from previous strike days. When I make the challenging decision about how many and which students I can safely bring into school, I do so by considering staffing levels on previous strike days and also on what lessons and subjects are programmed on the timetable. This provides a good understanding of which subject areas are more likely to be impacted on and so we select the year groups based on where impact on lessons in school is lowest. This allows me to make an informed decision about maintaining the best provision we can in these difficult circumstances. It's not a random choice or one based on a rota. Previously, we focused more on years 11 and 13 purely because the exams were so close.

We will continue to review the information that we have about any further industrial action as we move into the next academic year and keep you informed in a timely manner so that you can make plans

These are not decisions that I take lightly or without a great deal of consideration and Although strike days are by their nature disruptive, I'd like to thank you for your understanding and forbearance.



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### Student Leadership Team

I am delighted to introduce you to the newly appointed Student Leadership Team. The high standard of all students who applied this year was incredible. All students handled the process extremely well and with maturity. I very much look forward to working with them all over the course of the next year, where I know they will make a valuable and positive contribution to the School, College and wider community.

<b>Head Student of School</b>	Hannah Domenev
<b>Head Student of School</b>	Gareth Jones
<b>Head Student of Sixth Form</b>	Freya Richmond-Guy
<b>Head Student of Sixth Form</b>	Hamish Murphy
<b>Lead School Mentor</b>	Lucinda Columbine-Corlett
<b>Lead Sixth Form Mentor</b>	Joe Whitehurst
<b>Sports Leader</b>	Euan Causer

<b>Charity Leader</b>	Jia Khanna
<b>Equality and Diversity Leader</b>	Jess Mason
<b>Equality and Diversity Ambassador</b>	Katie Archer
<b>Equality and Diversity Ambassador</b>	Amelie Curzon
<b>Community Leader</b>	Louise Beechener
<b>Student Voice Leader</b>	Tom Marsden
<b>Student Ambassador Leader</b>	Henry Earl
<b>Student Ambassador</b>	Charlie Hext
<b>Student Ambassador</b>	Lottie Boorne



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## Cedar Care Home Tuesday 27th June

By Mrs Katie Barlow-Davenport (lead Health and Social Care teacher)

Our Vocational Level 3 BTEC students had a really rewarding Tuesday morning spending time with the residents of Cedar Care Home. We met Billy, Helen, Joy, Jeanne and Frank to name a few. All of whom were really pleased to have a chat with our enthusiastic Health and Social Care students. Together we made cards, (kindly provided by Sarah Berisford) , shared life stories and painted the ladies fingers and Liv even painted one lovely, elderly lady's toes!

It is so rewarding to see our students in a social care setting really using the skills we learn about in Health and Social Care lessons. Many of our students go on to very successful careers in this sector. This year in our Year 13 health and social care class we have students going on to university to study midwifery, general nursing, childcare and teaching. We also confident that the majority of Health and Social Care students this year are expected to achieve Distinction or Distinction\* at Level 3 which is the equivalent of 56/48 UCAS points or an A\* /A.



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## HCCS Music

# Summer Concert

## Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm

### £2.50 Students, £5 Adults

Tickets available from the Arts Faculty Office.

Refreshments included.



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## Wildshore 2023

Students from Year 7-10 had an amazing 'Wet and Wild' week at Wildshore. It was great to see so many of you having fun in the water with your friends! A big thank you to Mr Thomas for organising the event and thank you to the staff that helped to support the trip!



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## Learning Resource Centre News

Our Reading Mentors and LRC Assistants enjoyed a rewards breakfast this week as a thank you for all of their hard work this year. This group of students have worked tirelessly throughout the year to provide reading interventions to some of our struggling readers in the school community, all of which has had a huge impact! Many of these students also give up their own time as LRC assistants, assisting with the general running of the LRC throughout the week. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without them, a huge thank you to you all!



### The Power of Poetry

Congratulations to two of our year 9 students, Marley P-L (9MC) and Peter I (9MH) who have been chosen to be published in The Power of Poetry 2023 - Whispers of The Soul! The book will be available to all students in the LRC from September. Well done to you both!



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### Author Spotlight for Upper School – Angie Thomas



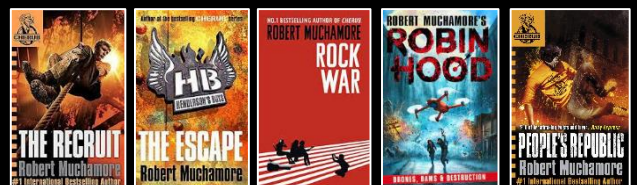
Angie Thomas is an American author born and raised in Mississippi. She is a former teen rapper. Her debut novel, The Hate U Give started as a senior project in college and debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list.



### Author Spotlight for Lower School – Robert Muchamore



Robert Muchamore is an English Author who was born in Islington, London in 1972, where he worked as a private investigator up until 2005. Robert was inspired to create his award winning CHERUB series by his nephew after he complained about the lack of anything to read. CHERUB: The Recruit was Robert's first book and it won the Red House Children's Book Award 2005.





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## A Message from Ellie Naylor

Hello parents/carers and students.

I am Ellie Naylor, and I'd like to inform you all about my walk for Bowel Cancer UK. I am fundraising money for Kath Lamb, who was one of my teachers at Holmes Chapel. She was more than just my maths teacher, she was one of my absolute biggest supporters, in everything I did. This charity helps patients and families affected by bowel cancer and provides support and information to the patients and families, fund and support campaigns for early diagnosis and best treatment and care for all. My walk, of 10k, will take place at Tatton park on 15th of July. I would love to raise as much money as I can for this charity, and to sponsor me. So if you can, any and all donations are very welcome. Thank you, Ellie.



[Please click here to donate](#)



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WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY  
FROM 4PM - 6.30PM  
GRAND CANOPY, HCCS

BIDLEA DAIRY 



DONUT VENDOR

COFFEE ON THE HOOF 

KARAOKE 

CAKE STALL 

CRAFTS, GAMES & MORE

ALL HCCS STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!

Any donations for raffle/tombola prizes will be greatly appreciated

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm  
HCCS Theatre

# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Students/Concessions £3,  
Adults £5

A range of refreshments will be available to purchase on the night.

Tickets available to purchase from the Arts Faculty Office



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## HCCS PE CELEBRATION EVENING



**PE Celebration Evening on Monday 17th July 2023 at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School.**

The evening is to celebrate the commitment and achievements of those students who have supported our extra-curricular program throughout the year. The evening will start at 5pm and finish at 7.30pm.



The cost of the evening will be £22.00.

This will include a pizza or chicken bites, a drink and dessert.

There will also be a presentation displaying 2023 Sport @ HCCS and special awards given out per team and individuals.

**Please come and collect a letter from the PE department**



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### South Cheshire Athletics Championships

On Saturday 10th June some of our students had been selected to represent South Cheshire and compete against the best athletes in Cheshire, and if successful will allow them to represent Cheshire at the Mason Trophy (National Championships). The students had a fantastic day. We had some fantastic results With Alice Mendham and Sofia Preece being selected to represent Cheshire in the



Mason Trophy and onto the next round. Well done to the whole Team, The PE Department are super proud of you all. Well done.

### National School Sports week at Holmes Chapel

Last week saw all the PE classes compete in a world cup competition in honour of the Netball World Cup that takes place in South Africa this Summer. The students had a fantastic time, flying the flag for their countries and enjoying the warm sunny weather. It was a great week with lots of fun. We also had our students represent their tutor groups in the race to win sports day. Students competed in their field events this week aiming for the top spot in Shot putt, Javelin, Long and Triple Jump. A fantastic week all round, well done Team HCCS.



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## South Cheshire Athletics Championships

Both Sofia Preece and Alice Mendham had a great day at the Mason's trophy at Northwood athletics track. Sofia took a full minute off her pb for 3000m and she came 6th so she was delighted. Alice Mendam also competed and demonstrated all her talent in the Long Jump./ Well done Girls, Great Efforts. Congratulations.



Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July,

6.30pm

HCCS Theatre



Students/Concessions £3,  
Adults £5

A range of refreshments will be available to purchase on the night.

Tickets available to purchase from the Arts Faculty Office



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Meet ⋮

Generate link

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Class code ⋮

fh3xi6s 🔗

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Upcoming

No work due in soon

[View all](#)

# BUGSY MALONE

*A HCCS Production*

November 28th - 1st December

Join the google classroom to get involved.

Code **fh3xi6s**

Main roles to be cast before the summer, sign up to help backstage. More details to follow.



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# GO

## Congleton Youth Orchestra presents...



# Around the World in 80 Minutes

Join us for performances from both Intermediate and Senior orchestras with classical and film music from around the world

**SATURDAY 8TH JULY 2023 - 7PM**  
**CONGLETON TOWN HALL**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CONGLETON T.I.C  
AND ON THE DOOR

£10 ADULTS, £3 UNDER 18S



Sponsored by The Congleton Inclosure Trust Congleton Youth Orchestra - Registered Charity Number 1071130



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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F