



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

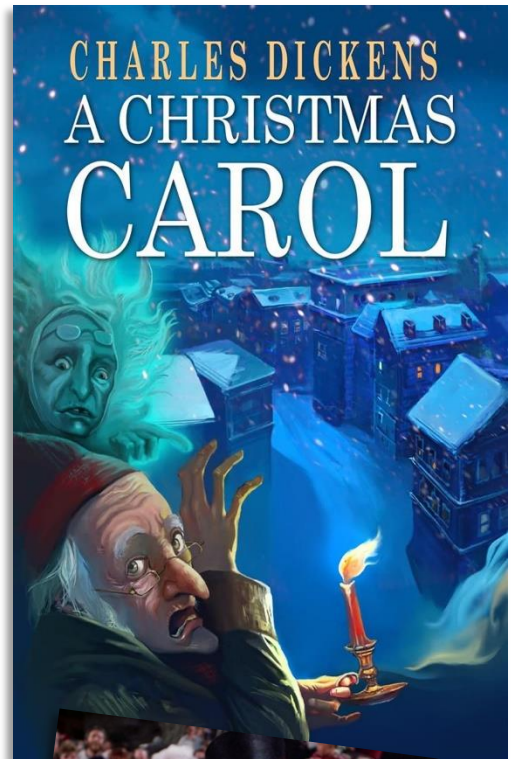


*Dear all,*

So here we are at the end of a very long term and I expect that like me, we are all ready to enjoy some time with our families and friends and to take some time just to be together.

Christmas is now many things to many people. For some, the religious aspects of Christmas are still the most important but even though this doesn't apply to everyone, many of the Christian traditions associated with Christmas are the ones which I feel are the most meaningful.

In Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' the two main characters, Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge represent two very different social contexts but at the heart of the story is a message about self reflection, thinking about our values, actions and principles and about what really matters. This happens to Scrooge, a bitter, miserly, ageing man by being visited by three spirits who cause him to examine his past, his present and his future. At the end of his ordeal Scrooge emerges as a changed man. His characteristics of selfishness, greed, unkindness are replaced by characteristics of generosity, care, charity, kindness and integrity. He recognises Bob Cratchit, sees his situation and acts to help. He lifts him up and shows that he values him. Bob is seen and heard. Scrooge realises that he has social responsibility and is in a position of being able to improve the lives of those around him. By embracing these acts, by focusing on giving, welcoming and sharing, Scrooge finds that he is included, valued, cared for and belongs. He becomes someone who is loved and is happy.



At the other end of the literary spectrum is the film Scrooged made in 1998. It's not Dickens but it's a great film even though it's decades old! Right at the end of the film, the main 'Scrooge' character, Frank Cross, makes a speech about Christmas ... I've paraphrased and chosen a few bits of it here that I really like:

*(Christmas is) 'the time of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more, we can be the people that we always hoped we would be. It's a miracle. .... You have to do something... you do have to get involved'*



So this Christmas, make the time to be together as much as you can and ask, are we expecting to receive or to give? To be involved or to sit apart? To talk or to focus on our mobiles? To share, smile and laugh together? How generous are we going to be with our time for those around us?

You are an amazing community of people and I am so proud to serve you and the children who come to our school. Thanks for working with us this term and thanks for your trust and support. Let's build more of the same in 2024

Warm regards and however you spend it and whatever your beliefs are, have a happy Christmas time

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Reflecting On Our First Term of the Academic Year

Congratulations to everyone for completing our longest term and, for many, our first one together!

**We have so much to be proud of! Some words directly from our children's Learning Passports from this term about what we are most proud of are:**

- "making friends"
- "being part of Buggy Malone"
- "my paisley design in my art lessons"
- "My test scores"
- "Finding my way around school and getting to lessons on time"
- "My work in Maths and science because my practicals went well."

**Here is also a selection of some of the things that children have struggled with:**

- "I have had some difficulties in spanish with the pronunciation of words"
- "I find physics a bit hard."
- "Friendship issues"
- "I could do with some help with python in IT."
- "Some maths topics and physics in science, id like to learn how to properly use the stoves and ovens"

At the end of last half term, I asked everyone to reflect on what they have been most proud of and our Term 1 Learning Passports are an ideal space to capture this. These can be found on your child's tutor group Google classroom and the deadline for their completion today (Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023). Thank you so much to those parents who have engaged in this with their children and added their comments at the bottom; these have been a pleasure to dip into recently. Tutors and the Lower School Hub will be reviewing these in the new year. If you still have some work to do on these, please make sure this is done before we return for the new year on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Looking forward to 2024

When we return after our well earned rest and quality family time, it will be the start of our Spring term and we need to start as we mean to go on.

Please be reminded of our expectations of how students should arrive to tutor time each morning:

You may find these reminders of our [uniform](#) and [equipment](#) standards and expectations helpful.

### A reminder of our standards...tutor times

- Get ready for the day
- Lateness
- Uniform Standards
- Equipment Checks

Commitment is the glue that bonds you to your goals.

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION





# NEWSLETTER

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Mobile Phone Lockers for Year 8 from Tuesday 9th January 2024

From Tuesday 9th January 2024, all students in Lower School will be expected to lock their mobile phone away during tutor time and for the remainder of the day.

Our year 8 students will be shown how to do this during their first tutor time. The process involves students entering a 4 digit code to personalise their locker (like the ones you may be familiar with in gyms, spas, trampoline parks etc.)

It would be extremely helpful for us if you could help your child to choose a memorable 4 digit code ahead of their return.

[Here are the slides from our latest assembly](#) to Year 8 regarding their reflections this term and the introduction of mobile phone lockers for them in January should you like any further information.



## Reporting Absences and Lateness to School from January 2024

From January 2024 we are excited to introduce a new online system of reporting pupil absence at HCCS. Our attendance team has been working on a system that will streamline absence reporting for parents, which is easily accessible on the homepage of our website.

You will see a button called '**Reporting a Student Absence**' on the homepage. By clicking on this button, you will be directed to a simple form that parents and carers should complete to notify us that your child will not be in school

Completing this form will alert the school of your child's absence that day and as a result will remove the phone answer service and attendance email. The form is mobile friendly and can be saved as a bookmark. The launch of our new procedure is designed to save time for parents/carers and the school in order to record attendance marks more accurately.

Moving forward following the Christmas break we ask that we are notified of all pupil absences, using the online form by 9am each day at the latest.



## Punctuality to school

Similarly we would greatly appreciate your support in reminding your child/children the importance of punctuality when arriving at school each day. The school day starts at 8.45am, with an initial movement bell sounding at 8.40am. Students are expected to be in their form rooms by 8.45am.

From January 2024, in line with Government guidance on managing and tracking attendance, we will be marking students in for the morning session up until 9.10am, but after this, they will be considered late and this will be recorded as an Unauthorised absence, if no reason is given. Students arriving after this time will therefore not receive their morning mark. They will still receive their lesson scores as normal, but this will affect their overall attendance. Also in line with guidance, we are required to notify you of these Unauthorised marks, and an accumulation of them could lead to a fixed penalty notice.

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in school on time, so that we can get each day off to an effective start.



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Cologne trip

Mr Hogg, Mrs Nixon and Mrs Riley, with a group of 25 of our students, headed out to Cologne ON 4th December with an early morning 5am Monday morning start at the airport ready to fly out and enjoy the trip.

We landed in Düsseldorf to snow and just in time for a late lunch in the Koblenz Weihnachtsmarkt, after we had stretched our legs with a walk to Deutsches Eck, and a quick bit of fun in the snow, we headed into the town centre.

Once at the Weihnachtsmarkt, the students were quickly found to be engaging with the stall holders, driven by the fantastic smells of food, to converse in German and get their Mittagessen! Ranging from Currywurst mit Pommes and Reibekuchen to Pfannekuchen and Lebkuchen - they embraced the opportunity to use their German!

Following on from our time in Koblenz, we moved to our Hotel in Boppard, Die Perle am Rhein! A small town which we would highly recommend visiting. The students unpacked and were served meatballs and salad for tea, after which we walked down into the town to see the fairy lit Christmas streets, and maybe get some evening snacks! The shop was soon empty of Apfelringe! The first evening was then spent as a group sharing stories and excitement of day one over a heiße Schokolade! We were all tucked up and asleep by 10.30pm!



An early start on day two, with a 7.30am breakfast and an 8.30am coach trip to Köln. The first stop of the day was the Olympic Sport Museum - this is a hands on museum, where the students get actively involved in different activities. It was amazing to see the HCCS students playing football on the rooftop pitch, with views over the Rhein, alongside German and Romanian team mates - all engaging and communicating through sport. We then moved onto the chocolate world of Lindt, where the students learnt about its story, creation and got to taste as they went - it is a real life Willy Wonka experience, without the Umpa Lumpas! We then walked off our over consumption of chocolate with a brisk walk through Köln city centre to the Kölner Dom - an absolute wonder, which must be seen to be believed. The understanding of the immense task undertaken to remove each and every pane of glass from the breathtaking stained glass windows, in order to protect them in the war, is just mind blowing when standing inside it. The students (and staff!) then spent time exploring and eating their way around the fabulous Weihnachtsmarkt, with the backdrop of the Dom. A cultural experience which can only be achieved by doing it. We were also lucky enough to be able to fulfil many students' dreams and go on the Cologne Ferris Wheel once darkness fell, an incredible experience with views over the city from 48 metres high!

The final day saw us all exploring Boppard, the town where we had stayed. Experiencing the wonders of the Rhein, and all it involves, as well as engaging with local shop owners when purchasing memorabilia, and maybe more heiße Schokolade und Kuchen! The students were buzzing with the German they all used.

These trips are so important and help our students understand a little more of life outside of our community. Many of our students are privileged to travel all over the world on holiday each year, whereas for others this is not the norm. Regardless of their circumstances, trips without their parents are incredibly important for their independence and simultaneously enrich their experiences for growing cultural capital.

Many thanks must go to families and colleagues for their support around this trip and making this experience possible for the students, and staff involved. Lifetime memories have been added to the memory bank of life, and cultural experiences lived, that we simply cannot deliver in the classroom.



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update

Year Group: Year 7

Class Details:

CLASS	7X1	7X2	7X3	7X4	7X5
Teachers	Mr Edwards	Miss Whittaker	Mr Barrett	Ms Laskowska	Miss Sneddon
CLASS	7Y1	7Y2	7Y3	7Y4	7Y5
Teachers	Mr Edwards	Mrs Buehling	Mrs Watmough	Ms Laskowska	Miss Sneddon

### WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

8	Equality and Equivalence (7)
9	
10	
11	Place Value (17)
12	
13	
14	
15	Number Sense (11)

- **Equality and Equivalence** - We have looked into the deeper understanding of the term 'equals', worked with fact families to support us solving one step equations, have identified like and unlike terms to help us simplify expressions.
- **Place Value** - We have looked at integers and decimals; identified where they are located on number lines allowing us to order and compare them and also moved into rounding these to powers of 10 and decimal places. We extended this learning to allow us to calculate the median and range of sets of numbers. The unit finished with us looking at significant figures.
- **Number Sense** - This unit has involved looking at rounding to support estimation and identify error notation.
- **Key Terms:** *integer, decimal, interval, term, equivalence, equation, expression, significant, estimate*

### ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

The Y7 Interim 2 Assessment will take place on **Monday 5th February**. A revision list for this can be found on the google classrooms from the 15th January. It will consist of content covered so far this year. 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.

All classes will also continue to complete End of Topic Tests (EOTTs) and Progress Monitoring Tasks (PMT.) These are printed on green paper and are kept in exercise books.

### STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



7X1	7X2	7X3	7X4	7X5
Eryn Mitchell	Emily Ball	Jake Hollingworth	Hanna Green	Lacey Clarke
7Y1	7Y2	7Y3	7Y4	7Y5
Reuben Bradley	Josh Stubbs	Sophia Dooley	Ciaran Folan	Ebony Richardson-Taitt

### KEY DATES COMING UP:



- 5th February: Interim 2 Assessment
- 12th - 16th February: Menai Residential
- 29th February: Year 7 Parents Evening
- 26th April: Interim 2 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



Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 8

Class Details:

CLASS	8X1	8X2	8X3	8X4	8X5
Teachers	Mrs Stevens	Mr Edwards	Ms Watmough	Mr Barrett	Miss Sneddon
CLASS	8Y1	8Y2	8Y3	8Y4	8Y5
Teachers	Ms Laskowska	Mrs Buehling	Ms Watmough	Miss Keiman	Mrs Hall

### WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

8	Interim 1 Assessment
9	
10	Prime numbers and Proof (10)
11	
12	Ratio and Scale (8)
13	
14	Multiplicative Change (8)
15	
	CHRISTMAS

- **Prime Numbers and Proof** - Within this unit we have looked at identifying types of numbers, finding the HCF and LCM and writing numbers as a product of their prime factors.
- **Ratio and Scale** - We have covered how we can use ratio notation and the comparison between ratios and fractions. We have looked at ratios in the form 1:n, n:1 and m:n, simplified ratios and shared them when given the total, one part or the difference.
- **Multiplicative Change** - We have extended our understanding of ratio into this unit, looking at: similar shapes, scale diagrams, direct proportion, scale factors, conversion graphs and exchange rates.
- **Key Terms:** *factor, multiple, cube, square, odd, even, prime, conjecture, counterexample, ratio, scale factor, direct proportion,*

### 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 Y8 Interim 2 Assessment will take place on **Monday 5th February**. A revision list for this will be published on the google classrooms on 15th January. It will consist of content covered this year and towards the end of Year 7. 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:

8X1	8X2	8X3	8X4	8X5
Archie Dykes	Paige Crowther	Esme Everill	Susie Middleton	Beshr Salem
8Y1	8Y2	8Y3	8Y4	8Y5
Jack Grafton	Harvey Crompton	Lottie Maydew	Jude Edwards	Ava Amitrano



### KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 1st February: Year 8 Parents Eve
- 5th February: Interim 2 Assessment
- 26th April: Interim 2 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

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Outlines for Half Term 3 Studies for Year 7 & 8

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students.

More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students. More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

The table below outlines what is being studied during half term 3 in Year 7 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English	Exiting Shakespeare and 20th Century Global Communication	Formative assessment of comprehension and analysis
Maths	Algebra: Number Sense and PDF Fractions Percentage covered: Finding the missing number and significant figures, order and lower bounds, understanding fractions, decimals and percentages and ordering and then using our knowledge of probability, ratios and PDF about 1 and 20.	Formative assessment of problem solving and of real life situations Formative assessment of problem solving and of real life situations
Science	Comparing the cells of human, animal and plant tissues.	Organ of human, animal and plant tissues and of real life situations
MPL	Focus on the book: 'The Boy Who Swam to America' by David Almond. Children write 'The Boy Who Swam to America'.	Organic formal reports and of real life situations
Technology	Students will undertake a range of CAD projects and design exercises in order to develop their ICT skills.	Some homework tasks and of real life situations
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Students are introduced to the principles of healthy eating and food safety. Students will explore the nutrition and nutritional value of various foods and how to apply this to healthy eating habits and healthy living. Students will also be introduced to basic catering skills such as safe food handling, food safety, cleaning, storing, measuring, weighing, heating and cooling.	Mock homework and of real life situations
Music	Pop and Modern	Compositional and of real life situations
Art	This term we are studying the work of the artist Vincent van Gogh. Students will be encouraged to explore the use of colour and light in his work.	Compositional and of real life situations

**Year 7**  
[Click here](#)

Dear Parent/Carer,

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The table below outlines what is being studied during half term 3 in Year 8 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback to support their progress.

Subject	Content this half term	Assessments
English	Exiting Shakespeare and Victorian England context	Formative assessment of comprehension and analysis
Maths	Algebra: Mathematical Change, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions, Ratios, Equations and Inequalities Knowledge covered: direct proportion, conversion graphs, percentage change, multiplying and dividing fractions, expanding and factorising, solving simultaneous equations	Formative Assessment Formative Assessment Formative Assessment
Science	Comparing the cells of human, animal and plant tissues.	Organ of human, animal and plant tissues and of real life situations
MPL	Focus on the book: 'The Boy Who Swam to America' by David Almond. Children write 'The Boy Who Swam to America'.	Organic formal reports and of real life situations
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Music	Pop and Modern	Compositional and of real life situations

**Year 8**  
[Click here](#)

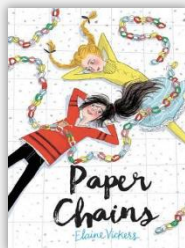
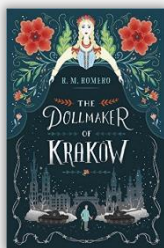
## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

### Christmas Draw Along Sessions

Thank you to all of the students who have attended our Christmas Draw Along sessions. These have run every lunchtime throughout December, and students have created fantastic drawings to display in our LRC windows.



### Winter Book Recommendations



#### Year 7

Diego CM, Sophie B, Sakina C, Jacob C, Ella M

#### Year 8

Benjamin G

### Millionaire Readers

Congratulations to our first set of Millionaire Readers this term!

Over 1 million words read each so far, what a fantastic achievement.

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



# NEWSLETTER

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Becca's cycle for Friends For Leisure

Becca is an identical twin who was born at 28 weeks weighing only 2lbs. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and is primarily a wheelchair user. She has faced many challenges in her life, but she credits Friends for Leisure for overcoming so many of them to enjoy life to the full.

"Friends for Leisure has been helping me since 2016. After the local community helped me to raise funds for an operation I was then able to build my independence by attending Friends for Leisure activities. I love going to the youth groups where I have been able to make new friends and have amazing new experiences. Without the charity I couldn't now be doing all the things I love, such as horse riding, surfing and cycling."

To say thank you, Becca wants to support Friends for Leisure as part of volunteering for her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and wants to raise money for the charity by cycling 31 miles over 31 days in January 2024. Becca said, "I can't run or walk 31 miles but I can cycle 31 miles but I can cycle 31 miles so that's what I'm determined to do so that I can raise £500 for the charity that has done so much for me."



Friends for Leisure arranges activities from one-to-one friendships through to group activities, such as drama and sports sessions, for disabled children and young people aged 5-21 living in Cheshire East, including regular youth groups and outings. The work the charity does helps reduce the isolation and loneliness that can often accompany having a disability, as well as improve children's confidence, self-esteem and overall wellbeing. The charity is uniquely supported by a large team of young volunteers.

Claire Addis, Fundraising Co-ordinator for Friends for Leisure, said: "We can't thank Becca enough for taking part in all these amazing events for Friends for Leisure. She is an absolute inspiration to the local community and living proof that disability doesn't have to stop you from achieving everything you want to in life. But there are still too many unnecessary barriers that can make it so difficult for children and young people with disabilities. Friends for Leisure works hard to break down these barriers, but we can't survive without support from incredible supporters and volunteers like Becca - more so now than ever before as local charities like us are dealing with funding cuts and rising costs."

Becca would love your support. If you are interested in helping her reach her £500 fundraising target, you can sponsor her online using the link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/beccas-cycle-for-friends-for-leisure>. You can also donate, or discuss other ways you can support the charity, by getting in touch with Friends for Leisure directly, on 01260 275333 or [info@friendsforleisure.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsforleisure.org.uk)

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



## Emily Hemmings – British Schools Pistol Shooting Championship

Congratulations to Emily Hemmings (Year 8) for competing in the British Schools Pistol Shooting Championship in November. We are so proud of you, Emily!





Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



## Netball Teams this weeks results vs Congleton

On Tuesday 28th November the girls played their second round of games against some strong opposition in Congleton. All teams once again played exceptionally to the final whistle with a never give up attitude. Throughout the whole season since starting in September all the teams have shown their dedication and love of the sport. It's great to see so many students wanting to join the teams and develop in their skills and ability.

A huge mention to Carys Kilby today in year 8, she would be my coaches player of the day. It was Carys's first time competing for school and wow she was fantastic. Her shooting and link play with the attackers was exceptional as she Helped the Year 8 team win Congleton 21 goals to 7. Well done.



I will share once I have all the information I need, a list of local teams you can attend and sign up to. Please feel free in the meantime to search for available places at Sandbach netball club, Cheshire Stars netball club, Northwich Sapphires and Warrington Town. These are all fantastic clubs that I am sure your daughter would love.

Thanks for all your support and for all the girls' efforts. A big thank you to the staff involved, great team effort. Well done girls, time for a little winter break then back again in January.

Next in the Netball calendar will be some inter tutor netball and some Christmas fun.

**Mrs Mee**



# NEWSLETTER

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

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## HCCS Musicians at Holmes Chapel Christmas Market

Thank you to our students who volunteered to perform on the stage at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Market, which was held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Scarlett, Brianna and Mia sang Christmas songs together then Elliot played Christmas tunes on his saxophone - in front of a very busy crowd!

Headliners for the evening were The Kulaks (Henry, Charlie, Harvey and Ed from the sixth form) who performed many Christmas tunes, including a brand new one they had put together especially for the event. Despite the rain and cold weather it was fantastic to see so many of their friends and family in the audience enjoying the performance.



## Year 7 British Sign Language

Well done to year 7 for completing your first cycle of British Sign Language! Your form tutors have been so positive about your enthusiasm and skill during these sessions, you should be really proud of yourselves for learning a new skill! We have been using the 'Commanding Hands' YouTube resources to support our learning. Why not share some of it with your family over the school holiday?



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



## Christmas Netball

Well done to everyone who supported the Christmas Netball on Tuesday - it was great fun! Have a Happy Christmas from the PE Faculty



## Year 8 Beat Sandbach 5-4 on Pens

Our phenomenal year 8 boys football team played a very well organised and talented Sandbach Boys School in the Cheshire Cup 1/4 final. Loosing 2-1 at HT a few subtle changes and we were at it. A great header by Matthew Davies levelling the score. We defended incredibly well and at FT penalties followed. We won 5-4, what a game and what an experience for these super talented and together bunch of lads.