



*Dear all,*

The end of half term five already. The year has flown by and we have a massive amount to be proud about. Since I last wrote to you we have celebrated the end of year 13 and on Wednesday of this last week, held a celebration afternoon for the year 11s. I had the privilege of being invited to spend some time with both year groups and to say a few words. Although I have always been part of these events, this year was my first time as the permanent Executive Headteacher. I felt an overwhelming sense of pride and respect for these incredible people and walking around the school talking to children in all the other year groups only confirmed what I already know about the quality of community that we are all part of. Bright futures are being built.



I'd like to share a personal opinion with you. In much of the media I receive, as well as that in the public domain, there is a growing theme suggesting that our children have lost so much, that their education has faltered, their grades are falling, that they are broken or have become increasingly mentally unhealthy over the last year or so. I'm unhappy that the powers that be are telling us that our children's future life chances are irreparably damaged and that their opportunities are forever diminished. This message really doesn't sit at all well with me and it's clear from a briefing I recently attended that the 'evidence' for much of this is anecdotal and at best based on opinion.

Across our student body and community I see strength, resilience and courage. I see hope, excitement and opportunity. It's true that the children and us as well, have all coped differently with the pandemic. During the return to normal, some will continue to need more support than others but children in all year groups have achieved and done well in spite of the last two disrupted school years. I hope you agree with me that many have learned new skills and had learning experiences that they would not normally have had. As a result many more children have the potential to be independent learners, to be self motivated, committed to their own success and being self reliant. They are inspiring to be around, are kind, caring and make each day at school a good one (most of the time!)

I want to reach out to you all so that we can change the message our children are being exposed to from one of loss and negativity which I see in the media to one of celebration, opportunity and success. As we move into the last half term and then into next year we all need to continue to encourage our children to fly and to support them as they continue to flourish and grow. As always, we are here to support each other and the children and families who need a little extra care.



During the next half term we will continue to develop our understanding of what we need to do to make sure all children are on track in learning.

Firstly, in the coming weeks, year 8 children will have a second parent's evening and we will publish interim reports for all year groups in school. As we have always done around this time, Year 10 and 12 students will engage in their assessment week towards the end of June. These dates are all on the school calendar and more details will be published separately.



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# NEWSLETTER

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

## Preparing Learners for a Changing World



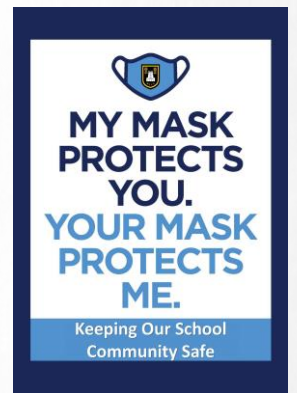
Secondly, we will also be fleshing out the various strategies, programmes and support structures across the whole school and college that will allow us to continue to make sure all children have the best opportunities to be successful. Of course, one of the biggest drivers of this is the quality of the home-school relationship. This is something I talk a lot about and is a relationship which at its best is co-constructive, mutually supportive and positive. Keeping our children on track continues to be really important to us all.

As we continue to work together on culture and positive behaviour I'd like to say how grateful I am to families who have supported us or those occasions when things have gone wrong in school. These are inevitably difficult conversations and no parent or carer enjoys hearing that their child has not kept to our shared standards of behaviour that keep our school safe, welcoming, inclusive and calm. Thanks to all of you who have worked with us and supported us in helping our children learn to behave in a positive way and to understand their choices.

Recently we have had a number of occasions when a child has set off the fire alarm as a prank. Clearly this is not acceptable. It has a highly disruptive impact on the school day but also has the potential to create a very dangerous mindset that fire alarms are always false. In the unthinkable situation that we suffer a serious fire, I want to be absolutely sure that school can be quickly and safely evacuated so that every child and member of staff can be accounted for in the shortest time possible. I understand that this is a thankfully very rare type of behaviour but can I respectfully ask you to talk to your child about the seriousness of it and that the consequences of setting off a false alarm will always carry an appropriate sanction.

Coming back to school next half term will be an exciting time for us all. Importantly we are standing by our position in terms of keeping the community safe. We believe it's important to continue with protocols around schools including wearing masks inside the buildings. However, hopes of better weather mean we can use more of our green space at break and lunch. Allowing the children to be outside in the fresh air with more space to play is a positive modification we can make whilst remaining safe. Children will also be able to enjoy a plated meal service in the restaurant after the break with year groups taking turns on a rota.

I would like to encourage you all to keep up the home testing regime and to reinforce good covid hygiene practice. Recently, the number of LFT tests being logged on our test registration system has fallen. We've come so far and done so well as a community through the pandemic and given some of the uncertainty around the variant first identified in India, it would seem illogical not to continue with what we have embedded including our community commitment to testing regularly and logging the result. Thanks in advance for this. We all look forward to the day when this is all over and we will of course keep to our two week review cycles.



One key change in place from the first Monday back is that all children will enter school via the gates next to the new reception. This entrance area leads into the new large canopy area at the front of school and represents an important change in the way the school looks and feels. Children will enter through these gates and then be able to safely and quickly get to the right room before 8:45am where they will be welcomed at the start of the day either by their tutor or period 1 teacher. As a reminder the gates are closed at 8:40am.



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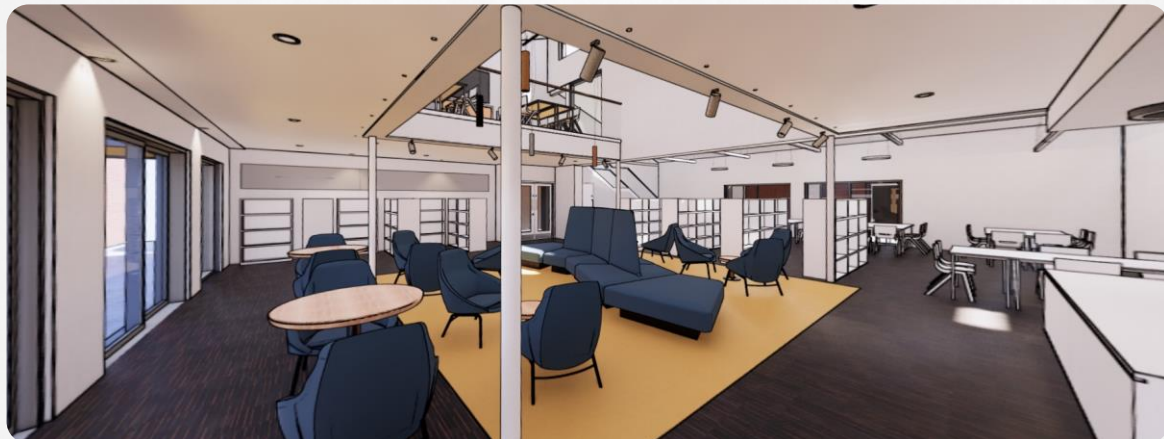


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## Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Finally, we have some exciting new developments at school which will start to become a reality during the Summer term and over the summer holidays. These developments will enhance our learning environment even more and create high quality spaces that our children can enjoy and flourish in. More of that later.

Thanks for reading and have a great half term break

Warm regards

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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### Work set to start on the new Learning Resource Centre

Work will start on the 21st of June 2021 on the new Learning Resource Centre which will provide a state of the art facility for use by all of our students. The new facility will be set over one and a half floors and provide flexible teaching and learning areas, hi speed Wi-Fi and an outdoor covered teaching space not to mention a wide range of books and other resources. The scheme is due to complete early in the new school year and will be open to students after the first half term. This represents an investment of circa £500,000 and represents the start of the next phase of our schools investment strategy creating the infrastructure for the future.

We have included a series of six virtual reality views which can be accessed using any smartphone. There are six QR codes and a site sketch showing where each of the codes relate to. The codes will give a virtual view of the new facilities so overall, you can virtually walk around the new centre.

[Click here](#) for a bigger view.



#### 1. Ground Floor



Scan me with a QR Reader

[Or click me for VR](#)

#### 2. Ground Floor



Scan me with a QR Reader

[Or click me for VR](#)

#### 3. Ground Floor



Scan me with a QR Reader

[Or click me for VR](#)

#### 4. Ground Floor



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#### 5. Courtyard



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#### 6. Mezzanine



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### New front of school set to open

When school reopens after the half term, we are delighted to announce that the new main school reception will open its doors. The extended facility includes a family meeting room and a more spacious lobby. During the school day, the reception will be the only point of entry and exit for students and visitors. It is staffed throughout the school day.

Students will enter school each morning via the front gate next to the school reception. The gates will close as usual at 8:40am prompt, the start of the school day. Students arriving after this time will need to enter via the reception. Covid safety measures will continue to be in operation in the school reception area including social distancing.

### Public consultation

#### Supporting local children



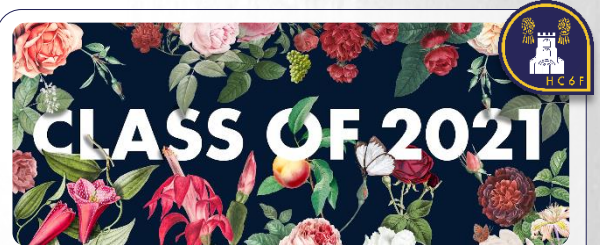
Cheshire East Local Authority are currently consulting on a proposal to create a new resource provision at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School to support 14 children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. The new provision will be fully funded and offer support to local children.

Your views are being sought and we very much hope that you will support this development and it would be appreciated if you could take a few minutes to register that support. The consultation period runs until 14th June 2021. The full consultation and feedback survey page can be accessed here:

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school\\_organisation/holmes-chapel-comprehensive-school-%E2%80%93-proposed-resource-provision.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school_organisation/holmes-chapel-comprehensive-school-%E2%80%93-proposed-resource-provision.aspx)

### Assessment Information

There is a huge amount of work going on in school to mark and moderate assessments and calculate students' TAGs for this summer. We will continue to update you with as much information as we can throughout the process. Today information is going home to year 11 & 13 parents regarding the weightings and assessments undertaken by students. Further details of the content of these assessments will be available on the school website as soon as possible.



### Sixth Form Leavers

Last Wednesday we celebrated our Sixth Form leavers' event. Our student leadership team prepared the whole event, from arranging decorations, ice cream van, outdoor games, homemade brownies and a raffle in aid of the Remembering Nell Foundation. We were fortunate with the weather and the sun shone on us all afternoon. All who intended had a wonderful afternoon. The students did a wonderful job in creating a stunning setting and a celebratory atmosphere. We now wish them a wonderful long and relaxing summer and we look forward to celebrating their results with them in August.



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### Returning to School Following the Half Term Break



We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school after the half term break. All students and staff will return to school following a normal five lessons per day timetable with the right teachers in the right classrooms. School starts promptly at **8:40am**. [Click here](#) to read more and for our arrangements for Covid safety after half term.

### Changes to the school day

As part of a review of school procedures and to ensure that our learning environment is as effective as possible, from September 2021, we will be changing the timings of the school day..

The key features of the amended school day include:

- Consistent timings throughout the week
- An earlier finish of 3.15pm each day, which will enable safer travel for students during the darker winter months
- Reduced movement times between lessons, which will support tighter protocols for prompt lesson changeovers
- A longer break time, allowing more time for students to eat and use the toilet
- A shorter lunch, enabling greater manageability of unstructured time following expanded food provision



To help us with the transition to this new school day, we would welcome your views on this new model via the [survey link here](#).

This link will remain open until Friday 4th June. Many thanks in advance for your support in helping us to continually improve our provision at HCCS.



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### Remembering Nell Short Story Competition

Every year, Year 9 are asked to submit a short story for the Remembering Nell competition. The standard was high and the judges (mixed up of Nell's friends and teachers) were really impressed. A huge congratulations to our final winners!



**1**  
Rhiannon Culliford



**JOINT**  
**2**  
Skyla Malgas & Scarlett Crichton

Kindly donated by the Remembering Nell Foundation. Posted home after half term.





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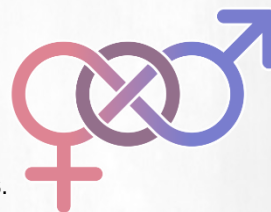
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## Preparing Learners for a Changing World



### Curricular Enrichment - Relationships and Sex Education – 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June

All schools as part of their PSHE programme need to include a certain element of relationships and sex education as part of their curriculum.



On June 10<sup>th</sup> HCCS will be looking at this in various ways across multiple year groups.

#### Year 7

Year 7 will be focusing on the changes that happen during puberty. This will equip students with more information and the opportunity to explore their thoughts and feelings.

#### Year 8

Year 8 will be exploring the impact of drugs and alcohol. They will look at this at an individual level, in terms of the impact of specific drugs and effects, and the wider societal and interpersonal impacts drugs and alcohol can have.

#### Year 9

Year 9 will be looking at the importance of sexual health. Students will be looking at governor approved resources exploring the impact of a range of sexually transmitted Infections and diseases.

#### Year 10

Will be looking at the importance of a healthy diet and a balanced lifestyle.

As with any of these topics, if you have any concerns or require further information please contact [philip.roberts@hccs.info](mailto:philip.roberts@hccs.info) the PSHE Lead for Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School.



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### Sports Day

This year we will be modifying our normal sports day arrangements to ensure that students still have the opportunity to compete within their year groups. On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June students will be required to come to school in their HCCS PE Kit.

The day will be split into year group sports day competitions and half a day of curriculum enhancement. The sports day competitions will include a tug-o-war competition and a number of different track events. No field events will take place this year. Years 7&8 will take part in the sports day in the morning and years 9&10 will compete in the afternoon.

Although we are not yet in a position to deliver a whole school sports day at present due to the safety measures in place, we are confident that we can offer a fun day where every student has the opportunity to support their tutor group and compete in a safe and controlled environment.

More details to follow via tutors week beginning **6<sup>th</sup> June**.



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## Preparing Learners for a Changing World



### Year 7 Enterprise Challenge

All tutor groups recently took part in an enterprise challenge where the brief was to make recommendations to improve a failing hotel. The work took place over a number of days and culminated in 3 representatives of each group 'pitching' their ideas in front of 'The Dragon'! (4 school governors!!)

The governors were overwhelmed with the quality of their ideas and the ability to present themselves in front of a set of judges.

Congratulations to the winning tutor group, 7MH, ably supported by tutor, Miss Wimbush!!!



*All students did very well with the task of reforming a failing hotel; making some great marketing strategies, planning fun activities to help the hotels' success, great menus designed and giving good accounts of the financial strategy they were employing.*

*Very impressed with the amount of work that everyone had put in and some of the creative ideas that the teams had for saving the hotel. All teams did well and followed the brief, proving that HCCS has some budding business leaders of the future.'*

*All the students participated enthusiastically with the project. It was good to see that some had mastered PowerPoint and many had done well with the financials. All groups clearly enjoyed the marketing aspects even producing menus (with a focus on burgers!)*

*The presenters confidently communicated their classes ideas, despite facing a daunting panel. Their presentations helped to show their vision for revitalising the hotel.*

**1**  
The winning presenters from 7MH  
Holly Thompson  
Jodie Dingle

Comments from the governors included:



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HOLMES CHAPEL COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

## OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS



1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2021



SESSION 1 – 4:00pm – 5:30pm

SESSION 2 – 6:00pm – 7:30pm

SELKIRK DRIVE, HOLMES CHAPEL, CHESHIRE CW4 7DX

[Click here](#) to read more and to BOOK your Tickets





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## Preparing Learners for a Changing World



### Art Work

Eleanor yr 8 has created this fantastic Hobbit Hut from recycled materials and paint and even included miniature books and fairy lights! Tips and tricks were gained through research and YouTube. Great work!



### Lock Down Memories

7Y1 have used paper collage & drawing to produce responses to the lockdown using POP ARTIST PETER BLAKE as inspiration - examples by ALICE & NIA



Design your own POP ART inspired converse trainers. Use POP ART symbols and colours to create your design

Use the images of Andy Warhol's work to add colour to the can outlines below. Make sure your colours are similar to the 'POP ART' colours used by Andy Warhol

In the space below create your own Onomatopoeia Art  
Think about the different words you could use that represent a sound or noise.



Talking to your child about the internet and social media: YoungMinds' guide for parents  
[Click Here](#) for more information



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Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F