



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Issue: 173 Date: 26th January 2024



Dear all,

In just a couple of weeks we will be at the halfway point of the school year. Already, the nights are getting shorter, it's light a little later in the afternoon and as we head toward spring, it's worth thinking about what is coming up in the next phase of your child's journey through school.

For two year groups, 10 and 13, the public exam season is looming. The trial exams will soon be marked and grades will be shared. Teachers and students will be exploring the key areas to focus on so that gaps in knowledge and understanding can be addressed. At home, families need to engage their children in meaningful and valuable revision by creating the environment whereby this happens. The guidance around this isn't complicated and is easily accessible online. It boils down to some very clear basics. Revise what you find difficult, do lots of past questions (children should ask their teacher or download them themselves), two hours each night every night as a minimum (this is in addition to homework), no distractions (this means no phone, no game console, no TV, no music, no phone calls). The key point is that revision is all doable. It's just about the commitment to time, providing a supportive space, short term sacrifice, diligence and consistency. Remember that the full course content will not be revised in school so it's really important to be working at home now.



For our year 7s, the Menai trip will soon be happening. This is a great few days and is always good fun. Around 180 of our students will head out for a week of being outside in the fresh air, doing all sorts of activities and making some awesome memories. This is one of the trips that really bonds friendships and is a great opportunity for the children to develop some resilience and independence. The Menai trip is almost a rite of passage here at our school and one that always helps our children engage, feel a sense of belonging as well as having insane amounts of fun.

Year 9s have now all completed their option choices. They have made some key decisions about their lives and what they will study across years 10 and 11. The option results have been interesting with some massive growth in key areas of our curriculum offer. What matters in the next half year is that each child in the year group ensures that they are ready for the next phase of their journey by developing strong attitudes to learning, being ambitious for themselves, expecting the highest standards, ensuring that their behaviour consistently reflects their very best characteristics and is in line with the values of the school. Parental support in year 9 is enormously important and after nearly 29 years in education, I know that if parents and families are fully onboard and 'bought in' by year 9, the happiness, sense of value and fulfilment as well as the 'success' of the children is far more likely to be guaranteed.

Finally, years 8, 10 and 12. These years have a lot more in common than their age difference suggests. If this was a marathon race, all these children would be in the middle phase of a long 26 mile run. Having done lots of marathons myself, I know that the mid phase is the time when it's important to stay focused, to be committed, to dig deep and to keep a good pace but without burning out. It's also the time to make sure that you look around at all of the other runners with you, to enjoy what you are doing and relish in the challenge whilst offering encouragement and generating a feeling of team spirit and togetherness that sees everyone through to the finish line. When we are building a strong community, we are building a place where we all thrive, feel welcome, included and celebrated.

Please allow yourself a few minutes to read and reflect on our newsletter and if possible, share some of the content on your social media, with your friends and with your family. Let's share what we value and celebrate the amazing children who we all care for.

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



Uniform

HCCS continues to place a great importance on our uniform and how it reflects our high standards. As a school we value your support in ensuring that these standards will be upheld and maintained. We wish to ensure our students portray respect to themselves, others and the school through their impeccable appearance. We will be particularly vigilant on uniform standards across the school and we would like you as parents to support us in this.

Please be aware that there has been a modification to our policy to ensure that we have a consistent approach across the whole school. It is now stated in our policy that students must ensure that their shoes are all black, sensible and appropriate for school.

Please be aware of our uniform policy to offer further clarity on our expectations:

What is acceptable?

- ✓ The school's jumper (black with embroidered school badge)
- ✓ Plain white, long or short sleeved shirt
- ✓ House tie
- ✓ Plain black tailored trousers (Fashion trousers, e.g. jeans/jeans cut, skinny fit, cords, flares covering shoes and trousers with splits are not acceptable) worn with black socks. Leggings are not allowed.
- ✓ Plain black Charleston (or Charleston junior) or Henley Banner skirt (no more than 8cm/3" above the knee) worn with black tights. Skirts available from school uniform suppliers.
- ✓ Shoes must be ALL black, sensible and appropriate for school
- ✓ Plain black coat (only to be worn with a jumper)
- ✓ Natural, discrete make-up; Years 10 and 11 only.
- ✓ One pair of small discrete stud earrings.

What is not acceptable?

- ✗ Black cardigans, hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, tracksuit tops.
- ✗ Inappropriate tops / hoodies may be confiscated from students.
- ✗ Jeans/jeans cut, cords, canvas trousers, skinny fit, trousers with splits. Fashion belts.
- ✗ Canvas shoes, boots or any shoe that is not completely black, including obviously branded or sports logoed trainers
- ✗ Multiple earrings / any other facial piercings.
- ✗ Rings / bracelets / fashion bands / necklaces
- ✗ Any make-up (Years 7,8,9). Excessive make-up (Years 10 & 11). Nail polish, false nails, extensions etc.
- ✗ Any non-designated school skirt. Skirts worn with socks. Leggings.
- ✗ Scarves worn without coats
- ✗ Extreme hairstyles. Multi-coloured hair.
- ✗ Large decorative, hair accessories.
- ✗ Visible body art.

We really value your support and commitment with keeping our standards exceptionally high. We really appreciate the work that you do behind the scenes at home and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning.



01477
689500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



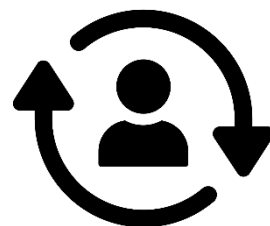
NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Lunchtime Reset Sessions

We have high expectations of our students at HCCS both inside and outside of lessons. Unfortunately at times behaviour outside of lessons does not match these high expectations and students are put into a lunchtime reset session as a sanction. A behaviour point will be given by the member of staff who has given the sanction which can be seen through the parent portal of Bromcom.



If your child does not attend the reset a standardised email will be sent home to inform you and they will be expected to make the time up. Further non attendance will lead to an after school reset session which are held on Tuesday's and Thursday's. Through doing this we are ensuring that students are correctly sanctioned for their actions and that you are aware of these to remind your child to attend them.

Lateness to School

Being on time to school is really important- even 5 minutes late to school means that 3 days of schooling is lost each year. As a parent/carer It is your responsibility that your child attends school each day and is on time. We want to set the expectation of good attendance so that children grow up with 'good habits' ready for the world of work that faces them.

For several years we have operated a Late Gate. Students who are late to school (8.45 am or later) have their names recorded and are told to attend a reflection session at breaktime in M5.

We are now working with this system to ensure parents are notified of their child's lateness. If your child is late to school you will be notified via email. You will also be notified if your child does not attend their breaktime reflection session and they will be expected to make this time up. Further non attendance will result in an after school reset session which are held on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

We understand that there are sometimes issues outside of your child's control i.e. traffic. If this is the case then please let school know through your child's tutor or at office@hccs.info and we will deal with it accordingly.

Remember if a day off is needed; ask if it is allowed?

Days off should only be taken if students are too ill to come into school or if advance permission has been asked for and agreed by Mr Bielby.

Support is available if you are struggling to get your child into school.

If attendance is 83% or below research shows that every GCSE is gained at a grade lower than expected.

98-100% Attendance	→	No weeks of lost learning	→	Excellent! Keep it up!
95 – 97% Attendance	→	7 – 10 days of lost learning	→	Good. Can you reach 98%+ ?
90 – 94% Attendance	→	Between 2 & 4 weeks of lost learning	→	Becoming a cause for concern
85% Attendance	→	Almost 6 weeks of lost learning – 150 lessons missed	→	Poor attendance
80% Attendance	→	7 weeks & 3 days of learning missed – 200 lessons	→	Totally unacceptable. This is a serious concern
75% Attendance	→	9 weeks & 1 day of learning missed – 250 missed lessons	→	This is a safeguarding concern - neglect

Please [click here](#) to see the full Attendance Matters document.



01477
689500



Office
[@hccs.info](mailto:office@hccs.info)



[@hccs1978](https://twitter.com/hccs1978)



hccs1978.co.uk



Keeping Safe Online

Last week, our local PC Andrew Cornall led our assembly provision in school to inform students how they can keep themselves safe online. The presentation included information on appropriate use of social media, mobile phones and internet use.



There are many websites you can visit for further guidance and additional support:

- [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre \(CEOP\)](#) use the report abuse button for advice and to report online abuse such as grooming.
- [Thinkuknow website](#) You can report illegal or inappropriate online behaviour through the 'report abuse' button.
- [Childnet International](#) is a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.
- [Get safe online](#) provides practical advice on how to protect yourself, your computers and mobile devices against fraud, identity theft, viruses and other problems encountered online.
- [Internet Matters](#) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation to help parents keep their children safe online.
- [Internet Watch Foundation](#) find out how to report illegal content online.
- [NSPCC online safety](#) helpful advice and tools you can use to keep your children safe online.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) download tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe on the internet.

Reading at HCCS

Reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Here's how you can help:

1. Read aloud to your children
2. Have books available at home
3. Encourage them to read books of their choice, including fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels.
4. Listen to audiobooks
5. Discuss what they are reading in school
6. Look at their progress on Accelerated Reader (Years 7-9) and Sparx Reader (Years 10-11)



Sparx Reader

Our Year 10s and 11s have the opportunity to boost their close reading ability using Sparx Reader. Each week, we set the challenge of achieving 300 points by reading their chosen online book and answering a series of questions. Not only does this offer our students a great opportunity to read a book they may not have come across before but it also helps them to develop their close reading skills which are invaluable across all of their written exams.

Have a chat with your own Year 10 or 11 child about the book they are enjoying on Sparx!



01477
689500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



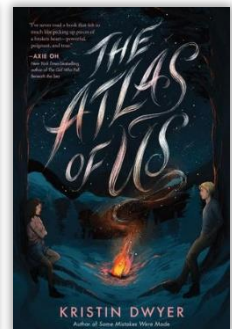
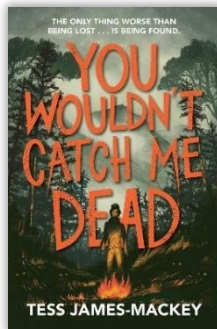
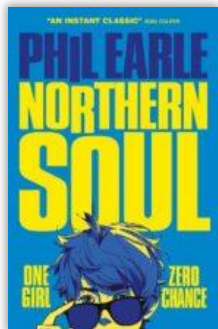
hccs1978.co.uk



LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

New Releases

Why not immerse yourself into a new release this January? Below are some of the most eagerly awaited titles of 2024.



Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2024

The Educational Library Service have announced their shortlisted titles for this year's Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2024. Each of the titles will feature as our 'Book of the Week' throughout the Spring Term and are available to loan from LRC.

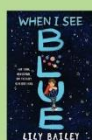
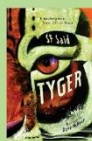
Competitions

We have a number of competitions running this term alongside the Cheshire Schools' Book Award. It would be great for as many students as possible to get involved!

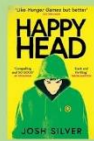
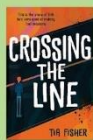
Please see Miss Moores in the LRC for more details.

CHESHIRE SCHOOLS' BOOK AWARD 2024

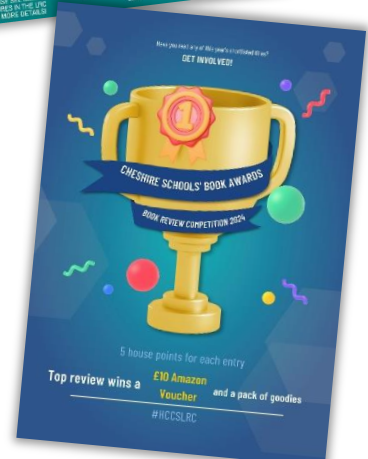
YOUNGER AGE SHORTLIST



OLDER AGE SHORTLIST



#CSBA24
WWW.ELSCHESHIRE.ORG.UK



01477 689500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



'Careers Corner'

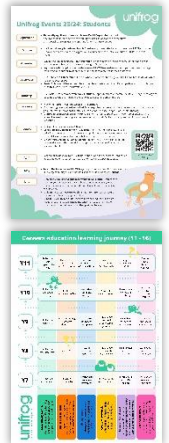
Introducing Unifrog- an online service for careers education at HCCS

We are pleased to announce that the school has subscribed to Unifrog which is an excellent platform for the development of careers education and guidance for young people.

All students Year 7-13 will shortly receive a welcome email from Unifrog which they need to accept. This opens up a vast array of Parents will also have access to the programme so that they can see the careers programme and monitor the progress made by their son/daughters.

To the right you can see the programme for careers at school and the events organised by Unifrog that students/parents can access.

Please click the images to open the documents.



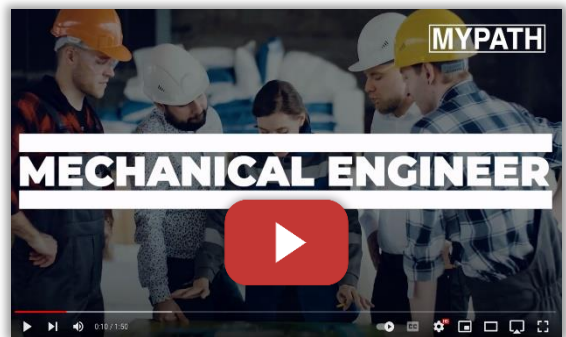
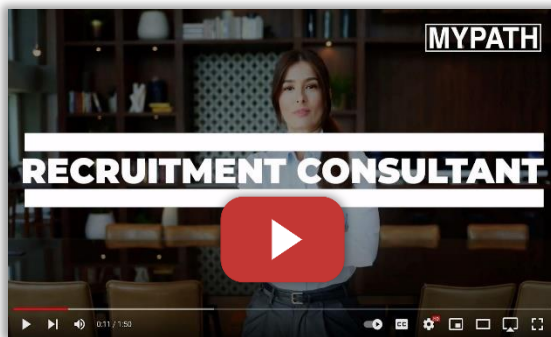
The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership

The latest 'Next Steps' newsletter is available using the link below. This issue focuses on:

- online parent and carer support sessions
- apprenticeships
- T Levels

https://www.allaboutstem.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/1376.Next_Steps_v3.pdf

Jobs of the Week



Click the play buttons to watch the videos



01477
689500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



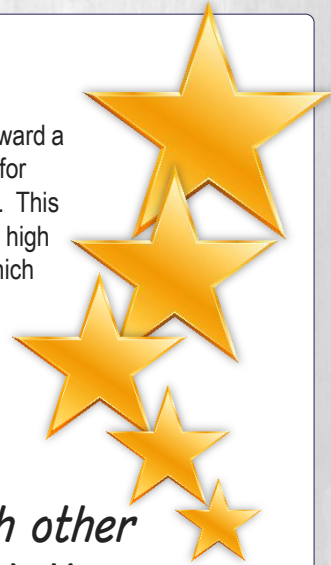
hccs1978.co.uk



Student Star of the Week

As the Associate Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Culture I want to drive forward a positive culture at HCCS. I believe that it is really important to celebrate our students for their accomplishments to show that we are proud of each other and what we achieve. This will further develop belonging to the school community; and because we always have high expectations of our students it will encourage them to be ambitious for themselves which are three of our school values.

- **Learning** - *We learn together*
- **Belonging** - *We belong to this community*
- **Pride** - *We are proud of ourselves and each other*
- **Ambition** - *We have consistently high expectations*



As part of this I have introduced our Student Star of the Week. Staff can nominate any student they want to, to recognise when they have gone above and beyond. This isn't just related to academic success, it can be about anything to do with a child making a positive contribution or an achievement. In doing this we intend to grow an even stronger culture of celebration that embeds and reflects our school values

This week's worthy winners of the HCCS Student Star of the Week are:

Y7: Cian Doran: For tackling National Novel writing month with his friends and writing a fantastic book, which he then printed, bound and submitted to the English department.

Y8: Joel Dickinson: Joel does what it says on the HCCS tin

Y9: Evie Copestick: For always working extremely hard in English lessons and completing work to the best of her ability! Even when Evie is off school, she still goes above and beyond to catch up with the work from the Google Classroom!

Y10: Paddy Birrell: For approaching his GCSE history with maturity and determination. Not afraid to ask questions and making good progress.

Y11: Lottie Woodhead: Excellent attitude during revision, supporting others and asking great questions

Each of these students were invited to a meeting with Mr Bielby, our Headteacher to be congratulated and received a letter home.

Future stars of the week will continue to meet with Mr Bielby, their names will be put onto our social media platforms and they will each receive a letter home. At the end of a half term all students who have been nominated for the star of the week will have a chance to be selected for a prize.

Reading through all the nominations this week for our students really put a smile on my face; and I am so proud to be a part of a community that has so many exceptional students.

Claire Holland
AAHT Behaviour and Culture



01477
689500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Young Voices at Birmingham Arena

On Thursday 11th January, our Young Voices choir had a fantastic time performing at the huge Young Voices concert in Birmingham Arena. We were part of a choir of 6400 children, watched by an arena full of family and friends. We sang and danced to songs including Matilda, Moana and a Pop Medley and enjoyed performances from various guest artists and dancers too.

Well done to the students who performed - you were all absolutely brilliant. Not only in your enthusiasm for the singing and dancing, but also in the way that you represented HCCS.



Year 9 Art Student Ashley Lawrence's Kerby Rosanes inspired geometric sloth drawing



01477 689500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

VISYON Information

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM VISYON

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP
Supporting your child's transition to their new school.
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Self-harm Awareness (30 minutes)
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Blended Families
Wednesday 27th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

30 YEARS VISYON

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM VISYON

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP
Supporting your child's transition to their new school.
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Self-harm Awareness (30 minutes)
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Blended Families
Wednesday 27th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

30 YEARS VISYON

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM VISYON

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP
Supporting your child's transition to their new school.
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Self-harm Awareness (30 minutes)
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Blended Families
Wednesday 27th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

30 YEARS VISYON

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM VISYON

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOP
Supporting your child's transition to their new school.
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Self-harm Awareness (30 minutes)
Wednesday 24th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Blended Families
Wednesday 27th February 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

30 YEARS VISYON

Click the images to open the document.