



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Issue: 168 Date: 20th July 2023



Dear all,

So here we are at the end of another year at school. As in any year so many people in our community have worked hard and have clearly shown a strong commitment to our children and to their growth and development. Thank you to all who have been a positive and supportive influence on our school, community and the children we are privileged to serve. Thank you to everyone who has shown that you trust us and those who have treated the staff who serve here with respect and kindness. When we step back and take the big picture into account, I hope that, like me, you are able to see what a great school we have all created, teachers, non teachers and families, so that our children can flourish, be happy and thrive. Don't underestimate the positive and constructive role you can all play in this. Remember, our children only go to school once. We are the people who are responsible for helping them have a successful journey and together, we are always better.

Last year, I launched our four values. I have referred to these values many times in this newsletter but also in my conversations with families, in my emails, communications and letters. I have threaded these four cornerstones into our assemblies, tutor time and interactions with children.

Some people are very dismissive of value statements because they are too generic and detached from how we behave, act and speak towards each other. We have four value statements that are simple, unambiguous and easy to apply. I am sure you can all recite them by heart. Our first is about learning - We learn together; our second is about belonging - We belong to this community; our third is pride - We are proud of ourselves and each other and our fourth is about ambition - We have consistently high expectations.

For the end of the year, here's a challenge. What can families, carers, relations and friends do that embeds the behaviours that reflect these values in our children? How can we help them to consistently behaviour in a way so that these values become our social norm? The expectation versus the exception?



Over the last half term or so, we have had a huge calendar of events, extra to the 'normal' diet of lessons and learning. We have had many performances in music and drama, a sports day, a presentation evenings, a summer fair, two proms, year 6 welcome evening, year 5 open evening, a host of trips and visits. We have had information evenings for our college students, parent evenings and even late this week, a celebration event for our alumni from 2022

In addition many of our children have been integral to our community events too and have been an active part of clubs and groups, teams and societies. We are blessed with some outstanding sports people, amazingly talented musicians, writers and artists. Recently, here in school a team of our children have been working on recording and making podcasts about a huge range of topics which we will publish next term. We even have a number of our children going off to the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea with over 30,000 scouts from around the world.

Here's the final thing I'd like to say at the end of this school year. It's often too easy, sometimes tempting even, to look at what's not quite perfect, what's wrong in the world and our community, to focus on what we don't always agree with or to simply assume the worst. We do have a choice in this though. We have a choice, if we decide to take it, to see the best in each other, to accept that we are not always perfect, to work collaboratively and constructively, to trust each other, to be kind and respectful and to build a great 'now' as well as a great future for our children.

Have a great summer and see you in September
Warm regards, as ever

Nigel, your incredibly proud Headteacher



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Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Transition 2023

As part of our transition programme, HCCS welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students who will be joining us in September. The Year 6s enjoyed a wide range of activities with their tutor groups including creating a uniform bespoke to their new House. After a colourful and diverse show of outfits, Moreton House won their first house competition. All of the students were in high spirits and threw themselves into every activity. Below are some of the images taken from the transition days. We will continue to build on this excellent starting point during our Summer school days in July and our start up day in September.



NB: Summer School reminders.

Starts at 9am and finishes at 3pm. We will meet your child at the start of each day in the outdoor canopy area next to the school reception.

Your child will need to bring:

- A packed lunch and a refillable water bottle.
- A selection of school equipment including a pen, pencil and colouring pencils.
- Any medication that they might need for the day, should be put into a clear bag and labelled with the child's name on it. A medical form should also accompany it.

Year 11 into Sixth Form Transition Days

On Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th of July the Sixth Form Welcomed in a good number of Year 11 students both from HCCS and externally. Over the course of the two days students embraced the perks and privileges of being a Sixth Form student, many commenting on the notable difference between Sixth Form and Year 11. Students arrived bright and early on Monday morning where they had an introduction to Sixth Form and the expectations of the days. Students were thrown back into academic life following a somewhat slumberous (for many I imagine) few days and weeks following the end of their GCSE exams. Students got to experience a flavour of A Level studies and start to finalise their thoughts about their next steps. They had full access to the facilities including the Sixth Form cafe and the social spaces available to them. They now also have a number of transition resources available to them, allowing them to continue their studies and preparation into the summer ready for September. We very much look forward to seeing them again on 24th of August for Sixth Form enrollment where we hope to be able to offer any guidance and support needed.



Student Leader Training

Following the successful appointment of our Student Leadership Team, we gathered together on Thursday 6th July to deliver and partake in our Student Leadership training day. Students started the day with shared refreshments, giving them the opportunity to come together as a group and to start to build positive relationships. We covered several sessions including, an introduction to the team, effective leadership skills and qualities, setting the vision for the team and finally students had an opportunity to develop action plans. This was a very productive day and all students engage really well in the process. We very much look forward to seeing them all develop as leaders and move towards creating positive change both within HCCS and across the wider community.



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Year 13 End of Year Formal Dinner

On Friday 30th June, our wonderful Year 13 students gathered together to enjoy a final farewell at their formal dinner. The event took place at the Courthouse in Knutsford. This is the second time we have used the venue and it proved suitable again for this special event. Students met together shortly after 6 pm, for photographs, before moving inside where they were welcomed with refreshing drinks. As always, our young people looked fabulous, many having clearly spent a long time preparing for this occasion. This was made all the more special as this particular year group missed out on a Year 11 prom due to Covid. Students conducted themselves impeccably. Many staff were in attendance, testament to this year group that they would give up their time to share this special occasion with them. Our students decorated the venue beautifully, fitting the occasion wonderfully. All in all it was a very memorable occasion. We wish all of your Year 13 students a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing them when they collect their results on Thursday 17th of August from 8.30 am



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The year 11 celebration dinner was a success and such an amazing night. Prom is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to celebrate their 5 years in secondary education and here at HCCS we are proud to say that we can offer this to our students. You will find photos of this night on our HCCS Facebook page.

We would personally like to thank all the staff that volunteered to help us on this special occasion. We would not have been able to run this event without you.

We send to our year 11 students all our luck with their future careers and keep on believing in yourself that you can do this!



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PE CELEBRATION EVENING 2023



On Monday 17th July - 95 students attended the PE Celebration Evening in the Theatre.

We reflected on the highlights of the PE community this year and celebrated the success of teams and individuals.

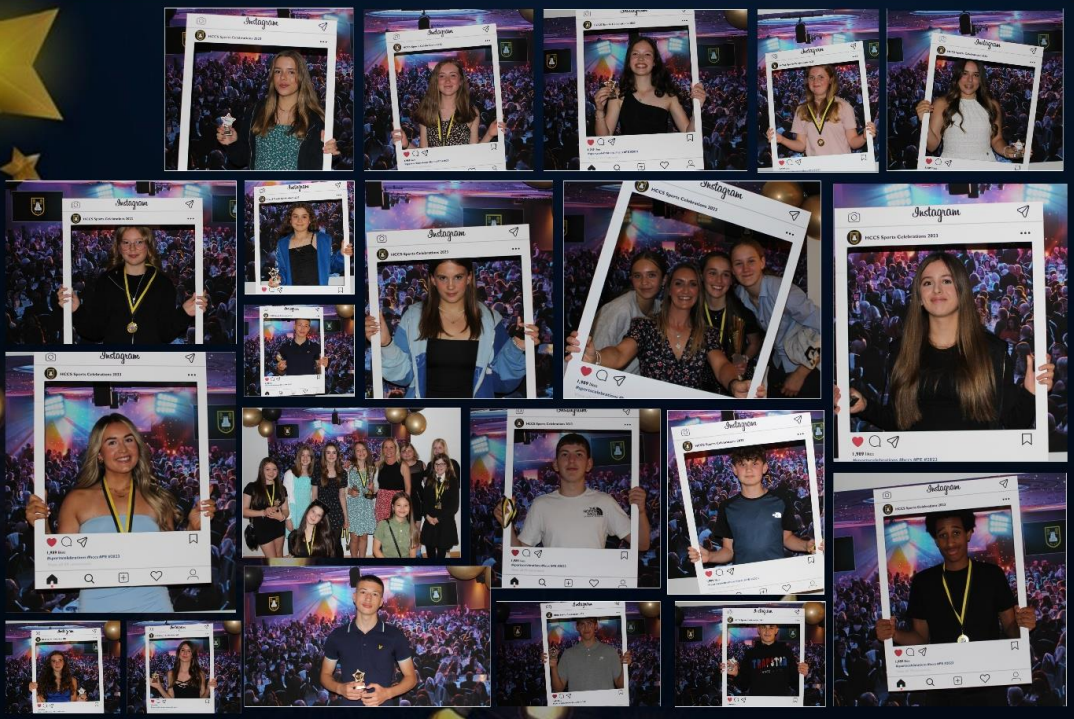
Thank you to everyone who attended the evening, it was great to celebrate with you all! Have a wonderful Summer!



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PE



OTHER AWARDS - COACHES PLAYER, TEAM SPIRIT, RISING STAR



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Year 8 Graduation Event

On Wednesday 13th July, we hosted our first ever Year 8 graduation event. This celebrated our first cohort of children to go through the two years of our recent Lower School. It was lovely to hear from tutors about their favourite memories with their tutees and to acknowledge the efforts of a wonderful cohort of children. The Upper School Team also introduced themselves and explained how The Upper School will work for them next year. The event was followed by a Meet and Greet for Year 8 parents who were able to see some of the photos from the event and meet with members of the Lower and Upper School Teams. [Click here](#) for copies of the slides we used at the event and thank you to all families who have sent in feedback which will help us to keep improving events such as these in the future.



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Sports Day 2023

Sportsday 2023 was another epic occasion! The sun shone, the track was fast and consequently students excelled themselves once again. Many records were broken, some had been standing over decades. The atmosphere for both the tug-o-war and track races was second to none, and it was amazing to see the school unite once more after the disruption of Covid. Things started to resemble normality once again. Individual year group winners were 7CH, 8MC, 9CH & 10MH. and the overall house winners for sports day 2023 were Moreton. Congratulations to everyone who contributed in creating a day to remember.



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Advance notice - Governor Elections INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARENT GOVERNOR?

We will be advertising in September for 2 Parent Governors. Information will be shared via the newsletter and sent out via email to anyone with parental responsibility for a child at our school.

Further information can be found on our website or from pauline.challinor@hccs.info



Congratulations Sports Leaders!!!!

Well done to all the Sport Leaders who completed the course this year. The students involved received their certificates in a celebration breakfast this week after completing the course they participated in. All the students involved had shown so much dedication and commitment into developing their leadership skills by assisting and leading in many activities for school including Primary school events. These students have been a credit to our school community and should be very proud of themselves as am I. Well done, A huge congratulations.

Mrs Meo



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ACCELERATED READER
LRC READING COMPETITION WINNERS
SUMMER TERM 2023

Accelerated
Reading

Congratulations to our LRC Accelerated Reader Competition winners!

These three classes had read and quizzed the most during the summer term and were awarded with a cinema lesson with popcorn for their efforts.

7y/En3 - 198 Accelerated Reader quizzes passed
8x/En3 - 168 Accelerated Reader quizzes passed
9x/En2 - 120 Accelerated Reader quizzes passed

Outstanding reading. Well done!



Ensuring all students can engage in frequent, high-quality reading practice with unlimited, 24/7 access to thousands of enhanced digital books and age-appropriate news articles over the summer break!



Every year, students across the country lose months of reading progress over the summer. In the hope of limiting this, we have partnered with Renaissance Learning to ensure with access to enhanced digital books and daily news articles, every child within our school community can continue to keep reading all summer long!



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Music at HCCS

It's been a very busy couple of weeks for the Music department at HCCS!

Battle of the Bands

As ever, this was a diverse evening of music featuring musicians from across the year groups. Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to the top 3 winners who each received cash prizes.



The Bizarre!



The Kulaks



Isabelle K

Musical Showcase for the Community

It was great to invite members of the Holmes Chapel village community to this event - an open rehearsal for our summer concert.

We had some lovely comments from our visitors, many of whom had various links to HCCS.



Summer Concert

Another great evening of music, showcasing our talented musicians and featuring performances from all of our school music groups, plus the winners of Battle of the Bands. Thank you to all the students involved - many of you take part in a number of our groups and your dedication and commitment is much appreciated. Congratulations also to Brianna H who won the Philip Crookall trophy, an award presented each year to a Year 7 student who has shown great ambition and enthusiasm.



Previous and current winners of the Philip Crookall award



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Maths Challenges

Over the last few months we have held both the UKMT Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges. These were both completed by around 300 of our top Mathematicians in years 7 to 11. Many certificates were awarded from those who participated all the way up to those who achieved Gold.



Two of our students, Maddie L (year 11) and Oliver F (year 10) were invited to take part in the follow on "Pink Kangaroo" round after doing so well in the Intermediate Maths Challenge

Two of our year 8 students also did so well in the intermediate challenge that they went on to do the "Junior Kangaroo" round. Pictured above are Eric M and Harry P.

See how you get on answering a question

In the Maths Premier League, teams get 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. Last year, my team played 38 games and got 80 points. We won more than twice the number of games we drew and more than five times the number of games we lost. How many games did we draw?

- A 8
- B 9
- C 10
- D 11
- E 14

Year 12 Biology Trip

On 13th July the Year 12 Biologists had a successful trip to Anglesey to collect results for their required practical. They were studying zonation on the rocky shore, looking at the distribution and diversity of different species and how biodiversity is affected by abiotic factors. The rock pools at Cable Bay were teeming with life, fish and crabs etc. Unfortunately the biggest crab escaped the students nets.

After lunch & ice cream on the beach the students went to Aberfraw to study sand dune succession and climax communities. Again the life found on the sand dunes did not disappoint. A lovely day had by all bringing Biology to life.



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Holmes Chapel Youth Council - Review of 2022-23

In January, we relaunched the Holmes Chapel Parish Youth Council after the Covid years. We have had the most representative Youth Council with every year group represented from year 6 to Year 11. The team have made a fantastic start and are looking forward to doing more for young people in the local community in the next 12 months.

One of the first actions of the Youth Council was to conduct a survey about potential activities- with over 350 respondents- to create a more inclusive, thriving village. Across the board, this survey showed that young people wanted 'more things to do'. Off the back of that, we have proposed to the Parish Council, additions to the local parks from possible exercise machines to multisport goals. The youth cinema relaunched with the latest "Spider-Man" movie. This was a successful event and we plan to continue this in the future with your continued support.



Additionally, creative students wanted an art exhibition- which we showcased at the Village Summer Fair. The work of three local primaries and the high school went down well with the public and many young artists proudly showed off their work at the Vic Club and a lucky five received awards from the Parish Council. We also plan to use the data we gathered from this survey to further develop our community and give the young people of the village more opportunities and activities.

On a different project, some of our youngest members of the Youth Council wanted to investigate safety around the residential streets of Holmes Chapel, highlighting areas that needed more light, for example dark alleyways and overgrown forestry areas. We felt it was important because students walking home can feel intimidated by the dark and in the winter they don't feel safe on their own. Our survey and findings were taken to the full Parish Council and then to Cheshire East County Council where they praised our team's efforts in the local news and agreed that funding needed to be allocated to improve the lighting and to cut back the bushes and trees to create a safer and more comfortable walk home for everybody using those pathways, not just students walking home on a cold, dark November evening.



We hope the work of the Youth Council will also improve the mental health of young people in the village. Some of the team attended a Cheshire East wellbeing conference where they grilled some of the most senior councillors and alongside the Happy to Chat benches around the village, we want to provide more visible services that will provide support for this important issue.

Working with the Youth Council has benefitted the team members too. We have developed different skills, especially our public speaking in formal meetings, presentations and guiding the general public at the art exhibition. We presented ideas and statistics that we gathered, using PowerPoints & slides to show our research. We have had to set up our own surveys and created marketing posters for the Art Exhibition and Youth Cinema. During our time in the youth council, we have become more confident and developed our team working skills too.



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In the next few months, we also have a trip to Parliament in September to see how politicians work at a national level. This has been planned through the Parish Council and our team will travel down by train and visit the House of Commons and explore the galleries and corridors of Westminster. If you have been interested in anything you have read about the Youth Council or you want to make a difference for young people in the village and you are a student in the district or young person 6-18 living in Holmes Chapel and you would like to join us in September please contact Sue McKay admin@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk or youthcouncil@hccs.info.



Finally, we would like to acknowledge the support, encouragement and training from Holmes Chapel Parish Council, especially Sue McKay and councilors Mike Street and Brian Bath, we couldn't have done it without you!

Youth Council Reporters: **Lydia Davenport, Jess Hughes, Brianna Hamilton, Emma Walker & Amber Fox**

Quotes from our Youth Councillors

"I made a difference!" Amber's idea about dark alleyways became a Cheshire East County Council funded project.

"Listening to others opinions and to socialise with other people from different year groups" Jess has been a member of the Youth Council since primary school.

"I loved the chance to promote my idea of a gymnastics club through the council." Brianna's idea for a gymnastics club is in the planning stage for the next academic year.

"I've grown in confidence in my time with the council" Emma reflecting on her first year.

"I loved seeing the look of amazement and joy on people's faces at the art exhibition" Joel described the Youth Council Art Exhibition at the Village Summer Fair.

"I like that we have done so many different things this year in the Youth Council" Charlie describes his first year in the Youth Council.



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Emily H - Amazing Achievement in the Tetrathlon

Tetrathlon is made up of 4 disciplines, Running, Swimming, Shooting and Horse Riding.

Emily was chosen to represent our region which is Wales and Borders and pulled off an amazing performance in her Novice category, achieving highest points in the Shoot, maximum points in the horse riding and second highest points in the run to take overall second place. Emily has also been chosen to represent the team at the English Nationals in August. Good Luck Emily. Mrs Mee



Staff Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for School cleaning staff at HCCS and a Part-time SEMH Teaching Assistant in the Resource Provision. For more information and application forms [click here](#).



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Holmes Chapel Welcomes 'Safe Spaces' to Village We are very lucky to live in Holmes Chapel which has an extremely friendly and welcoming business community - but would you know where to go if you needed help while you were out and about in the village? For younger people it may be that they need somewhere safe to wait to be picked up to avoid bullies. Or maybe you're feeling vulnerable walking through the village on your own in the dark? Maybe you've had a stumble and just need to sit inside with another adult to catch your breath. Maybe you've had a run out of battery on your phone and need to make a quick phone call. There are so many reasons why you might need another adult to help you when you are in the village. Many of our local businesses are already doing this and would help anyone who needs it, so it feels good to be able to recognise this with an organised project. Just look out for the 'Safe Space' sticker in windows so you know you can enter and ask for support. You will be able to wait inside the location and, if needed, the adult there can make a call to a parent, carer or the police. Thank you to our wonderful local businesses for looking after us and serving our community. I hope you support them too by using their services and shopping local where possible. Holmes Chapel Partnership, with support from The Villages Mag, have implemented this scheme following similar successful schemes that were set up in Congleton and Sandbach. Locations taking part include Holmes, Gifts & Interiors, Holmes Chapel Library, The Bottle Bank and the Holmes Chapel Community Centre. Owners of Holmes, Gifts and Interiors, Kerry and Chloe, said "We're very happy to be a part of this scheme; making safe spaces around our village. We both have teenage children ourselves so we know how valuable a safe space could be to someone in need." If you're reading this and you're a local business that has public liability insurance and is open to the public and you would like to join the scheme, we'd love to have you on board.

<https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/community-newsletter>



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MACCLESFIELD FC COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST HALF TERM SUMMER OF FUN 2023

Our AWARD WINNING multisports camps ARE BACK!!! For a full 6 weeks during the summer half term packed full of fun, games & different sports every day of the week

- WEEK 1 – 24th JULY :
ADLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SK10 4JX
- WEEK 2 : 31st JULY
LIFESTYLE FITNESS MACCLESFIELD COLLEGE SK11 8LF
- WEEK 3 – 7th AUGUST
LIFESTYLE FITNESS MACCLESFIELD COLLEGE SK11 8LF
- WEEK 4 : 14th AUGUST
LIFESTYLE FITNESS MACCLESFIELD COLLEGE SK11 8LF
- WEEK 5 : 21st AUGUST
ADLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SK10 4JX
- WEEK 6 29th AUGUST (NOT BH MONDAY)
ALL HALLOWS SCHOOL SK11 8JG

NEW EXTENDED TIMES OF 9:30am TILL 4pm

£15 PER DAY OR £65 FOR THE FULL WEEK - SAVING £10 PER CHILD

EMAIL LEE.MFC-CST@OUTLOOK.COM OR WHATSAPP 07889404573
FOR BOOKING FORM & MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BOOK

Book on any
day for week
1 for just £10
per child ☺



Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F