



Dear all,

The summer term has moved at a real pace and across to the school we are busy working on keeping our children on track in their learning and on staying safe. This has been our mantra for the whole of this year and since the start of the pandemic. Our community, families, carers, parents, children and staff have all been part of this and as we look towards the end of this term and into next year, I'm sure we all share the excitement and hope of establishing a new normal.

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed many of our incoming year 7s for a taster of the next steps in their learning journey. In spite of the restrictions and following guidelines and advice from PHE and the local authority, we were able to offer a 'covid safe' transition experience for year 6. The children who visited seem like a lively and enthusiastic group of children and it will be a great day when they start with us in September. I was pleased to be invited to teach some of the humanities sessions and I enjoyed meeting the children and also some of their folks. Clearly, the transition days we hosted were not the same as the programme we are able to offer in 'normal' times but given where we are, I felt that it was important for our year 6 students and their families to at least have a taste of what it is like to be at HCCS. This school is where our children grow into young men and women and it's always a personal privilege to be part of their journey. Thanks to all of you for helping make this a success and for your kind words and feedback.



We also went ahead this week with our year 5 open evening. Again, this was planned taking into account the appropriate guidelines and external advice. For the most part the event was hosted outside under large open sided marquees with a minimal use of inside, controlled space for science and drama. Our visitors were welcomed by staff who led tours around the school following a specific route to avoid large groups of people being close together for long periods. The real stars of the evening were our own students who gave tours, talked to parents and brought a huge amount of enthusiasm, laughter, positivity and fun to the evening. We had scores of children who wanted to be part of the event and it was amazing listening to them talk to families with such passion and confidence. They all made me feel incredibly proud of them and of the community which I serve.

This week was our first sports day since the pandemic. This was slimmed down from our normal offer but this certainly didn't lessen the excitement and engagement from the children. We delivered the day in separate year groups to avoid mixing and was a great success. The weather was perfect; on both the track and on the tug of war, muscles were flexed, legs stretched and lungs worked hard in some fantastic displays of effort. Tutor groups cheered each other on and a great day was had. This event gave us one of the first glimmers of what it will be like when we can plan whole school events again and enjoy seeing the children working together and encouraging each other so enthusiastically.

Although it's mentioned in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, I'd like to say thank you for your patience and understanding to all those families who have children who are isolating. As a result of the commitment and collaboration between families and school, over the full course of the pandemic we have sent very few children home. This week however, in full consultation with the LA Covid response team and PHE we took the difficult decision to send a year group home for a short period of time. This is the only time during the whole pandemic when we have had to do this.



01477 410500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



I realise that this is never ideal for families and that the short period of notice that goes hand in hand with these decisions can make things difficult to organise. Can I just say a big thank you for sticking with us so that we can do what we need to do here to keep our community safe.

I'm looking forward to welcoming children who are isolating back to school as soon as possible. I know that our track and trace team are working hard behind the scenes to send out clear information about this so please keep an eye on your inbox.

Over the last six months, I have reflected deeply on how we work as a school, listened to what you have been telling us, talking to the staff, governors and the children and thinking about what we have learned from the last couple of years. We've been through a great deal including, amongst many other things, a pandemic, a change in leadership and an ofsted inspection. Looking into the new year and as a result of this, I have restructured the way our school will operate and made a reshuffle of some of our key roles. I've done this based entirely on the principle of making sure that our children have the very best opportunities to learn, to thrive and be supported. We all share the view that school should be a place where our children are nurtured, supported and challenged so that they achieve their very best and leave our care as happy, healthy and positive people who are comfortable in their own skin.

From September 2021, children in years 7 and 8, will be part of what we will call Lower School, those in years 9 through to year 11 in the Upper School and years 12 and 13 in the Sixth Form College. Each of these 'sections' of the school will have its own Assistant Head Teacher who will lead a team of staff responsible for progress, attainment, support and welfare. Upper School and Lower school will have their own separate base where our children will be able to go should they need to. There, they will be able to talk to a consistent staff who will be able to help and support so that our children feel well cared for.



As a result of these changes we will be able to tailor the curriculum for each section more effectively, help ease the transition process from primary to secondary as well as through the exam years and provide a better learning experience as the children progress through our school and college. The leadership structures and redeveloped office spaces to deliver this model are currently being finalised but these changes won't happen overnight. This new way of working and learning will grow, develop and become embedded over the coming year. As this happens we will be even more focused on making sure our children do not fall behind in their learning and that we are able to effectively narrow gaps as well as provide high quality transition, care and support. There will be more information on this over the coming weeks and months and clearly, we will need to reflect these changes in our website as our plans unfold.

Have a great weekend and thanks again for your support, trust and feedback. It's a great privilege to be part of our community.

Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Covid-19 Update – Friday 2nd July 2021

We would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding whilst we have been completing the implementation of our track and trace procedures at school this week. We can now confirm that we have asked a total of 62 students in Year 9 to self isolate as they were identified as close contacts with someone who has tested positive for Covid19. We now have a total of 5 confirmed positive cases in this year 9 but because of the action we have taken, two of those cases did not require further students to isolate. The vast majority of Year 9 have now been told that they can end isolation if they remain well and will return to school as normal on Monday morning. We have now written out to the parents of every year 9 student outlining if they need to continue to isolate and when they should each return to school.



This is the first time since the pandemic began that we have felt the need to ask a whole year group to isolate whilst we investigate cases fully. At the start of last week, we identified a possible chain of linked cases and needed to prioritise our time in terms of track and trace. Isolating all of Year 9 as a circuit breaker gave us the time to investigate thoroughly and created a five day opportunity for any further cases to be identified. The fifth case in this chain was confirmed today in a student that we had already identified in a high risk group. No further action was required and no new cases have been identified outside of the small group cluster.

We have always said that we would seek the very best and most up to date advice when dealing with Covid19 in school. Keeping our whole school community safe continues to be our priority. Therefore as you would expect, we had very detailed discussions with Public Health England and the Cheshire East Local Authority Covid Response Team to ensure that we are always accessing the very best and most up to date advice.

In all of the other year groups combined, we have just 3 positive cases and have asked 27 students in total to isolate. All students will return to school at various points next week providing that they remain well.

We do not underestimate the impact that the virus or indeed periods of self isolation have on all of us and so we don't take decisions lightly. We do however have procedures and protocols that we have applied consistently throughout the pandemic that have helped to keep most children in school. Testing and early isolation will remain the two essential elements of keeping our school safe over the year ahead and the vast majority of parents, students and staff have been fantastic in working with us to keep disruption to a minimum.

Tony Halsall
Director of Operations

PCR Tests

Cases of Coronavirus have increased dramatically over the last couple of weeks in Cheshire East. To help control the spread, we are offering a number of additional testing options for anyone who does not have symptoms.

Free PCR lab tests are available at our Crewe and Macclesfield test sites, and at a number of temporary mobile testing units.

[Click here](#) to read more



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



[@hccs1978](#)



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Sports Day 2021

Congratulations to everyone that took part in our slightly modified but incredibly successful Sports Day 2021. Throughout the day, students demonstrated a level of enthusiasm and encouragement that we had not seen pre-lockdown. The support from every year group whether it be in the tug-o-war or track events was incredible. The sun shone and the volume of students who represented their tutor group and house was spectacular. Resulting in the closest sports day result we have ever had!!! **Tatton** were the overall winners, but only 5 points separated 3 houses!! **Tatton** won with a combined score of 471 pts, **Moreton & Capesthorne** were joint 2nd with 466 pts and **Arley** 4th with 435pts. The difference could really have been 1 student in 1 event!

Well done to everyone who took part, you made the school feel like we are getting back to some level of normality soon!

The PE team



01477 410500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Transition Days

As part of our transition programme, the school welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students into school. Whilst the schedule of the day had to be changed slightly to make it shorter, this did not impede on the fun and experience that the children had. The Year 6s enjoyed a wide range of activities: travelling the globe with English, ... and exploring India with Humanities. All of the staff and children involved had an enjoyable day. The children were in high spirits and threw themselves into every activity. Below are some of the images taken from the transition days. We look forward to seeing the children either at the Summer school (please see the Google Form on the school website to reserve a place) or in September.

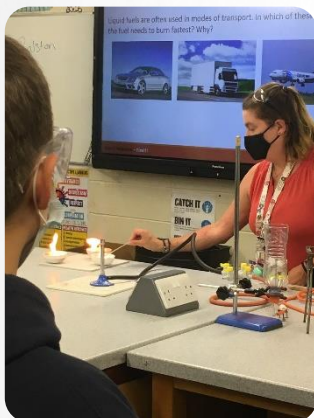


Important information:

Unfortunately, we have also had to make the decision to cancel the face to face **Pastoral Day** which was planned for the 8th July. This is in light of the recent Government announcement and guidance from Cheshire East and Public Health England about how to keep the children and school community Covid safe.

Uniform:

This can be purchased from Sam Dales and Son LTD (Holmes Chapel) and Badged (Sandbach). Both companies will ensure that your child is kitted out with the correct uniform.



Parents Information Evening

Currently this is scheduled to take place face to face (parents only) at school. Please be aware that we are continuing to follow the advice of Cheshire East and Public Health England. This event might be moved online. We will inform you of this before the event.

Arley and Capesthorpe Parents: Monday 12th July at 6.00pm

Moreton and Tatton Parents: Tuesday 13th July at 6.00pm.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

Parent Survey - Village Walking Routes to Schools



HOLMES CHAPEL
PARISH COUNCIL

Following a meeting of the Safe Walking Routes to School Task Group earlier this week, Holmes Chapel Parish Council and Holmes Chapel Partnership have launched a short survey for residents walking to school in the village.

The survey will close on 16 July. The results will help the Task Group identify walking route improvements that are needed across the village.

The survey is very quick and can be completed online via this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/walkingtoschool>

Vacancies

We currently have a number of Support Staff vacancies that have arisen in school. These are:

Data Officer
Internal Alternative Provision Manager
LRC Co-ordinator
School Cleaners

If you are interested in these roles, please visit the School website for further information.





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Will's National Final - Middlesex

We finished the final at Rectory Park Middlesex, as 'Runners - Up' of the National Junior Premier League & Winners of the Northern JPL Division. The boys played some impressive football and were beaten by a respectful, stronger team, PSA London. Pro Pathway were overall delighted with their silver medals and were thoroughly excited to make it to the final and experience a wonderful and professional event and no doubt will have memories of this achievement, for a very long time.



Online gaming has seen a massive increase in popularity with children over the COVID-19 pandemic, as result of more time spent at home and restrictions on physical social contact.

Please be aware that there are a number of free Gaming4Good webinars where you can hear from a panel of experts in family gaming who will discuss psychology, gaming risk and finance, how to approach your child's gaming to help them get the most out of it... and avoid the pitfalls.

The panellists include:
Liz Stanton MBE, **Get Safe Online (moderator)**
Annette Whalley, **HSBC**
Cath Knibbs, **cyber trauma specialist**
Adrian Sladdin, **gaming & gambling expert**
Andy Robertson, **author and gaming for kids expert**
Mat Hasker, **Get Safe Online, gaming specialist**

The live webinar sessions have now taken place but recordings are still available online if you wish to access this information. All the information can also be found on the following website:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/gaming4good-webinars/>



01477 410500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

Congratulations Ciaran Turner!

Congratulations to Ciaran Turner who posted a time of 2:55.89 in the 200m Butterfly stroke which places him 10th in Great Britain right now!!!! How amazing is that! Ciaran trains most days and is often up at 4.30am to get to the pool.

This is an incredible achievement Ciaran and we will watch you progress carefully over the coming years!

Super proud of you.





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



01477 410500



Office @hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

Toby Hurstfield

Toby Hurstfield at the presentation of new caps at the Final England Down the Line selection shoot in Somerset . (Pictured) England DTL team new cap and Junior team Captain Toby Hurstfield



Goostrey Rose Queen

Cate Clayton has been crowned Goostrey Rose Queen. [Click here to read more.](#)

