



*Dear all*

I hope you are all well and are enjoying the early part of the Spring. Days are longer, it's light a bit later and it's great to be heading out of what must be one of the wettest winters I can remember for a long time. I generally get up before dawn and whatever the weather usually I spend some time outside doing some stretching and breathing. This allows me to wake up calmly and to think about the things I need to do during the day and to be grateful for the day before. To be honest, it's more challenging in the cold and when it's raining. Seeing the sun come up in the early morning and hearing the birds sing is so much more uplifting and is always a beautiful thing to experience.

Notwithstanding the normal ups and downs of a busy school we have enjoyed a pretty good few weeks. Schools are by their nature complex places with complex interactions and this can sometimes make it seem that things are a little chaotic, especially from the perspective of families looking in and sometimes also from the perspective of the children we serve. This year, our planned move to a very well staffed year group welfare and support model has done a lot to change this perception and to provide a good quality service for our children and families. Each year group team has eight tutors, a Head of Year



(also a teacher) and a Welfare Manager, each with considerable experience in child welfare, support and care. These teams work very hard to make sure that our children are in school, punctual to lessons, working hard and making progress. They also invest huge amounts of energy, often behind the scenes and often after hours in helping our children to feel that school is a place to grow, learn and thrive. I'd like to celebrate the work of all colleagues who are invested in the welfare of your children so that they are able to achieve well, be fulfilled and feel successful.

One of the roles that successful schools play is the development of their staff and training future leaders. Our school delivers a very successful national leadership development programme which allows colleagues from schools across our region to develop their expertise and skills. This gives us some great leaders at all levels across the organisation and beyond. We have also invested in an online leadership training platform that is accessible to any colleague, no matter what their role. A significant number of our teaching and support staff colleagues have started on a leadership development course this year. A strong testament and demonstration of our key values of learning and ambition. Our school is delivering excellent career and training opportunities across the board and successfully growing the next generation of teachers and leaders. Our school based initial teacher training (SCITT) programme delivers an exemplary programme across our region. Just like our school, our SCITT had a number of consecutive very successful Ofsted inspection outcomes and for some years has had a 100% success rate in terms of trainees securing the role of their choice. These are incredible outcomes and the team who run these programmes are clearly doing a great job in putting our school at the forefront of training and development

It seems amazing to say this but we are now well into the second half of the school year. Like the mid phase of a marathon, this is where we all need to focus on being positive, engaged and enthusiastic. Critically, we need to show our children that determination, commitment, diligence are good things and allow us to grow and flourish. We all want our children to be successful, to feel fulfilled and happy but these have to be worked for and earned. Building in characteristics such as determination, commitment, diligence in childhood has a very clear impact on quality of life, quality of opportunities, quality of friendship and relationships and good mental health. Hard work also pays off when it comes to learning outcomes and grades. Grades themselves certainly don't make a person but they do create opportunities and allow children to have options about their future. I am sure we are all equally ambitious for every child in the school as they head towards their formal, external examinations. This will be the 30th year that I have seen children through their finals and with all that accrued experience the one thing that I know for sure is that those who put in the hours of high quality, meaningful revision, doing past questions, making short term sacrifices in terms of their amount of social time, jobs etc walk away with higher grades and more options for the future than those who don't. With just a few weeks to go until the start of the external examination season, now is the time to work hard, commit time and dedicate the space to make dreams come true.

Warm regards

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher



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## Alternative Learning Week 7th - 12th July 2025

The penultimate week of the 2024/25 academic year will be an Alternative Learning Week, where the usual timetable will be suspended and students will be invited to take part in a range of different activities throughout the week.

In the Autumn term, we launched our Residential Trips offer, and some 237 HCCS students will be travelling to France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Germany, Poland, the Caribbean and Kenya!



For the rest of the week, a range of activities are being planned, both in school and on day trips.

Firstly, whole school activities. Each year group will be offered the opportunity to take part in a day trip to Alton Towers, and each year group will also have one day dedicated to either the Army Elite Skills workshop (Year 9, 10, 6th form) or a Problem Solving Activities Day (Year 7 and 8). Details of the Alton Towers visit will be going out this week.

The following activities are in the planning stages. These will be communicated out by the trip leaders as they become available but include the following.

**Literacy Trip** - a day trip to Stratford Upon Avon for our dedicated readers

**Longbridge Trip** - a day trip all about Victorian life

**Art Trip** - a day trip to the Liverpool galleries for GCSE students

**Fishing Trip** - a day trip to local fishing spots

**Food Trip** - a day trip to Manchester with Scranchester food tours

**Wildshore Delemere** - a day trip with lots of water involved

**Jodrell Bank** - a day trip to the world famous observatory

**Drama Workshop** - an activity day with external visitors

**Chester Zoo** - a day at the zoo!

Keep an eye out for these events- they will be coming available over the next few weeks.



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## Curriculum Matters

### What students will be learning this term



At the start of each term and half term previously this year we have shared with you a curriculum overview for each subject. Following our first parents forum this year, we have wanted to make what students are learning and why clearer for you and easier to access. We now share all of this information for you on our [curriculum website](#). Here you will find an overview for each subject for each term. This is a work in progress for us and our teams will be working hard in the summer term to make sure all of the information you will need is both available and accessible. We're looking forward to sharing this with those parents able to attend our forum on 21st May.

### Parents evenings

We emailed all parents of students in Years 7 to 11 last week to ask for your feedback on parents evenings and on information evenings at the start of the year. Thank you to the large number of you who have already done this. [The survey](#) will close on Friday 21st March, so please make sure you have added your feedback by then if you want to help us shape these events for next year. We will give feedback to you at the parents forum in May.



### Year 11 exam preparation

It has been fantastic to see the number of Year 11 students spending an hour or two in the sixth form study area at the end of the day on Mondays-Thursdays. The atmosphere has been so productive as students have worked individually or in groups in a really purposeful atmosphere. Attendance in our morning and after school subject session has also been excellent. If you want to support your child more in HOW to study most effectively, please make use of our [Smart Learning](#) course. [This video](#) in particular focuses on how students can use technology as an aid, not a distraction.

### Year 10 mock exams

Year 10 mocks will soon be upon us (straight after Easter). This is our students opportunity to practise and be ready for the intensity of year 11. Mr Sneddon has written a letter home to parents about this and we will be sharing more information about mock content via the website but students and their parents will certainly benefit from watching some of the ['during learning'](#) tips on the same Smart Learning course.



## UCAS Discovery Event 2025

On Wednesday 5th March, our current Year 12 students made their way into Manchester for the UCAS Discovery event 2025. A broad variety of Universities, Colleges and Employers filled the Exhibition Centre ready with vital information...and a few freebies for our students. It was a great success with many students finding it extremely useful to be able to ask vital questions about their next steps.



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# NEWSLETTER

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




## Year 7 News

Our assemblies this week have been based on the theme of gender equality to link in with 'International Women's Day' which was on Saturday 8th March.

**Girl is on fire** **Year 7 Assembly - Belonging to this community** **International Women's Day**  
 Celebrating International Women's Day, Equality, Fairness

**Unstoppable**



In today's Assembly we will be learning about International Women's Day and the issues surrounding gender equality.

**What is gender equality?**

Men and women are treated fairly and enjoying the same rights, access to resources, opportunities/careers, protections and choices

Often men and women are treated differently all around the world, this is known as gender inequality.

**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

### Netball Trip

We're looking forward to the Netball Trip Sunday 16th March to watch Manchester Thunder. We will be watching a charity match between Coronation Street and Emmerdale and then the big Super League game which is supposed to be the game of the season! Good Luck to our Year 9 Cheer Leaders who are performing at the interval!



### Reminders

Please ensure that your child has a lunch card. If they have misplaced their card, they can purchase a new one from the school reception.

We have seen an increase in Year 7 students chewing, wearing jewellery and not wearing a tie. Please can we ask that you speak with your child about the importance of following the school expectations.

### The Year 7 Team

### International Women's Day

I had the pleasure of celebrating 'International Women's Day' with our Year 7 Netball team at their first County Tournament. They played some great Netball against some tough competition and more importantly had fun dancing and having picnics in the sun! A great day - well done girls!

Thank you to all of the parents who came to support and in particular thank you to Donna Warren who helped with the scoring.



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Wirral Community Health and Care  
NHS Foundation Trust

Compassion Open Trust

## Routine School Immunisations

### Year 9 Immunisations:

- DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, polio) – this is the teenage booster
- MenACWY – given in year 9 to protect against four types of meningitis

Give consent by scanning the QR code!

Find your school code by clicking the Cheshire East School link



SCAN ME

Contact the School Aged Immunisation Team on:

[wcnt.immunisation@nhs.net](mailto:wcnt.immunisation@nhs.net)



0-19+ Health and Wellbeing Service

[wdhc.nhs.uk](http://wdhc.nhs.uk) [@schoolnursesCE](https://www.facebook.com/schoolnursesCE) [@wdchc\\_nhs](https://twitter.com/wdchc_nhs)

In partnership:  
Cheshire East Council

## Careers Corner

### Jobs of the week



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## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

### HCCS Literature Festival 2025

Last week, we held our 3rd annual Literature Festival. This exciting week is dedicated to celebrating all things literacy, bringing together students, teachers, and the wider community to explore the magic of reading, writing, and storytelling. It's a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of literacy in our daily lives, and to inspire a love of books and language that can last a lifetime. We hope this festival sparks creativity, encourages new ideas, and reinforces the vital role literacy plays in both education and beyond!

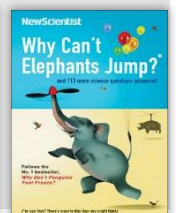
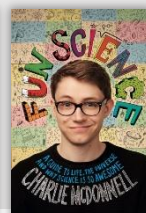
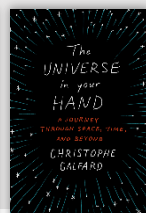
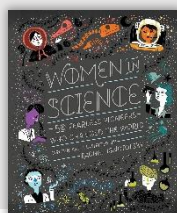
Keep an eye out for our Special Edition Newsletter coming soon, with a full write up of activities and fun we had for HCCS Literature Festival 2025.



### British Science Week Book Recommendations

In celebration of British Science Week, we're excited to share some fantastic book recommendations that explore the wonders of science! From mind-blowing experiments to captivating scientific discoveries, these books will spark curiosity and inspire young minds.

Happy reading!





## HCCS Equestrian

The HCCS Equestrian team had a very successful outing to Kelsall Hill Equestrian Center during the February half term.

The newly formed 70cm show jumping team comprising of Bethany, Bea, Sophia and Essie gave their first team competition a good shot and all rode brilliantly but were out of the placings in the team event. Essie delivered a wonderful clear round in a fast time to take 5th place in the individual competition.

The 80cm team of Emily, Lyla, Essie and Flix also rode wonderfully and took the 1st place Cheshire County title and qualified for the National Championships at Hickstead International Show ground in Surrey. Emily navigated her pony to a super speedy clear to take the individual win as well and qualify for nationals.

Finally the 90cm team of Emily, Flix and Lyla showed real determination to ride another set of beautiful rounds to again take the top County spot and a third qualification card. Flix delivered a super calm clear to take individual 8th spot as well.



A huge well done to all the girls and we look forward to following their journey over the coming competition season.

## Biggest Ever Football Festival - International Women's Day

On Friday 7th March we celebrated international women's day and joined in the biggest football festival. The Girls were fantastic. We participated in a tournament with over 70 students at Holmes Chapel. All of the girls were so excited and could not wait to begin.

It was great to see so many aspiring young female footballers participating and having fun all morning, they never stopped smiling. Well done to all the girls involved it was a pleasure to be a part of and see you all enjoy yourselves so much. Thank you for being such amazing ambassadors for our school, keep up all your hard work and don't forget girls football is on every Wednesday, lets get more involved.

Well Done to all.

PE Team



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## Lillie-Grace Rucker – Dancing into her Future

Recently Lillie Grace Rucker had the opportunity to audition at the Hammond for the next chapter in her life. She has been dancing for 14 years at Laura Wilson's School of dance and after being accepted after a grueling audition process now has to choose between 2 separate full time training courses in either a 3 year diploma in dance or a 3 year diploma in musical theatre. Lillie has been an exceptional student at Holmes Chapel and a valued member of the GCSE PE class.

Lillie said "After 14 years performing and training at Laura Wilson's school of dance I'm so excited for the next chapter!!"

She has worked so hard in achieving her dreams and I wish her all the luck in the world for her new adventure that awaits. What an absolute pleasure to have taught such an outstanding role model within our school community. Good Luck Lillie, You will be a star. Mrs Mee



### the Hammond



## PE News

### Cheshire County Netball Tournament

The year 9's competed in the Cheshire County netball Tournament on Saturday 8th March. It was a fantastic way to start the weekend in glorious sunshine on International Women's Day. The girls had a great day and came up against some tough competition losing their first two games to the Kings and Queens Schools, However they never gave up and got better and better each game finally winning the last game 8 - 2 against Leftwich High school. It was a great day and the year 9's owe a huge thank you to four Year 8 girls who stepped in at the last minute to complete the team. Well done to all the girls, they were fantastic ambassadors for our school community and we could not be any prouder of their efforts and achievements. Well done.



### Year 8 Boys Football Vs Alsager

Year 8 team lost 5-2 last night to Alsager. Took the lead through a smart finish from Randy, but then struggled to control the game on a bobbly pitch. Alsager struck back towards the end of the first half. Second half Alsager took control and scored 3 goals in quick succession before Tom L gave HCCS hope with a smart header from Hugo K cross. Unfortunately tired legs kicked in, and Alsager finished off the tie with a fifth goal in the last few minutes.



### Year 11 Boys Football Vs Alsager

Well done to our year 11 boys who played against Alsager in the south Cheshire cup as part of their final ever game for the school. After some questionable defending, robust keeping to stay in it, and very few questions asked of the opposition's keeper, Holmes chapel found themselves 3 behind at half time. Following some changes at half time and route 1 football deployed, the boys turned the game right around with some great finishes from Charlie O and Alfie B (plus another disallowed) to bring the game right back into grasp (3-2). However, Alsager managed to score 2 well taken long-range strikes to put the game out of sight for it to finish 5-2. A slow start but a great second half, battling until the final whistle.



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## Year 11 Girls Football Vs Alsager

Congratulations to our year 10&11 girls who took on a very strong Alsager team in the south Cheshire cup. Holmes Chapel fell quickly behind to a long range effort from Alsager but then settled and started to play some good football. At HT the score was 3-0, but with a few changes in the second half we began to gain confidence and play our best football, creating some excellent chances. Unfortunately, we weren't able to convert those to goals and ultimately lost the match. However, this was a great team effort where we competed until the final whistle.



## Year 7 Boys Cheshire Cup

Year 7 footballers emphatically beat Alsager 8-6 in an entertaining game on Thursday night. We raced into a 4-0 lead in the first half with some great play and fantastic finishing from Reuben L. Alsager didn't give up and grew into the game, pulling the score back to 4-2. Smart finishing from Riley B ensured Holmes Chapel kept a solid lead, despite a fightback from Alsager. The game was as good as over when Oscar K scored with a cross/shot to finish the game off and see Holmes Chapel into the next round V Brine Leas.

## Year 7 Girls Football Vs Alsager

Well done to our year 7 girls football team who took on Alsager in the South Cheshire Cup on Tuesday. They played some fantastic football re-gaining possession of the ball numerous times with our strong midfield but unfortunately were unable to convert their goals due to a strong Alsager defence and lost 0-2. However, with a change of formation they managed in the second half to have some near misses at goal and our defence remained very strong with some excellent saves from our goalkeeper, preventing us from conceding further goals. Despite the score the girls remained resilient and played strong against a very even opposition and should be very proud!



## Year 8 & 9 Girls Football

We played host to Alsager who we beat last year en route to the south Cheshire final. This year they were much stronger and more competitive. It was a tense first half with neither team breaking the deadlock. Alsager went ahead early in the second half after a good through ball. Holmes Chapel never gave up the fight, creating chance after chance but unfortunately it wasn't our day and ultimately Alsager ran out 3-0 victors. Well done ladies on a great season this year.

## Year 10 Boys Match Report Vs Alsager

Congratulations to our year 10 team who battled well against a decent Alsager side. The first half was a close fought affair with little between the two teams. Into the second half we went, frustrating Alsager with some strong defending as a team. Unfortunately, Alsager managed to find the back of the net midway through the second half before a great goal was scored by Ben R that sailed over the keeper's head from a tight angle (1-1). The boys managed to fight on and take Alsager to extra time where they sadly fell behind to two good finishes, leaving the game to finish 3-1, falling out of the South Cheshire cup.



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## HOLMES CHAPEL FUN RUN

Date: Sunday 11th May  
Location: Dane Meadow  
Time: 9.30am

This is a new, one-off, event for 2025 to fundraise for the Kenya trip. £2 entry fee, plus all entrants are encouraged to get sponsorship to go towards their own local group or charity.

The route round the Dane Meadow is approximately 2km, with disabled access and routes available.



Please register your interest in taking part, either as a participant or a volunteer steward, by emailing [info@hccpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@hccpartnership.org.uk)



Holmes Chapel Partnership would like to invite your organisation to take part in a Fun Run being organised for May in the Dane Meadow. To register for the event and find out more about it, visit the Holmes Chapel Partnership website:

<https://www.hccpartnership.org.uk/hcfunrun>

Kind regards  
The Partnership Team

### Space4Autism

Space4Autism is a charity helping Families (parents and children) and adults with Autism as good as possible.

We do presentations at schools for parents (most of the time during a coffee morning) to show them who we are and what services we have for them to use.

Also we give training for school staff. The presentation is free. For the training we ask a little amount of money to cover the costs.

If you go to our website <https://space4autism.com/> you can see an overview of our services for parents/children already. Click on What's on à What's on Guides and there you will 3 Guides popping up. In it is everything we can offer.



Cakes and cupcakes - £1  
Main Canopy at Break



# S4A



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# WHAT IT'S REALLY LIKE LIVING WITH AUTISM

## Delivered by Ben Simpson - Space4Autism

A talk delivered by Ben Simpson, an autistic adult, looking at his experiences from childhood up to adulthood.



Thursday 13th March  
6-7.30pm (Zoom)



Tuesday 8th April 7-9pm face to face at Space4autism



To book or for more information, please email [parenting@justdropin.co.uk](mailto:parenting@justdropin.co.uk)



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