



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Issue: 187

Date: 4th April 2025



Dear all

As we come to the end of a successful spring term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and express my gratitude to every member of our school community. This term has been a testament to the values that define our school - **belonging, pride, ambition, and learning** - values that shape our daily experiences and inspire us to strive for excellence.

Our students have continued to show remarkable dedication to their studies, demonstrating a true love of **learning** and a determination to succeed. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, in the arts, practical subjects or through extracurricular activities, so many of our children have embraced a wide range of challenges with enthusiasm and commitment. It has been inspiring to see their curiosity and passion flourish, and I am incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the people they are becoming. Thankyou for your support in helping shape these young lives so that they are happy and fulfilled.

**BELONGING
PRIDE
AMBITION
LEARNING**

One of the highlights of this term has been seeing the growth in an ever stronger sense of **belonging** within our school. So many people in our community strive to act in ways that show respect, kindness, and inclusivity, and it has been wonderful to see students supporting one another, celebrating each other's achievements, and working together as a team. Whether through their friendship groups, events during and after school, or acts of kindness, our students and staff have reinforced the importance of connection and belonging

This term has also been filled with moments of **pride** - not just in academic successes but in the resilience, creativity, and determination of our students. Many of our students face the ups and downs of life in ways that perhaps those of us who are older did not and the challenges of childhood are so different to those just a few years ago. I have shared so many little moments this term of feeling incredibly proud of our children, and the staff who serve them. I encourage each and every one of us to take pride in the achievements of our children, big or small, to recognise the growth they have made over the past months and to show gratitude for those who have helped them along the way.

At the heart of everything we do is **ambition** - the drive to push boundaries, set goals, and aspire to be the best versions of ourselves. This ambition is what fuels our students' successes and prepares them for the future. Whether aiming for their personal best exam results, facing a challenge, mastering a new skill, or contributing positively to our wider community, our students continue to show that they are capable of great things. I urge them to carry this ambition forward into the summer term and beyond.

I also want to take a moment to thank our staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment to providing a rich and inspiring education, while fostering a supportive environment where every student feels a sense of **belonging**, is truly commendable. Likewise, to our parents, carers and guardians, your encouragement and involvement play a vital role in our students' success, and I am grateful for your continued support.

As we move into the summer term, I encourage all students to take time over the break to rest, recharge, and reflect. Enjoy time with family and friends, celebrate your accomplishments, and return refreshed, ready to embrace new opportunities for **learning** and growth.

Thank you all for making this term such a success. I am filled with **pride** in what we have achieved together, and I look forward to the ambition, passion, and sense of **belonging** that will continue to drive us forward.

Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



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Curriculum Matters

Parents Evening Survey

Parents' evenings should have an impact on every student's progress. The move to online parents' evenings during the pandemic brought a level of convenience in enabling parents to attend remotely. While remote attendance has become common practice, as it has with seeing the doctor or meeting work colleagues, this has brought with it barriers to forming strong relationships between our teachers and our parents.

'Belonging' and 'Learning' are two of our core values. With this in mind we carried out a survey of our parents to understand better how they felt. Thank you to the 200 families who took the time to respond to this survey.

The vast majority of you agreed that online parents evenings were a convenient way to get feedback. There was also a 50/50 split between those of you preferring in school or on-line parents evenings - with strong opinions at both ends of the spectrum.

Rather than simply being about evenings being in school or online, your greater concerns were around:

- The inability to get to see all of the teachers you want to see
- The timing of the evening preventing you from being available to get appointments
- The length of appointments
- The quality of feedback given

Plans are already underway to resolve as many of these problems as we can for next year. We are looking forward to sharing our assessment and reporting calendar, and the thinking behind this with you at the parents forum on 21st May.

Year 11 Exam Preparation - Summer Exams

Exam timetables are now available in the reports section of My Child At School and the student portal. Seating arrangements will be released nearer the time, please check again nearer the time for this information

If your child has an exam on 18th June, this is a school inset day, therefore there will be no school transport or catering facilities. Students will need to make their own way to and from school and bring some lunch if they are attending all day.



With the exam period approaching, additional support has been arranged for Year 11 students, including focused Masterclasses before key exams. These sessions provide targeted guidance to help students improve exam skills and confidence. We are still providing space and guidance in our 6th form on Monday to Thursday to support your child's revision here. More and more students are using these sessions which has been brilliant to see.

When not in an exam or attending a Masterclass, students must continue attending regular lessons to receive subject support and supervised independent study.

From the afternoon of May 20th, students will have the option to study at home following the morning exam, though the school will still provide timetabled study support for those who prefer to stay.

More details are on this [link](#).

Year 10 Exams

In order to help students become familiar with exam style questions, and to prepare them for GCSE's, we stagger our mock examinations over both years 10 and 11.

Students in year 10 have already sat some practice exams in English and Maths, and will have two further opportunities this year to demonstrate what they have learned so far.



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Key Dates:

Tues 22nd April to Thurs 24th April - Mock examinations in English, Maths and Science. There are lots of resources available online, and on the subject Google Classrooms to help students revise and prepare thoroughly and Mr Sneddon wrote to you earlier this half term with more information about the exam content.

Friday 25th April - BTEC students working on their PSA coursework - final completion

Option subjects will have mock exams on the following dates:
Wed 25th and Thurs 26th June

Also in June, you will receive the third interim report of the year, with information about attendance, approach to learning, and progress in all subjects. This will be published on 13th June.

House Leader Team Update

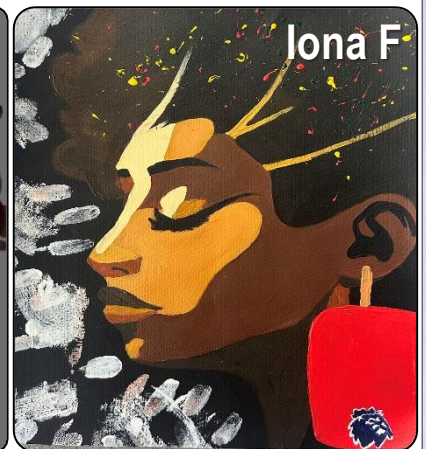
As we arrive at the end of the second full term of the academic year, we would love to update you on what has been happening with the school's integral House Team. The team has led the way in tackling discriminatory behaviours within our school community in the last half term by organising an anti-racism artwork house competition with the winners being sent off to a national competition. All tutor groups were required to take part so all students were given the opportunity to think about how to be anti-racist through the medium of art. This included: anti-racist posters, poems, football boot designs, t-shirt designs and other art forms. The winners of the house competition have been included below. Please pass on your congratulations to these students for their amazing effort and skill and well done to Moreton for winning the house competition.

As we progress into the summer term, there will be a number of house competitions and events running so keep an eye out for these.

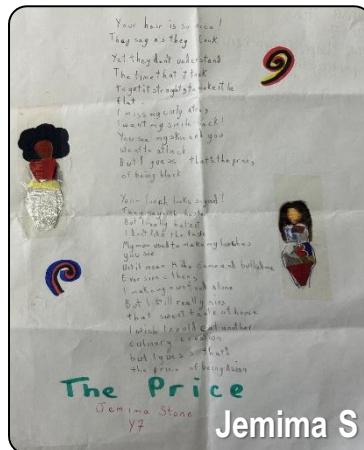
Thanks,
Mr Beard, Miss Kelman, Miss Lawrence, Mrs Riley



Lily J



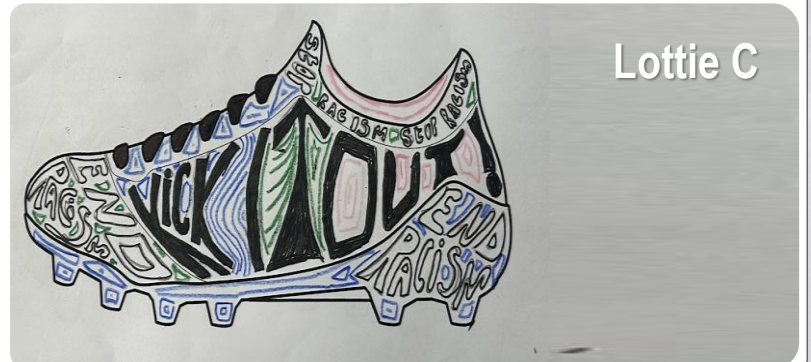
Iona F



Gemima S



Kara T



Lottie C



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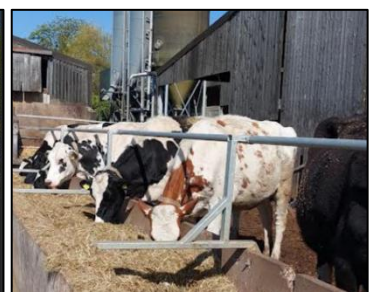
Thank You to Our Community

We are incredibly grateful to members within our community who have provided our RP students with some alternative activities to enhance their learning and provide some 'mindfulness down time' after working hard to gain their reward stamps.

We have enjoyed some time building wooden models at Dales where students built their chosen objects from wood. Some of the students enjoyed a tranquil afternoon fishing at Wyvern Pool in Winsford where they were taught the basic skills of fishing, and for some this definitely sparked an interest for future rewards and trips out!

Students were prepared for Mothers day where once again Dales came to the rescue and Mandie came into the RP to teach students (and staff) how to decoupage a shell. There were some very happy mums last Sunday. And this week we learned about the working of a dairy farm and we had a tour of our local dairy and obviously enjoyed sampling their creations in the sunshine. A big thank you to Bidlea Dairy for our informative afternoon.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our amazing community offering these 'free' events to support our children's development. We can not thank you enough for the experiences you have offered us.



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Apprenticeship Talk

On Monday 24th March, we were lucky enough to welcome Amber Paton and one of our governors, Mike Woods, into school to talk to students about the benefits of apprenticeships. A mixture of Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended and enjoyed finding out about the pathways open to them at Siemens Energy and beyond!



Biology News

Our yr 11 biology classes have been studying unit 6 - Inheritance, Variation, and Evolution. To help teach the concept of selective breeding and bring Biology to life one of our yr11 Triple biology classes had a guest lecturer in the form of Zoe the Italian Greyhound.

Zoe helped to show how the Grey wolf (*Canis Lupis*) was selectively bred over the course of the last 130,000 years to produce the many different dog breeds we see today. She challenged students to identify the desirable traits her breed were selected for and the process humans used to select for them and compare it to evolution by natural selection.



In an effort to further showcase Biology outside of the classroom our yr13 class took a trip to Chester zoo where they had a walking tour whilst being shown examples of evolution. Including the disruptive selection that caused the evolution of Giraffes and Okapi from a common ancestor, the former adapted to life on the savannah and the later in the jungle. An example of sympatric speciation was also wonderfully demonstrated by showcasing how different species of hornbill evolved in the same habitat by relying on different size trees for nesting. The fantastic education unit at Chester Zoo also showed us examples of their incredible conservation work.

In a few months our Yr 12 class will also be heading up to Scotland in the trip organised and run by the brilliant Ms Ralston for a week long residential where they will get to complete their required practical work on sampling and practice the infinitely fun topic of biological statistics.

Singfest

On Wednesday members of Choir kindly volunteered their time, enthusiasm and musicianship to perform in a Singfest concert with Brereton Primary School and Holmes Chapel Primary at Congleton Town Hall. They showed brilliant perseverance in a 75 minute concert organised by the Love Music Trust featuring all kinds of songs and actions. In the afternoon, we took part in a vocal workshop with two vocal tutors - practising singing in parts and in harmony, and learning some new songs.

Thank you to all of the students involved - you were a real credit to HCCS. Your behaviour and attitude was impeccable and you represented the school amazingly.



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Alternative Learning Week (ALW)

This year we are publishing all of our day trips so that students and parents can see the activities on offer and choose which trip(s) to sign up to. Trip Leaders will be contacting parents in the next few weeks with details of how to book a place, then the option to pay will be made available on SCOPAY.

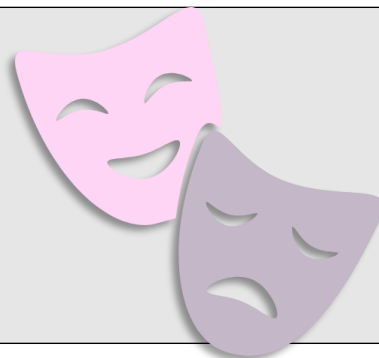
Prices, where quoted, are approximate - these will depend on student numbers and transport costs.

*The Chester Zoo and Wildshore visits are dependent on staff availability.

	Mon 7th	Tues 8th	Weds 9th	Thurs 10th	Fri 11th
Year 7	Activity Day (in school)	Jodrell Bank	Stratford-upon-Avon	*Chester Zoo	Alton Towers £45
Year 8	Alton Towers £45	Activity Day (in school) Manchester Food Tour £45	Stratford-upon-Avon *Chester Zoo	Ironbridge	Drama Workshop (in school) £10 *Wildshore
Year 9	*Chester Zoo	Army Elite Skills Course (in school)	Alton Towers £45 Stratford-upon-Avon	*Wildshore	Drama Workshop (in school) £10
Year 10	Liverpool Art Gallery £10	Manchester Food Tour £45	Stratford-upon-Avon *Wildshore	Alton Towers £45	Army Elite Skills Course (in school) Drama Workshop (in school) £10
Year 12	Derby Uni Experience	Alton Towers £45		Army Elite Skills Course (in school)	
All Years Groups			Fishing Trip (3 days) £45		

ALW Drama Workshop

We are delighted to be able to offer a Professional Performance Workshop at HCCS held on Friday 12th July during ALW. This will be a full day experience with a professional from the theatre industry. There will be the opportunity to collaborate with actors from Year 8, 9 and 10. The cost for the full day experience will be £10. This is a really exciting opportunity and we look forward to welcoming many of our actors there. There are 30 places on a first come, first served basis.



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ALW Fishing Challenge

Wednesday-Friday 9th-11th July 2025

Welcome to the HCCS fishing challenge 2025. If you are a regular or occasional fisherman then there are potentially some exciting days of fishing ahead!!

We will be fishing 3 separate venues on each of the days which hopefully give a good variety of fishing experience

Requirements:

- **Your own tackle and seat**
- **Appropriate clothing**
- **Food and drink**
- **Phone**
- **Valid fishing licence if 13 or over**

If interested please collect a letter from the Science faculty office



ALW Food Trip

I plan to run a food tour of Manchester with a company called Scranchester. Students will have the opportunity to go on a gastronomic tour of Manchester learning about the food history of this great industrial city and sampling some of the best food and drink that the city has to offer.

We will walk to the station and get the train to Manchester. We will be in Manchester all day and be back in time for students to get the buses. The cost will be approximately £45.

ALW Stratford-Upon-Avon

Wednesday 9th July. Trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon for all pupils who have helped promote reading for pleasure across school.

The Day will consist of some creative writing and a Shakespearean Escape Room.



ALW Chester Zoo

We will be launching trips to Chester Zoo for years 7, 8 and 9 when we return after Easter. These will be days trips leaving the school by 9 and returning before the end of the day. The cost of the visit will be approximately £30. Details to follow.

ALW Wildshore

We will be launching trips to Wildshore Delamere for years 8 and 9 and 10 when we return after Easter. These will be days trips leaving the school by 9 and returning before the end of the day. The cost of the visit will be approximately £40 and limited to 70 students. Details to follow.

ALW Year 12 University Experience Trip

On Monday 7th July, we will be running a trip down to the University of Derby, where our Year 12 students will be able to take a tour of the campus, chat with various university staff and students and also participate in subject taster sessions!



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Year 7 News

As we come to the end of the spring term we celebrated the success of our Year 7 students in our Year group assembly this week.

We reflected on the highlights of the half term and how the students have followed our 4 school values Learning, Belonging, Pride and Ambition.

Learning - students have been involved in writing letters to our Year 6 students who will be attending school next year to help them with the transition to secondary school. Some of them have also been involved with creating a video with advice and helpful tips. Thank you to everyone who has been involved with this, we are very proud of you.

Belonging - our students have taken part in a project in My Curriculum where they have worked together to create costumes and shoes from cardboard and paper. They performed a catwalk fashion show to display their outfits. This was a huge success. Thank you to Mr Baker for organising this.

Pride - there have been many successes this term. More recently our Year 7 footballers have achieved a place in the South Cheshire Cup final. We wish them good luck in the match which take place after the Easter break.

Ambition - students have received their first interim report. They have been encouraged to reflect on these and set targets for their progress and approach to learning for next term.

During our celebration assembly this week our tutors described their highlight of the term and handed out awards for two students who had displayed the 4 values consistently throughout.

Congratulations to the following students on achieving these awards.

7SP	Leo M	Maisie G
7FO	Seb F	Lucie G
7RM	Harry C	Lizzie W
7DT	Zac C	Izzy L
7SA	Jack W	Emily L
7AL	Finn R	Maisie M
7TG	Eric A	Rose W
7EC	Jessica A	Oliver J

Pride - Celebrating Success



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Year 7 Highest Achiever Awards

Jemima S 239
Isla A 195
Seb F 185
Luke B 184
Thomas C 173
Neil B 164
Daisy-Mai C 163
Emily I 162

Tutor Group Awards

10,428 Positive achievement points logged this term

Highest Achievement Points

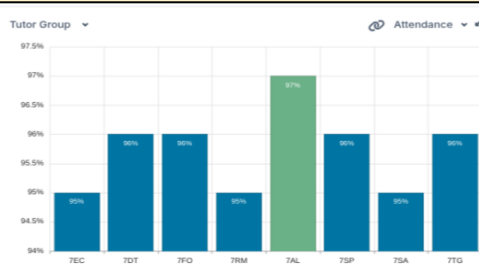
1st - 1592 points - 7TG
2nd - 1490 points - 7AL

Tutor Group Awards

Highest Attendance Award
7AL - 97%

Tutor Group Awards

Punctuality Award/ least number of lates
7SP



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Thank You!

We said a BIG THANK YOU to Mrs Colyer this week who is leaving us this term. She has been an amazing tutor to 7EC and we will miss her in our team.

Good Luck in your new job. 7EC will have Mr Fagan as their new tutor from April to July.

Have a wonderful Easter from The Year 7 Team



Year 7 Football

WELL DONE to our Year 7 football team who have made it to the FINAL of the Cheshire Cup!

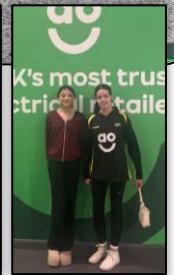
GOOD LUCK!!!





Manchester Thunder Netball Trip

Our Sunday Super League Netball Trip to Manchester AO arena was a huge success. The students from Year 7&8 had a great time supporting Manchester Thunder.. It was a pleasure to take such a great group of students.



Congratulations to Mia H and Maddie B who were part of the AO entertainment at the interval performing with APEX Cheerleading squad.



Year 7 Netballers

Congratulations to the Year 7 Netballers on coming 3rd in the South Cheshire Netball Tournament



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Millionaire Readers & SPARX Celebrations

Congratulations to the following classes who have all been given rewards for having the highest average word count in their Accelerated and Sparx Reader!

7y2, 8x3, 9y4, 10x4, 11x4



Sixth Form Dodgeball

During our Personal Development session on Monday 31st March, Year 13 indulged in some active team building by way of Dodge Ball! Charlie Mills set the rules and organised his peers and everyone tried to avoid being hit by fast bowler Jack Davies! Star performers of the match were named by Charlie as Harry H, Georgia R, Jack D, Harry F, Grace H, Vincent M and Lydia B.



Mr Bielby's Fish Demonstration

Mr Bielby took some time out of his very busy schedule to show a year 8 and 9 class how to make one of his favourite fish dishes - Goan Fish Curry.

Mr Bielby did a fantastic job. We all enjoyed seeing his passion for food and cookery and learning lots from his vast food knowledge. This demonstration was part of the Fish heroes competition run by the Food Teacher's Centre.



[Click here for the ingredients & equipment used](#)

[Click here for the method](#)



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Year 8 and 9 South Cheshire Netball Tournament

On Thursday The Year 8 and 9 had their final netball matches of the season. All the students were fantastic ambassadors for the school and community showing their dedication, commitment and focus to the sport and school. A huge well done on a tough season. The Year 8 squad of girls have improved immensely over the season, attending training and working hard to gain greater netball skills. The Year 9's narrowly missed out on the win to Sandbach but again showed great resilience and pride in their team.

Well done to all for a fantastic Year of Netball.
Mrs Mee



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