



Dear all,

Just after I published the last newsletter, many of us watched the funeral of Queen Elizabeth. I am sure that, like me, many of you were moved by her death and even more so by her life. Her Majesty was a very special individual and whether we are supporters of the Royal Family or not, she stood for a great many things that we all value. Her stand out characteristics are many and depending on where we look include, amongst many other things, loyalty, vision, commitment, service to others, dedication, care, kindness, respect and grace. She was an outstanding leader, took difficult decisions and had a strong sense of purpose. It's reported that Queen Elizabeth understood that some of her decisions would not always be liked or even popular but that this didn't mean that they were not good decisions. She understood the need to stand firm in her beliefs and in her actions too.

One of the things that I have learned and that strikes me most about her life is that Queen Elizabeth had very clear and well known beliefs, principles and values. This isn't necessarily unusual but what is more unusual is that she stuck firm to her beliefs, principles and values in all of her actions, relationships and interactions. It was absolutely clear how they were linked and Queen Elizabeth lived by them no matter what the situation or circumstances. In all of our lives, we can learn a huge amount from just this point alone.

A second lesson is that Queen Elizabeth recognised the need to have what she called 'constants' in her life. Well established daily and weekly routines that those who write about her say helped the Queen remain grounded in the here and now and to be humble. These might be small things like quietly enjoying a pot of tea at the same time every morning, making sure she was at her desk by a particular time and a host of other small, often private behaviours. For instance, Queen Elizabeth also had a lot to say on the benefit of a life lived outdoors as much as possible and that being in the open air and the elements was good for our sense of wellbeing. I believe these things are part of what we call 'mindfulness'. How do we address this need in ourselves and each other and what more can we do to be more mindful so that our mental health and wellbeing is better?

A third lesson from our Queen is that values are only meaningful if people choose to act in a way that shows them. We know this because whatever people thought of the Queen, her actions revealed the values she held close. If you ask almost anyone, there is a very clear understanding across the generations of what the Queen stood for. A key point is that Queen Elizabeth never allowed her behaviours and actions to be set at odds with her values. She made sure that through thick and thin, good and bad, times of adversity and times of happiness, how she behaved and acted were a visible manifestation of her beliefs. In our school, we have just four very clear key values linked to some key ways of interacting and behaving.

These are:

We learn together by:

- Listening, watching, sharing and practising
- Developing our curiosity by having an enquiring attitude
- Being excited and ambitious about our learning
- Reflecting on our actions and seeking to improve
- Not giving up and practising a growth mindset



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



We belong to our community and we show this by

- Appreciating and celebrating our shared values
- Working together, always showing kindness and respect
- Demonstrating positive actions, attitudes and behaviours
- Valuing each other's contributions to our community
- Seeking opportunities to be involved in our community

We are proud of ourselves and each other and we show this by

- Showing improvement in our actions, attitudes and behaviours
- Building positive relationships
- Recognising and celebrating our strengths and talents
- Practising resilient behaviours each day
- Being confident and bold in taking opportunities to grow our independence

We have consistently high expectations and we show this by

- Consistently demonstrating respect and excellent manners
- Practising the highest standards of behaviour and being confident to challenge those who don't.
- Treating others how we would like to be treated
- Taking responsibility for our own actions
- Being honest and acting with integrity to build trust

So what might Queen Elizabeth have thought about our very simple (and very new) set of values here at Holmes Chapel? How would she judge our personal actions and behaviours in relation to these? Would she see us being consistent in them? Would she see us doing our very best to live up to these? Would she see a whole community growing and nurturing these values in each of our children? Would she see us apply them only when it suits?

We all know that establishing this relationship between values, actions and behaviours is not an easy hill to climb and we all know that there are bumps and lumps along the way as well as successes and celebrations. I believe that Queen Elizabeth knew this too and that it is in times when things were difficult that we see how important our values really are and how we really act and behaviour towards each other. Her life and her death reminds us that we only get to make this journey once and what remains after is a legacy of which hers is the gold standard.

Now that we are at a time of a new beginning with King Charles on the throne, I hope that you will take some time to reflect on the values of our school and the behaviours that reflect them. Furthermore I invite you to think about how we can grow them within our children and each other and live by them so that we have a secure, safe, welcoming and inclusive place where our children and all of us can be happy, safe, fulfilled and achieve our ambitions.

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



Marking, feedback and Google Classroom. Getting involved!

We are now at the end of the first month at school so this is a great time for parents and families to start having a look in their children's exercise books and seeing how things are going. By the end of the next week, teachers across most parts of the curriculum will have provided at least one piece of written feedback for your child. This is also a good time to check that your child has signed onto all of their google classrooms. Every class should now have a google classroom.

Please sit with your child and check off each class on their timetable against their google classroom account. This will be a half hour well spent. All children have been shown how to do this and are probably way more expert than they might like us to think! Remember that all homework tasks are set on the google classroom and lesson materials are stored there for when children need to revisit learning from earlier in the day or week.

Teacher feedback on our students' work here at Holmes Chapel is always written in green and in the form of 'What Went Well (WWW), Even Better If (EBI) and Action. The 'Action' point should be something precise and targeted and should tell the child what they need to do to improve their work. I'd like to encourage you to read these green comments together with your child and plan some family time to talk about how they can improve and then for them to respond to these action points using their purple pen. All children know that this is an expectation of the assessment feedback loop so please encourage this piece of reflective learning irrelevant of whether formal homework has been set. Our children always do better at this kind of thing when parents and carers make the time to invest their time in engaging with learning.

Please contact the relevant **year group Learning Manager** directly if you have questions about marking and feedback for your child or if they have google classrooms missing from their timetable

- Year 7&8 - heather.hughes@hccs.info
- Year 9&10 - michael.forsyth@hccs.info
- Year 11 - brian.gallagher@hccs.info
- Year 12&13 - nikki.thomas@hccs.info



Routines, Routines, Routines

We are now four weeks into our new lesson routines and I thought it would be good to report back on how this is impacting on the learning environment at HCCS. Feedback from students and staff suggests that routines are being adhered to and this is having a positive effect. Some specific points to note from the feedback we have seen:

- The starts and ends of lessons are calmer
- The calm orderly start to lessons has ensure a more effective 5 minute reading time
- Students exit into corridors more calmly
- Uniform is MUCH improved and it has become rare to see a hoody during the school day
- Overall, we feel that compliance to our expected standards has been high during the first four weeks and that behaviour in lessons has improved as a result!

Please feed this back to your children and congratulate them as appropriate.

As we are starting to move into the colder months, this is also a good opportunity for a reminder about coats. Please ensure that all children come to school wearing an acceptable coat to keep them warm and dry as we increasingly start to get cold and wet weather. Many thanks for your continued support.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



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



hccs1978.co.uk



Upper School

It has been fantastic to start the term meeting with families to help support the set up of our new academic year. This has proven to be a valuable opportunity to establish clear priorities for each year group.

At the start of the academic year, we shared our four school values with students in our assemblies:

1. We learn together
2. We belong to this community
3. We are proud of ourselves and each other
4. We have consistently high expectations

It has been a real privilege to see these values permeate our Languages visit to Barcelona. This week, I have seen our children grow in confidence and use their linguistic talents to improve their conversational skills. I have loved learning alongside our students. It's great to see our community be enriched by culture and new experiences. I am so proud of our children and the manner that they have conducted themselves. We have received compliments numerous times from others who have also recognised the exemplary behaviour of our children whilst on the tour.

It is a privilege to see our children acting as ambassadors; setting and demonstrating the highest standards for themselves. I have seen students demonstrate kindness and compassion whilst looking after one another within and across year groups. Our Upper School community is a fantastic team to be part of.

Thank you to all the students, staff and parents who have supported this visit.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Open Evening

We are delighted to be able to invite you to the Sixth Form Open Evening. This is to take place on Thursday 6th of October from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. There will be two opportunities to listen to a talk, delivered by the Sixth Form team, including some representatives of the student leadership team. You will have an opportunity to meet the subject departments and to speak with students who are currently doing the subject. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form to help guide you at this exciting time. More information will be shared with you during assemblies before the event. If you have any questions at all please email sixthform@hccs.info or pop up to the Sixth form office.



HOLMES CHAPEL 6TH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

6th OCTOBER 2022 5.30pm – 7.30pm

TALK 1 – 5.30pm – 6:00pm

TALK 2 – 6:30pm – 7:00pm



SELKIRK DRIVE, HOLMES CHAPEL, CHESHIRE
CW4 7DX



EMAIL
office@hccs.info



TELEPHONE
01477 410 500



WEBSITE
hccs1978.co.uk



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

Year 12 Parent's Information Evening

I would like to say a huge thanks to all of the parents and students who attended our Year 12 Open Evening. It was really nice to have the opportunity to meet with many parents, face to face.

For those of you were unable to attend, you can see the presentation slides on the Sixth Form website or click the image to the right..

Holmes Chapel 6th Form College

Welcome to Holmes Chapel Sixth Form College

Year 12 Parent's Information Evening
Thursday September 22nd 2022

We learn together
We belong to this community
We are proud of ourselves and each other
We have consistently high expectations

Up and Coming Events

Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Days. In the next few days, Year 11 students will be invited to attend the Sixth Form for a day.

Details of this will be shared with students and we very much look forward to welcoming students in the Sixth Form for the day.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



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



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



MY Curriculum

Students have settled into the concept of MY Curriculum very quickly and there has been a huge variety of different tasks across the first two weeks.

Year 7 students have explored careers websites;

Year 8 have begun their own social campaigns;

Year 9 studied issues around the Holocaust;

Year 10 continued their drugs awareness course;

Year 11 examined issues around stress management.

After the half term, students will rotate to the next theme.

	Parent Homework
Year 7	Have you explored the "careerpilot" website with your child? Lesson 3 - Career Pilot.pptx Click this link for hints and tips for using careerpilot.
Year 8	Are there social campaigns that your family would be interested in exploring? From local campaigns like the HC Village Volunteers, Homegrown or Middlewich Food Bank to national campaigns like RSPCA or Comic Relief Red Nose Day 2023 (17th March 2023).
Year 9	If you had a chance to meet a holocaust survivor, what questions would you ask them?
Year 10	What issues does someone have to consider before starting a physical relationship?
Year 11	October Mock exams are approaching- what strategies can be used to help maintain focus and calm?
6th Form	What different opportunities could your child explore after college?

Parent Homework continues this fortnight. The tasks and questions are either linked to topics that students have covered or will be studying in the next week. We hope to encourage more debate about the subject and give you an insight into some of the topics covered in MY Curriculum.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



Year 11 Parents Information Evening

Thank you for attending the Year 11 Parents Information Evening. If you were unable to attend, or would like a copy of the slides, please follow [this link](#) where you can find the slides posted as well as other useful information. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor as a first port of call.

Year 7 Parent Information Evening

It was a pleasure to meet face to face with so many parents last night at the Year 7 information evening. Please [click here](#) to view the slides from the evening. **All parents:** although these slides were delivered to year 7 parents, there is useful information in these slides including reminders about the **safe use of mobile phones** that all parents could read and benefit from. The main advice is also summarised below:

Click the slide below for the Supporting Parents and Carers with safe mobile phone use slide.



Supporting Parents and Carers with mobile phone use

- Talk to you child regularly about their mobile phone use
 - Encourage them to be open
 - Reassure them that they won't get in trouble if things go wrong
- Make sure privacy settings are set correctly, updated and checked regularly
- Know your child's pass code; the child doesn't own the phone
- Carry out frequent and random phone checks
- Keep phones downstairs - have a shared charging point downstairs and check that their phone (not just the case) is there
- Encourage hobbies and interests which are not technology based
- Let children be bored; this is when creativity occurs and reveals the



We learn together. We belong to this community. We are proud of ourselves and each other. We have consistently high expectations.



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



Information from Our PCSO for Holmes Chapel

As we head into autumn with the summer holidays still just about visible in the rear-view mirror, our attentions inevitably turn to Halloween, firework displays and (dare I say?) even Christmas!

Earlier this month, I celebrated my two-year anniversary as Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Holmes Chapel and can honestly say I still enjoy the role and count my blessings to be working in such a nice area.

Working alongside PC Stuar Hatton, we have developed a strong working relationship with the staff and pupils at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School. We recognise the importance of working in partnership and are always happy to provide support to the school and families as and when required.

The school newsletter provides an opportunity to reach a wider audience, particularly those who don't use Facebook, to share the work we do and any advice or guidance around hot topics.

Most recently, the subject of e-scooters has become one such hot topic with people asking for clarification around where these can and can't be used legally. In short, unless the rider is in an e-scooter trial area (Cheshire East is not a trial area) then they may only be used on private land i.e. they are not to be ridden on a road or pavement. Further details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users>

We have been made aware of several near misses in the village involving e-scooters so wanted to provide some clarification on their usage, particularly with the devices likely to be high on some Christmas lists...

Thank you for reading and take care.

Ade & Stu

PCSO Ade Chadwick & PC Stuar Hatton

Lunch Cards and Lunch Queues

We raised the issue of lunch cards with parents during the course of last year, and we are still experiencing some difficulties with students not bringing or producing their lunch cards when purchasing lunch in the restaurant. During the course of this week, this has led to significant delays in the lunch service and we have estimated that only about 30% of children are using their lunch cards to pay.

Can we ask that you remind your children of the need to bring their cards and have them ready to pay, to enable a swift and efficient lunch service for all. If this does not happen, we may need to move to a different system, where students who don't have their cards will have to wait until other students have been served before going through the queues.

Many thanks for your help in resolving this issue.





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Keeping Unwell Children At Home

During the first few weeks of term we have seen an increase in unwell children being sent home during the early part of the day.

We are asking parents/guardians to keep children at home if your child/children are unwell. Please see the following link for guidance: Is my child too ill for school?

www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Helen Cliff
Health Care Officer.



Cycle to School Week - 3rd to 7th October

Cycle to School Week runs from 3rd to 7th October and encourages us to use pedal power to get to school. This is good for our health and wellbeing, encourages us to be out in the fresh air, good for the environment and good for our fuel bills.

Cycle to School Week runs from Monday 3 to Friday 7 October across the UK. During this time, the Bikeability Trust wants as many people as possible to make a pledge for Cycle to School Week.

I invite you to have a look at the following link and get involved!

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/>



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARENT GOVERNOR?

We are looking for anyone with parental responsibility for a child at this school to join our Board of Governors.

We are currently recruiting for 3 parent governors to join our Board. Your input on areas such as finance, behaviour & wellbeing, teaching & learning and site development will help to influence and improve school performance.

No previous experience is needed as free training is available to develop skills and provide support.

If you are interested, please [click here](#) or check out the Governor pages on our website.



Please contact Pauline Challinor, Clerk to the Board of Governors on 01477 410500 for further information.

**Deadline for nominations is
Friday 14th October 2022 at 12
noon.**



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Support For Families

As the cost of living crisis continues to affect more and more families in our community, we'd like to remind you of some of the support we can offer through school:



Free School Meals

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of a number of benefits including Income Support and Universal Credit. You can check your eligibility on the Cheshire East website and you will need to apply for this directly through Cheshire East, we cannot process applications on your behalf.

Cheshire East web link for FSM

You will also need to reapply when prompted by Cheshire East to keep your child's name on our internal list. We send out reminders in plenty of time for you to do this and we keep our lists live so as soon as your child qualifies (or requalifies) they can receive their free school meal up to the amount of £3 per day.

We also offer breakfast for children who qualify, they can get a free hot chocolate and some toast every morning between 7:30 and 8:35.

Our school community also now includes a number of Ukrainian students. We would encourage their families to apply for free school meals using the same link as the additional funding could be used to support their academic progress too.

Pupil Premium

Children entitled to Free School Meals are also eligible for the Pupil Premium, you do not need to apply separately for this. It is funding from the government to help support your child at school. This might be support with buying revision guides, school uniform or other school materials. This year we have also been able to support families with the costs of school trips, music lessons and extra curricular activities. If your child is eligible for free school meals, please do not hesitate to ask us for support for other school costs when you need it.

Pre-loved uniform

In the coming weeks we will be organising a pre-loved uniform collection which we hope will support families too. More information to follow.

Mobile phone policy - Update

I would like to thank all parents, carers, students and staff who took their time to complete the mobile phone policy survey or sent thoughts in.



We have had mixed views regarding a change of policy from some respondents but many parents are in favour of a robust approach to the use of mobile phones in school and feel that this will help us to continue to keep students safer in a fast evolving digital world. It's fair to say that the children who responded were less in favour of stricter controls!

To move this forward we will now look at the feedback and take an objective view before drafting a new mobile phone policy which we will communicate to all parties involved. We are moving forward cautiously with this so that we have the right processes in place to support the policy decision. Thanks for your ongoing support with this very complex issue - **Nicola Munro on behalf of the Mobile Phone Policy Group**



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College



Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Learning Resource Centre News



Author Visit – Alex Foulkes

On Tuesday 18th October we will be joined in the LRC by Alex Foulkes, a local author from Stoke-On-Trent. Alex will be in the LRC at both break and lunch times for any students who wish to drop in and get their books signed or ask Alex any questions they may have.



A huge well done and thank you to one of our Year 8 pupils, Ashira, who was awarded 1st prize recently in The Chaucer Heritage Trust's The Canterbury Tales Writing Competition 2021/22: Prejudice and Difference. As part of Ashira's prize the school's Learning Resource Centre has been awarded an incredible £1000 to spend on resources and enrichment for pupils throughout the year.

We think you will all agree this is a fantastic achievement, congratulations again to Ashira for such wonderful writing.



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



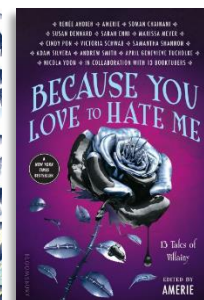
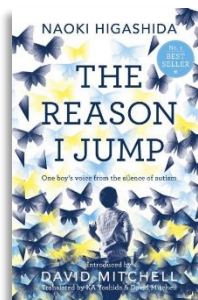
@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk

**NEW
ARRIVALS!**

Check out our 'Latest Arrivals' display in the LRC for more of our new arrivals.



Music Tuition Taster Programme

The Music Department is offering a **FREE** Music Instrument Taster Programme to students who may be thinking about starting to learn an instrument. We are inviting students wishing to try Brass (Trumpet/ Trombone/ Euphonium), Clarinet, Flute, and Strings (Violin/ Viola/ Cello) a short course (5 half-hour lessons over 5 school weeks) in groups of 3. The school will provide tuition and an instrument free of charge for the duration of the course.

If you would like your child to participate in the scheme, please email angela.pritchard@hccs.info with the name of the students and the instrument they are interested in playing.

[Click here](#) for more information regarding our music groups and tuition



FREE



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Sports Leaders

Well done to all the Sport Leaders who completed the course last year. The students involved received their certificates in Assembly this week after completing the course they participated in last year. 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.



Due to the huge success we had last year on the course, This year's Sports Leaders has already begun with double the numbers from last year. This shows how important leadership is to our students and school community in developing leadership qualities and the opportunities it opens for them. The students have already started to develop leading fun, active games they can use when working with other students in school and our community. Well done to All, It's great to see so many students enjoying their PE lessons and developing into great leaders.

Mrs Mee



01477
410500



Office
@hccs.info



@hccs1978



hccs1978.co.uk



GOLF NEWS

Congratulations to Mason Powell in year 9 who plays of 10 handicap and has recently been selected for the under 14s Cheshire County Golf Squad. An amazing achievement - move over Rory McIlroy.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The HCCS BIG bake

As the autumn air draws in and Bake Off returns to the T.V. set so too does the world's biggest coffee morning - hosted by Macmillan.

We hosted our own HCCS BIG BAKE event today! You can donate online to this great cause via SCOPAY until 7th October.



The Holmes Chapel Equestrian Team

The Holmes Chapel Equestrian team competed at their first NSEA competition this September. We welcomed back current team members: Lydia Hunter and Scarlett Proudlove. And we have welcomed a new year 7 rider, Emily Hemmings. Lydia placed individually 5th out of 40 competitors and has qualified for the NSEA Challenge Plate. Well done to everyone that competed and we look forward to seeing the team at future events.

We are always happy to welcome new riders to the team. If you have your own horse and would like to attend future competitions and/ or training opportunities, please see Miss Hughes and take a look at the link:

<https://www.nsea.org.uk/competitions>





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & 6th Form College

Preparing Learners for a Changing World



Middlewich and District Foodbank

At HCCS we work alongside Middlewich and District Foodbank to support families within our school community. Individuals can experience temporary or consistent difficulty but also even more so now with the economy and energy prices rising.



We want families to know it is okay to ask for help and we understand you may have feelings that prevent you from doing this.

What is in a food parcel? - Every food parcel is different but always contains the necessities we may need. Bread, milk, tin food, cereals, pasta etc and when possible they will provide non-food items such as toiletries/hygiene products. If you have dietary requirements, parcels can be adapted to suit the household.

Parcels can be collected from the Middlewich police station on a Tuesday and a Friday between 12pm and 2pm. If you do not have any transport it is possible for the parcel to be delivered to the school or if a volunteer at the foodbank lives nearby then they also can deliver to your home.

If you would like any more information please contact office@hccs.info with the heading of FAO J.Jones Foodbank.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Here are our upcoming events up until half term

Date	Event	Year Group
4 th October	GCSE Geography Fieldwork Trip	GCSE Classes
4 th October	Netball Match v Sandbach, Away	Netball Teams
6 th October (5.30pm Start)	Sixth Form Open Evening	Year 11 Students & Parents
6 th October (1pm-5pm)	An Inspector Calls	Year 11
8 th October	Cheshire U15 County Netball Final, Year 10	Netball Team
11 th October	Netball Match v Alsager Away	Netball Teams
13 th /14 th October	Sixth Form Taster Sessions	Year 11 Students
17 th -21 st October	Year 11 and 13 Trial Exam Week	Year 11 & 13 Students
18 th October	Author visit	Years 7 & 8
18 th October	Netball Match v Congleton at Home	Netball Teams
21 st October	Close for Half Term	



01477
410500



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



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



hccs1978.co.uk

Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F