



Date: 16th February 2024



Happy Half Term Holidays Team Lower School!

It is hard to believe that we are at the midway point of our academic year. This half term seems to have flown by and we are grateful for the huge amount of support that we have received from our families in helping our young people to succeed (and fight the colds and tiredness that this half term has brought with it).

This half term has seen our Year 7 and 8 students complete their mid term assessments in English, Maths and science. Final assessments were still being completed today and I know that teachers will be busy marking these over half term so that children can receive their feedback next half term. Year 8 have had their parents evening this half term and, just this last week, Year 7 have enjoyed a fun filled week in Menai. We hope you have been able to keep up with the excitement here through our X (previously Twitter) social media page. [Click here to view.](#)

We have had two visits from PC Andrew Cornell; one of Andy's assemblies reminded us of the importance of Online safety and, just this week, some messages were shared about Anti Social Behaviour. Our Year 8 students were reminded that we must be upstanding in our communities and not just bystanders. The dangers of anti-social or bystander behaviour were highlighted through some hard-hitting video footage. We look forward to following up our police assemblies with our Lower School Students next half term.



Other things to look forward to next half term include:

- Monday 26th February** - Return to school
- Thursday 29th February** - Year 7 Parents Evening
- Monday 4th March** - HCCS Literature Festival
- Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day
- Monday 11th March** - Accelerated Reader STAR Reading assessments
- Wednesday 20th March** - Singfest Concert for Young Voices
- Thursday 28th March** - Drama Club trip to The Lowry
- Thursday 28th March** - Last day of term and the start of the Easter holidays.



We hope that you all have a well deserved restful half term break and we look forward to seeing you back at HCCS for the second half of our academic year!

Uniform Standards

Over the last few weeks, we have started to see some inconsistency with the way that students have adhered to the normally accepted uniform standards.

In particular, we have started to see hoodies and trainers increasingly worn to school, as well as a number of students wearing AirPods around the school site.



To be clear, hoodies or trainers are not part of school uniform and should not be worn at any time. Similarly, it is not acceptable for students to be wearing AirPods around school. We have asked form tutors to maintain a high standard with every child's uniform. Please be aware that your child's tutor will be addressing any concerns that do not follow our uniform policy. Following our half term holiday, your child's tutor will be setting and maintaining the whole school standards. Please remove any need for your child's tutor to confiscate non uniform items.

Please help us to maintain our standards by reiterating our expectations with your son or daughter.



Date: 16th February 2024



Uniform

HCCS continues to place a great importance on our uniform and how it reflects our high standards. As a school we value your support in ensuring that these standards will be upheld and maintained. We wish to ensure our students portray respect to themselves, others and the school through their impeccable appearance. We will be particularly vigilant on uniform standards across the school and we would like you as parents to support us in this.

Please be aware that there has been a modification to our policy to ensure that we have a consistent approach across the whole school. It is now stated in our policy that students must ensure that their shoes are all black, sensible and appropriate for school.

Please be aware of our uniform policy to offer further clarity on our expectations:

What is acceptable?

- ✓ The school's jumper (black with embroidered school badge)
- ✓ Plain white, long or short sleeved shirt
- ✓ House tie
- ✓ Plain black tailored trousers (Fashion trousers, e.g. jeans/jeans cut, skinny fit, cords, flares covering shoes and trousers with splits are not acceptable) worn with black socks. Leggings are not allowed.
- ✓ Plain black Charleston (or Charleston junior) or Henley Banner skirt (no more than 8cm/3" above the knee) worn with black tights. Skirts available from school uniform suppliers.
- ✓ Shoes must be ALL black, sensible and appropriate for school
- ✓ Plain black coat (only to be worn with a jumper)
- ✓ Natural, discrete make-up; Years 10 and 11 only.
- ✓ One pair of small discrete stud earrings.

What is not acceptable?

- ✗ Black cardigans, hooded sweatshirts, t-shirts, tracksuit tops.
- ✗ Inappropriate tops / hoodies may be confiscated from students.
- ✗ Jeans/jeans cut, cords, canvas trousers, skinny fit, trousers with splits. Fashion belts.
- ✗ Canvas shoes, boots or any shoe that is not completely black, including obviously branded or sports logoed trainers
- ✗ Multiple earrings / any other facial piercings.
- ✗ Rings / bracelets / fashion bands / necklaces
- ✗ Any make-up (Years 7,8,9). Excessive make-up (Years 10 & 11). Nail polish, false nails, extensions etc.
- ✗ Any non-designated school skirt. Skirts worn with socks. Leggings.
- ✗ Scarves worn without coats
- ✗ Extreme hairstyles. Multi-coloured hair.
- ✗ Large decorative, hair accessories.
- ✗ Visible body art.

We really value your support and commitment with keeping our standards exceptionally high. We really appreciate the work that you do behind the scenes at home and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning.





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



Outlines for Half Term 4 Studies for Year 7 & 8

Here at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School we are very proud of our curriculum; our subject experts have designed a well sequenced, interesting and knowledge-rich curriculum for our students.

More details are available on our school website under the 'Curriculum and Learning' tab. You will also find links to your child's learning manager page where we are building up a bank of additional resources and information relevant to your child's stage of learning.

Year 7 Curriculum Overview

Subject	Curriculum Objectives	Assessments
Maths	Number, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics	End of Term, Mock Exams
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	End of Term, Practical Assessments
English	Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening	End of Term, Mock Exams
History	Medieval Britain, Tudor Britain, Victorian Britain	End of Term, Mock Exams
Geography	Physical Geography, Human Geography	End of Term, Mock Exams
Art	Visual Arts, Design	End of Term, Mock Exams
Music	Music Theory, Instrumental, Vocal	End of Term, Mock Exams
PE	Physical Education, Sports	End of Term, Mock Exams

[Year 7 Click here](#)

Year 8 Curriculum Overview

Subject	Curriculum Objectives	Assessments
Maths	Number, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics	End of Term, Mock Exams
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	End of Term, Practical Assessments
English	Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening	End of Term, Mock Exams
History	Medieval Britain, Tudor Britain, Victorian Britain	End of Term, Mock Exams
Geography	Physical Geography, Human Geography	End of Term, Mock Exams
Art	Visual Arts, Design	End of Term, Mock Exams
Music	Music Theory, Instrumental, Vocal	End of Term, Mock Exams
PE	Physical Education, Sports	End of Term, Mock Exams

[Year 8 Click here](#)



Asthma Inhalers

If your child has asthma and brings an inhaler to school, please put your child's name on it? We often have inhalers handed in and it's very difficult to locate the owners. Thank You.



MMR Vaccinations Letter



The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported an increase in measles across the country with a recent outbreak in the West Midlands region of England. Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools, and can be a very unpleasant illness. [Please click here to read more.](#)

Important - The trial of the new bus route for students travelling to school from Middlewich, Sandbach and Congleton IS NOT GOING AHEAD

We have today received the following information from Ladyline Coaches in relation to the proposed trial of a new bus route. Following the consultation with parents around 300 responses were received, this only translated into 6 pre-paid tickets being purchased. Regrettably, therefore the company is not going to run the trial that they had previously advertised.



When school returns after the half term break, only the current bus routes will be in operation.

I would like to suggest that we hold another Zoom call with parents when we get back to school to discuss further options. I will send out the details to access the meeting on the first day back in school however, the meeting will be set for 12.30pm on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

Best wishes

Tony Halsall
Director of Operations

Please [click here](#) to read the response from Ladyline Coaches

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



If you have been following our page on X (formerly Twitter) then you will have seen some of the activities that our Year 7s have been getting up to in Menai. Here are a selection of the images but if you haven't checked the page out then here is the link where you will find more information, photos and videos. [Click here.](#)



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION





Date: 16th February 2024



My Curriculum

Year 11 have been preoccupied with the small matter of their mocks at the beginning of January but the rest of school have been exploring issues connected to the Global Community. Year 10 explored different cultural festivals of the world; Year 8 examined what it meant to be a Global Citizen; and Year 7 assessed British and School Values. Most poignantly, Year 9 began their Holocaust Studies coinciding with Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January.

You can extend your child's studies on the matter by looking at the Parent's homework. These are tasks designed to encourage more discussion and understanding and to help you understand some of the topics we have covered in school.

Parent Homework	
Year 7	 What Are British Values? What does it mean to be British? How can we put them into our daily lives?
Year 8	 What Are British Values? What does it mean to be British? How can we put them into our daily lives?
Year 9	HCCS former student and alumni, Dan Cartwright worked with Neuengamme Concentration Camp to develop a set of educational tiktoks to help support people who wanted to find out more about the Holocaust. Please follow their work at: @Berlin Fresh or @neuengamme.memorial https://www.youtube.com/shorts/VRZaLXUp7fi https://www.youtube.com/shorts/iQR5j80Msc
Year 10	What is your favourite cultural festival? (either one you celebrate or one that you have recently studied)  Anthony Gonzalez, Ana Ofelia Murguía - Remember Me (Reunion) (From "Coco"/Sing-Along) What do you like about that festival and are there lessons that you could use all year round?
Year 11	What have you learnt about the exam process after the mock exams? If you need to adapt your approach, what sorts of things are you going to put in place before the real exams begin in May?

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION

RP students showed off their baking skills in our first 'Great RP bake off'.

A selection of fantastic quality showstoppers including a sweet filled volcano cake, multiple cheesecakes, bee shaped macarons and chocolate honeycomb. They were presented to the judging panel made up of parents and staff. All students did a brilliant job and it was a very close contest, with the Oreo cheesecake winning star baker!

The day provided students with the opportunity to not only develop their baking skills and have fun, but also to strengthen their relationships with both RP staff and each other. It was great to see students from different year groups working and communicating so well with each other and developing friendships.

Well done to all the students who took part, a great day enjoyed by all!





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update



Year Group: Year 7

Class Details:

CLASS	7X1	7X2	7X3	7X4	7X5
Teachers	Mr Edwards	Miss Whittaker	Mr Barrett	Ms Laskowska	Miss Sneddon
CLASS	7Y1	7Y2	7Y3	7Y4	7Y5
Teachers	Mr Edwards	Mrs Buehling	Mrs Watmough	Ms Laskowska	Miss Sneddon

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

Number Sense (11)
FDP Equivalence (14)
Interim 2 Assessment
Menai
HALF TERM

- Rounding numbers to 10, 100 and 1000
- Rounding to a given number of decimal places
- Error Intervals
- Represent 10ths and 100ths on grids and number lines
- Interchange between fractional and decimal number lines
- Convert between fractions, decimals and percentages with tenths, hundredths, quarters, fifths, eighths and thousandths
- Represent fractions as diagrams, number lines and understand fractions as division
- Explore fractions, decimals and percentages above 1 / 100%

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:



Students sat their interim 2 assessment on Monday 5th February. Some classes have started to receive their scores and test papers back. They can start acting on their tests by completing **action tasks** and correcting their mistakes in **purple pen** during their action lessons. If students haven't yet worked through their marked test papers, they will have the chance to during the first week back after half term. Students have also been regularly assessed using **green** end of topic tests (EOTT's) and have been receiving feedback from their teachers on **purple** sheets. This feedback focuses on key misconceptions, correcting their errors and improving their exam technique.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



7X1	7X2	7X3	7X4	7X5
Tigi Grocott	Charlotte Agnew	Kara Thompson	Hannah Green	Tilly Nicklin
7Y1	7Y2	7Y3	7Y4	7Y5
Ellie Cooper	Ethan Tinarwo	Sophia Dooley	Cameron Eustace	Rak Ratcharak



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 29th February: Year 7 Parents Evening
- 26th April: Interim 2 Published

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?



- Look through your child's interim assessment **review sheet** with them; encourage them to work on their action tasks in order to keep improving
- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



Mathematics Faculty - HCCS End of Half Term Update

Year Group: Year 8

Class Details:

CLASS	8X1	8X2	8X3	8X4	8X5
Teachers	Mrs Stevens	Mr Edwards	Ms Watmough	Mr Barrett	Miss Sneddon
CLASS	8Y1	8Y2	8Y3	8Y4	8Y5
Teachers	Ms Laskowska	Mrs Buehling	Ms Watmough	Miss Kelman	Mrs Hall

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

Multiplying and Dividing Fractions (10)
Brackets, Equations and Inequalities (13)
Interim 2 Assessment
Brackets, Equations and Inequalities (13)
HALF TERM

- Represent multiplication of fractions
- Multiplying a fraction by an integer
- Multiplying fractions and mixed numbers
- Understanding the reciprocal of a number
- Dividing integers by fractions and fractions by integers
- Dividing fractions and mixed numbers
- Collecting Like Terms - simplifying expressions with positive and negative terms
- Expanding single and double brackets
- Factorising single and double brackets
- Forming and solving one and two step equations and inequalities

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:



Students sat their interim 2 assessment on Monday 5th February. Some classes have started to receive their scores and test papers back. They can start acting on their tests by completing **action tasks** and correcting their mistakes in **purple pen** during their action lessons. If students haven't yet worked through their marked test papers, they will have the chance to during the first week back after half term. Students have also been regularly assessed using **green** end of topic tests (EOTT's) and have been receiving feedback from their teachers on **purple** sheets. This feedback focuses on key misconceptions, correcting their errors and improving their exam technique.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



8X1	8X2	8X3	8X4	8X5
Patrick Marsh	Charlie Woods	Eva Guest	Susie Middleton	Maddison Prendergast
8Y1	8Y2	8Y3	8Y4	8Y5
Owen Grimshaw	Mia Lindley	Maisie Monroe	Theo Butler	Ava Amitrano



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 26th April: Interim 2 Published

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?



- Look through your child's interim assessment **review sheet** with them; encourage them to work on their action tasks in order to keep improving
- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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'Careers Corner'


National Careers Week March 4-9th

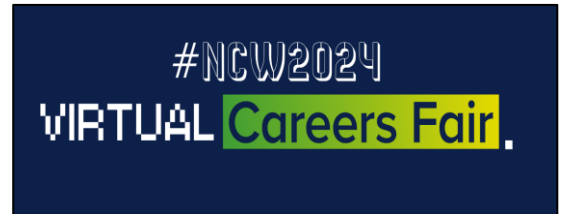
The national careers week returns from March 4th. It aims to help you to become more aware of your career and make you excited about your future and help you make career decisions throughout your life. From deciding your education route, planning a career change or getting the job that is right for you.



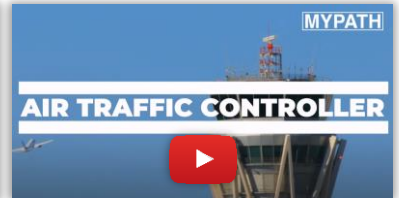
Wherever you're at in your journey, the opportunities available can help you to:

- identify your skills, interests and career goals
- explore and compare different options for your career
- work out the best career option for you
- plan your next step and take action

For further information use the following links: 



Jobs of the Week



Youth Council Update

Members of the Youth Council have been delivering assemblies to their peers in the High School and local Primary Schools this month.

Alongside a review of things the Youth Council have done in 2023, they presented a range of projects that they are looking to develop in 2024.



2024, will see the Youth Council involved in;

- Proposals for exercise machines in public parks
- Youth Cinema
- Summer Fair Art Exhibition
- Clean up campaign
- Parish Council's campaign to reclaim our pavements (making pathways safer and more open)
- British Youth Parliament elections

We are also looking for new members to join our projects and become members of the Youth Council. If you are interested in any of the ideas above, please contact us at youthcouncil@hccs.info.



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS



Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March

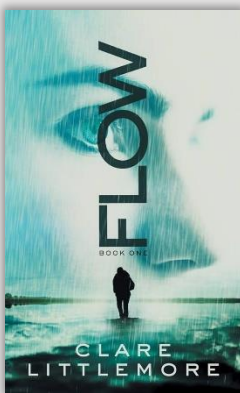
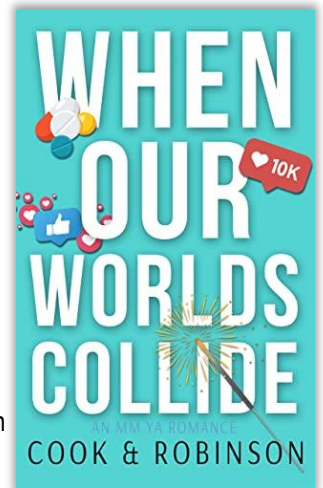
We are very much looking forward to our annual HCCS Literature Festival which will take place throughout the week of Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March. We have lots of exciting enrichment activities planned for our students to enjoy throughout the week!

Author Visit - Monday 4th March - DJ Cook and H.A.Robinson

Year 8 and 9 students will be attending an assembly with our visiting authors DJ Cook and H.A.Robinson. Both are local authors from Cheshire who between them have published over ten books. Last year, they joined forces and released a co-written book *When Our Worlds Collide* which quickly entered the top 10 Amazon's Teen and Young Adult Fiction Charts.

Cook & Robinson will also be available during breaktime for students of all years to come along and ask questions and get their book copies signed if they wish to do so.

If your child wishes to purchase a book for the day they can be ordered via Amazon or a small selection will be available for sale at a cost of £7 if students wish to purchase on the day.



Author Visit - Tuesday 5th March - Clare Littlemore

Clare Littlemore is a young adult dystopian and sci-fi author.

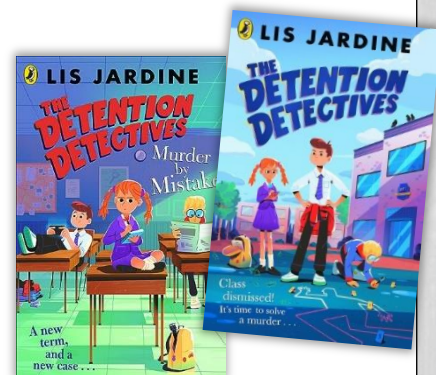
Clare Littlemore will be in school on Tuesday 5th March working with our Year 10 and 11 students. Clare will be running two workshops for students. Students can sign up in the LRC if they are interested.

Clare will also be available in the LRC during breaktime for all Lower and Upper School students who may wish to ask Clare questions and/or get their book copies signed.

Author Visit - Friday 8th March - Lis Jardine

Our final visiting author of the week will be Lis Jardine. Lis is a local author from Cheshire who currently works part-time as a school librarian alongside writing. Her debut *The Detention Detectives* was published in 2023 with the follow up story *The Detention Detectives: Murder by Mistake* released on Thursday 25th January 2024.

Lis will be hosting an assembly with our Year 7 students. However, she will be available during break time on this day for any students Y7 - Sixth Form who may wish to come and ask questions or get their copies signed.



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Virtual Author Visits

During LRC Lessons, students will be participating in Virtual Author Events with the following authors:



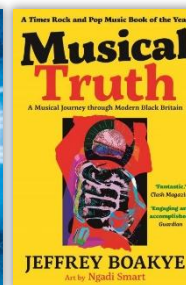
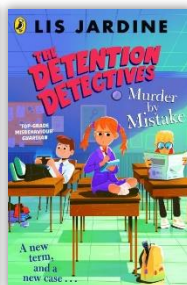
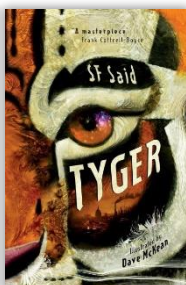
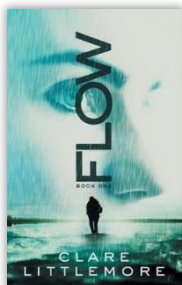
SF Said



Taran Matharu

Recommended Reads for February

All of the authors below will be visiting and/or participating in our Literature Festival on Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March 2024. Why not choose one for your next read!



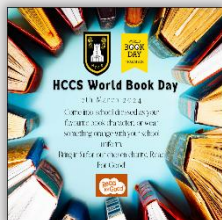
WORLD BOOK DAY

7th March 2024

World Book Day - Fancy Dress Fundraiser

Reading for pleasure changes lives

Reading for pleasure is a matter of social justice. Children and young people who read for pleasure are more likely to do well at school, have better jobs, be happy and lead fulfilled lives. All through the magic of a humble book or story.



Read for Good, ensure children and young people have **ACCESS** to a wide and vibrant **CHOICE** of the best brand new books, providing the all-important **INSPIRATION** to help them discover a life-changing love of reading.

Read for Good runs a number of initiatives to help children and young people enjoy the fabulous world of reading:

Read for Good

- **Readathon** – their sponsored read has been motivating generations of children and young people to read since 1984
- **Read for Good's Hospital programme** – providing brand new books and regular storyteller visits to the UK's 30 major children's hospitals
- **Track My Read** – a web-based tool that encourages children to read regularly, and provides insight as to what children and young people are enjoying reading
- **Brilliant Box of Books** – providing books that children love to read to schools, medical and community settings in need.

The money raised during our Literature Festival and Readathon later in the year will help to fund **Read for Good's hospital programme**, providing the best brand-new books and resident storyteller visits for children in the 30 major children's hospitals across the UK, from Belfast to Bangor, Truro to Aberdeen, Norwich to Newcastle.

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



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LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

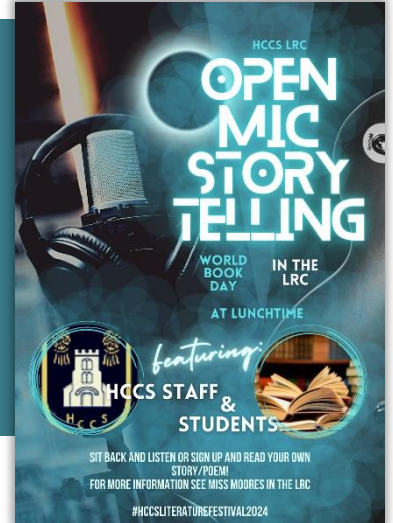
Open Mic - Wednesday 7th March @ Lunchtime

During Lunchtime on Wednesday 7th March we will be holding our first Open Mic session in the LRC.

We are inviting students and staff to come and share a story/poem/piece of writing that they wish to celebrate Literature.

It could be their own writing or another author's piece.

Students can sign up in the LRC with Miss Moores.



Young Writers

Congratulations to our fantastic Lower School Students, who have been chosen for publication in the latest Young Writers competition 'The Glitch'.

We can't wait to receive our copy of the book in the LRC!



Love at First Line

This week students have been invited to take part in our 'Love at First Line' reading challenge.

A selection of books from the LRC have been wrapped in paper, with only the first line visible to students.

By relinquishing control over the title and cover, students open themselves to the thrill of discovering a literary gem - a story that might have remained undiscovered amongst the familiar titles lining our LRC shelves.

We hope those who have taken part enjoy their choices of the half-term break.



LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 16th February 2024



Tickets

£60

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
AND TABLES OF 10
AVAILABLE

Nell's Spring Ball

The Remembering Nell Foundation

Please join us for an evening of friendship, fun and fundraising,
celebrating what would have been Nell's 21st Birthday

AT DE VERE CRANAGE HALL, CRANAGE
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2024

*Red Carpet and Fizz on Arrival
Delicious 3 Course Meal
Games • Live Entertainment • Dj
Raffle & Silent Auction*

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!

For tickets email or please phone Caroline
caroline.goodchild@uwclub.net

TEL: 07836 386 327

www.rememberingnell.org



JustGiving
Justgiving.com/rememberingnell



@rememberingnell

Registered charity number: 1184323

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION