



Dear all,

Remembrance Day is all about commemorating those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in the line of duty. It also celebrates and supports veterans of combat. Originally, the day commemorated Armistice Day and the end of the First World War, but has now become a memorial for all those who have lost their lives in any conflict.

This special day is important on many levels. Some of us may have family and friends who serve or have served in the armed forces or who may have been directly involved in armed conflict. Some of us may have lost someone dear to them in the service of their country. We might have family and friends suffering the effects of combat which might be physical, emotional, often both.

Remembrance Day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by brave people in times of war and is also perhaps a time to think about those who chose to serve in the armed forces and the sacrifice they make as part of their duties. We celebrate Remembrance Day to honour and pay tribute to those who selflessly served and serve their countries, protecting the freedoms and values we hold dear. It is also a way in which we can ensure that the memories of those who fought and died for our freedom are never forgotten. It is a time to reflect on the horrors of war, the bravery of soldiers, and the impact their sacrifices have on our lives.

A quick search on the internet suggests that there are over 30 ongoing wars being fought on this very day around the world. These range from terrorist insurgencies, drug wars, civil wars, ethnic wars and invasions. In many of these, the listed death tolls are already at 10,000 souls or greater. To gain a better picture of this, I spent a little while looking at the following website

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/visual-explainers/10-conflicts-2023/>



Remembrance Day is celebrated in lots of ways in our community and around the world. I will be in Hull with my family this weekend. My Dad was born at the very start of World War 2. All of his 6 elder brothers all fought in that war either in the Navy or Army. They all came home at the end of the war and some of them served well after the conflict was over. Although the last of his brothers who fought in that war passed away last year, we will still attend the cenotaph as a family to remember those who fought and died

Next week in school, our programme of assemblies, tutor time and My Curriculum will have strong references linked to Remembrance so that we can think about the sacrifice of toters so that we have the freedoms we enjoy. These sessions will also serve as reminders of the importance of peace and unity and the need to strive for a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and understanding rather than violence. It encourages us to work towards a future where the sacrifices of the past are not in vain.

In celebrating and talking about why we celebrate Remembrance Day, we teach our children about the significance of history and the importance of cherishing peace. It is an opportunity to educate and inspire, to foster a sense of belonging, pride, gratitude and respect for those who served and continue to serve.

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



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Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Police Safety Sessions

We have recently been liaising with Cheshire Police on a schedule of safety presentations for students and parents, linked to some key areas of national concern for child safety.

These sessions will include:

- Online Safety
- Knife crime
- Antisocial behaviour
- Drugs, vaping and county lines.

Over the coming months, PC Andrew Cornall, youth engagement officer for Cheshire Police, will be in school delivering assemblies to each year group on the topics above. We are also running parental awareness sessions, to ensure that you as parents can hear some of these key messages, and crucially have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you have with the Police and with our welfare teams. A full schedule of these presentations is below. Further details will follow on how parents can sign up to these sessions.

Upcoming Year Group Assemblies		
Date	Year Group	Session
11 th December 2023	Year 9	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
12 th December 2023	Year 11	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
15 th December 2023	Year 10	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
15 th January 2024	Year 7	Online Safety
16 th January 2024	Year 11	Online Safety
17 th January 2024	Year 10	Online Safety
18 th January 2024	Year 8	Online Safety
19 th January 2024	Year 9	Online Safety
13 th February 2024	Year 11	Antisocial Behaviour
14 th February 2024	Year 10	Antisocial Behaviour
15 th February 2024	Year 8	Antisocial Behaviour
16 th February 2024	Year 9	Antisocial Behaviour
25 th March 2024	Year 9	Knife Crime
26 th March 2024	Year 11	Knife Crime
27 th March 2024	Year 10	Knife Crime

Parents' Information Sessions	
Date	Session
5 th December 2023	Online Safety
9 th January 2024	Drugs, vaping, County Lines
5 th March 2024	Online Safety
23 rd April 2024	Drugs, vaping, County Lines



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Ambition For Learning – Attendance At School

At our school, we care very much that all of our children have the best access to learning, growing, thriving and being part of a rich and varied day at school. Clearly there are a wide range of instances and circumstances that impact on attendance but at our school, we are working hard to ensure that attendance is as high as possible for each child. What we do know is that having as high a level of attendance as possible at school is always a benefit to each child's learning as well as develops their sense of resilience, independence and belonging.

Following the pandemic, nationally as well as locally, attendance at school has not been as high as it once was and there has been a lag in attendance returning to pre-pandemic levels.

At the start of this year, our school invested in a Cheshire East wide initiative with a large number of other schools to help improve attendance. This is linked to the national ambition to improve attendance so that every child has the best possible access to learning, school and their right to a full and rich education.

In our recent ofsted visit, we talked at length to the inspection team and discussed attendance and how we are ambitious for all of our children here at HCCS to have the very best levels of attendance at school, no matter what their need. What is clear is that our plans here reflect a very strong, nationally driven ambition to get back to pre pandemic attendance levels as soon as possible.

During this week, we have collaborated with The Cheshire East attendance team in a 'deep dive' exploring our strategies and processes with a view to refining them so that we are being consistent in our approach to having as high a level of attendance as possible. We have fed parent feedback into this review with the LA and have used this to focus on where we need to modify our systems and processes.

Working together across our community, home and school, we need to collaboratively and enthusiastically build a strong culture of attendance so that our children have the maximum possible access to learning, lessons and being part of a thriving school.

Thank you so much for your support in this matter and for working with us



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Options Evening November 9th 2023

On Thursday night we welcomed year 9 students and their families into our school to kick off the options programme for 23-24. It was a fantastic evening where we all felt proud to be part of this community. Our staff were informative and supportive, helping the students in making these important decisions. Our older students did an incredible job of not only representing the subjects and our school but genuinely helped a lot of our year 9 students with their questions and prompted them to consider things they previously hadn't.



[Click here to view our Options webpage](#)

The families who came along were positive and excited about this next step for their child's education, asking the right questions, looking for the information to help confirm their choices and were also open minded, using the opportunity to consider subjects that were new to them. Our VTQ offer this year is fantastic and was really well received by families. Some students left the event having confirmed their choices for GCSE and some students finished the night with lots more information and questions to consider over the next few weeks. We couldn't have asked for more from the evening so thank you to all those involved, especially to the families who came along.

On a personal note, I want to say how much I enjoyed meeting parents and carers last night and getting to know more of you; it was a pleasure to talk about your children's education and to be part of this journey with you.

Mike Forsyth - Progress Leader



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Sixth Form Experience Days

On Tuesday 31st and Wednesday 1st of November we held our Sixth Form Experience Days. The vast majority of students from Year 11 attended one of these two days. Over the course of the day students gained first hand experience of what it is like to be a Sixth Form student. Students attended a timetable of chosen Sixth Form lessons, giving them the opportunity to try new subjects. They also had the chance to use all of the great facilities in the Sixth Form including the bespoke and purpose built social and study spaces. The response from the Year 11 students was excellent. They took full use of the opportunities available to themselves. Their engagement and positivity was excellent to see.

In addition to this some of Year 11 students, who are hoping to attend a Vocational College, spent the morning with our Careers Adviser Mrs Jackson along with visitors from local Colleges. They had the opportunity to really focus on ensuring that they are prepared to apply to begin such courses suited to their aspirations and goals.

It was wonderful to spend this time in the College with our upcoming intake. We hope that it has helped our Year 11 students to solidify their future option choices.

We are continuing to accept Sixth Form application forms from our Year 11 students and ask that they are handed in to the main office or emailed to Sixthform@hccs.info.



My Curriculum

New half term and new topics have started in MY Curriculum.

Students across all age groups have looked at Learning Skills in September and Well-Being in October. Year 11 & 10 would have looked at ways to deal with exam stress, whilst Year 7-9 covered topics about self-awareness and body image.

Some of these topics will be built on in the new theme starting in November; Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE). This is one of those topics that is a statutory (compulsory) topic that schools must teach and it is one we have always promoted and developed with our students. Next week;

	Themes
Year 7	Online Safety & Sexting
Year 8	Body Image - fact v Hollywood fiction
Year 9	Sex v Pornography - what's real vs fiction
Year 10	Sexual Health v STIs
Year 11	What is a Coercive Relationship & Domestic Abuse?

RSHE is not about sex itself; the mechanics or biology of sex but about developing student awareness of issues that they may face now or in the near future. It is about addressing national trends and needs seen in the school, so that our students can make positive and informed decisions when faced with these issues.



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In our parent survey last year, we were pleased to hear that many understood the purpose behind MY Curriculum but it was also about developing that awareness so that even if your child is fortunate not to have to worry about such issues, they can respond supportively and positively if one of their peers needed it.

Due to the sensitive nature of the forthcoming lessons, links for parents have been included that show the material being used. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education based lessons like the ones coming up, however, if they choose to do so by email/ writing to their tutor or the appropriate hub, parents must also provide adequate topic related alternatives for their child if they do not partake in the school curriculum.

Final Bit... Parent Homework

	Parent Homework Task... (to inspire discussion at home)
Year 7	If you disagree with a friend about something important- how do you start that conversation?
Year 8	How Hollywood Actors turn their bodies into superhero figures (Click here) Going to the gym or doing healthy exercise is a good thing, but to achieve "superhero" figures, actors like Henry Cavill or Chris Hemsworth starve and dehydrate themselves to extreme levels. Should Hollywood be promoting such "figures", heroes and role models if they have to nearly die of thirst to achieve their physiques?
Year 9	Where's the line between "bullying" or "banter"?
Year 10	What physical activities will you do to help develop a healthy body and mind? What does "resilience" mean to you? Michael Jordan "Failure" Commercial HD 1080p
Year 11	What ideas and things can you do to manage your exam stress/ studies before it starts? How to ACE an exam Laura Bubble & Dev 4:01 Show



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HOME Theatre Manchester

On Thursday 19th October, we took our Year 11 GCSE Drama students and Year 12 A Level Theatre Studies students to HOME theatre in Manchester to see Kathy & Stella Solve A Murder! This visit was for their live theatre analysis component to their exam studies and they were a true credit to HCCS. A member of the theatre staff came to say how wonderful it was that we had brought them to see the production (which was innovative and incredible!) and how superb they all were. This



sentiment was mirrored by members of the public sitting behind our students who they chatted to during the interval (lovely in itself!) complimenting how well behaved they all were. What a super group of students and what a super opportunity to embrace a live and highly impressive production. Back at school they are now delving into analysing the show and all its super theatrical components. Well done to all involved!



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'Careers Corner'

The careers programme for this year for Years 7-11 can be viewed on the school website using the route: curriculum & learning/careers/programme.

This weeks careers clip:



SPEAKERS for schools

Sign up or miss out

FULLY FUNDED! Taster Sessions

<p>STABLES DIRECTIVES Discover the world of Stables Directives and how they can help you achieve your career goals. DISCOVERY WORKSHOP: Fri 27th Nov 10.00am - 11.00am Opportunity ID - PL 5267 Apply now</p>	<p>Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency See how the DVLA help to make the roads safer and what careers they offer. DISCOVERY WORKSHOP: Tue 27th Nov 11.00am - 12.00pm Opportunity ID - PL 5266 Apply now</p>	<p>Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust Experiencing things in a new way? Meet the staff at Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. DISCOVERY WORKSHOP: Wed 22nd Nov 10.00am - 11.00am Opportunity ID - PL 5311 Apply now</p>
<p>dwf Find out about the different routes into Law and what it really like to work for a global provider of legal services. INSIGHT SESSION: Wed 27th Nov 10.00am - 12.00pm Opportunity ID - PL 5248 Apply now</p>	<p>University of HUDDERSFIELD Discover a career in Law. INSIGHT SESSION: Thu 27th Nov 10.00am - 11.00am Opportunity ID - PL 5312 Apply now</p>	<p>BENTLEY Get an introduction to the Bentley brand and what Apprenticeship opportunities they are recruiting for. INSIGHT SESSION: Tue 25th Jan 9.30am - 3.00pm Opportunity ID - PL5422 Apply now</p>

Discovery Workshops are group bookings by educators only.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Non-Fiction November

This month we are celebrating Non-fiction November. Research demonstrates that providing pupils with the opportunity to read and explore non-fiction texts play a vital role in helping them to learn about their world, as well as fostering reading for pleasure.

BookTrust has chosen these fantastic books which explore the issues facing young people today from gang culture to sexuality, while others help explore how the world has ended up where it is today.



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Poetry Day Competition

Congratulations to Ethan Tinarwo in Year 7, the winner of our Poetry Day Competition. Ethan submitted a beautiful thought-provoking poem titled 'Definition of Home' which blew the Literacy Team away!

We hope to read more of Ethan's fabulous poems in the future.

Armistice Day & Remembrance Sunday

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the First World War were supposed to stop and signal the end of that tragic conflict. This day became known as Armistice Day as it was the day of "peace" and end of fighting.

Ever since then at 11:00 am on the 11th November, people across Western Europe have stopped to pay their respects not just for those who fought and never returned from the First World War but for all service people, since then, who have played a role in the armed forces and who dedicated their lives for the protection of ours. Armistice Day is this Saturday.

At a time when conflicts still rage in Europe in the Ukraine and across the Middle East (Israel & Palestine) spending a minute to reflect on our peaceful lives and the men and women who work to maintain that peace is something we should all consider this weekend.

Remembrance Sunday (12th November) is the day when as a nation, we pay our respects to those who have served and currently serve in the Armed Forces. On television, we will see the King pay tribute in London and have ranks of current and former service members march past, but in the village from 9:30-11:00 am you can also see the Village Parade and take part in the local community's commemoration of these events. Whether you buy a poppy from the 6th formers or watch or take part in the parade, it is important as a community that we remember...



Sale of Poppies

This week has seen a team of our 6th formers touring around tutor groups selling poppies on behalf of Remembrance Day and the Royal British Legion. Last year, we set a record for the school last year so the team has a big target to aim for.

This Sunday, students from the school will be taking part in the Holmes Chapel Village Remembrance Parade & Service. Many do so through local organisations like the Guides and Scouts but this year we will also be represented by members of the Parish Youth Council and the Sixth Form. If you wish to show support, the parade will be touring the village from 9:30am - 10:00am and then there will be the outdoor ceremony and minute's silence outside St. Luke's Church before 11:00am.

Anyone who has been before will tell you how amazing it is to see the local community pay their respects on this special occasion.



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Remembrance - Scout and Cadet uniforms

A number of students who are active members of the Scouts and Cadets have asked, as a personal act of remembrance, if they can wear their Scout or Cadet uniform to school. I feel that this is a great idea and one that should be supported.

If your child is an active member of the Scouts or any of the Cadet groups, then they may wear their full Scout or Cadet uniform instead of their school uniform as a personal act of Remembrance on Monday 13th November.

Please note that Monday 13th November is not a non-uniform day. This voluntary adjustment to school uniform applies only to children who are active members of the Scouts or any of the Cadet groups. All other children must wear their full school uniform as normal.

This is a great example of children suggesting an idea that shows pride through our actions and celebrates remembrance in a way they is personal and meaningful - something which is important to our community and sense of belonging



Scouts 



Bugsy Malone

With two final weeks until show time, the cast, band, set designers and back stage crew of 'Bugsy Malone' have been working exceptionally hard to rehearse final scenes. Please show your support of all students involved by collecting a letter for tickets from the Arts Faculty office.

Last few tickets available for our spectacular production of Bugsy Malone.

Performances on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November at 6.30pm. Please send in your Ticket request form and payment (cash/cheques only) to reception. Be there or miss out on the hottest tickets of the year!

At each performance we will be serving drinks and snacks so please bring cash as it is the 1920s!



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Our student leaders are organising donations for Middlewich Foodbank, in time for the Christmas Food Parcels for families who need extra support.

Below you will find the year groups / items and dates to bring in donations:

Custard – Year 7 – 27th November

Jam - breakfast spreads – Year 8 – 28th November

Multi pack of crisps – Year 9 – 29th November

Xmas puddings - could be cakes too – Year 10 – 30th November

Selection boxes & Christmas crackers (the decorative/pull ones) – Year 11 – 1st December



We do appreciate any support.
Thank you

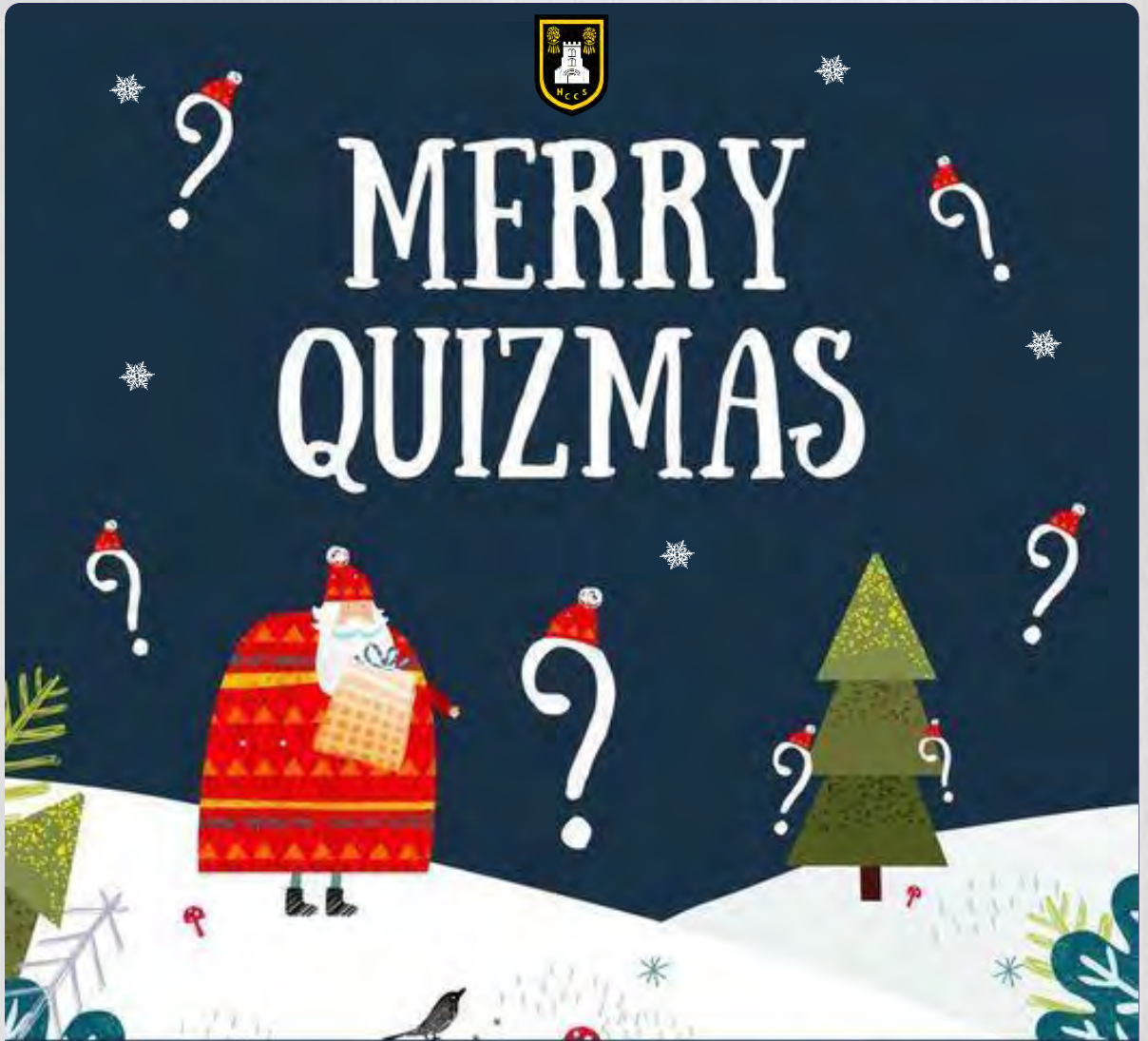


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MERRY QUIZMAS



Join Us For Our HCCS Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 6th December

**Festive themed quiz
Raffle**

**Christmas Music
Festive Food and Drink**

Further details will be posted on the school website
So for now, save the date, get your Christmas Jumper ready and assemble your team!



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Family Hubs

Bringing services together for every stage of family life.

cheshireeast.gov.uk/familyhubs



We'd like to invite you to attend the official opening of Congleton family hub.

Congleton Family Hub, New Street, Congleton, CW12 3AH

Thursday 23 November 2023

11.30am till 2.30pm

Family hubs bring together services for every stage of family life. Supporting children and young people from the age of 0-19, or up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

By the end of November 2023, we will have launched five family hubs converting existing children's centres. Further centres will be developed on a rolling programme, completed over the next 12 months.

At the event, you will have the chance to talk to partner agencies and learn more about our plans for the hub. Plus, there's lots of activities including a choir performance by Daven Primary School – Polar Bear Express and themed activities based on Going on a Bear Hunt.

So please come along, drop in and meet the teams at our latest family hub.

For more information visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/familyhubs



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Bridge the Gap
Hermitage Primary School

Monthly Community Event: All ages welcome as we Bridge the Gap - from the young to the young at heart - babies and toddlers to grandparents and the wider community

Bridge the Gap at Hermitage
Monthly 10am to 11am

You are invited to join us for refreshments and to join in or watch some activities with the staff and children

Month	Date	Planned activity (subject to change)
November	Friday 10th November	Poppy Craft - making remembrance poppies
December	Friday 15th December	Infant nativity performance
January	Friday 12th January	Board games
February	Friday 9th February	Mindfulness crafts and activities - Mental Health
March	Friday 8th March	Shared play - Lego, construction, jigsaws
April	No Bridge the Gap this month - Easter holiday	
May	Friday 10th May	Craft
June	Friday 14th June	Shared play - Lego, drawing, construction
July	Friday 12th July	End of Year Show



BBC Children in Need

The Upper school Student Leadership Team have been planning some fundraising events for Children in Need next week. They will be coming into assemblies and tutor times to inform students all about it!

Watch this space! Teamwork!



It was great to see many of our parents/carers attending the Visyon Workshop last week. We hope that you found it useful.

We will be running more workshops in the future and will advertise these when they have been confirmed.