



Dear Families,

I hope that this Newsletter finds you well. I am delighted to write to you again at the end of what has been a very full and exciting half term.

Our Year 12 students have settled in extremely well and are a pleasure to have in College. They are now well established into Sixth Form life. They have responded excellently to the adjustments that come with being a Sixth Former very well. Both Year 12 and 13 have mixed in together beautifully and there is a lovely and positive atmosphere across the Sixth Form College both in lessons and throughout the building.

Year 13 students are now busy preparing for both their upcoming trial assessments as well as making final amendments and decisions regarding their UCAS applications.

Overall it makes for a very productive and purposeful time in College.



### Sixth Form Open Evening

Last week, we held our Sixth Form Open Evening. This was an opportunity for Year 11 students, from our school and other schools, to come along and find out a bit more about our College and what we have to offer here. What was really wonderful was the contribution that our current Sixth Form students made to the event. Our students were visible and helpful from the moment that students and parents arrived into the College and right throughout the event. Our students were helpful in all subject areas, sharing their experiences and advice on each of the different options available to the incoming students. We also had two of our Sixth Form leaders, Freya and Hamish, speaking articulately and passionately about the Sixth Form. The evening was a great success and this was certainly down to the positive contributions that our students made.

More information about joining the Sixth Form can be found on the website. Please do get in touch should have any questions about this.



### **Ofsted News - a message from Mr Bielby**

#### **Unannounced Inspection by Ofsted**

On Thursday of last week I wrote to parents informing them that we had welcomed into school a group of educational professionals working for Ofsted with a remit to carry out an inspection visit focussing on safeguarding, behaviour, safety of children, leadership and management and quality of education.

The inspectors met and talked with a wide range of students and staff. The inspectors were free to speak to anyone that they wanted to and observe lessons at any time as well as visiting our tutor time at the start of the day. In addition, the inspection team spent time in between lessons and at lunch and breaks out and about with the children and also visited the restaurant and snack shack.

The six inspectors carried out a very thorough and wide ranging review of life as a student at our school as well as exploring in great detail our systems and processes.

In addition, 226 responses were received on the Ofsted Parent View site, so thank you to everyone who took part.

Overall, this has been a very positive experience and the inspection team managed the process in an extremely diligent and professional manner. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the students and staff that the inspection team chose to talk to. The inspection team reported to us that they had no concerns about the areas that they came to look at.

Following the inspection, a report will be published by Ofsted and will be made available to all of our families. The safety of our school community is our priority and we welcome this inspection and the opportunity to further support the continued development of a safe and secure environment in which our children can flourish.

**Nigel Bielby**

#### **Governor News**

##### **Congratulations to our newly appointed governors**

Anh Nowotny, Michael Woods, Rebecca Cowell and Jody Darlington

Many thanks to all of our nominees and to all the parents who voted in the election.  
Your support is much appreciated.



### Busy Preparations

As a school, we are deep in preparations for the Buggy performance, taking place the week beginning November 20th. It is great to see that some of our Sixth Form students have been involved in the preparations for this by helping with the set design.

12MT students working during lunchtime on the set for the school production of Buggy Malone.

Thank you ladies for volunteering!



### UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Harrison Jones who recently received an invitation to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo 2023 follow-on round after doing so well in the first round. See how well you do on one of the questions

3. The base of a triangle is increased by 20% and its height is decreased by 15%.

What happens to its area?

- A It decreases by 3%
- D It increases by 2%

- B It remains the same
- E It increases by 5%

- C It decreases by 2%

### Year 12 News and Information

Students are all now settled into their studies. Students seem to have settled into their chosen subjects. The recent Key Assessment data tells us that in the vast majority of cases students are settled well into these subjects. In addition to their chosen subjects, students have settled well into Tutor time. Students are attending well, in all aspects of Sixth Form life, including Tutor Time, Enrichment and Supervised Study periods. In addition to this, students have been taking part in Personal Development Curriculum sessions with their tutor on each alternate Monday. As part of these sessions they have covered a range of topics including Setting their vision, How to be organised in Sixth Form, and most recently gaining a greater understanding of Peer on peer abuse. This programme forms an important part of the Sixth Form programme of learning and I am pleased that students have been so engaged in this.

### Taster days and Supervised Study Time

After half term, we will be inviting Year 11 students in to the College to experience life in Sixth Form. This will take place on Tuesday 31st of October and Wednesday 1st of November. In order to accommodate for this, we will be suspending Supervised Study times for these days only. Students are welcome to use the Independent Learning Zone (ILZ) to study, should they wish to do so, on these days.



### Year 13 News and Information

## UCAS

It is certainly a busy time for our Year 13 students. They will, like you I am sure, be feeling the time getting away with them. We have seen an increased sense of excitement and focus in relation to their future plans for Post 18 options. Most notable, we have seen a significant number of UCAS applications already sent off. This includes those that have applied to Oxbridge, Medicine and Veterinary Science. In addition to this we have seen a number of other applications complete and have already seen offers coming in. I would urge anyone who is still hoping to submit a UCAS application to begin to finalise their 5 choices and to submit and pay for their application over the next couple of weeks. The half term might be a good opportunity to do this.



We continue to provide support for students wishing to pursue an apprenticeship pathway. Students have been working with specialist staff to support them with their preparation for this. This programme of support will continue throughout the year and we urge anyone who intends to pursue an apprenticeship to fully engage with this opportunity.

### Careers Adviser

If anyone is still in a situation where they remain undecided about their next steps, I would encourage you to make an appointment to speak with Mrs Jackson, our experienced and impartial Careers Adviser. She works solely in the Sixth Form every Tuesday, and is available at other times during the week.

### Trial Assessments

In order to help our students to prepare for their final examinations next summer, they will be taking part in a series of trial assessments after half term. Year 13 lessons will be suspended from Tuesday 30th of October 2023 until the end of the assessment period on Friday 3rd of November. The assessments will take place on Thursday 2nd of November and Friday 3rd of November. Students are therefore free to take the Tuesday and Wednesday of that week as study days. They are therefore only required to attend college when they have an examination but if they wish to study in college the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Study Area, ILZ and Free Rooms will be available to them for the full week. Students have spent part of their Personal Curriculum Development Curriculum time on a Monday morning working with their tutors on how best to prepare for their assessments. Revision for these should be ongoing, and all the studying done now will be beneficial for their final examinations.

The results for these assessments will be published to you on Wednesday 22nd of November, prior to the Parents Evening which takes place on the Thursday 23rd of November.



### A message from VISYON

#### FEEL THE NEED OF A LISTENING EAR? MENTAL/EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL SUPPORT?

#### **WE'RE HERE FOR YOU at VISYON!**

The best way for you to get support is to call our friendly Initial Contact Team on **01260 290000**.

They are available at the following times...

- Monday to Thursday - 9am-5pm
- Friday - 9am-1pm

You don't need a referral from a GP or your school, you or your parent can call us directly to discuss your concerns and the support we offer you is completely free of charge.

During the call we will ask a few questions and tell you about what Visyon has to offer. Whatever you share with us we will listen, you are not alone with how you are feeling. We'll help you to decide what happens next on your journey into feeling more in control of your mental health again. You have already made the brave step of seeking out support and we'll help you with the next step!

#### **OUT OF HOURS SUPPORT**

If you need immediate support and Visyon is closed please contact:

- Cheshire Mental Health Crisis Line on 0800 145 6485
- The Staffordshire Crisis Team on 0300 123 0907

Other recommended support teams supporting adolescent mental/social/emotional health from the Wellbeing Hub via:

[livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://livewellservices.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

These offer a telephone service, face to face via social media and online chat room directly with a counsellor. A family can self-refer (as they can with Visyon) and cases of immediate or high concern will be signposted for further intervention:

[cwp.iapt.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:cwp.iapt.enquiries@nhs.net)

tel: [0300 3030639](tel:03003030639)

Also, Healthwatch Cheshire East: offer 24/7 mental health support on 0800 145 6485 (an alternate number to 111 - there can be a longer wait for help on this line)

website: [cwp.nhs.uk/crisis](http://cwp.nhs.uk/crisis)

Parentline - plus is a helpline to offer advice and guidance on any aspect of family life 0808 800

2222 [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)



**We're raising money for Alzheimer's Society.**  
**Join us!**

**When:**  
FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2023

**What:**  
FANCY DRESS IN SUPPORT OF Alzheimer's Society

**Minimum Donation: £1**  
(Appropriate Costumes Only Please)

**Make it memorable.**

**Make it matter.**

Any Questions?  
Charity Lead:  
Jia Khanna  
17khanna@stu.hccs.info

Alzheimer's Society  
United Against Dementia

### Charity Event

Our Student Leaders have organised their first charity event of the year. This event involved a fancy dress day for the Alzheimer's Society. This is always an event that our students in the Sixth Form engage very well. It is a great opportunity to promote their sense of togetherness and belonging, for a good cause. This cause has been chosen by the students as it is something that affects some of their families.

Please take a look at some of the wonderful photos, showcasing the wonderful costumes. See if you can spot 'Where's Wally.'











### General Reminders

#### Attendance and Absences

Students must attend Tutor Time from Monday to Thursday. When this is not possible, for a medical reason or appointment for example, please do get in touch with Mrs Greeney, either by email or contacting the school by telephone, so that we are able to correctly record any absences.

#### Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We very much value a positive working relationship with yourselves. Please do get in touch should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Sixth Form. We want your child to feel fully supported and encouraged by all of us.

#### Contact Information:

General Sixth Form enquiries: [sixthform@hccs.info](mailto:sixthform@hccs.info)

Director of Sixth Form: [Joanne.camm@hccs.info](mailto:Joanne.camm@hccs.info)

Personal Development Manager: [ann.bentley@hccs.info](mailto:ann.bentley@hccs.info)

Careers Adviser: [emma.jackson@hccs.info](mailto:emma.jackson@hccs.info)

#### Key Dates for Half Term 2

Monday 30th October: Students return to College

**Monday 30th October: Deadline for any outstanding final drafts of Personal Statements for UCAS**

Tuesday 31st of October and Wednesday 1st of November: Year 11 Students will be in College for Taster Days

Tuesday 31st of October and Wednesday 1st of November: Year 13 lessons will be suspended for Study Leave

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd of November: Year 13 Trial Assessment (Timetables are shared on Bromcom)

Wednesday 22nd November: Year 13 Interim 1 and trial assessment data published

Thursday 23rd November: Year 13 Parents Evening

**Friday 24th November: HC6F deadline for all remaining UCAS applications**

Friday 22nd December: Break up for Christmas



Kindest regards,

**Ms J Camm**

**Director of Sixth Form**