



Date: 20th October 2023



Happy half term holidays everybody!

Congratulations for completing your first half term of HCCS Lower School 2023. What a half term it has been. We have much to celebrate.

We have:

- ✓ Settled in from primary school or settled back in after our summer holidays
- ✓ Found our way around
- ✓ Got used to our new classmates and teachers
- ✓ Completed 186 hours of learning in school
- ✓ Attended 7 assemblies
- ✓ Completed baseline assessments
- ✓ Embraced our new mobile phone policy
- ✓ Created tutor display boards
- ✓ Learned about and demonstrated our school values



There will be many more things that we haven't captured on this list that you feel proud of this half term. Please take some time to reflect and ask your children to be ready to share these with their tutors on their return.

Our assembly on our core value of Belonging was delivered by our Senior Leadership Team this half term. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

In addition to assemblies, our tutors have been reminding students of the importance of kindness. We also acted to tackle some unkindness via Whatsapp that had been reported to us and we thank parents for their support and positive feedback on this.

Please continue to monitor and discuss with your children their lesson and behaviour scores. It is expected that our young people will receive scores of 1 and 2 in their lessons. Any scores of 3 or more will be discussed at school but it is the conversations at home that really make the difference. Praise them for all they are achieving but please discuss any mistakes they make with their behaviour choices and direct them back to the expected choices and more positive outcomes.

This newsletter, as well as sharing some further celebrations and information, includes the upcoming key dates for our next half term and information about what your child will be learning across the curriculum. We will share this information with you at the end of each half term.

We hope you enjoy some quality family time over the half term holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back for our next half term - just in time for Halloween!



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





NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

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Key Dates:



30th October - Return to School
21st, 22nd & 23rd November - Buggy Malone Production
27th November - Lower School Learning Passport Part 1 set for students
6th December - Winter Festival
8th December - Lower School Interim report 1 published
22nd December - Lower School Learning Passport Part 1 and 2 completed
22nd December - End of term

Unannounced Inspection by Ofsted

On Thursday of last week I wrote to parents informing them that we had welcomed into school a team of inspectors 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
 Headteacher
 Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & Sixth Form

Parent Governors



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.

LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College

Date: 20th October 2023

Year 7 Curriculum Information

Please [click here](#) to find out what Year 7 students will be studying during Half Term 2 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback

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:



1	Sequences (8)
2	
3	
4	Baseline Assessment
5	Algebraic Notation (12)
6	
7	
HALF TERM	

- **Sequences** - We've looked at a variety of ways to represent sequences (diagrams/numerical). Recognising when a sequence is linear and how a linear sequence would look on a graph. We have also mastered describing and generating sequences using the term to term rule.
- **Algebraic Notation**- We have used function machines to calculate inputs and outputs, using both numbers and variables. Understanding that sometimes we may have a value for different variables and are able to substitute these values in.
- **Key Terms:** Common Difference, Linear, Tabular, Graphical, Pictorial, Variable, Like Terms, Substitution, Input, Output

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

Our year 7 students completed a maths baseline assessment at the end of September to assess what core knowledge has been retained over summer between Year 6 SATs and the start of Year 7. The Y7 Interim 1 Assessment will take place on **Monday 6th November**. A revision list for this can be found on the google classrooms - it consists of content covered so far this year. Students will receive written **feedback** on this and teachers will also deliver **Action** lessons. These consist of going through worked solutions, making corrections, discussing the mark scheme and working on similar questions to practise, improve and extend knowledge.

STARS OF THE HALF TERM:



7X1	7X2	7X3	7X4	7X5
Hugo Shaffer	Sam Kettlewell	Toby North	Emily Lavin	Mila Dawson
7Y1	7Y2	7Y3	7Y4	7Y5
Harriette Noonan	Lauren Kozyra	Dominic Jones	Diego Cochrane Malagon	Jeneká Eves



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 6th November: Interim 1 Assessment
- 8th December: Interim 1 Published



WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3



Date: 20th October 2023

Year 8 Curriculum Information

Please [click here](#) to find out what Year 8 students will be studying during Half Term 2 in each subject and how students are assessed and given feedback

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 Keiman	Mrs Hall

WHAT HAVE WE COVERED:

1	Directed Number (13)
2	
3	
4	Geometric Notation & Measuring (10)
5	
6	Developing Geometric Reasoning (11)
7	
HALF TERM	

- **Directed Number** - We've covered negative numbers in a variety of concepts from real life, to ordering & comparing values to calculating with them (+, -, x, ÷) and extending this into algebra.
- **Geometric Notation & Measuring** - We've covered using notation to identify properties of shapes as well as drawing, measuring & classifying angles.
- **Developing Geometric Reasoning** - We've recently looked at identifying and using key angle rules
- **Key Terms:** Negative, Positive, Equation, Acute, Obtuse, Reflex, Parallel, Perpendicular, Equal, Polygon, Quadrilateral, Isosceles, Scalene, Equilateral

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION:

Students have 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.



The Y8 Interim 1 Assessment will take place on **Monday 30th October**. A revision list for this can be found on the google classrooms - it consists of content covered this year and towards the end of Year 7. Students will receive written feedback on this and teachers will also deliver **Action** lessons. These consist of going through worked solutions, making corrections, discussing the mark scheme and working on similar questions to practise, improve and extend knowledge.



STARS OF THE HALF TERM:

8X1	8X2	8X3	8X4	8X5
Oliver Lees	Emma Walker	Kitty Taylor	Jessie Chan	Beshr Salem
8Y1	8Y2	8Y3	8Y4	8Y5
Alfie Robbins	Brianna Hamilton	Lottie Maydew	Kianu Prot-Lane	Archie Tothill



KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 30th October: Interim 1 Assessment
- 8th December: Interim 1 Published

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD?

- Encourage completion of Sparx homeworks
- Encourage attendance to the Sparx drop in lunchtime sessions Tuesday and Wednesday Lunchtimes in CR2 and CR3





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Sparx Maths

We have now completed our first half term using Sparx Maths to support the learning and progress of our students. Our new system has certainly created a buzz around school amongst staff and students as we become accustomed to our new and upgraded home-learning platform!

Parents and Carers should now be receiving regular email updates about their child's engagement and attainment on their weekly homeworks, and we are so pleased that these have been welcomed and appreciated by many; we greatly appreciate the support and encouragement that you offer your child to engage with and complete their maths homework.

We would like to remind everyone that we are actively encouraging students to achieve 100% on their homeworks, and the tasks that have been set should take approximately one hour to complete.

We understand that over this first half term, some tasks may have taken a little more or a little less time than this. This is because Sparx is an intelligent system that is in the process of establishing your child's attainment level. If your child has found the questions too easy and has completed the tasks quickly, Sparx will automatically adjust the difficulty level so that future tasks are more challenging. In the same way, if your child has found the questions difficult and the tasks have taken longer than an hour to complete, Sparx will adjust the difficulty level so that the questions become more accessible.

Whilst we appreciate that in the latter situation, your child may ask for help and support from you, it is vital that you don't help them with the maths questions themselves, but instead guide them to watch the helpful videos attached to each question; they should make notes in their books, and become accustomed to having several attempts at a question if necessary. This is how Sparx will establish if the questions are too hard. Too much support will mean Sparx thinks your child is working at a higher level than they currently are, and future questions will be set at an increased difficulty level.

Here's a helpful "how-to" guide for Parents: [Click here](#)

In addition, students must remember to record their answers either in their exercise books or on paper. This is because Sparx conducts "bookwork checks."

Here's a video explaining how the bookwork checks work – [Click here](#)

Your child's maths teacher has access to all of your child's homeworks. They can see which questions they have had several attempts at, the percentage they achieved, and the amount of time they spent on it. We actively encourage your child to see their teacher and seek help if a task is proving to be very difficult, and they will provide any help and guidance necessary.

If your child is struggling to access their homework on an appropriate device, they can work on a computer in the library at lunchtime or after school during any school day, and we also offer a Sparx drop-in session on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime at 12:30 in CR2 and CR3.

We have already seen an increase in the levels of progress being made, and an increase in confidence levels, of those students who are positively engaging with their weekly homeworks. This is a platform that will be instrumental in assisting your child's revision on the run up to exams; thorough and consistent engagement with the tasks we set them now will increase the familiarity they have with the programme, and this will in turn make accessing revision much easier.

If your child hasn't yet engaged with the platform, please support us in speaking to them about this, and we will provide as much help as we can during school hours.

As always, a huge thank you for all the extra support you offer! We look forward to celebrating with and rewarding those students who consistently demonstrate high levels of engagement at the end of each term.

The Maths Team



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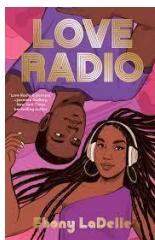
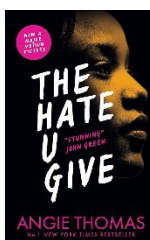
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Black History Month

October is Black History Month, where we collectively recognise the contributions of Black people to British society and globally. The theme this year is 'Saluting our Sister', specifically celebrating and highlighting the achievements of Black Women. In the LRC we have a dedicated display for students with relevant literature, newspapers and articles available.



Here are a selection of recommended reads



Cheshire Schools' Book Award Announcement Evening

On Wednesday 11th October, we were lucky enough to be invited again to the Cheshire Schools' Book Award Announcement Evening. A selection of our LRC Assistants had the pleasure of meeting Josh Silver, YA author of Happy Head. Josh shared his expertise as a Mental Health Nurse for the NHS, his journey to becoming an author and his plans for the future. Our pupils enjoyed asking questions, talking to Silver about the books they have read and even shared some of their own writing journeys. Josh was blown away by our students and as a Literacy Team we were extremely proud to hear how impressed Josh was with our students and their maturity throughout the evening.



Congratulations Mrs Martin

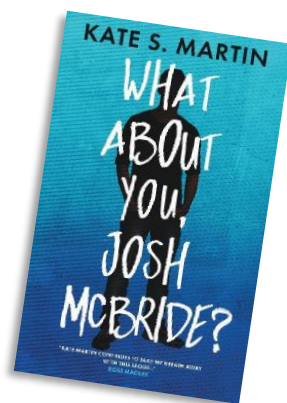
Congratulations to our very own English teacher, Mrs Martin! The second book in her Mallowbank Series is released on October 24th, 2023. The book continues to encourage important discussions and empathy for the tough experiences those around us often face.

Synopsis: *Josh McBride was the angry, emotionally avoidant one, while Elliot was the invisible, anxious, carer. When they ended up in Cruxby together and discovered their family's history, that all had to change. Except, old habits were hard to break.*

If life had dealt them a different hand, they could have reached their potential. Elliot should have been a confident performer and Josh should have been able to perform in his courses to go on to joinery school.

But this isn't some fairy tale, and Josh can't stay in class, let alone an exam. He believes he's stupid and that's all there is to it. Elliot has a chance in the talent show if his audition goes well, but the anxiousness from his past creeps in from every angle.

Will these two be able to rise above their pasts and create their own destinies, or will their demons win in the end?



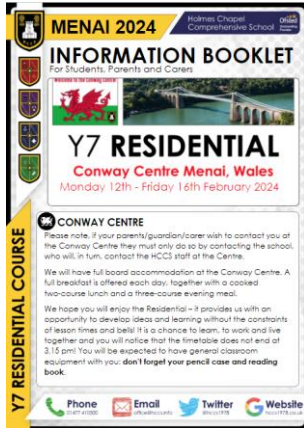
LOWER SCHOOL EDITION



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Menai 2024 Information Booklet

Please click the button below to download our Year 7 Residential to the Conway Centre Menai in Wales. The dates for this trip will be from Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2024.

The booklet will provide you with all the information you will need regarding the trip.

[Download Booklet](#)


Is My Child Too Ill For School?

Please see the current guidelines from the NHS, which covers some of the current, more common ailments and viruses'.

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

Guidelines for sickness and diarrhoea, which may indicate a virus, still state children should not come to school and should remain away from school for 48 hours (2 days) after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.



 **Fluenz Booking Form**
Please [click here](#) to download the booking form for the Fluenz nasal spray immunization clinic during October half term.



National Biology Spelling Bee

To celebrate national biology week, students at HCCS competed in a national spelling bee competition.

Students challenged themselves to spell scientific words in tutor groups, with the winner of each year group being entered into the school and national finals.

Under a time pressure of 2 minutes, the finalists had to spell as many words correctly, with their score being entered into a national database.



Congratulations to the

finalists:

- Sam MC
- Isha N
- Emma W
- Iona F
- Esme K

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Black History Month – Food Tech

To celebrate black history month some of our year 10 students have made Jerk Chicken with rice and peas. This is one of the most popular and delicious Jamaican dishes.



[Click here](#) for the recipe and to find out more on BHM

#HelloYellow

YOUNGMINDS

Hello Yellow:

Thank you to everyone for taking part in #HelloYellow on World Mental Health Day; Tuesday 10th October. As part of our tutor time sessions we have been raising awareness and informing students about the importance of looking after their mental health.

#HelloYellow is Young Minds biggest campaign, taking place every year to promote World Mental Health Day. As a school we support the charity 'Young Minds' in raising the awareness of mental health. Young Minds aims to create a future where all young children are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. Promoting the importance for our young people to get the best possible mental health support and developing resilience to overcome life's difficulties. We never know when we might need this support.

All of the proceeds we have raised will go to the charities; YoungMinds, Visyon and Papyrus who work to support young people's mental health.

Netball teams faced a tough day against Alsager

On Tuesday 10th October we faced a strong opposition from Alsager. We arrived at Alsager and firstly had a minute's applause to celebrate the life of an influential netball coach Pat Arnott who had inspired many students including those at Alsager. We were honoured to pay tribute to such an inspirational netball coach and teacher. Our girls yet again were a credit to the school, they never gave up and all wanted to succeed and do their best for each other. There is much to take from this game and plenty to work on in practice, but well done to all the teams on an enjoyable evening of netball.



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Netball teams faced Congleton in game 4 of the season

On Tuesday 17th October we were up against Congleton high school on home soil. The girls were ready for some tough games as many of Congleton's players compete at a club level. This did not phase the girls and they were up for the challenge. We had some close games where our year 8's only lost by 2 points. Our year 7 teams all showed their enthusiasm and determination to never give up. It's lovely to see so many students participating in netball and having a love for the sport.



Holmes Chapel Village Volunteers

Gardening & Litter Picking

SATURDAY 28th October 10.00am

Come and join us at the Precinct at 10.00am everyone welcome.



FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TEAM PARENT CARER WORKSHOP

Supporting children with anxiety

Visyon's Families and Communities Team are pleased to offer a **90-minute Parent Carer Workshop** which will provide information, advice and strategies to increase knowledge and understanding to empower parents to support their children confidently and effectively.

The Workshop is **available to the families of the children** at Holmes Chapel comprehensive School and **will be held at the school for face to-face delivery.**

If you would like to book a place on the workshop, please email nikki.thomas@hccs.info who will contact you with further details. Please include a contact number in your email. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis.



Parent Carer Workshop:

Monday 6th November at 9.15 am – 10.45 am. Tea and coffee will be available from 8.30 onwards

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