



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Summer Term!



It has already been a busy two weeks since we returned from the spring break and there's a real sense of energy and optimism as we step into this part of the year. The sunshine, longer days, and brighter skies offer the perfect backdrop for what is always one of the most exciting, rewarding, and inspiring terms at our school.

I've really enjoyed being back with the children, seeing them working hard in their lessons, playing out on our fields at break and lunch as well as hearing the noise and babble of a busy cheerful day at school. It's an intoxicating and energising place to work and when things are going well, when behaviour is good, when we are all pulling together for the good of each other, it's one of the best feelings and fills me with pride and a sense of belonging, family even.

This term is a time for each of us to commit to being the very best version of ourselves - in our daily interactions, our attitudes and behaviours, our friendships, our choice of language and in the way we support one another. Whether pupils are preparing for important milestones or continuing their day-to-day learning, we encourage everyone to show diligence, hard work, and a deep sense of commitment in all they do.

For our students in Years 11 and 13, the exam season is now well underway and the coming weeks bring the culmination of years of learning, effort, and ambition. We are incredibly proud of their focus and determination as they prepare for their finals. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated examinations team, whose careful planning and tireless organisation have set the stage for a successful and smooth exam season. I am also grateful for all of the very personal support that colleagues have given to our children and extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our teachers and support staff. They have gone above and beyond to ensure our students are well-prepared, confident, and supported at this challenging time. The difference they make every single day is a very special gift.

Throughout the school, we continue to encourage positivity, celebrate effort, and take pride in our progress. As always, our commitment goes beyond academic success; we are equally focused on health and wellbeing. The brighter and warmer weather has lifted us all and given us more space to play outside, have a run about and for some, enjoy moments of mindfulness, sitting in the shade, enjoying some relaxing time with friends. Feeling well and engaging in positive friendships helps us to feel good and I encourage everyone to take some time out to enjoy the fresh air. One plea to all parents. Please please tell your child about the importance of putting their litter in a bin. Our site team is spending up to three hours a day picking up the debris, bottles, paper, crisp packets and uneaten food that is left over from their lunch. I am sure that dropping and leaving litter around is something that isn't allowed at home so I would be very grateful if you would reinforce this basic standard.

The Summer Term is an exciting time when each year group transitions to the next stage of their education and we plan the arrival of our new intake. Our year 7 year group for September 2025 is already full and we have a great transition programme planned. Similarly, we have a healthy number of our year 11s choosing our college as their first choice post 16. Our four learning pathways which run across the college are rapidly filling up and planning the provision and bespoke learning for each pathway is well underway. This will be a very exciting set of learning programmes for our incoming college students that will create opportunities and learning experiences that go well beyond courses and qualifications.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, let's make this a term full of achievement, fulfilment, happiness, and pride.

Warm regards

Nigel Bielby
Executive Headteacher



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NEWSLETTER

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Curriculum Matters



Year 11 Exams Update

Equipment

Please ensure your child has their equipment and check in with them regularly. The recommendation from Ofqual is below. In addition to their list below, you can bring highlighters but can not use highlighter when answering questions as the exams are scanned in and it may interfere with the scanning.

What you can take in:

- a clear pencil case
- two or more black pens (not gel pens) – **blue pens are not acceptable for exams or written assessments**
- any specialist equipment you will need or are required to bring in – this may include a ruler, maths set and calculator, if relevant for your exam or assessment (including practicals)
- a transparent drink bottle if you wish and if permitted by your school or college – this must not have any labels

What you can't take in :

- your mobile phone
- **any type of watch** – this includes analogue, digital or smartwatches
- iPads, iPods, Fitbits, AirPods, earphones or ear buds, MP3 or MP4 players or similar devices
- revision notes



Masterclasses

Your child's masterclasses are starting to begin. These classes will help to give your child the confidence they need to tackle their exams. This is not the delivery of new content as you may find in a traditional lesson. Masterclasses are designed to master skills and techniques critical to achieving best results. I can assure you that all of these skills and techniques will have been taught prior to these classes so if your child has missed a masterclass they will not miss out on any new information. Please check the Google Classroom for resources.

Parents' Forum

At the start of next week we will send out invitations to parents of students in Years 7-10 to our in school Parents' Forum on Wednesday 21st May. At this evening we will share with you our plans for next year regarding:

- The curriculum and how we share it with you and with students
- How we will run assessment next year
- How we will report progress - in both interims and parents evenings
- Homework



We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and are planning on a 5pm start.

Staff Vacancies



We currently have various vacancies at HCCS. These include:

- **Assistant Headteacher**
- **Teacher of Maths & Physics**
- **Learning Zone Lead – Specialist Teacher**
- **Temporary Teacher of Science**

[READ MORE](#)



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Mathematics Faculty - HCCS Final Exam Update – Year 11

“The best way to revise Maths is to DO Maths!” - Revision, Revision, Revision!!

GCSE MATHS PAPER DATES (for both Higher and Foundation)

Exam Board: AQA

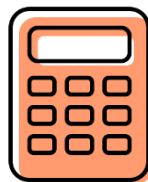


Thursday 15th May - AM - NON-CALCULATOR 90 minutes
Wednesday 4th June - AM - CALCULATOR 90 minutes
Wednesday 11th June - AM - CALCULATOR 90 minutes



A few common messages that our students will be hearing from all members of the maths teaching team:

- If you haven't started revising yet, **START NOW!!** We have just under 2 weeks until the first exam, and even starting to revise from this point on, and doing a little bit every day, will have a big impact.
- Avoid “cramming.” “Little and often” revision strategies are proven to work best. 30 minutes to an hour spent doing maths every other day is better than 3-4 hours twice a week.
- The best way to revise maths is to **DO** maths. **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!** Whether it's working through a past paper or a specific topic based worksheet, any practice is helpful. The more questions that are done, the more likely a student is to see a question in an exam and realise it's very familiar.
- Be brave; try to revise the topics that you don't understand very well. We'd all prefer to spend time doing questions we already know how to do, but that's not the best way to improve!
- The night before the exam, aim to go to bed early and get a good night's sleep. The morning of the exams, have breakfast! Your body and brain needs fuel!
- Please ensure that you have a full set of maths equipment ready for the exams. We don't have any stock available for purchase. If something breaks in the exam, please put your hand up and ask the invigilators to see if they have a spare.
- If you are not automatically given tracing paper in the exam, put your hand up and ask for some. You are entitled to it!



EQUIPMENT

Black Pens
Pencil
Ruler
Rubber
Compass
Protractor
Calculator

After-school sessions are still running on a Monday with Miss Kelman, and on a Tuesday with Miss Eustis, Mrs Buehling and Miss Sneddon, until 4:15pm. Any and all students are invited to attend.

On the morning of each of the maths exams, we will be offering a free breakfast of hot chocolate and toast to all year 11 students from 8am in the school restaurant. Our maths teaching team will be in the restaurant from 8am to offer some final advice, to help settle nerves and to wish them good luck. Please encourage your child to come into school a little earlier, if they are able to, to join us.

Finally, a huge thank you for all the support you have given and continue to give your child as they approach their GCSEs. We know it can be a stressful time for all involved, but we, as a teaching team, are incredibly proud of the work they have done in order to prepare for their exams and we hope that they all achieve the success that they deserve.

If you have any further queries regarding your child's maths exam, please contact their teacher via the office.

The HCCS Maths Team

[Click here](#) for revision resources



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Reminder to send a water bottle every day

Please can we remind you to send a water bottle every day with your child. Especially as the weather turns warmer it is important that they can keep hydrated throughout the school day. These must be refilled at school during breaks, as we have many water fountains around the school, but they need to bring their own bottle. Students are not allowed to leave lessons to fill Bottles.



During warmer weather, it is important to ensure that your child's skin is protected. We recommend that a high-factor sun cream be applied in the morning before children come to school; this will ensure that their skin is protected throughout the day.

Any students that may require antihistamines or over the counter pain relief, a request to store medication form can be collected from reception. This can then be kept in school with the medication for your child to access when required.

Thank you
Sarah Durant
School Healthcare Officer

Alternative Learning Week 2025 - Timetable

This year we are publishing all of our day trips so that students and parents can see the activities on offer and choose which trip(s) to sign up to. Trip Leaders will be contacting parents in the next few weeks with details of how to book a place, then the option to pay will be made available on SCOPAY.

Prices, where quoted, are approximate - these will depend on student numbers and transport costs.

*The Chester Zoo and Wildshore visits are dependent on staff availability.

	Mon 7th	Tues 8th	Weds 9th	Thurs 10th	Fri 11th
Year 7	Activity Day (in school)	Chester Zoo Year 7&10 Approx £25	Stratford-upon-Avon	Jodrell Bank £22	Alton Towers £45
Year 8	Alton Towers £45	Activity Day (in school) Manchester Food Tour £45	Stratford-upon-Avon	Ironbridge Wildshore Year 8&9 £50 approx	Drama Workshop (in school) £10 *Wildshore
Year 9	*Chester Zoo	Army Elite Skills Course (in school)	Alton Towers £45 Stratford-upon-Avon	Wildshore Year 8&9	Drama Workshop (in school) £10
Year 10	Liverpool Art Gallery £10	Manchester Food Tour £45 Chester Zoo Year 7&10 Approx £25	Stratford-upon-Avon	Alton Towers £45	Army Elite Skills Course (in school) Drama Workshop (in school) £10
Year 12	Derby Uni Experience	Alton Towers £45		Army Elite Skills Course (in school)	
All Year Groups				Fishing Trip (3 days) £45	



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ALW – Chester Zoo Visits – Year 7,8,9 & 10

There will be two visits to Chester Zoo during ALW in July.

Year 7 and 10 are invited to sign up for the visit on **Tuesday 8th July**.

Year 8 and 9 are invited to sign up for the visit on **Friday 11th July**.

The trip is not only an opportunity for students to see animals that they may never see in the wild but also to inspire them to help with the conservation work that Chester Zoo does to help endangered species on our planet.

Students will be leaving school after registration, and returning before the end of the school day.

In order to secure a place for your child on either trip please send an email entitled "Chester Zoo" with your child's name and form to schooltrips@hccs.info.

The cost of the trip is **approximately £25** including entry to the zoo and transport, while for PP students the cost will be covered by the school.

The deadline to sign up for either trip is **Friday 16th May**.



ALW – Wildshore Delamere – Year 8 & 9

On Thursday 10th July year 8 and 9 can visit Wildshore Delamere as part of ALW

<https://www.wildshoredelamere.co.uk/>

Students will be leaving school after registration, and returning before the end of the school day.

In order to secure a place for your child on either trip please send an email entitled "Wildshore" with your child's name and form to schooltrips@hccs.info.

The cost of the trip is **approximately £50** including activities, equipment and transport, while for PP students the cost will be covered by the school.

The deadline to sign up for the trip is **Friday 16th May**.



Year 13 Prom Fundraising

On Monday 28th April, our Year 13s organised a football match to raise money towards their prom extras. It was a fantastic match between Holmes United and Chapel City which resulted in a 4-3 win to Holmes United with goals across the match from Jack Saunders, Jack Davies, Leon Zifle and Daniel Abbott. Thanks to Mr Turrell for refereeing the match, the PE department for loaning us the 3G pitch and Charlie, Matt, Georgia and Mrs Greeney for organising the event.



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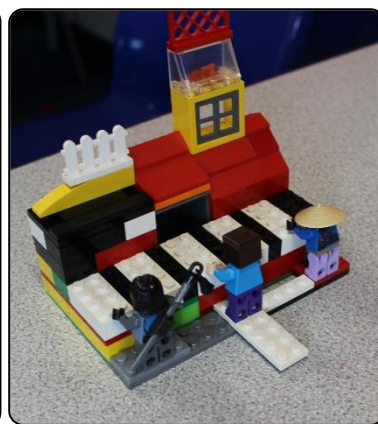
Creative Thinking in Action – Year 10 In-School Activity

During work experience week, a small group of Year 10 students who remained in school took part in a creative thinking session led by Ms Dedman.

In this one-off lesson, students worked collaboratively to complete a series of challenges designed to develop their problem-solving and alternative thinking skills. A key task involved following detailed instructions to build imaginative structures using Lego — encouraging focus, creativity, and teamwork.

The activity provided a fun and engaging way for students to practise working together, think outside the box, and approach tasks in new and inventive ways.

Check out the photos to see the students fully engaged and putting their creative skills into action!



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Art Competition for VE DAY 80th Anniversary

IN LESSON ART COMPETITION NEWS - Thank you to Holmes Chapel Parish Council for giving our students the opportunity to design a poster to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE DAY - winning posters will be on display around Holmes Chapel & at the Village Fair community Art show in summer so look out for them!

Winners = Isla Y, Meredith B, Ben W, Brooke F, Sofia B, Jayden L, Will G, Lucas K, Ava W, Esme R, Maya Mc, Dan M, Lucy A, Lauren J, Georgie P, Evie R





Learning Resource Centre News

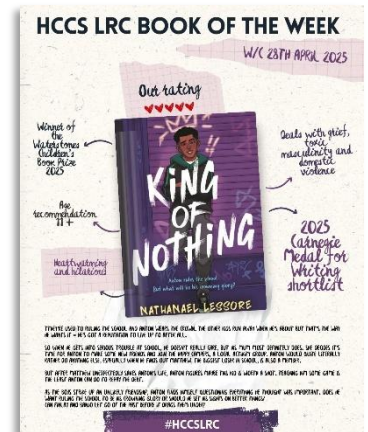
LRC Book of the Week

We're excited to introduce our LRC Book of the Week section! Each week, we'll spotlight a fantastic read from our Learning Resource Centre to inspire and engage our school community. Book of the Week's are shared in our Thought for the Week in Tutor Time alongside our HCCS LRC Instagram page.

This week's LRC Book of the Week is King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore

Literature Festival Creative Writing Competition Winners 2025

We're thrilled to introduce this year's outstanding winners of our Creative Writing Competitions. Their creativity, passion, and talent truly shine through in every word.



Year 7

After an inspiring ghost story workshop with author Cliff McNish, our talented Year 7 students rose to the challenge - congratulations to our Year 7 competition winners for their spine-chilling stories!

- Bethan S (7SP)
- Imogen C (7FO)
- Ella G (7FO)

Year 8

After watching and listening to a powerful poem by Mark Grist, our Year 8 students crafted their own creative responses—writing poems from fresh and imaginative character viewpoints. Congratulations to our Year 8 competition winners.

- Liam J (8LF)
- Ella M (8RE)
- Lilly C (8CP)

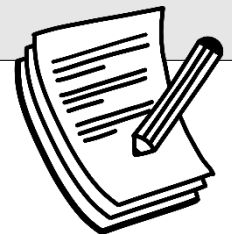
Year 9

Our Year 9 students took part in the annual Remembering Nell Competition, showcasing their creativity and compassion through powerful 500-word short stories. Congratulations to our Year 9 competition winners.

- Scarlet C (9AW)
- Anna R (9IW)
- Jane D (9GB)

A special mention also to our Shortlisted Students 2025

- Brooke F (9LB)
- Archie D (9IL)
- Isabelle K (9LJ)
- Marcus E (9GB)
- Ellie W (9IL)
- Amelia T (9IL)



KS4

Our KS4 students took on the challenge of writing flash fiction in just six words—congratulations to our brilliant winners for their powerful storytelling in miniature!

- Sofia P (11HG)
- Ben F (11AD)
- Evie C (10CK)



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Read for Good



Year 7 Readathon

We have over 200 students who will be taking part in a Read for Good Readathon this term.

Read for Good is a registered charity who supports reading for pleasure in schools using Readathon to raise money for Read for Good's Hospital Programme, which provides books and a storyteller for children in the 30 major children's hospitals across the UK.

If you would like to support our students with their fantastic reading efforts, and help to raise money to provide books and stories for children in hospital, you can donate to the Readathon here:

[Sponsor our Students](#)

The money raised will benefit children local to our communities.

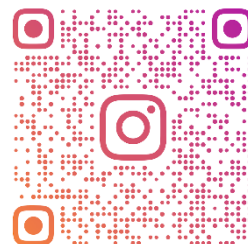
You can find more information about Read for Good via their website:

<https://readforgood.org/>

LRC Instagram

HCCS LRC now has its own dedicated Instagram page. Your go-to spot for all things literacy - book recommendations, competitions and updates.

Please pop along and give us a follow to keep up to date with everything happening in the LRC



HCCS_LRC



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Mental Health Awareness Week

Our Wear it Green Day is Thursday 15th May

Please show your support for Mental Health Awareness by wearing a green top or accessory with your usual uniform

We will be asking for voluntary donations of £1 to help raise money for [Mental Health Foundation](#)

Mental Health Awareness week is an opportunity to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it and how to access support if you are struggling.

Taking care of your mental health is so important. Our lives are increasingly busy but we all need to take the time to prioritise our mental health.

I'M TAKING PART

IN



THIS MENTALHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK
12-18 MAY 2025

In aid of





HCCS Football Successes!

Congratulations to all the boys who represented the school in Thursday's football finals at Sandbach Utd! 2 very talented teams successfully progressed through to the final and both were drawn against Shavington High School, Finals are often nervy affairs, as both teams compete to become champions of South Cheshire.

Our Year 9 teams are an amazing bunch of boys whose team spirit is their super power. These boys sit together on the bus, run together on the pitch and everyone makes the effort to support one another if they give the ball away. Their team spirit is admirable. We scored in the 2nd minute, it was only a half chance but Jack 'the poacher' M neatly tucked it away. No one at this stage would have known that would be the final score. The match was a battle of attrition, little football was played due to the ground and the size of the pitch. To win this we had to battle for 60 minutes and restrict their chances. We did just that and never gave the opposition a chance to threaten our goal. 1-0 it finished and this was a fair outcome for the football these boys have played all season. Well done gents, I'm super proud of you all.

Mr Thomas



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Year 7 Football Final Report

Our Year 7 team has come on leaps and bounds over the course of this year. The start of the year saw the entry of some particularly talented footballers from across the local area, but since then they have grown from strength to strength in teamwork, camaradery, and ability. There is a clear identity and playing style from the Year 7 team that has shone through across the season, through some really attractive, yet simple football. They have played most opponents off the park and won many games comfortably. The final was no different, they started strong, with Shavington unable to get out of their own half for long periods. A poachers' goal from Ethan P at the back post saw us take the lead midway through the first half, followed by a Riley B thunderstrike which saw us enter half time with a 2-0 lead. Shavington came out much stronger in the second half but with some assured defending and a robust work rate from each and every player we managed to secure a third deflected goal and concede a consolation goal late on to secure the South Cheshire Cup. I could not be prouder of each and every one of you who took part. Individuals don't win silverware, teammates do. Roll on next year!





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Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School & 6th Form College



Thank You

..thank you to all the parents who have recently donated PE kit, we welcome it and distribute it accordingly to students in need.

The PE dept.



Cheshire East SEND Partnership Local Offer Marketplace

We are pleased to bring together services from across the SEND partnership to provide advice to parents of children with additional needs. This drop-in will allow you to gain an initial understanding of what those services offer and then request more support at a future date.

Time with each practitioner will be limited to 10 minutes per family at this 'getting advice' event so please arrive early to avoid disappointment. Last entry will be at 30 minutes before closing.

**Thursday 8th May
3.30pm-5.30pm**

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School
Selkirk Drive, Holmes Chapel Crewe
CW4 7DX

WE NEED YOU

LADIES & GIRLS
AGED 12+

@ **SANDBACH GIRLS SCHOOL**

JOIN SANDBACH HOCKEY FREE TASTER SESSION TUESDAYS FROM

APRIL 29TH
MAY 6TH, 13TH & 20TH
6:30PM -7:30PM

Contact secretary@sandbachhockeyclub.co.uk for details

Fairy Prom Mother

Come along to find the perfect prom dress and to get glam!

We have a wide selection of pre-loved and new dresses! Make-up artists and hair stylists are waiting to give you a glamorous makeover!

Wednesday 14th May
3:30pm-5:30pm
St Mary's Caritas Centre, Crewe
Hub@her-place.co.uk
01606 557 666 / 07496 160 930



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As you may already be aware, the Netflix series Adolescence has been widely discussed over the last few weeks. The show provides a powerful, and at times difficult, look at the digital pressures young people face online and the role parents have to play in their digital wellbeing.

[Free Parent Resources](#)

To help, we've created a [resource page](#) you can pass on to your parent community. It's packed with practical advice, conversation starters, and useful insights to help parents navigate the various challenges the series brings to light.

From setting boundaries around screen time to processing upsetting online content, the resources are designed to give parents the tools and knowledge to take the next steps in supporting their child's digital wellbeing.



Visyon supports children, young people and their families with their mental health and emotional wellbeing across Cheshire East.

Whether you're a young person or a parent, you can call us on **01260 290000** for more information. There is no need for a GP referral and our services are free of charge to children, young people and their families.



One to one counselling

(Ages 11-19)
Speak with one of BACP registered counsellors for an hour each week, for up to 12 weeks, to discuss your worries in a safe space.



Family support

(Parents of children 8+)
Information and advice to help you support your child's mental health and associated challenges.



Mentoring

(Ages 11-19)
Meet with a mentor to identify new experiences, reignite old interests and develop the skills to achieve your goals.



Parent workshops

(Parents of school aged children)
Join other parents for sessions on topics such as anxiety, sleep and relationships.



Wellbeing groups

(Ages 11-19)
Join like minded young people, in a small group of 6, for creative workshops, discussions and peer support.



Webinars

(Young people & parents)
Webinars on various topics presented by Visyon's mental health professionals.



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