



Newsletter

National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Holmes Chapel Comprehensive
School & HC6F College

Issue: 82

Date: 8th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Since the last newsletter the weather has been challenging for all of us and I am delighted that we were able to remain open with teaching and learning as usual. Our students responded to the challenges remarkably well, cooperatively and flexibly and we are extremely proud of them.

This last week has been our second trial exam week for Years 11 and 13 and it is clear that they have learnt from the previous exam week in terms of preparation and for the most part they were much less intimidated by the exam hall experience. The timeline of events for year 11s for the rest of the academic year is given below.

I hope that you will join me in wishing those in examinations all the best in their preparations.

Yours sincerely Denis Oliver
Executive Headteacher

Year 11 Key dates

Monday 26th March: Year 11 trial examination results released.

Tuesday 27th March: Year 11 parent information evening.

Wednesday 28th March: PE practical exams.

Monday 23rd April: Art examinations begin.

Monday 23rd & Thursday 26th April: Drama practical exams.

Friday 27th April: PDC Day – subject intervention day.

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th May: Dance practical exams.

Tuesday 8th May: Year 11 Masterclasses start.

Monday 14th May: Year 11 written examinations start.

Friday 15th June: Year 11 optional study leave begins.

Thursday 21st June: Final Year 11 examination.

Thursday 5th July: Year 11 celebratory dinner.

YR 11 KEY DATES



Garden of Memories Pebbles

In preparation for completion of the Garden of Memories, we invite students, staff and the local community to design & create a personalised pebble to be added to the rill of the Japanese Garden.

The placing of these bespoke pebbles will coincide with Nell Jones's birthday anniversaries. More details will be given in the next addition of the Newsletter. If you would like to monitor the progress of the garden, please click this link.



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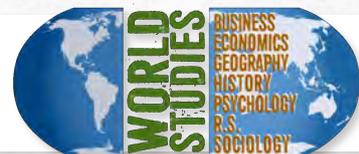


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Intermediate National Maths challenge

Congratulations to Jake Roberts who did exceptionally well coming in the top 500 nationally for year 9s and being selected to complete in the elite 2 hour Olympiad competition on the Thursday 15th March. Martha Townend also did extremely well and narrowly missed out by 1 mark on being an automatic qualifier for the year 10 elite Olympiad competition. However due to her exceptionally high score HCCS are able to enter her into the elite year 10 Olympiad, also on Thursday 15th March. Oliver Lord, Oscar Smith and Max Morris also performed brilliantly and came in the top 5% for their year group and so will take part in the one hour Kangaroo competitions also on Thursday 15th March. Around 270,000 year 9, 10 and 11 pupils took part in the national competition. Overall Holmes Chapel achieved 9 gold, 10 Silver and 16 bronzes from 39 entries. Well done to all our certificate winners.

The National Junior Maths Challenge for years 8 and 7 will take place on Thursday 26th April. So get practicing! Past papers available from the Maths office on request or see their website: <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/individual-competitions/junior-challenge/>



Year 8/9 Maths team challenge

Jake Roberts, Max Morris, Ted Whitby and Isaac Chipperfield represented Holmes Chapel admirably at the UKMT regional Team Challenge competition on Thursday 8th March. They did exceptionally well in a highly competitive event, narrowly missing out on being placed in the medals, coming fourth overall out of 16 teams. An excellent result. Well done boys!



Maths Feast!

Martha Townend, Annabel Hardstaff, James Petty and Matt Thompson represented Holmes Chapel exceptionally well at the year 10 Maths Feast at Manchester University on Wednesday 7th March. The competition is organised by the Further Maths Support Programme and tests mathematical communication and teamwork skills. Against some particularly strong competition they came 5th out of 20 teams and were recognised for consistently performing strongly in all four varied rounds. Well done.



'BACK TO SCHOOL'

Excalibur Primary School



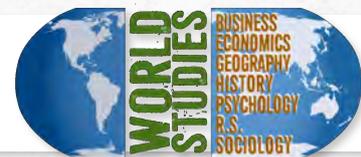
Are you interested in training to teach but maybe not sure? Then come along to our taster event and experience what it's like to come 'back to school'

Taster Day

Tuesday 27th March 2018

Cost: £10 including lunch.
Location: Excalibur Primary School, Ivy Lane, Alsager, ST7 2RQ
To Book on this event email: getintoteaching@hccs.info





PDC Day 14th March 2018 – Parents Brief

Year 7 As part of our ongoing commitment to PSHE (PDC – Personal development curriculum at HCCS) Year 7 will engage with a session looking at 'British Values'. This is inclusive of values such as democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, freedom of speech, diversity and human rights. We will explore the changes that happen to our bodies during puberty. We will look at both the emotional and physical changes our bodies go through during this time and the increased responsibility we have for our own hygiene.

British Values



Year 8 will spend the morning looking at the issue of road safety and the importance of cyber bullying and staying safe online. The afternoon will be spent engaging in the 'enterprise activity' Cobblers. This will combine aspects of work related learning in a competition style atmosphere to see who can stride their way to the best business enterprise group.

Year 9 will explore the world of personal finances. They will assess what it is to have good life finances in a practical way. In the afternoon learners will engage in 'Heartbreak Hotel', a whole tutor group activity where we assign roles to everyone in the tutor group to manage our very own hotel. This is a competition for the whole of year 9 and teaches the vital skills of enterprise, seeing opportunity, managing risk, cash flow and profit.



DISRESPECT NOBODY

Year 10 will engage in a range of different sessions throughout the day. They will explore the government's 'disrespect nobody' campaign and why it is of vital importance to young people today. They will look at the impact of social media in both a positive and negative sense. They will explore how to deal with exam stress (In preparation for our summer mock exams and year 11). Finally the Cheshire fire and rescue service will be in attendance to have a talk about the importance of road safety.

Year 11 students will have a 'Sexual Health Talk' with our school nurse. She will be talking to our pupils about the importance of sexual health. She will be exploring a range of Sexually transmitted diseases, symptoms and cures. All material has been approved both by leadership and the school governing body. Year 11 will also have a chat with the Holmes Chapel PCSO around the issue of Anti-Social behaviour. They will learn what constitutes ASB and what it can mean for the wider community. In line with our wider community links they will also have a session on Dementia and how that can affect members of the community. Finally, students will explore the issue of LGBT rights in the UK today. They will learn about the history of rights in the UK, Sex, Gender identity and the discrimination that can sometimes go alongside these issues.



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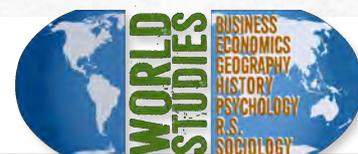
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Gifted and Talented Vocal Day and Choral Celebration Concert at Clonter Opera

Wednesday 7th March was a busy day for the singers of HCCS. Thanks to the Love Music Trust, we enjoyed a couple of excellent events at Clonter Opera Theatre with other schools in Cheshire.

Gifted and Talented Vocal Day - During the day, ten students were invited to attend a workshop day led by professional opera singers Impromptu Opera. The students learnt about voice types and singing styles, created and performed their own entertaining recitative scenes, took part in a performance masterclass and enjoyed a recital of famous operatic arias and duets. An excellent day.

Choral Celebration Concert - In the evening we were joined by the rest of Senior Choir and performed in a concert showcasing the talents of Cheshire East secondary schools. Our performance of Lean on Me and a Lion King Broadway Medley was well received and our slot in the first half meant we could enjoy the second half before singing in the grand finale of Hold Back the River.

Thank you to all of the students involved - you were fantastic as always.



Pictured: Vocal Day - Imogen Harper, Joseph Sant, Leanne Smith, Chloe McAleece, Ella Bevan, Lissy Berry, Amy Hext, Isabel Beardsell, Marcus Redgrave, Ben Finnie. Evening performance - Members of Senior Choir

Year 11 MFL Support

Year 11 MFL students are invited to attend a series of skills' workshops over the coming months. Please ask your MFL teacher which would be the best for you to attend but you can come along to more than one!

- ◆ Translation into English with Miss Lloyd: Monday 19th March - L3 - 12.45 - 1.15 L3
- ◆ Reading skills and strategies with Mrs Nixon: Tuesday 20th March 2018 12.45- 1.15 L5
- ◆ Writing 90 words or 150 words with Miss Baldwin: Friday 23rd March lunchtime L1
- ◆ Listening skills and strategies with Mrs Graham: Monday 26th March 12.45 - 1.15 L4
- ◆ Revision strategies with Ms Brealey: Wednesday 28th March 12.45 - 1.15 L6
- ◆ Role play practice with Mrs O'Garr: Thursday 19th April lunchtime 12.45 - 1.15 L2
- ◆ General conversation practice for the speaking exam with Mrs Dickey



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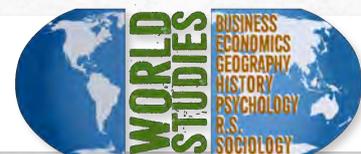
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MFL Mentoring

Our fantastic A Level MFL students have kindly volunteered to support year 11 students with their speaking exam preparation this term. They are giving up their time to go through some role plays and general conversation practice. Year 11 students will be contacted directly by Ms Brealey if they are suitable for this and parents will be informed. This is invaluable practice for our GCSE students and we are very grateful to the A Level linguists for their help!



Holmes Chapel Partnership Petition for Pedestrian Safety

For some time we have been concerned about pedestrian safety when attempting to cross the junction of London and Chester/Station Roads. As a result, the Holmes Chapel Partnership have raised a petition to Cheshire East Council.

There is more information, and a link to the online petition, on the Partnership News page of our website ([here](#)).



Nick & Freya's Great Manchester Run

In a previous newsletter we reported that Georgia Lewis, sister of Freya who was so badly injured in the bombing at the Manchester Arena, had presented the nurses who cared for her with a cheque for £24,187 to support the work of the Manchester Children's Hospital.

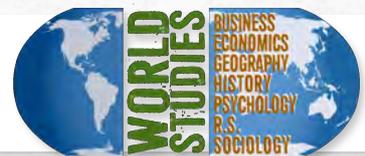
Freya and her Father Nick want to continue their fundraising by taking part in the Great Manchester run event on Sunday the 20th May. Freya is so keen to be part of the fundraising that she has deferred her next round of surgery to do so.

If you would like to find out more and make a donation, visit Freya and Nick's Just Giving page, link below.



**FOR FREYA & NICK'S
JUST GIVING PAGE
PLEASE CLICK HERE**





Holmes Chapel Marathon Runner is to Run for the Scott Penlington Foundation



Marathon runner Chris Green, father of Anna Green (year 13) is running the London Marathon, Sunday April 22nd, in aid of the Scott Penlington Foundation.

His inspiration for taking part is Scott Penlington, an ex student from Holmes Chapel, who tragically passed away at the age of 25 in a light aircraft crash in September 2016. We all miss Scott dearly.

[LINK TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE](#)

HCCS Equestrian Team - Upcoming Competitions

If you wish to compete for the HCCS School Equestrian team, please see Ms Hughes. You need your own horse and transport to competitions.

1. Abbey Gate College NSEA National Schools Dressage National Qualifiers to be held on 18th March SouthView Equestrian Centre (send entries directly to e-mail: ktableequine@gmail.com) Entries close Friday 9th March

2. Inter-Schools Show Jumping SouthView Competition Centre. email: office@southviewarena.com Saturday March 24th 2018

In each qualifying competition, the highest placed team and highest placed individual from the counties of Cheshire and North Wales will qualify to represent their County at the Final to be Held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre, Buckinghamshire On the 20th - 22nd April 2018. Entries close: Wednesday 21st March 2018

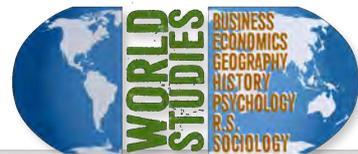
The schedule is available on the NSEA website. See Ms Hughes if you plan on entering a team or as an individual.



Congratulations!

Emma Cooper year 7 (Sandbach gymnastics club) went to the Wirral Gymnastics Competition on Sunday. She competed on the floor and vault and won the silver medal in each for her age group.





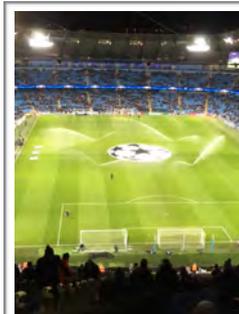
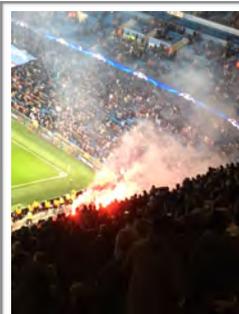
Year 5/6 Primary Football Tournament

No to be beaten by the weather, the second attempt to complete the year 5/6 football tournament took place at HCCS. Ten teams from the partner primary schools competed demonstrating some excellent sportsmanship and silky skills. Congratulations to Goostrey and Holmes Chapel the two group winners.



The Etihad Experience

Last week, fourteen lucky students were invited to watch Man City v Basel in the champions league at the Etihad Stadium. Unfortunately the result wasn't what we wanted, but the atmosphere was amazing with synchronised chants and flares going off throughout the game.



Year 7 Cheshire Cup Success

Congratulations to the year 7 football team who beat Brine Lees 1-0 in the South Cheshire cup. This was total domination, playing out from the back, the score truly flattered the opposition. A missed penalty and rattling the woodwork kept the score respectable, however the performance was first class. The semi finals beckon!



Thank you, from all of us at HCCS & HC6F.