



## Dear all

Remembrance day in our village, and as I imagine across the whole country, was a moving, poignant, thought provoking occasion when we all had the opportunity to think of those who gave their lives in the service of their country, or whose lives were and are still impacted on by the horrors of war. It made us think of service, duty, honour, responsibility, selflessness, sacrifice and placing the needs of others above our own. These are so important underpinning features of our society and are very much the antithesis to a culture of self and self interest which we sometimes hear about. Remembrance always makes me pause and think about how I can be more giving, more caring and how, as your Headteacher, I can better serve our community.

As always, the turnout from our village on a chilly but dry and sunny remembrance morning was incredible. There were many familiar faces and families, neighbours and community members there to pay their respects and take part. Turn out from the local groups including, amongst many others, the scouts, guides, brownies, cadets was amazing. In previous years, Eddie Fu, Head of Humanities and Personal Development, has represented our school at the remembrance parade. It was a privilege for me to be part of the occasion this year and to accompany children from our school, Brianna Hamilton, Jessie Chan and Sam Finnie in the parade. After the service and parade, we joined with the other groups in the churchyard and laid reefs on behalf of our school. The sense of belonging and pride across our community was incredible.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."



Continuing the theme of community and shared responsibilities, as the nights are now dark and the weather turns wintery, talking to our children about being safe on the roads is something that is hugely important. There are literally thousands of children in our community and as they grow into young adults, one of our roles is to model safe and responsible behaviours. A number of concerned parents, carers and residents have been in touch to comment on road safety. Mostly, their comments relate to children riding their bikes around our village when it is dark and the lack of lights and helmets. Being safe online, being physically safe and being safe in our relationships is something that we cover here in school via our personal development programme which is delivered to all children once a week and also in tutor sessions and in assemblies. However, it's fair to say however that these messages need to be acted on independently by our children during as well as outside of the school day. I'd very much like it if you could talk to your children about being safe on their bikes, wearing a helmet and being visible - Individual conversations and a shared, community wide desire to keep our children safe.

I was very grateful to Tina Cartlidge (Clerk) Chris Jackson (Chair) and Diane Tams (Vice Chair) from Holmes Chapel Parish Council for visiting our school on Wednesday and enjoying seeing a busy school in full swing. We had a chance to see the many site developments that we have invested in over the last three years so that our children have a high quality environment to learn, grow and thrive. We also had some time to visit some lessons and see what it's like when 1308 children are all enjoying morning break as well as how colleagues at our school spend their own time in between lessons, taking care of and interacting with children in order to maintain a calm, safe and secure ethos. If any of you would like to visit us during a normal working day, please get in touch. It's always good to welcome members of the community into our school.



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Lastly, next week it's time for our annual performance. This year it's High School Musical and tickets have literally flown out. The cast have put in hours of dedicated rehearsal, supported by a group of very committed staff. The additional energy and time that they have contributed to the success of the performance is a real demonstration of service, selflessness and ambition for our children. As usual, the standards of production are incredible and as anyone who came to see 'Bugsy' last year will remember, it's a great night out and one where we can really show how proud we are of our children and staff and how special it is to belong to this amazing community.



Thankyou for all of your support. As always, it is a privilege to serve you as Headteacher

Warm regards and take care

**Nigel Bielby**  
Executive Headteacher

## Curriculum Matters



### Study Skills

It's never too early to start understanding how we learn and revise most effectively. As you will see below, this week we launch our Year 11 support programme. But all parents and carers will be interested to look at our [study skills course](#) - which we will be developing further over the year. Please take the time to look into this with your child.

### Sixth Form

Our Year 13s have just finished their first round of mock examinations for year 13 and results are being shared already. Interim reports will be released on 27th November, quickly followed by Parents Evening on 28th November! This is an important time for students to celebrate their successes, reflect on their feedback and start making any necessary changes to keep the progress going.

Our year 12s have made a strong start to their courses this year and are starting to manage their time in study periods to ensure they stay on track and work to exceed expectations. Their first Interim report will be released on Friday 29th November, allowing them to celebrate their successes, reflect and continue to improve.

### Year 11

Today is the day that our first interim reports are sent home to Year 11 parents. Along with the report, Mr Gallagher has also sent home information about how we will be supporting our students in preparing for their trial exams, which take place after Christmas. Key information about this can be found [here](#)

### Year 10

Teachers are just completing the first assessment of students in Year 10 as part of their GCSE and BTEC courses. This means that this is also the time that we will share information about students' targets in these qualifications. This year we have needed to take a new approach to this. In the coming two weeks, Mr Jones and Mr Sneddon will talk to Year 10 students about how we've set these targets and the ambition we have for all of them to achieve their very best. We will also prepare a video explanation for you, as parents and carers, so that you can support this in your conversations at home. It's never too soon for our KS4 students to develop their independent study skills, so you might also want to spend some time watching the videos [here](#), which are part of our Year 11 study programme.



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## Curriculum Matters

### Year 9 Options Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and students to our Year 9 options evening on Thursday 21st November 2024. The evening will run from 4:30 until 6:15 with two talks at: **Talk 1 – 4.45pm & Talk 2 – 5.30pm.**

Please come along with your child to find out more about the subjects we offer at GCSE and attend one of our talks to find out how the process works.

### Key Stage 3

We are very excited that next week we will be hosting our first webinar session for parents to talk about our new assessment system for students in Years 7-9. This week you will have received an invitation from Mr Jones with details about this session on Wednesday 20th November, which will be the first in a series of opportunities for us to share developments in our curriculum and assessment directly with you. Mr Jones will also be sharing information about this with the students in the coming weeks

### Lunchcards

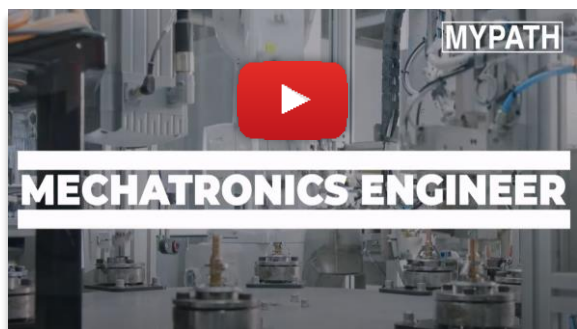
Here at our school, we make every effort to ensure that the children can access our lunch and break offerings quickly and safely. As you know, operate a lunch card system which can be charged with money so that the children are not having to carry cash. The card system also speeds up service and ensures that the children can be served and eat as soon as is practical. With over 1000 mouths to feed, lunch is always busy.



There is an increasing number of children who forget, lose or break their lunch card. When this happens our colleagues at the till have to painstakingly write down who the child is, what they have chosen and then manually enter this into the till. It slows down service, creates frustration in the children and leads to delays in them being fed. A rough estimate appears to indicate that a quarter of children are not using their lunch cards.

Can you please ensure that you talk to your child about this and that you make a commitment to making sure that they have their lunch card and it has enough money on it to buy food. As we have done previously, we may have to operate a system where pupils who persistently forget their cards are served after those who are consistently following the correct protocol. This will help massively in your child being able to access food as quickly as possible and enjoy their lunch break.

## 'Careers Corner' Jobs of the Week



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## Tutor Group Attendance Winners

As part of our drive to promote high attendance to school, we have been running form group attendance competitions across each year group. Our attendance team has been tracking the attendance of each form group on a weekly basis, with winners announced at the end of each half term.

We are delighted to announce the winning forms for half term one as: **7DT, 8AP, 9LJ, 10OB and 11AD**. These form groups have had the highest attendance in their respective cohorts, and this week, they have been rewarded for their efforts with form group breakfasts during the course of this week. Well done to all the staff and students involved, and keep up the good work!



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## Updates from HC6F

### Armistice Day

Year 12 student Natalia Zeglinska attended school in her Cadet uniform on Monday 11th November in an act of remembrance for Armistice Day. Seeing her in uniform around our school and college on the day gave us all an extra opportunity to stop and think about the sacrifices made by the military for us.

### Year 11 Taster Days

We were excited to welcome over 180 of our year 11s to have a taster of Sixth Form life over the first two days of this half term. Students attended lessons across the college and made the Sixth Form area their own for the day. These two days provided a really informative insight for our year 11s and the choices they make next. Applications to the Sixth Form are open with a deadline of Monday 16th December. If you have any questions, please email [sixthform@hccs.info](mailto:sixthform@hccs.info).

### Lanyards, attendance, punctuality and SSTs!

The four pillars of safety and success at HC6F!

1. Remember to always wear your lanyard (sign in with Mrs Greeney if you have forgotten it!).
2. Attend every tutor time, lesson and study period with enthusiasm.
3. Get to college, tutor time and lessons on time.
4. Come to your SSTs with plenty of work to do!



### L'Armistice - Year 9 Remembrance Day work

Year 9 students have been learning about Armistice Day in French lessons over the past couple of weeks. Students have worked hard to produce some fabulous posters, some of which are now proudly displayed in MFL3. Posters include vocabulary specific to Armistice Day in France, similarities and differences between how we remember our fallen soldiers here in the UK vs. how France remembers them, and how L'Arc de Triomphe not only serves as a tourist attraction, it is also a War Memorial and the final resting place of the Unknown Soldier. Students really got on board with completing this work, and should be proud of the work that they made as a result of their efforts.

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS



### Accelerated Reader Word Millionaire

A huge congratulations to **Imogen C (7FO)** and **Jack W (9IW)** the latest students to join our Word Millionaire Club.

Imogen C (7FO) is also our first Multi-Millionaire of the year, after reading an incredible **3,016,706 words** so far this term through our Accelerated Reader Programme.

Keep up the hard work Imogen and Jack!



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## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

### Reminder:

All of our KS3 students are using Accelerated Reader and are expected to quiz at least once every fortnight. Well done to all students who have completed and passed quizzes so far this half term. A huge 2,449 books have been read and quizzed on so far!

If you have any questions regarding Accelerated Reader, please email our Literacy Team and they will be happy to help. [Literacy@hccs.info](mailto:Literacy@hccs.info)

### Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

**2,449** Books

**58,519,557** Words

for **15** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
Accelerated Reader®

### Bookbuzz 2024

Our Year 8 students have been busy this term choosing their free book as part of this year's Bookbuzz Programme by BookTrust. Bookbuzz is a programme which gives students the chance to choose and keep a book they'll love from a collection of 16 titles, newly selected each year by our panel of BookTrust reading experts, practising teachers and school librarians.



**BookTrust**  
Bookbuzz

Here are this year's fantastic titles, from Fiction to Nonfiction, Graphic Novels and Dyslexia Friendly texts, there is something for everyone.

### Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2025

We're excited to be taking part in this year's Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2025. Please see below this year's shortlisted titles. There will be plenty of chances throughout the year for students to get involved from reading, quizzing and illustrating!

### Recommended Reads for Non-Fiction November

Non-Fiction celebration of factual materials is a celebration of reading information, to expand knowledge, and to explore individual interests.

Each year there is a theme. This year, the theme for Non-Fiction November is **Why don't You? (Hobbies and Leisure)**.

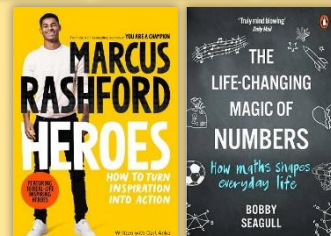
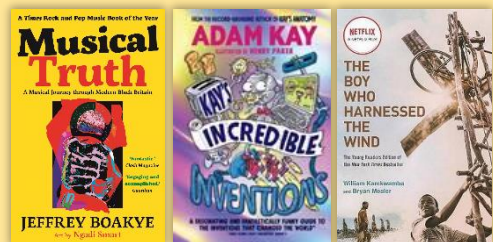
Here are our recommended reads for this year's Non-Fiction November.

**ELS**

## Cheshire Schools' Book Award 2025

Younger Age Category

Older Age Category



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## Sparx Reader

These students have earned the most Sparx Reader Points so far this term. A huge congratulations.

1. Ashira O
2. Abi H
3. Maisie F
4. Evie C
5. Jack S
6. Ben S
7. Becca C
8. Grace A
9. Lottie C
10. Meg S



Well done to everyone who is managing to log on and complete their Sparx Reader homework.



**The Vicarage**  
**Wednesday 20th**  
**November**  
**7pm Start**

### Elizabeth's Kenya Fundraiser

Proudly Supported By  
The Vicarage, Holmes Chapel

#### Camps International Fundraiser to Kenya

I, along with other students from Holmes Chapel School will be off to Kenya this summer for 4 weeks of community building initiatives. To raise money towards the trip I will be holding a Quiz Night and Raffle at The Vicarage, Knutsford Road, Cranage, CW4 8EF.

**£5 per team to enter (cash only), max 6 people per team.**

Please come and join us for a lot of fun and prizes.



### Year 8/9 Cheshire Cup - Beat Poynton 7-2 (5th Nov)

Year 8/9 girls beat Poynton 7-2 in the second round of the Cheshire Cup for girls football. They played a physically tough 11 aside match of 35 minute halves and are through to the next round of the Cheshire Cup! They are an amazing and very dedicated and determined team and I look forward to seeing how they get on in future rounds. A huge congratulations to Maisy S the captain for scoring a hattrick and Maddison G for being voted opposition's player of the match.



### Year 7/8 lost against Wilmslow 2-6 (4th Nov)

Well done to these eight dedicated and resilient girls football players. They played in a tough match with one player down against a strong Wilmslow High School team. They managed to score two fantastic goals but sadly lost 2-6 to Wilmslow. The two girls that stepped up to support in goal made some excellent saves. A huge congratulations to Sophie L who was voted opposition's player of the match, playing in goal and outfield, a versatile and true team player!



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## Netball Results 5th November Vs Brine Leas

This week was the last of the season due to the dark nights closing in. All the teams did themselves and the school proud working hard as a team. All the teams were ready and began warming up to compete against some strong opposition in Brine Leas.

All of the teams worked tirelessly to play at their best, and again made improvements to get better and better each game. The year 10's have been testament to this, never giving up and although we lost the first half they came back strong and won the second. Well done to all the teams tonight and for all the players receiving player of the match. Well done to the year 9 team winning comfortably 24 to 4, practising in preparation for their national tournament on Saturday 16th November.



Player of the match  
**Year 8 - Bea S and Flo S**  
**Year 9 - Maya McK**  
**Year 10 - Tiah M**

Well done to all the teams and players tonight, we are always very proud of you.  
Mrs Mee and Mrs Thomas.



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We are organising donations for Middlewich and District Foodbank., in time for Christmas Food Parcels for families who need extra support.

We are asking for donations from families for this. We kindly ask that any donations are brought to the Upper School Hub from Monday 25th November until Friday 6th of December.

To avoid everyone bringing the same things, can we please ask that each year group brings in the following donations:



**Year 7 - Tinned peas/carrots/potatoes**

**Year 8 - Christmas Cake/Chocolate Log Cake**

**Year 9 - Christmas Crackers**

**Year 10 – Crisps**

**Year 11 - Steamed puddings (2 pack - not fresh)**

**Sixth Form - Tinned Ham**

**We do appreciate any support. Thank You**







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## Holmes Chapel and District CommuniCARE

Do YOU have any spare time during the School Day?

CommuniCARE take local residents, who have no transport, to medical appointments around the village and to local Hospitals.

At present we really need more drivers to operate our service to the Community. YOU could really make a difference.

If you are able to help us, please ring our dedicated phone number **07856 469508** or see our website at [www.holmeschapelcommunicare.org.uk](http://www.holmeschapelcommunicare.org.uk) or if you would prefer, have a chat with Pat Macmaster on **01477 533992**



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