



# AUTUMN TERM 2010



NCHS – The Science College

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**NCHS ATTENDANCE**

**Sept to Dec 09 – 91.8%**

**Sept to Dec 10—92.3%**

Dear Parent/Carer

Once again it is a pleasure to be able to talk about the work at NCHS over the past term. As usual it has been an incredibly busy term for both staff and pupils. The term began on a 'high' as NCHS achieved its 'best ever' GCSE results with 54% of pupils gaining 5 A\*-C grades and 45% of pupils gaining 5 A\*-C grades (including English and Maths) against an already aspirational target of 27%. I am sure you will agree this is an outstanding achievement for everyone at the school, as the saying goes "The future's looking rosy".

Across the federation, Julian Morgan joined Clayton as the Associate Headteacher. This means that leadership in both schools is now complete and together Mark, Julian and I can now work with you all to strengthen and move both schools forward.

In October NCHS had a 'no notice' monitoring inspection from Ofsted. The inspection team was clearly impressed with the progress of the school since its last full inspection in July 2009 and progress against action points was judged 'good' as was the school's capacity for sustained improvement. Pupil behaviour was judged at least good in all aspects and whilst all lessons observed were at least satisfactory, 64% were judged to be good or outstanding. The full report is attached for you to read.

The pupils have also been really busy this term as you will see as you read on. I am really proud of a group of year 11 pupils who took it upon themselves to raise money for 'Help for Heroes'. They planned and delivered an assembly to the whole school to raise awareness and then organised a non uniform day raising over £350 in the process.

A year 11 pupil, Shannon Russell, (part of our Princes Trust Group) has also been recognised for her part in organising 'NCHS has got talent' in the summer term. Shannon received an award at a very prestigious event at Aston Villa Football Club.

Throughout November pupils busily prepared for our Christmas Fair which took place on Saturday 27th November. Once again, this was enjoyed by all and a great success. Friarswood, Silverdale and Seabridge Primary Schools joined us and had their own stalls, raising money for their individual schools, each supported by NCHS's year 10 Business Studies Group. I am pleased to say that we raised over £400. Pupils are now voting on a charity for this to go to.

It just remains for me to remind everyone that school ends at 12:30pm on Friday and opens again at 8:45am on Tuesday 4th January 2011.

May I wish all of you a very pleasant and restful Christmas and a very happy new year!

Jill Adamson  
Associate Headteacher at NCHS

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Thursday 14 October 2010

Mrs J Adamson  
Headteacher  
NCHS The Science College  
Ostend Place  
Newcastle  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2QY

Dear Mrs Adamson

**Ofsted monitoring of Grade 3 schools: monitoring inspection of NCHS The Science College**

Thank you for the help which you and your staff gave when I inspected your school together with Trevor Riddiough HMI on Wednesday 13 October 2010, for the time you gave to our phone discussions and for the information which you provided before and during the inspection. Please also thank both governors, and the two groups of pupils that we met.

Since the previous inspection in July 2009, the school has formed a federation with Clayton Hall School, under the executive headteacher Mark Heuston. There is one Governing Body. Numbers on roll have remained stable over time.

As a result of the inspection on 8 July 2009, the school was asked to address the most important areas for improvement which are set out in the annex to this letter. Having considered all the evidence I am of the opinion that at this time the school has made good progress in making improvements and good progress in demonstrating a better capacity for sustained improvement.

The GCSE results of 2009 remained well below average, and measures of progress were also very low despite predictions in the previous report of better outcomes. However, in 2010, provisional results at GCSE, were the best in the schools history, with 45% of pupils gaining five or more good grade GCSE's including English and mathematics, much better than the 22% of 2009. Overall standards rose, to just below national averages, and progress indicators now look to be at least satisfactory. The current Year 11 is on target for even higher results in 2011. These strongly rising standards are the result of improvements in the quality of teaching and learning, changes to the Key Stage 4 curriculum, and targeted support for individual pupils who look to be underachieving. The school now systematically tracks pupil progress, informs pupils and their parents regularly about how things

September 2010



are going, and ensures teachers have a better understanding of how their pupils are doing in comparison to other subjects.

During our visit, we observed eleven lessons; all were at least satisfactory with the majority being good or outstanding. The best learning occurred when pupils made brisk starts to lessons, responding to well-prepared materials that stimulated their thinking. In most lessons, pupils did have sufficient time to develop their own thinking and understanding independently, using the teacher as a source of advice and challenge. The school uses a standard lesson plan but this has some limitations, as it does not explicitly identify which particular pupils might be ready to tackle different levels of demand. Learning was slower, where pupils had to wait to contribute, or did not have opportunity to participate in class discussion. Marking quality varies between classes. The best examples demonstrate an accurate diagnosis of working level, clear feedback on what is needed to improve, and an expectation that pupils will respond to that advice. Other, albeit a minority, of examples were limited to perfunctory ticks, and repetition of advice to complete work, that was going unheeded by the pupils. Most pupils know their target grades, and, at least in core subjects, know what they need to do to achieve them. These details are clearly written in reports to parents, and available at parent consultation meetings.

The local authority had triggered a collaboration between NCHS and Clayton hall school in late 2008. That collaboration became a federation in the spring of 2010, bringing a shared sense of new opportunity and stability to the leadership and management of this school. The process of federation has been effectively managed, thanks to good governance from both predecessor schools, and good local authority and National Challenge adviser oversight. The new senior leadership has brought consistency of practice, robust monitoring and evaluation of teaching, in building a stronger capacity to improve. As one pupil put it, 'a clear set of rules that make for a much more enjoyable and consistent learning ethos across the school'. As yet, science specialism has not contributed significantly to school improvement. Progress towards developing a better provision for cultural and spiritual development of pupils has been limited so far. Further work on auditing what is already in place, and what the local needs of the school and its immediate community might be, is planned for this academic year. Pockets of good practice already exist, but pupils do yet have a good enough understanding of life in multicultural Britain.

I hope that you have found the inspection helpful in promoting improvement in your school. This letter will be posted on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

**Brian Cartwright**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

# LIBRARY @ NCHS

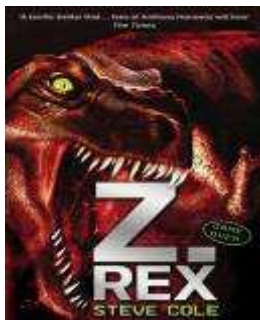
## LIBRARY NEWS WELCOME YEAR 7'S

The library has proven popular with the new year 7 pupils. We have a large group of regulars and the avid readers have joined our Reading Club. All new members took part in the latest sponsored Readathon in the library, to celebrate Children's Book Week!

All year 7's took part in a Library Book Hunt during their English lesson to get to know the library. They also each got to choose a FREE BOOK from the Booked-up scheme.

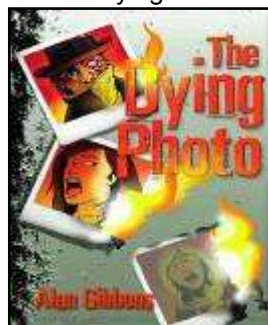
To get our new recruits reading as much as possible, they also completed book reviews about the book they enjoyed reading the most. Take a look at what some of them thought!

**Booked-up!** – This is a government scheme that allows every year 7 in the country to get a brand new free book to keep. They can choose from a selection of 15 specially selected books. The most popular choices for our year 7's were:



Z-Rex

The Dying Photo



## READING CLUB

Reading Club started up again in September. All our regular members returned eager too get points and win the Gold prize at the end of the year. Megan-Rose is currently in the lead....again! Due to the success of Reading Club we have started to let non-members into the library on Reading Club days on a trial basis as long as they read quietly. This has thus far, been a success.

Our new, year 7 members (who joined in the Readathon) are:

Alex Broad  
Jacob Evans  
Prentice Johnson  
Daniel Heath

## READATHON!

This terms sponsored Readathon occurred during Children's Book Week in October. Old and new members got as much sponsor money as they could manage and we read all day in the library. We had awards for 'most sponsor money raised' and 'best behaved pupil'. Prentice Johnson and Alex Broad won these awards

### Prizes:

Alex Broad – Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone  
Prentice Johnson – Jane's Aircraft recognition guide

**We raised £103 for our chosen charity. Thank you to everyone who took part and gave sponsor money!**

## QUIZ DAY

The library Quiz Day started again from scratch in September. The Quiz Day is every Wednesday dinnertime, and everyone who can muster up a team of people is eligible to take part. The quiz will continue for the entire year with a face off between the top two teams in July next year. So, plenty of time to join in and take the crown yet!

Last year's winner **Kyle Shaw** and **Matt Barlow** have not returned to defend their crown, so it's an open field. Currently in the lead is **Team MTJCCR** – they know who they are!

Miss Steele—Librarian



### **Year 10/11 Duke of Edinburgh Award**

52 pupils from NCHS have registered to take part in the Bronze award and meet regularly after school to take part and learn first aid, map reading and camp craft skills. They also take part in boxing sessions and maintain the school allotment.

The pupils are currently preparing to take part in their first expedition which will take place in the Peak District in January 2011. This will consist of the pupils organising and preparing their own 7 mile route, producing route cards and map reading around the route in groups of 4 – 7 and preparing their own kit for the walk.

**Mr Gregory**



### **Christmas Maths Puzzle Mr Mickleburgh**

How many gifts, in total, did I receive during the Twelve Days of Christmas - according to the song?

(Hint – the answer isn't 78!)



### **History visit to Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland**

A group of 20 pupils have recently visited Auschwitz. This has provided a unique opportunity to visit perhaps the most notorious death camp of all. The visit included a guided tour of the historic medieval town of Krakow and a visit to the Jewish Kazimierz district and the only working synagogue still left in Krakow. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Schindler Museum which links in to the work that Year 9 students are studying on the Holocaust and Spielberg's interpretation of it. There was also an opportunity for students to experience the cultural aspects of Krakow itself by visiting a Christmas market.

**Mrs Robinson**



### **Dance mats.**

Myself, along with a number of other year nine pupils have been running a dance mats group every Wednesday lunchtime for the past couple of months with Mrs Burr supervising. We enjoyed the responsibility it gave us and the fact that we were able to lead a group with little or no help from Mrs Burr. We also hope to continue running the dance mats sessions after the Christmas holidays.

**Shannon Crittenden Year 9**

## Year 9 Rugby



The year 9 rugby team have had another successful season. They won the Newcastle schools tournament winning all of their games, although it took a last minute try to gain the win over Clayton Hall. The team then went to the Staffordshire year 9 tournament at Lichfield on a very cold November evening representing Newcastle schools where they found the competition very hard. However, the team managed to raise their game progressing to the semi final where they lost to the eventual winners. The boys' behaviour and attitude has been fantastic throughout the season and they have been a credit to the school. The team ethos is going from strength to strength and I look forward to working with them next season.

Well done, Mr Gregory.



BBC school news report – Watch this space.

Y8 students are completing work on a project in conjunction with the BBC. On March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 students will be taking part in the BBC schools report day by producing news stories to be published on our website and the BBC's school report webpage. Make a note in your diary to check our website on the day. More news in the next newsletter.

**Mrs Allwood**

## SEN Department

It is our ambition within the SEN department and throughout NCHS that every child reaches their full potential in school, and can make a successful transition to adulthood and the world of further education, training or work. One of our many ways to help promote and improve the support they need is by involving students as much as possible with outside run agencies, one such programme was the creative arts sessions which was held at Newcastle library. The students attended a morning/afternoon session working with a professional graffiti artist learning the very complex art of graffiti and T shirt printing. Having these sessions at the library was also a fantastic way of encouraging these young people to use the library for their pleasure, to read, hire out music or films or even just to use the PC. Two of our students even joined on the day.

“The afternoon was good fun, and we got to take our t shirts that we printed home”

**By Ashley Paczkowski**

“It was ace – because we got to do loads of different stuff”, and I even joined the library”

**By Mark Dixon**

“Our nurture group is a fun group because we do some fun things like going to Newcastle Library.

**By Jack Swinney**



Some of our students in year 11 approached me and asked if they could raise money for Help for Heroes. I asked the girls concerned if they would lead an assembly in front of the whole school to encourage all pupils to get involved, this they did and the result was a non uniform day. The school raised £367. I hope you will agree with me the students have done an excellent job.

The money raised will be used to provide support for the men and women who are injured in the service of our country.

Mrs Adamson



# NCHS Christmas Fair



## WINNING HOUSE

### SIEVERT

Balloons in the car	KAS
Cake stall	EJO
Wooden Decoration Sale	SLO
Roll a 6	AJO
Hot Dogs	EKE
Quiz Games	SDA

Well done everyone.

Photographs of just a few of the many stalls that helped to make the NCHS such a resounding success!!!!



Mr Massey selling cakes!

## WINNING FORM

### LRO

The winning stall was Mrs Robinson's form who ran the Tombola.

Well done to everyone who worked very hard.



Christmas Cards anyone?

## **We would like to thank:**

Keele Christmas Tree Farm for their generosity in supplying the Christmas tree for the main school hall.



Penkull Nurseries for supplying the Christmas Poinsettias.



Who won on the tombola?

## CONSTRUCTION

Some of our year 10 pupils made a constructive career move in November when they visited Nu Build houses at Stoke on Trent College to find out about careers in construction and building and engineering services. Called Nu Build, the homes were manufactured in Germany then shipped over to the UK where they were constructed at the college within just two weeks, thus bringing together twin needs of greener construction and skilling-up the local workforce.

Stephen Edwards "I'd love to work in construction. It was great to see inside the Nu Build houses and also see all the students training in construction. I like to be hands on instead of just sitting around. It's been great seeing all that the college has to offer and I hope to come here when I finish school."

Mr Burndred



## INTERHOUSE NETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS



KS3 RESULTS; 1st Henry, 2nd Newton, 3rd Celsius, 4th Sievert

KS4 RESULTS; 1st Celsius, 2nd Henry, 3rd Newton, 4th Sievert

The girls showed outstanding team spirit, their behaviour both on and off the pitch was impeccable.

Mrs Clarke



Mrs Aston 'supporting' her team!

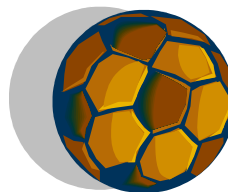


Mr Jones on the dance mats!



The acts which took part in the talent show.

## INTERHOUSE FOOTBALL



In October, we held an inter-house 11-a-side football tournament which provided some thrilling entertainment for all that were watching. Firstly there was a Key Stage 3 competition involving a team made up of year 7's, 8's and 9's from each of the four Houses. Each House played each other once in a group format and the top two teams played each other in a final. The Celsius team made an excellent start winning their first two games comfortably and with Sievert following hot on their heels, they set up an exciting final. Celsius started the better of the two and piled the pressure on the Sievert team, who were defending stubbornly, but they could not hold back a victorious Celsius team who were crowned Key Stage 3 Inter House Football Tournament Champions.

On the other pitch, there was the hotly contested Key Stage 4 tournament, involving Year 10 and Year 11 players (plus a few Year 9 pupils who helped out by making up the KS4 teams to full teams) again representing the 4 Houses. Newton went into the tournament as hot favourites but after winning their first match comfortably, struggled in the next two games and were eliminated. This left the competition wide open and allowed Henry to win the group, with Sievert finishing second. The final was full of twists and turns, with penalties, disallowed goals and lots of nerves. Henry were seconds away from winning the game when John Johnston equalised with practically the last kick of the game. This took the game to a penalty shoot out, with an extremely nervous atmosphere. Henry made the better start, scoring their first 4 penalties, with Sievert missing one of their 4, but unfortunately for Henry, their fifth penalty was missed, leaving Sievert to draw level. In sudden death, the score reached 8-8 before Henry missed their penalty, leaving Sievert to secure victory with a precise spot kick into the top corner. It was a fantastic match and a credit to all of the players involved.

The tournament was a great success and the players behaved in an exceptional manner.

Celsius - Key Stage 3 Inter House Football Tournament Champions  
Sievert - Key Stage 4 Inter House Football Tournament Champions

Mr Scarratt



## Extra Curricular Activities at NCHS

	Lunch time club	After school clubs
Mon	Dodge Ball Volley Ball French Film Club	SAS Homework Club Football Training Swimming English Foundation
Tue	Cheerleading Board Games Club Dodge Ball	Duke of Edinburgh Boys Football
Wed	Boys Football African Drumming Rock It Ball ICT Club Board Games Club	Maths Revision Guitar Club Netball Cookery Club Fitness Cake Decorating
Thu	Badminton English Coursework Film Club Board Games Club Btec Sport Support	Tech Coursework ICT Club Art Club Instrumentalists G&T English Geography Homework H & S Care Catch Up History Homework Swimming Textiles Football
Fri	Badminton SWAT Club Football Board Games Club	

# BREAKFAST CLUB

Calling all Year 7 pupils. Why not join our Breakfast Club daily from 08:00 to 08:35 in the Dining Room. Membership entitles you to FREE Toast and a Hot Drink or Fruit Juice.

**Note** This offer is open to those pupils in Year 7 during the school year 2010/11.

Thanks go to the Community and Learning Partnership for supporting this venture.

# FREE BUS SERVICE

The school has been able to secure a free bus service for pupils attending after school activities and detention. The service will operate from Monday to Thursday, routes are based upon those currently provided, which are:

Bus No 431 (Operated by D & G Buses)



Depart NCHS -  
The Science  
College at 16:30,  
calling at:  
Park Site

Silverdale

Milehouse Lane

Cross Heath

Bus No 112 (Operated by Scraggs Coaches)

Depart NCHS - The Science  
College at 16:30, stopping on  
request to Knutton

**\*This service will start again on Monday 10th  
January 2011\***



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Pupils wishing to use this service must register their names with Mrs Gregory by Lunchtime on the day they wish to travel.**

**Do you want a Fitter, Healthier and Happier family in 2011? Why not join our Free Family MEND programme!**

The MEND Programme is a 10 week NHS North Staffordshire fun, free-of-charge community, family-based programme for families with children who are above their ideal weight and aged between 7-13.

One parent or guardian must attend each session with the child. The programme helps families to make healthy changes to their daily lives with great results.

**Programme highlights include:**

- Weekly games, activities and swimming for kids.
  - Learning that being active can be a lot of fun!
  - Fun, interactive discussions that will teach you easy, effective ways to improve your child's behaviour and improve his/her self-confidence.
- Practical demonstrations, games and tips about healthy foods, label reading and portion sizes

**Newcastle-under-Lyme Programme**

Hempstalls Primary School  
Tuesdays and Thursdays - starting Jan 25th 2011  
6pm-8pm

**Programme Manager:** Wayne Glover

Programmes have limited spaces. To enrol or for more information contact the MEND Team on: 07707275409 or visit <http://www.mendprogramme.org>

**COMMUNITY**

The community office is putting on a month of charity events in January in which all the students are invited to participate. We are doing a 24 hour sponsored swim, mini tennis tournament, badminton tournament and a variety show. Auditions will take place in the new year for the students to get into the variety show. We are looking for dance acts, bands, comedians, jugglers any thing that can be done for between 5 and 15 mins.



**NCHS**  
**THE SCIENCE COLLEGE**  
Gallowstree Lane Newcastle ST5 2QS  
Tel 01782 667658

**Public swimming sessions**

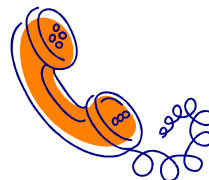
Mondays:	6.30-8.00	Family swim.
	8.00-9.00	Lane swimming.
Wednesdays:	9.30-11.30	Over 50's.
	8.00-9.00	Lane swimming
Thursdays:		
Saturdays:	pm.	Pool hire for parties.
Sundays:	am.	Pool hire for parties
	3.30-5.30	Family fun swim.

**Interested in a Career in School Meals?**

We are looking for enthusiastic people who would enjoy providing good food to the young people of NCHS in support of a healthy lifestyle.

- Casual Basis
- Term Time working
- Excellent rates of pay

If you are interested contact Tracey on 01782 667650 ext 680.



**School Absence Line:**  
**01782 667660**

Just a reminder to all parents that the above number is the one you should be ringing if your child is ill or going to be late in, due to an appointment. It is a dedicated line and is available for you to ring 24 hours a day. You will hear a short message asking you to leave details of your child's absence.

## School Terms and Holiday Dates 2011

### Spring Term 2011:

Staff & Pupils:	Tuesday 4 January – Friday 18 February	34 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February</b>	<b>5 days</b>
Staff & Pupils:	Monday 28 February – Friday 8 April	30 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 11 April – Monday 25 April</b>	<b>11 days</b>
Easter Sunday:	Sunday 24 April	

### Summer Term 2011:

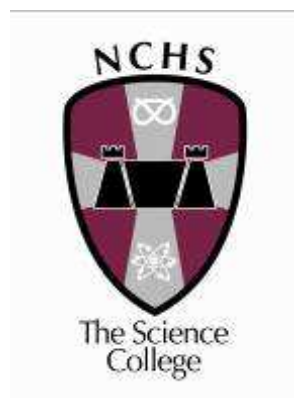
Staff & Pupils:	Tuesday 26 – Friday 27 May	22 working days
<b>Bank Holiday:</b>	<b>Friday 29 April</b>	<b>1 day</b>
<b>Bank Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 2 May</b>	<b>1 day</b>
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June</b>	<b>5 days</b>
Staff & Pupils:	Monday 6 June – Friday 22 July	35 working days
<b>Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 25 July – Friday 2 September</b>	<b>30 days</b>

**School re-opens to students on Tuesday 4th January 2011**  
**Week 1**

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

**From all the  
Staff at  
NCHS**





**PUBLISHED BY  
NCHS—The Science  
College**