



WELLNESS
AMBITION
TOGETHERNESS
CONFIDENCE
HONESTY

CHOSEN HILL SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

Parent Bulletin

Friday 8th July 2022



Learning Tip

It's nearly the summer holidays. Encourage your child to visit the school library to take out a book, or if you have younger children between the ages of 4-11, Gloucestershire Libraries are inviting them to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Enrichment Week takes place next week. Monday to Friday inc.

This week we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort, who will be joining us in September, to school for two Discovery Days. During this time staff and sixth form students provided important information, ran sample lessons and addressed any concerns of parents and students about the process of transition into Chosen Hill. We are very pleased to have them join us in the new academic year.

On Tuesday, we were treated to a fantastic sports day. As well as some terrific performances the colour, engagement and enthusiasm of the House teams made a brilliant whole school community event - even the weather played its part!



Reminder:

Tuesday 19th July:

End of the school year - students will finish at 13:15

Connect with us on Social Media:



www.chosenhillschool.co.uk

Over the last year I have been working with staff, students and parents to identify the priority areas that will feed into our School Improvement Plan. As a school, we have had to respond to a number of challenges associated with Covid and returning to face to face teaching as well as a new Headteacher! This review has identified five keys areas of focus that will inform our planning that form the acronym WATCH – you will see more about these words as we live them out over the coming year;

- W Wellness;** ensuring that our work supports the emotional, social and physical health of staff and students
- A Ambition;** a focus on high expectations and aspiration for our students to achieve amazing outcomes
- T Togetherness;** high performance comes from an environment of trust and support. We need to build and maintain strong community links within and beyond school
- C Confidence;** positive feedback, celebration and a coherent knowledge rich curriculum that gives students self-belief and esteem.
- H Honesty;** a willingness to give and receive developmental support alongside strong culture of rigorous and frequent evaluation in order to be better every day

We are looking forward enrichment week starting on Monday. The opportunity to extend our curriculum beyond the taught subjects, where students work together to further build their community and have the chance to learn through topics and experiences that we cannot fit into our normal school week. Alongside a full programme of trips and visits for Years 7-9, Year 10 and Year 12 students will have the opportunity for work experience. I am sure they will have a great week.

Mr Pauling
Headteacher

Private Peaceful

The year 8 students represented CHS perfectly at the 'Private Peaceful' production, and 8HW wrote letters to the Director of the production in Mrs Caddy's lessons. They received a reply from the company thanking them for their excellent writing, with a signed copy of the novel and a poster for the school by a way of thanks.



Donations of Second Hand Uniform

We would be grateful for any second hand uniform donations from year 11 students (now that they have finished their exams), or from any students who have outgrown some of their uniform. Please pass any clean donations to Reception. Many thanks.

Confiscated items

We have accumulated many confiscated items which we are holding at reception. Parents have been contacted to collect the items as students will not be permitted to do so. If you have been contacted, and have not collected these items yet, please could you make arrangements to do so as soon as possible. We will be disposing of the items during the summer holidays if they are not collected by the end of term.

Lost Property

Please remember to name all of your child's uniform and equipment so that it can be easily returned if it is misplaced.

We currently have a large amount of lost property which is not named, including water bottles. If your child has misplaced anything, please remind them to check with lost property. Any items not collected by the end of term will be disposed of during the summer holidays.

Help for Hardship

"Citizens Advice and the Trussell Trust have come together to develop a free helpline for people struggling to afford the basics. Operating in England and Wales, the helpline offers personalised advice and support to help address the underlying causes of the hardship, as well as a quick and seamless referral to a food bank for people if required."

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/our-work/advice-partnerships/help-through-hardship/>

We are aware that not all referral agency colleagues can offer support for people over the summer months. You are very welcome to contact us on our Help for Hardship contact number if you think may struggle during this time.

People who call 0808 2082 138 will be able to speak confidentially to a trained Citizens Advice advisor (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday), who can issue a foodbank voucher and provide other information as needed.

Hayfever

If your child suffers with hayfever please could you remind them to take their medication/sprays/eye drops in the morning before they leave for school. If there are any issues during the school day, then there are a couple of things they can do to help lessen the effects.

Use Vaseline just under the nose as this helps stop pollen/spores entering the nasal passage.

Bathe eyes with a cloth or toilet role that has been soaked in cold water as this helps to remove any pollen/spores around the eye area.

Please remind your child, unless the symptoms are so bad that the student is too ill to continue with the school day, not to go to First Aid for hayfever treatment as we are not permitted to dispense Antihistamines and therefore do not store them.



Reflections on Krakow and Auschwitz, History and Psychology Trip

Last Thursday a group of Year 12 and 13 History and Psychology students left Chosen Hill at 2:30am to make the journey to Krakow, Poland. The focus of the visit was to explore the history of the Holocaust and the human behaviour behind this tragic event. As part of the A Level History course, students' complete coursework in which they analyse differing interpretations of the Holocaust. Studying the topic over the course of the year means that students have developed a depth of understanding. Despite this, many students remarked that studying from books and in the classroom hadn't prepared them for the reality of visiting Auschwitz and meeting a Holocaust survivor. This unique experience is hard to put into words, but below are some of our personal reflections:



Auschwitz 1

“When we visited Auschwitz 1 we learnt that the Nazis didn’t have time to construct a whole camp, they needed space fast. So they invaded a Polish military base and made it their own. 1.3 million were sent to Auschwitz between June 14th 1940 and January 27th 1945. 1.1 million were killed. 960000 were Jews and 865000 of them were gassed on arrival. The pictures of all the ‘mugshots’ of the Polish prisoners taken on the day they arrived were thought provoking. Especially as they didn’t even recognise themselves after a few weeks due to malnourishment in the camp. In many cases, their arrival dates and death dates were less than a year apart. There were also pictures of twins who had been sent there to be experimented on by Dr Mengele, the Angel of Death.

During the first few months, the rooms had no beds or furniture at all. The rooms were so small and cramped that a prisoner could only sleep on their sides in three rows. Some of the rooms were as small as a phone box and could fit 5 or 6 people in at any time. The rooms that had the hair of the people who were cremated and the large number of shoes that were taken along with all personal belongings really put into context just how many people were taken slaves to the Nazis.

We learnt how anyone who was caught trying to escape would be publicly hung in front of other prisoners. Those who committed other offences such as trying to acquire extra food, unsatisfactory working etc. resulted in arbitrary punishments. These punishments included confinement in block 11, “the post” (hanging) or assignment to the penal company.

The most upsetting thing about it all was the hope that many of them had even up until their last day. The gate to Auschwitz says ‘ARBEIT MACHT FREI’ which translates to ‘Work sets you free’.

*Now, it’s hard to believe that so many people were cramped into Auschwitz at once let alone the horrifying actions that were carried out there. It was a very hard-hitting experience but definitely one that helps with the understanding of the Holocaust.” **Evie Green***



Birkenau

“Nothing truly prepares you for the actual size of Birkenau, even with reading about it, the true size when you are there is astonishing. We learnt that Birkenau, the death camp near Auschwitz, was above 400 acres, the equivalent to 200 football fields. It put into context how many people were truly there as so much evidence shows the camp being crowded.

We learnt about and saw ruins of gas chambers from a distance, as we could not travel all the way to the end of the camp due to the heat. We did learn that roughly 2000 people could be killed at once in the larger gas chambers by Zyklon B gas. Also, that the ashes of the cremated bodies were often discarded in the ponds at the end of the camp. Further I learnt here that 9/10 of the people that died in Birkenau were Jewish, giving more insight to how the Jewish were truly treated during this time.

We saw, and walked by the railway tracks that stopped within the camp where people from all across Europe were transported and went through the selection process carried out by a doctor. It was here that we also saw one of the carriages, a single one, that people would have been brought in, and were told accounts of what it was like.

The last thing we did at Birkenau was visit an original building, in which the Jews and others in the Birkenau death camp, would have slept in. This gave an insight to how truly cramped and hard it would have been. We were told how around 8-11 people would cram on to what was considered the beds, and if one turned over everyone had to.

*We also learnt about the preservation works taking place. The visit to Birkenau was interesting and did hit quite hard when you realised you were standing in a place where millions died, but it gave a deeper understanding that you just couldn't quite get or understand from a book or lesson.” **Jaimee Clarke***

Meeting Monika Goldwasser at the Galicia Jewish Museum

“We met Monika Goldwasser on the Saturday of our trip; Monika survived the Holocaust as a new-born Polish-Jewish girl in Krakow.

At the start of the war her parents, Adam and Salomea Goldwasser, believed they could survive the war but shortly after the war their neighbours were killed by the Nazis. Monika's parents gave her up to a stranger with a note that had, her date of birth, her birth name and the name of her biological parents. At an unknown date and location both her parents were killed in a mass shooting by the Nazis shortly after they gave her up.

Unfortunately, the stranger couldn't look after Monika, and they then gave her to an orphanage in Krakow run by nuns. This orphanage was on the same street as the local Gestapo office, this meant that the Gestapo often came to the orphanage asking the nuns if they had any Jewish children hiding there, the punishment for hiding Jews was the death of you and your entire family. The nuns risked everything by telling the Gestapo there were no Jewish children there. Nuns begged Monika's eventual adopted parents to adopt her as she was a Jewish girl and they didn't know how much longer they could protect her for and the other orphans.

Monika escaped Krakow and moved to the west of Poland and went into hiding until the war was over. Until 2010 Monika didn't know anything about her Jewish heritage until she found the note that was attached to her when she was given away during the war, at this point Monika knew her parents were keeping a secret from her. It wasn't until her adopted Mother was on her death bed when she finally told Monika the truth of her Jewish and her true heritage, Monika chose to keep this truth a secret from her family and friends.

Years went by and an elderly Jewish woman reached out searching for her niece she wondered if she had survived the war. The woman was describing Monika and eventually the two of them met.

Over time Monika found more and more information about her parents, both were very educated and both were philosophers. Her father, Adam Goldwasser, had a PhD and he was a writer but most of his writings, poems, have been lost but one remained and Monika shared it with us:

To Adonai (To God) – by Adam Dalin (pseudonym of Adam Goldwasser)

*Perhaps heaven is You – perhaps you are the mist
Maybe You are only in the trees – perhaps You don't exist
And perhaps You, Oh God, are close and everyday:
Going with me to school and eating from my plate
Helping with my poems, and ready to be of aid
Drinking a glass of soda with me in the shed.*

*I am an only child, God, so maybe You are my brother,
So that I am not lost in life, and the world does not bowl me over,
Who knows, perhaps, my companion on the journey
No need to be searched for, and not bored with me-
And who together with me, not paying attention to the times,
Leaves for abroad in a Third Class carriage.
Oh! Adonai, sometimes I feel that You are so near,
You are so easy, You're mine, it all fills me with fear:
Is my voice a prayer? Do I know what I say?
Why did You come at all? You came which way?
Everything said about you today and before
Could be untrue – You are probably not thus or,
Perhaps heaven is you – perhaps you are the mist-
Maybe you are only in the trees – perhaps you don't exist*

(Taken from *MySlenice: Traces of Shtetl Life, A Town Trail* (2011) p. 59).

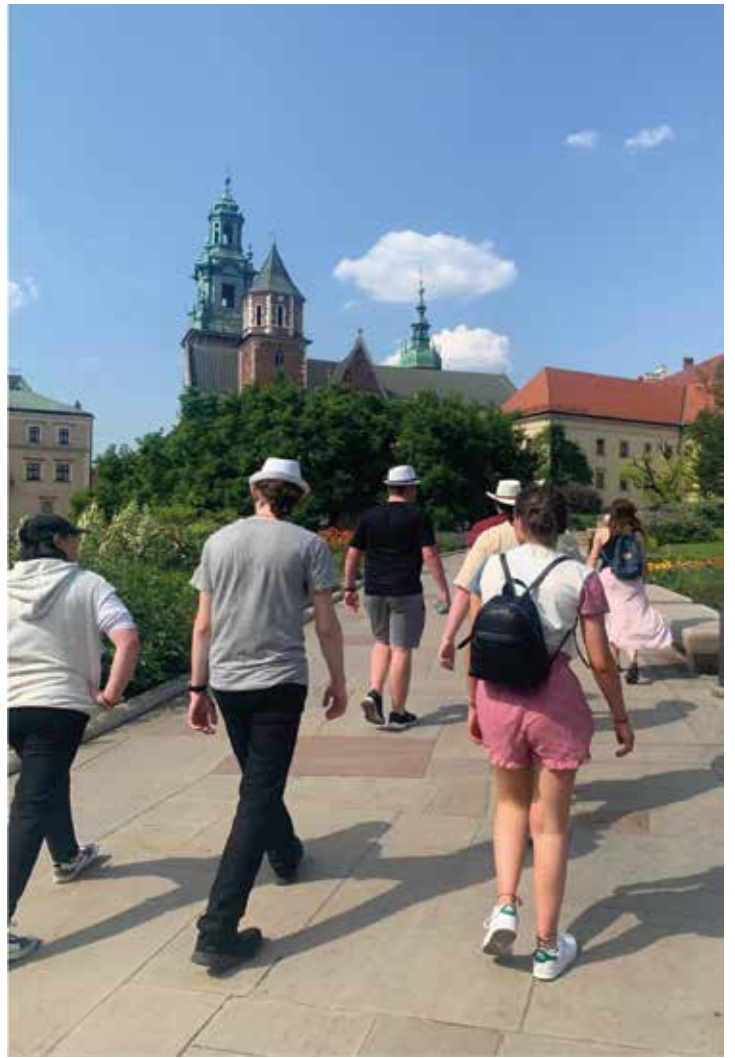


“Meeting a Holocaust survivor in Krakow itself was a remarkable experience that none of us will forget. When Monika finished her testimony, she encouraged us to be kind and tolerant in our lives”

Alex Waters

**Photographic reflections of
Chosen Hill's Krakow and
Auschwitz Experience**





Year 11 Prom

Year 11 were brilliant yesterday evening, and it was a great celebration of their time at Chosen Hill School.

Gloucester Rugby were unable to let the school into the stands due to a combination of building work blocking the route from conference room to the stand along with the tight window before food was served.

We have a selection of photos taken on the evening, however our photographers were unable to make the event due to illness.

If you have any photos that you would like to be published on the school website, please can you send them via [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to publicity@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.

Our website will be down for maintenance this weekend and we hope to add your photos to the new improved website next week.





HAF and HAP are returning this summer!

[Click here to watch our launch video!](#)

From 1 - 26 August, eligible children and young people of Gloucestershire will be able to take part in exciting and fun activities across the county in the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF. Through match funding we have also been able to extend our offer once again to all families through the Holiday Activities Programme (HAP.

Bookings for activities will open from 11 July. Make sure you've got your Children's Activity Booking System (CABS account ready in the meantime by following the link below:

<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/account/register>

For more information you can visit our website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf where you can stay up to date on news.

Food Hamper information for the summer

During the summer HAF which runs from 1 - 26 August, families eligible for benefits related free school meals will be able to book and receive two weeks of food hampers.

If you are currently receiving vouchers from the Holiday Free School Meal Voucher scheme, you are eligible to receive food hampers too.

As well as our hampers, delicious and nutritious food will be available at all HAF activity sites for children to enjoy.

This year, we are releasing our food box bookings in waves according to district to ensure we get as many eligible families as possible to book their food hamper. Please see below for more information about your district offer:

Stroud

If you live in Stroud, you can book your food hampers now and up until 7 July using the link below:

<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/project/31683>

Bookings will close at 12pm on 11 July

Cotswolds

If you live in Cotswolds, you can book your food hampers now and up until 7 July using the link below:

<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/project/31681>

Bookings will close at 12pm on 11 July

Forest of Dean

If you live in Forest of Dean, you can book your food hampers now and up until 7 July using the link below:

<https://gloucestershirecounty.coordinate.cloud/project/31682>

Bookings will close at 12pm on 11 July

Gloucester City

If you live in Gloucester City, you will be able to book your food hampers from 11 July until 29 July.

To make sure you don't miss out, you can follow your district lead on Facebook by clicking here or keep up to date by visiting our website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

Tewkesbury

If you live in Tewkesbury, you will be able to book your food hampers from the 11 July until 29 July.

To make sure you don't miss out, you can follow your district lead on Facebook by clicking here or keep up to date by visiting our website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

Cheltenham

From Friday 1 July, your school will be sending out information about how and when you can book your food hampers and pantry tokens.

To make sure you don't miss out, you can also follow your district lead on Facebook by clicking here. For queries you can get in touch with them at nochildleftbehind@cheltenham.gov.uk.

Information will also be available on their district website.

Keep up to date with HAF news by visiting our website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf

Children and young people with strict dietary requirements

If one or more of your children have a strict dietary requirement which may limit their access to a food hamper, follow the link below to find out more and apply to our alternative offer.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf/children-and-young-people-with-send/>

Our priority is to make sure all eligible families have an opportunity to book food hampers to support them over the summer period.

Please get in touch if you have any queries or concerns at HAFparentenquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Chosen Hill School Dress Code Policy 2022-2023

As many parents/ carers will be aware, a new law was passed in Parliament which required schools to follow new statutory guidance set out by the Department of Education concerning school uniform.

The school has now implemented a new dress code for the academic year 2022-23. The new dress code is gender neutral with compulsory and optional uniform items.

The purpose of the new dress code is for our students to feel comfortable and able to fully participate in school life. The school understands that there is no constructive or sensible reason why the student population should wear different clothes. Research shows that gender stereotypes can restrict the access to learning and physical activity of some students.

Chosen Hill is an inclusive school that treats students as equals. This means the schools actively challenges all gender stereotypes and fixed ideas about what students can do/achieve/enjoy/express. The school reflects society and has a LGBTQ+ community. It is important that students can wear clothes that make them comfortable. The main goal is for every child to feel a sense of security and belonging at school.

The school is helping to keep the cost of uniform down, by reducing some of the branded items as compulsory uniform. This means that although many of our parent will use the school's uniform supplier, other high street options such as supermarkets are available.

Details of the new policy can be found on the [website](#).

Your official uniform supplier



**We've made it easier
than ever to shop with
confidence this year...**

**Visit our website to get all the
information you need for Back to School:**

www.monkhouse.com

Don't leave it late - shop early!

What information is available on **monkhouse.com**?



Prices of your compulsory & optional uniform



Offers and deals to help you with the cost of school uniform



How to book a personalised 1:1 store appointment with our expert staff



One-stop-shopping, everything you need for Back to School



Weekend shopping times



Brand new size guide videos



Quick and easy web ordering instructions



Parent newsletter sign-up



Extended free returns



Click and Collect options



It saves to shop early...

Shop in June and July to avoid the queues and get everything you need for Back to School. Sign up to our newsletter to unlock your school information and access your exclusive offers.
www.monkhouse.com

Our advice this year is to **shop in June and July.**
Visit our Back to School information at...

www.monkhouse.com



Looking for work experience this summer?

How can I apply with Speakers for Schools?

1. You can view all our local work experience opportunities below and on our website by clicking [here](#) or go to speakersforschools.org/experience-2/work-experience.
2. You can create your account in two simple steps. On the sign-up page ([click here](#)) you need to select your school's name and click proceed. Ensure you find the correct school or college and have consent from your parent or guardian.
3. When you have applied for an opportunity, your teacher will need to approve your application before it is sent to the employer.

How can work experience help?

Meeting employers through work experience helps you to improve your understanding of the different careers available and the different pathways into various professions.

It also develops your knowledge, skills and confidence and could lead to future employment opportunities.

What young people have said about our experiences:

“
They explained more about this career sector which is very interesting and they opened my mind about another jobs.
”

“
Gave me more insight in the careers I am interested in. Furthermore, the other options related to my interest.
”



30th June

Technology in construction

Technology has made construction safer and workers more efficient. Learn from our Digital Engineer about how some of the technologies we use and why it is important.



4th July

Nursing and midwifery

Join NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly for this Virtual Insight Day and let us show you what different careers in midwifery or nursing (from Mental Health to Paediatrics) can look like!



7th July

Alternative NHS careers

Do you like the idea of working in healthcare but don't necessarily see yourself as a typical doctor or nurse? Then come along and engage with a range of different NHS specialisms.



5th July

Community healthcare

This 3-day placement will involve a range of sessions when you can meet staff working across different fields of nursing/community healthcare and in different roles.



13th July

Dental services

This session will focus on dental health and the services and provision we offer in the community. You'll hear directly from staff, some of whom are still in training or newly qualified



19th July

Construction for everyone

Construction is a very exciting career with lots of opportunities to discover. There is a role in construction for every subject delivered in school. - come and discover what jobs are out there!

Celebrating Success

Former Chosen Hill student Lewis Stalley has qualified to represent England Schools against Wales later this year.

After qualifying in the County Schools event at Lilleybrook, representing Hartpury College, Lewis shot rounds of 78 and 72 to qualify for the National Schools finals at Gog Magog, Cambridge.

Having recently defended his title of Club Champion at his home club, Lewis went on to achieve a 4th place finish in the Gloucestershire u18 (boys) County Championship (foregoing a practise round for the National Schools final).

Lewis then went onto shoot rounds of 75 and 73 without having played Gog Magog before to give him an aggregate total of +4 and finish 5th in the boys category. This finish saw him given the honour to now go on to represent England Schools against Wales next year.

We look forward to hearing about more of his successes in the future.



Sporting News

Race4Life Returns to Chosen Hill School

On Friday 15th July Chosen Hill School will be hosting their own Race4Life where students and staff will walk, jog or run the cross-country course to raise money for Cancer Research. Donations can be made in three different ways:

Set up an individual Just Giving page for friends and family donations - students should keep learning mentors updated.

Donate on the School Gateway to go towards school donation.

Bring cash to donate on the day itself.

Students will be encouraged to dress up for the event with further details being given in assemblies in the build up to Enrichment Week.

There will be training sessions on Friday 24th June and Friday 8th July for students and staff to develop their fitness or have a sense of community to prepare for the 5k challenge. Students should meet outside PE changing rooms on the above dates and can be picked up from 16:15 (4:15pm).

Sports Day 2022

It was great to see our traditional sports day back with staff and students proudly representing their houses! Some fabulous performances all round, with Carne crowned as the winners!

