Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Winter 2018 Issue 3



Alumnae Newsletter





Welcome to the 2018 edition of the CCHS Alumnae newsletter. Once again we aim to give you a taste of what has been happening in the School in another exciting and challenging year. As you will see CCHS continues to be incredibly successful in terms of both examinations and the wider opportunities we are able to offer to our students and I am grateful to all the staff, former students and friends of the school who make this possible.

2018 will have been a momentous year for our school. You may be aware that the Government decided to enable grammar schools to expand provided they were able to demonstrate how they would encourage more children from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply to grammar schools and secure a place. We were delighted to hear recently that we have been successful; this means that we can now consult on admitting an extra 30 girls per year adopting a specific strategy to give an advantage to girls whose home circumstances make them eligible for a Pupil Premium grant. This grant helps the school support the student in need of additional help. By way of context you will be interested to know that there is increasing demand for places at our school with around 1200 sitting our entrance test again this year in an area with substantial housing growth. It is planned to use this extra funding to develop our buildings in new and exciting ways.

As with all state schools, we are being challenged both by the demands of new A level and GCSE specifications and by the continued scarcity of funding for education generally and for capital development in schools in particular. These challenges aside, the school continues to be proud of its history and traditions and in 2018 we celebrated, with our usual vigour, the centenary of women winning the vote, and the part that the school has played in educating generations of women to contribute fully to society.

It is always a great pleasure to receive news of former students and their achievements, and we include in this newsletter information which we have received, as well as some more lengthy articles written by the Senior Prefects. We also include tributes to two distinguished former teachers, Anne Oliver and Sue Brignell, who have died in the past year. If you have any news which you would like to share please provide this via the Alumnae section on the school website or by emailing oldgirls@cchs.essex.sch.uk

We would be delighted to hear from you if you feel that you could help the School in any way, financial or otherwise; if you would like to organise a reunion of your year group or if you have any suggestions about what you would like to see in next year's newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and we look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Nicole Chapman

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The Mary Kenyon Lecture Room Named in honour of Mary Kenyon act Humphrys 1922 to 2017 what stelling fired and supporter of this school November 2018 November 2018 November 2018

The lecture room has been named 'The Mary Kenyon Lecture Room' and this plaque will be displayed near the entrance to the room.



Mary's son Charles presented Mrs Chapman with a gift, in honour of this inaugural lecture.



Inaugural Mary Kenyon Memorial Lecture

As part of the school's efforts to offer its students access to challenging ideas from beyond the curriculum we have recently been working on developing an annual program of lectures in different subject areas. The first of this new series took place in the school's new lecture room in November. We have decided to name the first lecture of each academic year in memory of Mary Kenyon. Mary (a full tribute to whom appeared in last year's Alumnae Newsletter) was a student here between 1934 and 1941. She was the first student from this school to study at Oxford, reading English at Somerville College and then spent two years working at Bletchley Park on Enigma decrypts. She was thereafter a lifelong friend and supporter of the school, chairing the Old Girls' Association in the 1970s and writing a history of the school in the early 1980s.

This year's Mary Kenyon Memorial Lecture was in two parts. Mr Matthew Carter, our current Head of English, spoke about Wilfred Owen as a 'romantic modernist' tracing the influences on his work of the Romantics but also of that of Siegfried Sassoon in helping him find a distinctively modern voice. Matthew also explored the tension between Owen's reputation as an 'antiwar' poet and his real commitment to soldiering. In the second part of the evening Mr John Benstead, Associate Lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University spoke about Chelmsford and the Chelmsford area in the First World War, using as one of his main sources the diaries written between 1914 and 1919 by the Reverend Andrew Clark, Rector of Great Leighs.



We were pleased to welcome Mary's son Charles, together with his wife and son as our guests of honour. In his brief remarks at the end of the evening Charles noted how much the school had meant to his mother over many years and how pleased the family were that she was still remembered here.

Details of other lectures and of next year's Mary Kenyon Memorial Lecture will be circulated in due course.



Mrs Chapman showed Mary Kenyon's family the display we have in honour of Mary Kenyon in our main school corridor.

Tribute to Anne Oliver

Anne Oliver taught French at CCHS between 1988 and 2003 and died in early December 2017 in Brittany.

Born in France in 1950 and schooled in Dunkirk, Anne Oliver studied at the Sorbonne between 1968 and 1973 and started her teaching career in 1973 whilst studying for her PGCE which she obtained in 1975. She joined CCHS in

September 1988 from a previous post at the Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School in Upminster. For the next 15 years she taught both French and German, at one stage was Examinations Officer and latterly ran the Sixth Form Community Service Programme. For many years she was a Sixth Form Tutor and she was also a regular participant in staff pantomimes and a great stalwart of language trips abroad, particularly to Brittany and Normandy; she also supported school activities such as the French Film Club. She left CCHS in the summer of 2003 and moved back to France, living in Brittany until her untimely death in 2017.



Staff and students who worked with Anne write with great fondness about her elegance, composure, energy and enthusiasm as well as about her infectious love for her country, culture and language. Her patience with and care for those who found language learning difficult was legendary and she was successful in encouraging even the shyest Year 7 student to find some words in French or German. As one of her former students wrote at the time of her death 'we will always remember her for her care, her passion for language learning, and her impeccable dress sense! We were always in awe of her chic outfits!' one of her former colleagues writes 'I shall always remember Anne as such an elegant woman who was a consummate professional.'

CCHS was represented at Anne's funeral in Brittany by Nicole Chapman, who was a personal friend of Anne of many years' standing, having begun their teaching career together. She conveyed the sympathy of the school and of Anne's former colleagues to Anne's daughters Marilene and Sophie.





Pictures of the school taken by Mrs Sheldon (Reprographics Officer) in November 2018, including the Languages Foyer (below).



Snippets from the Archives

In April 1930 Lorna Brundle, the only child of Mr and Mrs Brundle (school caretaker and cook) passed away in Chelmsford Hospital 'of a sudden illness'. The Spring term 1930 school magazine noted:

'She had been a pupil at King's Road school (nearby Corporation Road) and had taken the County Scholarship examination which would have ensured her admission to the High School the following September as the winner of a scholarship'.

Miss Bancroft's In Memoriam notice said:

'I well remember the day, ten years ago, when I entered the various form rooms to tell the School that a little daughter had been born to Mr and Mrs Brundle. Since then she has been a most familiar little figure in our school life, living in the Lodge just by, and sharing in the Junior Christmas Party each year. We have watched her grow from the fair-haired little creature, whose delight it was to follow Mr Devenish at his work in the school grounds, to the tall, eager school child of ten, who was doing excellent work and winning by her gentle ways, the affection of her teachers and little friends at the King's Road School'.

Tribute to Sue Brignell

Mrs Sue Brignell, formerly Student Progress Manager and Head of Religious Studies, died in August 2018.

Born and raised in Swindon, Sue moved to Chelmsford after her marriage to Geoff. For a few years they taught together at a comprehensive school in Brentwood before Sue left to become a mother and raise their two children.

Sue worked here as a supply teacher between 1988 and 1992 and was then employed full time as a teacher of History. She led the first CCHS trips to the First World War sites around Ypres, trips that are now firmly established as part of the Year 9 curriculum. In 1997 Sue was appointed as Head of Religious Studies. In that role she developed considerable expertise on the theology and practice of Islam and generations of A level students of RS will remember her support and diligence in helping them develop valuable understanding of a religion which was not at that time familiar to many students of CCHS.

In 1999 Sue was additionally appointed as 'Student Progress Manager' (effectively Head of Year) for Years 7 and 8. This post brought with it multiple responsibilities, from assisting the Deputy Head with overseeing the annual 11+ test, via the integration and induction of new Year 7 students to patiently dealing with the inevitable friendship tensions and pastoral issues which arose once students were established in the school. Many will have memories of her good humoured care and guidance for students in many different circumstances. Similarly over the years many staff new to the school and new to teaching found themselves as part of Sue's tutor team; they much appreciated the welcoming and friendly way in which she helped them find their feet with their new forms and with the systems and expectations of the school.



Sue performed in the Staff Pantomime, 2004 (pictured above).

Sue Brignell continued....

Sue stepped down as Head of RS in 2005 and retired fully in 2007. In her retirement she was a regular attender at the lunch meetings of former staff and also continued to assist the school with supply cover and with examination invigilation. She also gave freely of her time to the education department at Chelmsford Cathedral, assisting in the organisation and delivery of school visits and other activities. She was a regular member of the cathedral congregation for many years and her funeral there was a well-attended celebration of her life.

Sue is survived by her husband Geoff, himself a stalwart of the invigilation team, their daughter Victoria and their son Chris. Victoria was herself a student at CCHS between 1987 and 1994 and now works as a producer for BBC Radio 4, while Chris is a lecturer in statistics at the University of Nottingham. A collection in Sue's memory for research into Alzheimer's disease and leukaemia has raised

over £2000.

Sue was Guest of Honour at Sports Day in 2007, here presenting a trophy for Top Athlete in Year 12 to Faye Fullalove (then in 12G).





The Autumn 1931 School magazine reported on the completion of some new buildings and refurbishment of other parts of the school. The impact was obviously hugely beneficial for both students and staff:

'NEW BUILDINGS were now complete. The Library was a beautiful room, quiet and serene in character, where there is every opportunity for true learning to flourish and abound.

Forms V Beta and IV Beta occupy the transformed laboratories; the IV Beta Room is also known as the Geography Room, as the wall above the blackboard has been prepared for the use of the projector and other geographical apparatus is kept and exhibited there.

The old science preparation room has been transformed into a Rest Room, comfortably and conveniently furnished. The new laboratories are now in use so that practical science is a source of great pleasure, especially after half a term's lessons in form rooms, necessitated by delay in arrival of the equipment'.



CHS 24th September 1930 Miss Bancroft laying 2 Foundation Stones for the new Science Laboratories



CCHS and the First World War

Unlike most boys' schools of a similar or greater age CCHS does not have a war memorial and it would be surprising if it did. However pupils and former pupils were certainly at risk in the First World War, whether from air raids or from enemy action whilst serving as nurses or in other support roles in France, Flanders or elsewhere. That said, we have not yet found records of casualties from the school community. Indeed there are few records of the period at all that provide much information on the impact of the war on the school; no school newsletters were published between 1914 and 1923. It is known, for example, that the girls were involved in knitting socks and scarves for the troops and they would certainly have been aware of the war. Chelmsford and its surrounding villages regularly had troops billeted or passing through, Hylands House became a hospital (as did other large houses around) and food shortages, rationing, recruitment and conscription would all have been hard to ignore, as would the number of casualties, both wounded returning and the dead who remained in 'foreign fields'.

However it occurred to me some years ago that we really ought to be able to say something a little more specific than this. How many pupils or former pupils, I wondered, had lost brothers or fathers in the war? I have not had the time to research a comprehensive answer to this question but offer the following as a report of a 'work in progress'.

Taking the roll of honour from KEGS as a basis, this gives us the names of fifty seven men who died in the war. Chelmsford Museum holds a notebook which was kept by the then Headmaster of KEGS in which he recorded the names of all his former pupils who served in the war, together with some details of their rank, regiment and in some cases death or wounding.

Information from these two sources can then be tied up with both the Commonwealth War Graves Commission registers and the Chelmsford War Memorial website to pin point as many details of address and next of kin as are available.



The names of these casualties from KEGS can then be looked up in the CCHS Register and in a number of cases we can clearly identify their sisters. So Geoffrey Arnold-Wallinger, of KEGS, Framlingham College and Trinity College Cambridge who (although a priest in the Church of

England) served as a Lance Corporal in the Inns of Court OTC. He died in September 1916, perhaps of illness or as a result of a training accident and is buried in Writtle Churchyard. His sister, Judith Arnold Wallinger, was the fourth student ever

admitted to CCHS and studied here between 1907 and 1909. Judith and Geoffrey were the children of Robert and Maud Arnold Wallinger of Kitt's Croft, Writtle from which address Robert practised as the local GP.



CCHS and the First World War continued....

We also find the following:

 Louie Evelyn Bowie who studied at CCHS in 1913 and 14 and who left to be 'a nurse governess to a private family' was the sister of John Bowie who died in France in August 1918.

July 1914 To be nurse-governess in private family

 Kate Driver, the first pupil on the register of CCHS in 1907, who studied here until 19XX. Her father was a printer and stationer in Tindal Street, Chelmsford and her brother Thomas served in the Essex Yeomanry and died in the influenza epidemic in December 1918. He is buried in Spring-

| Name of Ports. | PAREST'S OR GUARDIAN'S NAME. | Apparent, 45 areas | Paoreston. |
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field Churchyard.

- Violet Eales, pupil here from 1915 to 1920 lost her brother Valentine Eales. He served with the Royal Horse Guards and died near Ypres in 1915. Their mother ran the Red Lion Inn in Boreham.
- Dorothy Gepp, pupil here from 1907 to 1909 lost her brother Charles Gepp, who was killed fighting with the London Scottish on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.
- Margaret Haig, pupil here from 1909 to 1914 and who left to go to Art school lost her brother Charles Haig in the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914.
- Sisters Mabel and Margaret Jeffreys who studied here lost their brother Charles Jeffreys. He died in October 1917 at the Battle of Passchendaele. The family lived in Rainsford Road and were doubly unlucky in that May died in 1925 and Mabel is recorded as leaving school 'in delicate health' in 1915.



Charles Gepp

Marshall Straight, brother of former CCHS student Brenda Straight.



CCHS Academic Honours Board, 1907 to 1924.



CCHS and the First World War continued....

for his men for Christmas'.

- Amy Vipond of 33 Park Road, Chelmsford studied here from 1910 until 1915.
 She left to become a secretary at Chelmsford Hospital. Her brother died in April 1916 of wounds received in the fighting around Ypres. Their father worked for the Prudential Assurance Company.
- Brenda Straight of Maltese Road, Chelmsford studied here from 1908 to 1913
 and was afterwards a Red Cross Nurse. Her
 brother Marshall Straight served in the
 Essex Regiment and died in Gallipoli on
 Christmas Eve 1915 'while buying supplies
- Winifred Picking, daughter of Harry Picking of Botley House, East Hanningfield studied at CCHS from 1906 to 1913, winning a County Scholarship to study at Girton College Cambridge where she achieved a result equivalent to a first class degree (if not at that time the full degree itself) and then worked as a research student at Girton. Her brother, Harry Picking was killed whilst serving with the Royal Fusiliers in the Battle of the Somme in July 1916.



The detail of the CCHS Academic Honours Board below, shows the achievements of Winifred Picking.



CCHS and the First World War continued....

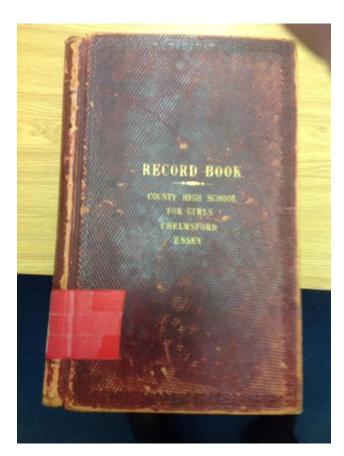
These facts and names are not offered in defence of any particular thesis, they merely bring a little life to the names in our records and to the names on the KEGS memorial roll and remind us of the human stories of the impact of the First World War on this community.

Given time for more research one would doubtless find many more pupils whose relatives were killed or wounded. All we have done here is to relate the KEGS memorial roll to our own records and investigating other names on the Chelmsford war memorial or on the memorials of our surrounding villages would doubtless bring up more names and more stories.

We also have reference in the archives to three Belgian refugee sisters who studied here during the war and they will be the subject of a future article.

The CCHS Register is in itself a fascinating historical source, not least for its record of the employment of the fathers (no mention of mothers) of the girls who joined the school. It is also striking how many of the surnames recorded in the early years have recurred right down to the present day; we are reminded how closely entwined CCHS is in so many stories and histories of the local community. There are many more fascinating stories hidden in its depths.

Michael Palmer



There are no photos in our archives from the First World War years, but below are a few taken just prior to, or after that time.

1913, 1920 and 1924....







Incoming staff:

Both to replace staff who have moved on and in response to the continued expansion of CCHS, we welcomed the following new staff in September 2018:

Miss Charlotte Burnham Teacher of Physical Education.

Mrs Mary Jarvis Teacher of French & German (maternity cover).

Mr Martin Jones
Teacher of Mathematics.

Miss Joanne Stevens Teacher of Art.

Miss Nicole Tanner Teacher of Biology.

Miss Jennifer Vigrass Teacher of Geography (maternity cover).

Mrs Jane Lewis Admissions & Appeals Officer

In January 2018 the school also welcomed Miss Nina Walsh Subject Leader for Computing.

Farewells

Staff turnover at CCHS continues to be low compared with many schools.

That said, we are always interested in hearing from or about qualified teachers who would relish the challenges of working with our highly able students.

In 2018 we said farewell to the following members of staff:

Mrs Helen Wang.

Mrs Wang taught Mathematics in the academic year 2017 to 2018. She left to take up a post as Mathematician in Residence at the London Academy of Excellence.

Dr Gayle Pratt.

Dr Pratt taught Biology. She joined CCHS in 2009 and her students much appreciated her expertise and her ability to render the complex accessible. She was a willing and active participant in all aspects of the Biology Department and many students will have fond memories of field trips to Fingringhoe or Flatford Mill as well as of the excellent lessons they enjoyed in the laboratories at school. She left us to take up a promoted post at Great Baddow High School.

Mrs Zubeyde Simms.

Mrs Simms joined CCHS as a teacher of Mathematics in 2008. She quickly established a reputation as a clear and focused teacher who had her own distinctive style, and was particularly successful in helping those who had previously found the subject to be challenging or demotivating. Her knowledge of the subject was excellent and her enthusiasm infectious. She was always a lively presence in the staffroom and could be relied upon as a source of forthright opinions on a wide range of subjects. She left us to take up a post at Harwich and Dovercourt High School.



Mrs Lisa Barker.

Mrs Barker, or Miss Moreno (as she was when she first joined CCHS) taught Art from 2005. Her students appreciated the way in which she was able both to support and to challenge them in their work as well as the innovative ideas she used to help them think about Art in a different way. She was always positive and supportive to her students and was a great help both to those who needed the impetus to develop their work further and to those whose perfectionism was becoming a little too restrictive.

Latterly Mrs Barker also taught Textiles at GCSE, bringing a wealth of experience to assist those working on the lengthy projects which formed part of that course. Mrs Barker left us so as to have more time to support her husband in his business.



Examples of our students' Art work from a recent Art exhibition.

Mrs Lisa Barker and Mrs Coralie Fuller, former Receptionist, who also left CCHS this year in order to take on a new role nearer to home.





In 2007, a special anniversary for the school was celebrated with '1907 Day'. Here are some photos from our archives....







Former Student Reunions

In the past year we have hosted four separate reunions of former students. Leavers from 1965, 1978, 1988 and 2007 came back to the school to see how things have changed (such as the uniform and the new Dame Margaret Anstee Centre for Languages) and to reminisce about the things that haven't changed, such as the Gym (fairly unchanged since 1916) and the Bancroft building (externally unchanged since 1956).

We have run a number of reunions on Saturday afternoons and appreciate how convenient this is for those with commitments during the week. However for those planning future reunions it would be best to think in terms of Friday evenings as this avoids interference with the school's lettings on Saturdays. It is also easier for us to organise students to run tours on a Friday evening. The recent 1978 Leavers' Reunion met at school on a Friday evening but then continued over lunch in Chelmsford the next day; not everyone attended both events but the choice of days was very successful.

Groups have found that once a few key individuals have decided to take the plunge into organising a reunion, social media is an invaluable tool in terms of generating interest. The Alumnae Facebook group can play a useful role here and we welcome posts from those interested in organising reunions of their own year groups.

Class of 2007 (March 2018)







Former Student Reunions contd....

Class of 1988 (July 2018)



Our normal practice for school reunions is to organise a number of students to take visitors around the school as well as for the Headteacher or one of her deputies to give a short presentation on how the school has changed over the years. We can also offer groups the use of the school kitchen so as to facilitate light refreshments.

Additionally, there is the possibility of our finding material in the archives which relates to the particular year group. However the archive collections are a little patchy and we cannot guarantee to find a great deal for any particular year or years.







The school is always delighted to hear from groups of former students who would like to organise a reunion to celebrate a significant number of years since they left the school.

If you and your friends would like to discuss organising a reunion Mrs Rae Dale in the school office would be delighted to hear from you.

rdale@cchs.essex.sch.uk



Snippets from the Archives

The Foundation Stone for CCHS was laid on 20th June 1906 and was reported in the Essex Chronicle:

"THE ESSEX CHRONICLE. Friday June 22 1906 - Girls' Secondary School for Chelmsford - Foundation Stone Laying.

The foundation stone of the Girls' Secondary School, which is being erected at a cost of about £6,500 in a meadow on Broomfield Road, Chelmsford was laid on Wednesday by Mr E. North Buxton, Chairman of the Essex Education Committee. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen....

....There would be a central entrance to the school to be used upon public occasions, and on either side would be entrances for the senior and junior girls respectively. In between would be the assistant mistress's room, and at the other end would be the rooms of the headmistress with four classrooms to accommodate 25, 25, 20 and 30 girls respectively. There would be two staircases leading to the first floor as a precaution in case of panic. On this floor there would be a lecture-room, to accommodate 30 girls, a science room, a large assembly room, which would hold 160 or 170 people, and art rooms'.

Former Student Reunions contd...

Class of 1965—53 year reunion on 14th May 2018



Former students enjoyed looking around the school and receiving a taste of the 2018 classroom experience. They also had the opportunity to look at old photographs from their time at CCHS (right and below).





Anyone who is interested in organising a reunion of any year group is invited to contact Mrs Rae Dale, the school's Office Manager.

She can be found at rdale@cchs.essex.sch.uk and looks forward to hearing from you.



News from Old Girls

Emma Gauntlett

Emma left CCHS in 2009 and whilst at university she joined the University Air Squadron. After graduation she trained as a pilot with EasyJet and is now a Senior First Officer flying from Stansted Airport. Since joining the RAF she has been exposed to many different experiences such as rock climbing in Spain, hiking in the Dolomites and running a marathon. She learnt many things such as how to shoot, off-road driving and taking part in training combat exercises.

Here are Emma's responses to the questions we asked her:

If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?

I would tell myself to say yes to every opportunity that presents itself and to choose to be defined by your accomplishments rather than the clothes you wear or by other people's opinions.

What are your funniest and most prominent memories of CCHS?

On our last day in Sixth Form we caused havoc! During assembly we stole all the chairs from all the classrooms and hid them in the toilets, we parked a mini in the drama foyer and we filled the corridors with balloons. First period never happened!

Did any teachers make a particular difference to you?

Having become a pilot, maths and geography are two subjects I use the most so Mr Seager and Mr Turrell helped me get to where I am today. I also wouldn't have found my training so manageable if it wasn't for Mr Nichols helping me in electronics!

Which House were you in and what was your favourite House event?

I was in G House and was proud to be G House Captain in Sixth Form. I will always remember the year we won House Cakes by going for number and not quality and having 156 cakes!

Which subjects did you do at A level and how did they help you beyond the Sixth Form?

I took Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Maths which in hindsight were perfect choices! I read Biology at university which I really enjoyed but in my job now, an understanding of meteorological conditions and ability in maths has really helped!

Has your life and career followed the path you thought it would when you left CCHS? Not at all! When I joined CHS I wasn't very sporty and I never really volunteered for things. But by pushing myself out of my comfort zone I was House Captain, I have run a marathon and I now play basketball for my local town! I had never considered aviation as a career until I joined the RAF but looking back now I'm not sure what else I would have ended up doing.

From the Summer 1935 School Magazine:

'After an OFFICIAL OPEN-**ING CEREMONY** at 3.30pm on 1st May 1907 with Sir Wm. Anson, Bart., MP, the School opened its doors to its pupils on Monday 6th May 1907. It was staffed by the Headmistress Miss Mabel Vernon-Harcourt. 3 assistant mistresses and visiting Instructors for Art, Needlework and Science. Mr & Mrs Brundle were employed as Caretaker and Cook and a girl was hired to help them. The buildings were not yet finished, and lessons in the early days were "accompanied by the noise of saws and hammers."

By the end of May 1907 there were 76 pupils on the School Roll, divided into 3 forms: Illa, IV and V. The form mistresses were Miss Boothby, Miss Boutflower and Miss Mitchell.

The age range of the first CHS pupils was from 12-18. A year later the youngest pupil was aged 10 when she joined. In 1915 a Preparatory Department was opened to take pupils aged from 8 years old. (Miss Bancroft had mentioned the poor standard of some younger pupils when they arrived from other schools). These pupils had automatic right of entry to the main School at the age of 11 until this was disallowed in 1933'.

2009 was Emma Gauntlett's leaving year. Here are some photos from that year....









Interviews with Old Girls

Emma Gauntlett continued....

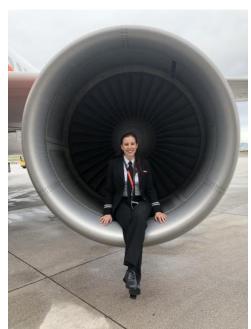
Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS? It's very cliché but I wouldn't change a thing or I wouldn't be the person I am today or have experienced all the things I have done. But I might have picked German for GCSE rather than French now having two German speaking best friends!

Have you visited the school since leaving? What's surprised you that has changed/stayed the same?

I've been back to the school three time since leaving and every time I laughed to see Bancroft still standing! The buildings have changed a lot but the school ethos hasn't as I saw from all the displays of House and charity events and that's the important thing.

What advice would you give a Sixth Former who doesn't know what career to go into?

I remember we were made to do a quiz which gave us a list of careers that suited us best and the answers it gave me were not helpful. The most useful thing I did in deciding what to do was to write a list of all the aspects of a job I wanted, such as travelling, not office based, technical etc. Whenever something caught my eye I would compare it to this list, so when I started flying I realised that a career in aviation ticked every box. 7 years later I'm still happy and enjoying my job!



Emma Gauntlett

Interviews with Old Girls

Victoria Norton

Victoria Norton left CCHS in 1978 and has recently organised a reunion for her year. After gaining a degree in International Politics, German and Russian she taught in England for a short while, before moving to Germany where she continued to pursue varied career paths, finding a particular passion for yoga and mindfulness along the way. Here are the answers to some interview questions that we put to Victoria:

If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?

I guess Year seven would be the third year in the old system? I would tell my 13 year old self that everything will turn out okay and that all your hard work will be rewarded. Can I can write "okay" in this interview? We would have been severely reprimanded for using such sloppy language in those days!

Any comments on sport?

Sport was not my favourite activity and in the summer my friend Helen and I would often lob the tennis ball over the fence and into the cemetery. We could then spend a beautifully peaceful hour among the overgrown graves whilst not very assiduously looking for the ball. It might seem strange to you now, but losing equipment was a massive issue in those days, because funds were scarce.

Did any teachers make a particular difference to you?

With very few exceptions most of the teachers were strict but also patient and kind and many of them really did make a difference. My German teachers Mrs Jepson and Mrs Berry-Richards stand out. I probably think of them with gratitude several times a week. Their precious gift of good German grammar will endure as long as I live.

Which House were you in and what was your favourite House event?

I was in Pennyfeather and I quite enjoyed the House assemblies, because it made a change to worship with girls from the other years. I hated competitive sport and don't think I ever competed in sports day, even though others tried to persuade me to run the 400m - to get a point for the House for coming last.

Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS?

Probably not. I think we had a very good education for the time, although a seventies education would definitely not pass a modern Ofsted assessment: there was a lot of chalk-and-talk. However it has stood me in good stead. I don't even think I would change the competitive sports I detested so much!

What advice would you give a Sixth Former who doesn't know what career to go into?

There is a paradox of choice these days. I would say don't stress too much about it, choose something you think you will enjoy. Work hard at it and certainly don't give up at the first challenge, because all careers have challenges. However, if after giving it a good go, you find it is not the right choice, move onto something else. It is good to have a goal but don't hold on to it too tightly.

It is nearly time for House Decorated Classroom again. Many of you will no doubt remember taking part in this event during your time at CCHS. Here are some pictures from 2005.









Charlotte joined the 30th anniversary reunion here in July 2018.

When she was asked about the school and how she felt about re-visiting it, she replied that there were 'lots of exciting new buildings joining seamlessly with the old. The changing rooms honestly do not look any different though!'

Her advice to Sixth Form students who have not yet made a decision as to the career direction they would like to take was:

'Go to university and study something you're passionate about, travel, equip yourself with experiences, skills and knowledge and the opportunities will come. You're a long time being a grown up so put it off as long as possible!'



Some of the class of 1988 (above) re-visiting Bancroft during their trip down memory lane in July this year.

Interviews with Old Girls

Charlotte Berry

Charlotte left CCHS in 1988 and after leaving she became a teacher of Art. She is now Head of Pastoral at a secondary school.

If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?

Judging by my school reports, don't talk so much! But my general advice to all would always be: talk lots. Use your voice. Be heard, speak up, ask questions, discuss.

What are your funniest and most prominent memories of CCHS?

So many funny memories but probably few I can share here! Field trips, visits, hiding in cupboards, KEGS boys smuggled in....plus the Christmas Fayre, the Carol Concert, the Sixth Form entertainment, the then Headteacher placing a box of tissues on her desk if you were in trouble and not letting you leave until you cried.

Did any teachers make a particular difference to you?

Yes, lots but especially Miss Berry (English) and Mrs Edge (Art). I think about both of them often. They were key to my development as a person and teacher.

Which House were you in and what was your favourite House event?

Pennyfeather – green – not great at sport but I enjoyed representing the House in the javelin. I can still remember how to throw it well, because of Mrs Wright's teaching.

Which subjects did you do at A level and how did they help you beyond the Sixth Form?

English, Geography, Economics and Art. I went on to study Art History at university because I loved that aspect of my Art A Level thanks to Mrs Edge (who also took us to Paris and Amsterdam). I thought I'd work in advertising or publishing up in London, shallowly attracted to a career which would enable me to go to wine bars with handsome men in suits! After graduating, however, I helped out at my mum's primary school teaching Art and loved it. I completed my PGCE and started my career as an Art teacher. Nearly 25 years later I still teach a little bit of A Level Art and A Level Film and I am Head of Pastoral at a large Essex secondary school. I still love my job. Making sure that children are safe, healthy, happy and reach their full potential in all that they do is hugely rewarding.

Has your life and career followed the path you thought it would when you left CCHS?

I wanted to be a showjumper, a fashion designer, an advertising executive and a vet at some stage! I think being at CHS taught me that I could potentially be anything I wanted to be.

Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS? I genuinely can't think of anything; maybe to have worked harder in the Sixth Form. I know that I didn't do as well as I should have done.

Interviews with Old Girls

Jan White

Jan left CCHS in 1965. She recently organised a visit to the school for her and 13 others. It was the first time that most of the group had returned to the school for over 50 years. Some photos of this reunion are shown to the right of this article and on page 14 of this Newsletter.

Jan is an exceptional baker and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



I would say to my Year 7 self not to get too down-hearted if, at first, I feel I'm no longer such a top achiever as I was in Primary School.

What are your funniest and most prominent memories of CCHS?

My most prominent memory (& funny to us!) was of the whole school being summoned to the hall following a report of a student caught smoking in the bus station. We were warned not to become zombies, in other words, not to follow the bad habits of others!

Any comments on school trips/sport/shows etc?

We went to Holland for a week, the first trip abroad for most of us. We saw lots of interesting sights, and, to be fair, were given a reasonable amount of freedom. As regards shows, we went to see the London musical "Half a Sixpence" based on the novel "Kipps" by H.G.Wells, part of our GCE English Lit. syllabus. We also went to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford to see "Macbeth".

Did any teachers make a particular difference to you?

The teacher who made the greatest impression on me was the Headmistress Miss Cadbury, who taught some of our Biology lessons. She was inspirational, and her diagrams on the blackboard were excellent.

Which subjects did you do at A Level and how did they help you beyond the Sixth Form?

I never took any A Levels at school as I left at the end of the 5th Year (Year 11). However, in my 30's and married with a family, I passed GCSE Law and Sociology, then passed A Level Law. This was simply because I was interested in the

subject, and by then felt ready to study again, this time at evening classes.

<u>Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS?</u>

The only thing I may have done differently at CCHS was to join some extra-curricular activities, but I didn't really have time, taking into account the amount of homework we had!













More Snippets from the Archives

1991

In Spring Term 1991 the duty tutor group scheme was set up in order to help pupils become more involved in the running of the school. Each week a different form took on the tasks including: greeting visitors to the school, keeping the notice boards tidy, watering flowers placed round the school, and various tasks requested by teachers including tidying the games shed, or a particular department's cupboards. Forms would often set up schemes of their own during their time of duty.

1992

In 1992 there was a change in the way the Forms were numbered. The 1st Years to 5th Years were now Years 7 to 11, the Lower Sixth became Year 12 and the Upper Sixth became Year 13.

School Bells 1937-2000

In 1937 an Electric Bell System was first installed in the School, to remove the need to "run round the building with a Handbell for changes in lessons". At a staff meeting on 17th October 2000, following an experiment in running the school day without the use of bells, it was generally agreed that it was advantageous to do without them – with the proviso that staff ensured they started and ended their lessons promptly and on time!

News from Old Girls

Name: Courtney Canning Leaving Year: 2016

Studied Physics with Astronomy at Southampton and due in the next academic year to undertake a Masters at the Centre for Astrophysics at Harvard University. She has also recently had the opportunity to work at the Teide Astronomical Observatory in Tenerife.

Name: Melissa Uchida Leaving Year: 2001

Melissa achieved a BSc from Royal Holloway and a PhD from Queen Mary University, London. She has lectured at Imperial College, London, but more recently has accepted the position of Head of Experimental Neutrino Studies for Cambridge University. This role begins in December 2018. In September 2018 she gave a talk on the 'New Scientist Live' programme regarding particle physics and was the 2016 recipient of the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

Name: Nicola Waters Leaving Year: 1980

Now lives and works in Canada as an Associate Professor in the University School of Nursing, Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia. Her research focuses on the experience of people living with wounds that are difficult to heal.

Name: Sarah Thwaites Leaving Year: 2007

Has recently been appointed Head of Masterworks Label Group at Sony Music Entertainment UK Limited.

Name: Shivani Valera Leaving Year: 2017

Shivani contacted us last December, just after our Alumnae 2017 Newsletter had been published. She is studying at Birmingham University and, during her first year as a member of an acapella group called The Uptone Girls, she featured on the BBC's Pitch Battle and also promoted the Pitch Perfect 3 film (through being hired by Universal). Shivani was excited to share this news with CCHS and we congratulate her on her new-found stardom!

Name: Mary-Ann Dunn (née Collett) contacted us in December 2018 with a wonderful photo (below) and the following message:

Our years at school were 1949 to 1954/6 and we meet for lunch in Chelmsford several times a year. From the left (below): Jill Moore, Norma French, Margaret Tomlin, Susan Wood, Ann Ainger, Gillian Edwards, Pat Firman, Mary-Ann Collett and Christine Hicks (Christine Hall couldn't make it).



Thelma May Davis

Thelma May Davis sadly passed away in December 2017 aged 107. Her father was a Postman and her family lived in Writtle Green. She attended Writtle Elementary School from 1915 until 1920 and joined CCHS on 2nd May 1920. She left in 1923 but our archives give no indication as to the reason for her departure.

Newsletters were not produced from 1914 until 1923 (due to the impact of World War I) so there is no other reference to Thelma for the period she was at CCHS.

However, from our archives, we have found some information about school life around the time Thelma was a pupil here:

In 1907 there were 162 students, rising to 352 in 1923.

In 1920 the "School affiliated itself to the scheme arranged by 'Save the Children' Fund and a sum of £50. 5s. 7d. (£1,461.00 in today's money) was sent in weekly sums towards the maintenance of 7 destitute European children." (For that amount of money in 1920 you could buy 1 horse, 5 cows, 39 quarters of wheat, and 152 days' skilled tradesman wages).

Olive Marven (pupil at CCHS between 1919 and 1923) who would have been a peer of Thelma, recollected:

"I used to go to school with Annie Copsey, daughter of the well known butcher in Great Baddow. We used to cycle and I remember when we were going to school one Friday, there was a herd of cows walking along the road (not an unusual occurrence in those days; they were off to market) and one cow tossed poor Annie across the road and through a fence on the Baddow Road, buckling her bike and shaking her up".

The photo below, taken from our archives, shows some Sixth Form students in 1923, the year that Thelma left CCHS (though she would not have been a Sixth Form student that year).



In Memoriam



- ♦ Sue Brignell was a valued member of staff performing a number of different teaching roles from 1988 until she retired in 2007. She passed away in August 2018. A fuller tribute can be found on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter.
- Anne Oliver taught French at CCHS between 1988 and 2003. She passed away in December 2017 in Brittany. A fuller tribute can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.
- Renee Gulliver (née Passmore) attended CCHS between 1940 and 1945. She passed away in December 2017.
- Former student Thelma Davis passed away in December 2017 aged 107. See article on this page.
- Judith Eileen Iliffe (née Tomalin) and known as Judy, left CCHS in 1953. She sadly passed away on 9th February 2018.

Please keep us informed of all your news.





*Rush for Rights

at Chelmsford County High School for Girls on Friday 6th
Julyl Students will be off timetable for the afternoon in order to
partake in the fun activities. All students are asked to donate ES
in order to take part in the fun and to receive a commemorative
-shirt Proceeds go towards Womankind Worldwide. The school
aims to raise £1200 to go towards the teaching of a group of 30
young girls in Zambia to help boost their confidence
and leadership skills.

WOMANKIND

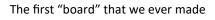
WORLDWIDE EQUAL RESPECTED PROUD
Wormankind Worldwide works in solidarity with
women's movements around the world to bring about
lasting change in women's lives. They provide direct
support for women and girls, from a safe place to
escape violence or information about their rights to
leadership training or funding to start their own
business. They also work to change laws and policies
which discriminate against women and girls, and
challenge the damaging attitudes and stereotypes at
the root of inequality.

https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisera/rushforrights or in person at our charity buckets!

Senior Prefect Achievements including Rush for Rights —Summer 2018

At the beginning of our time in office the Senior Prefects decided that we wanted to have a focus on Women's Rights and the achievement of women through time. This was in light of the commemoration of (some) women gaining the right to vote 100 years ago, with the passing of the Representation of the People's Act in 1918.

Our first project involved making a video to celebrate the date that the aforementioned Act was passed. We spent several days taking photos of girls and teachers who had written down what the act meant to them. The aim was to create a video where 100 people had their views heard, to represent the 100 years and also to commemorate how far women's rights have come.



was put together during one lunchtime when we invited everyone to come and leave a handprint - to Press for Progress. Before the lunchtime flurry began we spent several hours preparing & whitewashing the board and then sellotaped some plain pa-

per onto it. Once

all the paint had dried and everyone had had the opportunity to leave their mark, the white paper was peeled off, leaving the word "Progress" surrounded by handprints of all colours and sizes.







Once the participants had washed their hands they were asked to write the name(s) of a woman who inspired them and these were then written onto the board.

"Rush for Rights" was for many of us the highlight of the year. We organised a bubble and foam run for the whole school and much joviality ensued! The primary aim of the afternoon was to raise money for the charity Women Kind, who provide education and support to disadvantaged women who are often oppressed by the society that they live in. Motivational speeches were given by students, teachers and our local MP Vicky Ford, musical performances and stalls ranging from henna to shoot the Barbie to Eton Mess. Despite it being a scorching hot day, all of the girls thoroughly enjoyed the event and the water features on the running route were much appreciated. We raised a grand total of £2,100 and with "Rush for Rights" came our second board which served as the backdrop for the stage.



Our third and final masterpiece is currently under construction and is all about looking to the future as we hope to inspire the next generation of Senior Prefects and indeed CCHS students. We have taken photos of over 300 students who all shared with us either personal, social or general hopes and dreams for the future. These, once printed will be arranged in a collage like pattern with the word future spelt out in coloured photographs and the background ones in black and white.

Through all of our activities this year it has been a pleasure to interact with all ages across the school, right from Year 7 to Year 13 and without their constant support very little of what we achieved would have been possible. We hope that our small creations will remain visible in school as a reminder of the progress we have made, but also how far there still is to go, both on a personal level, but also on a national and international level in terms of women's rights.

Charlotte Ireson and Dammy Ogunlade. Alumnae Senior Prefects 2018.







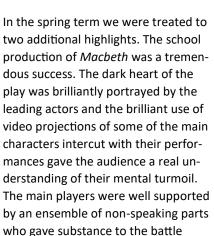






Music, Dance and Drama

2018 has seen CCHS performances of the very highest calibre. 2017 ended with the traditional Christmas Concert and the spring term ended with a very successful Spring Concert. The summer Cabaret Concert was also excellent; all three concerts were testimony to the success our new Director of Music, Mr Chris Lamberti, has had in his new role.



One of the most incredible aspects of the production was the overture and incidental music. This was composed entirely by three Year 13 students, Caroline Penn, Lucy Wickers and Abigail Palmer (pictured bottom left of this page). Their haunting scores were

scenes.

very well played by a 20 piece band. All the music and in particular Caroline's setting of 'War' by the Shetland poet John Peterson (which opened and closed the show) raised the production far above what many expected of a school rendition of *Macbeth*. The costume, design, lighting and sound engineering all worked together to enable the cast, ably led by Caitlin F

the cast, ably led by Caitlin Farrell as Macbeth, to give of their best.

















Hard on the heels of *Macbeth* was *Attitude*, the school's 2018 Dance Show. This featured a huge number of students from all years, ably choreographed and directed by the Year 13 Dance Officials in a wide variety of styles. The Dance Officials, Scarlett Mann, Holly Chesney, Isobel Thompson, Luisa Hedges and Merin Babu were rightly proud of the quality of the show; this was a real testament to the hours of work they had put in over many months.





Whilst undoubtedly the talent and hard work of students and staff is the key to the success of these productions, both shows and the concerts continue to benefit from the generosity of the Parents' Association in funding continual upgrades of the sound and lighting equipment in the Hall and from the skills of Mr French and Mr Rowell in using this equipment.

















Room 18



Room 19



Room 20, The Mary Kenyon Lecture Room.



Keeping in touch...

BETTER BUILDINGS APPEAL

Staff and students are all very pleased with the two refurbished classrooms and lecture space which were created over the summer holidays. The School is extremely grateful to all parents, alumnae, governors and other supporters who donated over £93,000 to this project. The lecture space (right and bottom left) in particular has proved tremen-

dously useful for a variety of School activities and we are proud to formally name it as the Mary Kenyon Lecture Room in memory of one of our most notable alumnae. There is more information about our inaugural lecture in this new Lecture Room on page 2.



The Better Buildings Committee is now in the process of identifying another project for completion over the summer holidays in

2019. Ideas under consideration range from the refurbishment of a Science lab through to improving our Sixth Form catering facilities. Further details on this and how you can support will be provided in due course.

The School was delighted to receive confirmation that it has been awarded capital funding under the Selective Schools Expansion Fund. Planned building works include a new Sports Hall and a new teaching block to replace Bancroft. In addition, it is anticipated that the project will include the refurbishment of the existing gymnasium into a new Learning Resource Centre and the existing Library into new classrooms. Detailed planning is underway and it is expected that building work will commence in the summer of 2019.

The funding awarded covers the building work and the School's application was strengthened by its ability to donate a significant sum towards the project cost from our Better Buildings Appeal. This means we now need to build up our funds for both future campus development and also for the furniture and equipment required in the new buildings.

Please consider donating to our Better Buildings Appeal. The School has charitable status so you can claim tax relief on your donation and we can reclaim Gift Aid. You can donate in a number of ways:

- ♦ A monthly standing order. Click here for a copy of the contribution form.
- ♦ Regular donations via our <u>TotalGiving page</u>.
- Payroll Giving. Check if your employer offers a 'give as you earn' scheme where your donation is deducted from your salary and paid to the School. Your donation is tax free.
- ♦ Matched Funding. Find out if your employer operates a matched funding programme whereby the company will match your tax free donation to the School.

Every donation makes a huge difference to the students at CCHS and we are very grateful to all our donors. Updates on our progress and the projects are provided in the termly newsletters and on our <u>website</u>. If you have further questions or any suggestions on how to help with our appeal, please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Susan Hoefling, via email to <u>shoefling@cchs.essex.sch.uk</u>.

Keeping in touch....

CCHS Alumnae on Social Media

As part of our efforts to reach as many former students as possible we continue to make use of social media. Our 'CCHS Alumnae' Facebook group continues to grow in members. We post both news from the school and items from the archives as well as occasional news about former students.

We also enjoy seeing the posts of former students (members of this group), many of which include anecdotes and pictures from their time here. In this way former students are re-connected with each other and are able to share their own memories and stories of their school days at CCHS.

The closed group now has 850 members and if you would like to join it please search for 'CCHS Alumnae' when on Facebook. We will be delighted to add you to our growing list of members.

Alumnae Reunions

The School is always keen to receive visits from former students and, as you will have seen earlier in this magazine, we hosted highly enjoyable reunions from the Classes of 1965, 1978, 1988 and 2007 this year. We already have another reunion in the pipeline for March 2019 and look forward to hosting others through the year. If you are organising a reunion for your year group and would like to include a visit to the School, please contact Mrs Rae Dale (rdale@cchs.essex.sch.uk) who will be happy to help you plan this. Please also email any photographs/details of reunions to Mrs Rae Dale and Mrs Rowan Carroll (rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk) so that we can include these in future newsletters and in the Alumnae section of the School's website.

If you are trying to get in touch with former friends, it is worth checking for contact details with the School. We cannot give out contact details to others, but we can contact them on your behalf to facilitate the link. We have recently set up an electronic database of members. If you are in touch with other former students, please encourage them to sign up to this via our <u>website</u>.

How else can former students help CCHS?

Careers information:

Could you come back to School to inspire our Year 9 and Year 12 students with details of your career? Every year the School organises a Careers Evening where we invite volunteers to explain their careers to our students and help inform them for their future choices. This year the event will take place on Thursday 14th February starting at 7pm. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Mrs Wendy Newton (email wnewton@cchs.essex.sch.co.uk) for more details.

Mock interviews:

Can you help provide interview practice for our Sixth Form students? This could be for University entrance or work opportunities. We are particularly interested in hearing from those with experience as dentists or in pure science. Please contact Mrs Rowan Carroll (email rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk) if you are able to assist with this.

Lunch-time talks:

We are keen to expand the number and range of these highly successful sessions which have run for many years. Their aim is to promote interests and debate that extend beyond the curriculum and to give students a sense of the different areas in which their successes at school can take them. If you have a particular area of expertise and would like to engage in discussion with our students, please contact Mrs Rowan Carroll (email rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk).





Exam Results—Summer 2018

CCHS students enjoyed another summer of excellent examination results. At GCSE 2018 was the first summer in which almost all subjects were reformed courses assessed under the new 9 to 1 grading system. At A level almost all the subjects examined in 2018 were the new linear A levels in which students no longer have the opportunity to re-sit papers during their courses and in most subjects no longer have the opportunity to be assessed via coursework.

At GCSE 87% of results across all subjects were at the highest grades of 9, 8 or 7; 45% of these results were grade 9s. Eleven students achieved 12 or more GCSE passes at the very highest grades.

At A level 14 students achieved 4 or more A levels at the top grades of A or A* and we were similarly pleased with the overall performance of all our students. More especially we were pleased with the fact that their successes enabled them to take up places at a wide variety of universities.

We look forward to welcoming last summer's leavers back to their Senior Speech Day in Chelmsford Cathedral in April 2019 and hearing then of the successes they have gone onto since last summer.









Meet our Senior Prefects for Alumnae Relations....

Charlotte and Dammy have been busy over the past year with various Alumnae events and activities. They have also spent some time interviewing former students about their time at school. Have a look at pages 15-19 for more on this.



Shraddha Arshanapalli and Wafia Hussain are our Senior Prefects for Alumnae Relations (2019).

Shraddha and Wafia will take up their posts in January 2019 and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in their year in office.

2018 Charlotte and Dammy





2019 Shraddha and Wafia





2018 has marked the 100 year anniversary since (some) women were given the right to vote.

The Senior Prefects have worked hard this year to commemorate and celebrate this momentous step forward for women. They are pictured here after one of their school assemblies on the topic.

Pages 22 and 23 give more information about the busy year they have had in office as Senior Prefects and the successes they have achieved.



Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Broomfield Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 1RW











