NEWSLETTER

Issue 25 Spring 2018





Contents

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Message from Headteacher	3
Better Buildings Appeal	4
Curriculum Innovation – Year 7 Philosophers	3
Curriculum Update	7
Pastoral News	8
Sixth Form News	14
House News	15
Enrichment Days	16
School News:	17
Charity	17
UKMT Team Challenge	17
Macbeth	18
Bar Mock	19
Music Tour	20
Cyber First Competition	21
Music	22
Learning Resource Centre	22
Sports News	23

2



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Dear Parents

A busy term has ended, commencing with Year 13 mock examinations, Year 12 Prefect training day, Macbeth performances, House Pancakes, Karaoke, Basketball and Assemblies; the Dance Show; trips to Berlin, Budapest, and Berlin; Enrichment Day 3; Year 10 examinations; World Book day; the snow, parent and information evenings; and finally the marvellous Spring Concert.

We have participated, and been successful in numerous academic and sporting competitions during the past 3 months, detailed information can be found within the Newsletter, but I would like to reiterate how proud we are of our talented girls: most recently the Zen Coders, and this week the Bar Mock team who came 5th out of 200 teams nationally in the Bar Mock 2017/18 finals.

We are looking forward to Senior Speech Day on 18th April 2018, when last year's Year 13 return, and the current Year 12 collect their A Level and GCSE certificates. We are honoured that the new Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst, will be our guest speaker this year.

Staff News

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Lisa Barker, Teacher of Art, who sadly leaves after 12 years to spend more time with her young family; and Mrs Coralie Fuller, Receptionist, who is moving on to another role in a hospital.

10-year Reunion

In February we welcomed the Class of 2007 to celebrate their Reunion, they were delighted to meet old friends, see the changes within the school and catch-up with their teachers, some of whom have retired, but kindly returned to share their special day.

Thank you!

Thank you to National Windscreens for repairing, free of charge, the coach window that had been vandalised whilst parked in Chelmsford during our German exchange visit. It is good to see such generosity from a noble company.

I wish the Years 11, 12 and 13 girls good luck in their revision in preparation for their forthcoming examinations, in May and June.

With best wishes for the Easter break.

Mrs Nicole Chapman Headteacher



3

Bar Mock Trial Finalists

Better Buildings Appeal



Mrs Susan Hoefling

Funding bid for a Sports Hall and new teaching block

At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear the outcome of our bid for funding to build a Sports Hall and a new teaching block to replace Ban-If successful, work will start over the croft. summer holidays and the new Sports Hall should be completed by September 2019. This will be another significant project for the School, following on from the completion of the Dame Margaret Anstee Centre for Languages in 2013.

Governors and staff are now in the process of organising the logistics of the scheme in order to ensure minimal disruption to the School. We are all excited at the prospect of brand new facilities in the near future.

Refurbishment Project 2017/18

Plans are well underway to refurbish some areas during the forthcoming summer holidays. We intend to split one room into two new classrooms, one of which will be used for general Science teaching. In addition, we are converting another area into a lecture style facility to be used for Sixth Form teaching, large school events and as a venue for external speakers. Lastly, a much needed kitchen will be created in the new Sixth Form Common Room, allowing the School caterers to provide a range of food at break and lunch times. The intention is to have all areas available for our students to use from September 2018.

Our fundraising target is £100,000 by July 2018 and we need your support

Unfortunately Government funding alone does not cover the cost of building projects and we rely heavily on the generous support of parents, staff, alumnae, Governors and friends of the School.

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 \Rightarrow here for a copy of the contribution form.
- Regular donations via our TotalGiv- \Rightarrow ing page.
- Payroll Giving: Check if your employ- \Rightarrow er 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 \Rightarrow 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 website. If you have any further questions, please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Susan Hoefling, via email to shoefling@cchs.essex.sch.uk.







Curriculum Mr Stephen Lawlor, Deputy Headteacher



Curriculum Innovation Year 7 Philosophers

Context

Professor of Philosophy and Master of New College of the Humanities, AC Grayling, believes that children should be taught philosophy from the age of six years. In his article, 'Should philosophy be a core subject at school?' (School House Magazine, 16th March 2017), AC Grayling notes the following:

The literal meaning of philosophy is 'love of wisdom' – an inspiring but unhelpful fact. A far better definition is 'careful enquiry', with no limit on what the enquiry is about. In ancient times, it included everything we now think of as science, history, ethics, politics, sociology and more...One of the most important aspects of philosophy is that it asks us to challenge our assumptions and the frameworks of thought that we live by. It requires us to ask ourselves sharp questions about why we think the way we do about ourselves, others and the world around us. Many hidden assumptions lie buried in our systems of thought and, if we do not examine them, we are at risk of being misled or misguided by those systems if they are wrong.

Rationale

We decided to introduce philosophy to our Year 7 students from September

philosophy 2017. Our course is inspired and informed by SAPERE (Society for the Advancement of Philosophical En-Philosophy for Children, quiry and Reflection in Ed- Colleges, Communities ucation) materials.



Our reasons for this curriculum innovation are significant - we want to:

- provide Year 7 students with firm foundations in thinking skills; this will support their learning throughout their time at CCHS, and beyond
- develop general classroom discussion and public speaking
- strengthen our 'Find Your Voice' initiative
- create a legacy for the IB Programme, by allowing us to use our Theory of Knowledge experience.

Curriculum Mr Stephen Lawlor, Deputy Headteacher



Structure

Our course is framed by the CCHS Learner Profile: articulate, creative, knowledgeable, enquiring, principled and reflective. The seventh Learner Profile attribute, resilient, is one that informs the entire course, as students grow in confidence and challenge themselves. Each of these Learner Profile attribute animates a halfterm worth of lessons.

Approach

The SAPERE Philosophy approach deliberately tries to cultivate genuine attempts to care and collaborate, to critique and create. Ideally, these aspects of thinking complement each other in a holistic way:

- caring listening (concentrating) and valuing (appreciating), e.g. showing interest in, and sensitivity to, others' experiences and values.
- Collaborative responding (communicating) and supporting (conciliating), e.g. building on each other's ideas, shaping common understanding and purposes
- critical questioning (interrogating) and reasoning (evaluating), e.g. seeking meaning, evidence, reasons, distinctions and good judgements
- creative connecting (relating) and suggesting (speculating), e.g. providing comparisons, examples, criteria, alternative explanations or conceptions.

Enquiry

We plan our work to ensure that our philosophical enquiries consider concepts which meet the following criteria:

- common we all use philosophical concepts on a daily basis and from the moment we speak a language
- central they are at the heart of how human beings think of themselves, other people and things

- contestable they are so abstract and encompass so many instances that their meaning is not straightforward and depend upon situation and context
- connected they need to be linked to our own experiences in order to be meaningful.

Questions

Questioning is the driving force of how we develop philosophical thinking in our students. Effective stems for philosophical questions are: *Could..., Should...* and *lf...* The following question types help our students as they work through a philosophical enquiry:

- information-processing questions listening and enquiring
- reasoning questions expanding and probing
- enquiry questions connecting, generalising and making distinctions
- creative thinking questions speculating, exploring implications and the bigger context
- evaluation questions evaluating, reviewing, concluding and summarising.



Experience

Mrs Chapman and I are working with our Year 7 Philosophers, and we have been so impressed with the quality of their philosophical thinking. The level of engagement during our lessons is excellent. Year 7 students are to be congratulated. It is a real privilege to work with our Year 7 Philosophers.



Curriculum Mr Stephen Lawlor, Deputy Headteacher

Curriculum Update Reformed GCSEs

As our Year 9 students prepare to choose their GCSE courses, with Years 10 and 11 students studying the reformed courses, it seems appropriate to revisit the new grading system associated with these reformed GCSEs.

Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), which outlines the new grading structure and details key features of the assessment system. More information about GCSE curriculum reform can be found in the Academic (Curriculum Reform) section of our School website.

Below you will see information provided by



Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

New GCSE content will be more challenging.



GCSE

9 to

English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.

Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.

In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.

Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.

You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the infographic on the right.

Pastoral News Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral



The Pastoral Team are delighted that the School has been awarded the Prince's Teaching Institute Leadership Award for the school-wide work on our Find Your Voice! Project which has now run over several years.



At Meet the Tutor Evenings, during Form time and in lessons girls have been encouraged to find their voice. There are so many opportunities across the school for girls to develop their public speaking skills. Girls start with Form assemblies and then graduate to Year or Whole School assemblies, and some girls enter competitions which hone their debating skills with the support of the English Department.

Please do encourage your daughter to speak out in class and to join some of the many clubs and activities that present such a safe environment for the girls to speak up, express and opinion, or question something of interest. A particular feature of note are the excellent Year 9 Internationalism Assemblies where, under the direction of Dr Graham, the girls present on their Family History Stories.

Easter Assemblies and the Annual Leadership Awards Presentations

A number of girls will be awarded the leadership badges for developing their leadership skills. Since the awards were launched in 2014, over 250 leadership



badges have been presented. Recipients will be announced in the next newsletter.

Mental Health First Aid training

There are 4 key staff who have recently been fully trained as Mental Health First Aiders: Miss Harrison, Mrs Dale, Mrs Hiett and Mrs



French. We take mental health very seriously and work hard to promote a positive mental health for all of our students in school. We do acknowledge that sometimes young people face mental health issues and we work really hard to support all of our students and sign post them for specialist support where appropriate. The school provides in-school 1:1 counselling though Renew, and we also have our school nurse, Kate, who holds a drop-in clinic weekly.

Of course, students may choose to talk to any member of staff to support them. I have put some useful links on our twitter feed and school website, and have posted some below. The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services in Chelmsford particularly recommend, Kooth.

- ⇒ Kooth www.kooth.com online
 ⇒ The Big White Wall www.bigwhitewall.com (16+)
 ⇒ Young Minds www.youngminds.org.uk
 ⇒ Beat www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk 0808 801 0677
 ⇒ Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service 01245 493311
 ⇒ Mind 01702 601123 www.seandcessexmind.org.uk
 ⇒ Child line 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
 - Samaritans 116 123 www.samaritans.org
 - Papyrus HOPELineUK 0800 0684141



Pastoral News Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral

Primary School Outreach Team

In order to encourage access and opportunity for all primary school girls, Miss Cope, Mrs Hilling, Mrs French and Mrs Chapman have just completed a tour of local primary schools with the Year 9 Outreach Team.

We have been speaking to Year 5 students and their parents, and our girls have talked with great passion about the joy of attending their school and the many opportunities that come their way as a result. Below are some pictures of our outreach team who were superb ambassadors and spoke with great confidence about their school.

They even found a wonderful therapy dog in one school, who supports the students.



Year 10 examinations

Congratulations to our Year 10 students who coped superbly well with their examinations and snow! A lovely visit after school from Mabel the dog, seems to have eased the pressure somewhat. As ever, the girls behaved impeccably and really used the experience wisely as a good learning experience for GCSEs.



Masterclass

Miss Sales and the pastoral team were also on hand to support our Year 11 girls during their wonderful Maths Masterclass Day. This is a wonderful example of teamwork as the girls were able to receive first-class Maths lessons and workshops with excellent support in place too.



CCHS Pastoral Team: Follow us on twitter

The Pastoral team has a twitter account that posts news and items that may support you and your daughter, particularly relating to internet safety, mental health, speak out opportunities and pastoral support and celebration. Please do follow us, so that we can share items on this and other important subjects.



CCHS Pastoral Team @CchsPastoral

Chelmsford County High School for Girls Pastoral Team: Years 7-11. Developing grit and resilience, Mindfulness, Find Your Voice! Pastoral Support / Counselling.

Pastoral News Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral



Social media

We have almost completed the next round of internet safety with the younger girls and thought that you may like to reflect on some of the issues that we discuss in school. Some girls report that they keep their phones switched on and get distracted by Snapchat, in particular, whilst trying to get off to sleep or complete homework or.....talk to their family!

All families find their own solutions and the girls were interested to hear how everyone's solutions are quite different, but all agreed that phones in bedrooms at night time was a major sleep-hindrance. Few could resist opening a new Snapchat or WhatsApp message.

Girls were also reminded how to keep themselves safe on the internet, not to accept friend requests from anyone they do not know and how to report anything that they are worried about. We always remind the girls of the CEOP website and report abuse button.



Reminders

School Uniform Shop open Wednesday 8:15 – 9:10am and Friday 12:35 – 1:35. May I remind parents that girls must wear a knee length skirt to comply in Years 7 – 11 and we do appreciate your support to ensure that high standards are maintained.

There is also a very extensive and great quality nearly new uniform shop for any parent that may wish to use this service. This is kindly run by the Parents' Association.

Road Safety

We would be grateful if you could reinforce the rules about crossing the road safely at home.

Please remind the girls that an **Ambulance** with a **siren** and **flashing blue lights** in use will expect pedestrians to **stay on the pavement** and not try to use the crossing, even if it is on the 'green person'.

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit: Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance-Income Based, Child Tax Credit (Working Tax Credit is not a qualifying benefit. There are some nonqualifying benefits) If your taxable annual household income is less than £16,190.

If the above apply you may qualify for free school lunches.

HOW TO APPLY:

Click on: www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards

Or, request an application form from the Education and Awards enquiry line on 0845 603 2200. Please be assured that we always deal discreetly and sensitively with any girls in receipt of free school meals and there is no embarrassment or knowledge to other girls.







Year 7 Mrs Katharine Adams, Year Leader

Year 7 have really found their feet at CCHS now.... quite literally for the many girls who took part in the recent dance show! They have helped swell the ranks of the junior choir and orchestra and we have seen enthusiastic participation in events such as House pancakes.

Most forms have presented their first assembly, though 7C were thwarted by the snow. They have shown us a wide range of ideas including 7S's rap song about what is great about CCHS and 7F's review of friendships in Disney films, which ended with a lovely recipe for friendship.

Enrichment Day Three saw girls taking part in the "Internationalism Game-off" producing educational games based on five different countries from around the world. Much hard work had gone into the projects and Mrs Chapman and I enjoyed judging the winners and watching the girls playing each other's games in the afternoon. Thanks to Miss Maynard and Mrs Guilloux for masterminding the day for us all.



The latest set of teacher assessment shows that Year 7 are doing really well in their academic studies too and tutors will soon be reviewing grades with each student, giving advice and encouragement to help them make even more progress.

Those who were able to get into school on the snow days really enjoyed going outside and making documentary-style films then editing them in the afternoon before presenting to their peers. We particularly thank Mr Steele for sharing his film expertise with us on that day.

Preparations for our trip to Normandy are well underway and girls will soon be starting to learn about the Art and History based elements of the visit as well as honing their French for the allimportant ice cream buying and café tasks. We just need to order a bit of sunshine now!

Year 8 Miss Emma Cope, Year Leader

Year 8 returned to school this term with great energy and enthusiasm after their extended break. They have been working extremely hard at their studies and also in many extra-curricular pursuits. We were lucky enough to visit Bletchley Park for our February Enrichment Day. The year group enjoyed a tour of the grounds with



explanation of the history of the site, with extremely knowledgeable guides. There was then time to explore on our own, to see some of the huts where the code breakers worked, along with the Bomb Machine and the Mansion House. We also had a code breaking session, where we sampled different methods of coding and cryp-

Pastoral News



tography, including Morse Code, which we all found impossibly fast, and a real enigma machine. It was a great opportunity to see such an important historical site for ourselves and to try our hand at their work.



There has been an array of creative talent displayed this term in all different artistic forms. It was wonderful to see so many Year 8s taking part in the production of Macbeth at the end of January. I was especially impressed with their convincing freeze frame work in the battle scenes, and I am sure that this will have given them inspiration to go on the audition for larger roles as they go up the school. During half term some of the students showed off their musical talents on the tour to Budapest. They performed several concerts in venues throughout the capital, and were a credit to the year group. There was also a huge number of Year 8 performers in the annual dance show at the end of February. With an extra show performed just for CCHS students this year, they had an even bigger task to keep up their high standards, but they managed to pull off three superb performances. It is fantastic to see Year 8s holding their own alongside the Sixth Formers, and learning so much from their older peers. I am sure that we have some wonderful future dance officials in the making.

Congratulations must also go to the four girls who have made it to the final of the Cyber First coding competition at the end of March: Oluwatemi Akintemi, Mariella Jasper, Alesha Mead and Charlotte Podd.

Year 9 Mrs Marion Windeatt, Year Leader

This term has seen Year 9 choosing their options. They started the process with a talk from Mr Lawlor, followed by the Options Evening to give them the opportunity to speak to students who actually take the subjects. This was in addition to the Parents' Evening and the yearly reports to evaluate how they are doing in the different subjects before making their final choices. It is an exciting time for the year group, as it gives them the chance to have a real say in the shape of their education for the first time.

For Enrichment Day 3 the girls created their own newspaper. They took on roles from the news room and produced a newspaper by the 3.40pm deadline. All of the girls were engaged by the project and they produced many interesting articles. Furthermore, the girls loved getting dressed up for House Pancakes – competition was fierce!



We are looking forward to the summer term. Although the year group have examinations, they also have lots of fun things to look forward to. I would like to wish you a lovely Easter Break.

Year 10 Miss Fiona Harrison, Year Leader

Year 10 have had a positive Spring Term. In February the girls thoroughly enjoyed Enrichment Day 3. We saw many girls shine representing the different countries in the Model United Nations – I know Dr Graham was very

12

Pastoral News



happy with the work they put into the day. They were very lucky that day because they got to complete two activities! They also enjoyed the Scrapheap Challenge run by the Science department – where they threw themselves into making a timer using household materials. They had a fabulous action packed day!



Many of the Year 10 girls were involved in the school production of 'Macbeth' and the 'Attitude Dance Show'. I thoroughly enjoyed both shows, and I was so impressed by how many girls were involved.

The examination period has been interesting. It has been prolonged by the freak weather – we certainly did not expect snow in March! It was great to see a few girls battling the elements to get in to school. Those who were in school enjoyed English revision sessions put on by Mr Carter – they were well supported by lots of departments and it was lovely to see them having fun in exceptional circumstances. We are now celebrating the end of the examination period with TA2 discussions.

I wish you all a Happy Easter – I hope you have a lovely holiday. The girls deserve a well-earned rest after such a busy term.

Year 11 Miss Georgie Sales, Year Leader

It has been another busy, but exciting term for Year 11! They started the term by finalising their Sixth Form options, choosing from the varied curriculum offered to them, with EPQ being a very popular choice—an exciting prospect to look forward to. The Art, Graphics and Textiles students are busy working and finishing the coursework element of their courses; in Drama, the girls are soon to perform their exam pieces, and the PE moderations are soon to begin.

On the 21st February, Year 11 travelled to the Civic Centre in Chelmsford for a morning of invaluable Maths sessions. The girls took on Circle Theorems, Trigonometry, Proofs and Problem solving. The girls conducted themselves brilliantly, absorbing all the information given to them by the fabulous Mrs Cross and her brilliant Maths Department. I commend you Year 11 on your maturity and high levels of enthusiasm. It certainly took me back to my Maths days!

Amongst all of the hard work, Year 11 are still fully involved in their extra-curricular activities, whether it's in Sport, Dance, Music, Charity work or more! A number of girls had the chance to travel to Budapest on the Music tour, which I also had the pleasure to go on, and what a fantastic trip it was! More recently a good number of Year 11's performed in the annual Dance Show, and as every year, what an amazing show it was. This year in particular saw the Year 11's being even more involved as they were not only choreographing their own year dance but also choreographing routines for the younger years. I am sure we will see these girls again in their own Dance show!

Year 11 are busy creating their revision timetables and for some, revision has well and truly begun, with their study leave fast approaching. But, amongst all of this hard work, it is so important that the girls find time to relax. Over the course of the next few weeks, Anna Champion (11H) will be leading each form in some Yoga and Meditation during registration time. A great way to relax, and I have already seen Anna in action and I can't wait!

Keep up the hard work Year 11, you're doing a fabulous job.

Sixth Form News





This has been another busy and successful term for our Sixth Form students and many of their achievements are covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Year 13

Year 13 students have been busy with work for their examinations; this last term has seen continued hard work on key skills and content and the preparation of specialist work such as material for language orals and musical compositions. In most case students are now reaching the end of the syllabus content and looking forward to revising material from earlier in their courses. Whilst this term has certainly been hard work for both students and their teachers we look forward to this work being well rewarded on A level results day. Year 13 students have also continued to receive offers from their chosen universities and in turn to begin to make their firm and insurance choices. Dr Huckvale continues to offer advice and guidance to students as they make these choices.

We are now planning the series of events which take place next term to celebrate the time which our Year 13 students have spent in this school. We hope that parents and students will both note the date of the Leavers' Reception on the 24th May, and we look forward to seeing as many as possible of you there. This event takes place the evening before the Year 13 Leavers' Assembly on Friday 25th May, and the beginning of A level study leave. A group of Year 13 students are beginning to put together this year's Sixth Form Revue and we are much looking forward to seeing what they come up with.

Year 12

Year 12 students have made great strides both in their learning and also in the prefect roles which they took on just after Christmas. The energy with which they have approached both aspects of their school life is most commendable. A number of students are currently writing essays for the various essay competitions run by universities and this work will certainly be most useful to them in the university application process. There was an excellent turnout at the Oxford and Cambridge Information Evening in January and we are looking forward to working with all our students as they identify the most appropriate options for their future study.

Next term Year 12 students will be sitting internal school examinations in the period between May 14th and May 25th and we envisage the results for these examinations being available in late June. Clearly these results will play a major role in determining the predicted grades which the school supplies to support the students' UCAS applications; we would encourage all students to prepare for these examinations with their accustomed seriousness. It will therefore be difficult for us to allow students to miss school in order to attend university open days in the weeks leading up to these examinations.

Our students have taken up a number of opportunities to develop their skills and understanding in areas beyond the curriculum.







Our new House Officials have now taken up their new roles, starting with the postponed Staff and Year 13 Karaoke, which raised £217 for the charity MIND. This was a fantastic event involving many staff and reviving the old tradition of each House putting forward a staff team. There were some highly memorable performances that clearly demonstrated the immense pool of talent amongst the school staff.

The new officials have also run their first House assembly, and House Pancakes on the same day, sporting their shiny new House Jumpers. Some very creative costumes were created for House pancakes, sometimes at very short notice. We look forward to the next events that include: House Debating, Basketball and Swimming.

Year 13 and Staff House Karaoke By Mehzabeen Hakim, Marketing Prefect

House Karaoke is an event that brings the whole school together to spend a lunchtime watching the eldest girls and staff perform (some more willingly than others!) As this is quite a popular event, students decided to use this to their advantage to charge an entry fee in order to raise money for MIND, a mental health charity that the school previously supported with a successful Blue Fest in the summer term last year.

The Year 13's from each house (Curie, Grey-Thompson, Frank, Hepburn and Stewart) performed energetic medley's that the crowd loved, although it was clear to see who was the most rehearsed!

Then came the highly anticipated Staff performances. C House performed incredibly (even if I am a little biased) with Mr Lodge, Miss Cope, Mrs Wang and Mrs Hiett dancing to a medley of songs containing the letter 'C'.

F House danced to the FRIENDS theme tune with live music provided by Mr Minnican and Mr Mitchell on electric guitars.

G House performed an ABBA medley, featuring Mr Rowell coming down from the control booth and onto the stage with an enthusiastic Mr Hughes thriving under the spotlight.

H House, represented by many teachers, but the one that almost immediately comes to mind is Mr Harvey's infamous worm across the stage.

House News

Mr Mark Rowell

S House also had live music with an amazing performance from Mr Lamberti, our new Director of Music.

It's safe to say that there is no shortage of talent here at CCHS; regardless of whether you are part of the staff or student body!

House Pancakes: The Best Flipping Event of the Year! By Inyange Rusimbi, Marketing Prefect

We have arrived at a much awaited moment in the school event calendar: House Pancakes! Every Form prepared a paired costume to show off their pancake flipping abilities. Two people from each form in every year, along with some members of staff competed on the 9th February in the Hall at lunchtime (unfortunately they were not edible pancakes). This year, a huge range of costumes could be seen from girls of all years: from Lemon and Sugar, to the ugly stepsisters. However, the best costumes were the ones that were a play on words such as Year 9's Eye and Spy or Year 8's Chapstick and man. For one hour pancakes were seen flying through the air as girls concentrated hard to complete as many 180 degree flips as they could. The atmosphere was competitive, as all House events are, but the smiles on faces showed that everyone was enjoying themselves nonetheless. H House and C House really excelled in this year's House Pancakes, but next year, the other houses will be ready.





15



Enrichment News Mr Stephen Lawlor, Deputy Headteacher

Enrichment Days: Two and Three



We work hard to offer a broad and enriching experience for our students. In the service of this, we recognise that learning is not confined to the classroom. We arrange a dynamic programme of Enrichment Days, which take place over five days throughout the academic year. We have published a CCHS Curriculum Enrichment Booklet 2017-18 to provide a detailed account of the activities and trips relating to our Enrichment Days (this is available in the Extra-Curricular section of the School website). It also provides information on enrichment opportunities which sit outside these formal days. The booklet provides a rationale and context for the wealth of activities and opportunities on offer to students.

Our second Enrichment Day, Friday 15th December 2017, allowed Year 7 students to experience a morning of mathematics challenges, arranged by Mr Mitchell. They then attended an afternoon pantomime performance. Mr Lamberti arranged a day of music-making for Year 8, with students recording a Christmas song, which was showcased during our Christmas Assemblies. Year 9 students had a new and fascinating CSIforensics day, organised by Dr Noble. Mr Harvey led Year 10 students on a tour of Tate Britain. Year 11 students attended a series of Cold War-themed workshops in school, co-ordinated by Dr Graham and Mrs Youngs. Mrs Ellen again arranged for a Leeds University academic to visit us to work with Year 12 students on their EPQ studies.

Our third Enrichment Day, Wednesday 21st February 2018, provided an opportunity for Year 7 student to finalise their Internationalism projects, overseen by Mrs Maynard. Year 8 students spent an exciting day at Bletchley Park, learning about the important work of WW2 codebreakers. This new trip was organised by Mr Lodge. Year 9 students worked in teams across the day to produce several newspapers, supported by Mr Carter and a team of teachers. Year 10 students had a varied day, working with Mrs Nicoll on a Scrapheap Challenge project and with Dr Graham on a Model United Nations scenario. Mrs Cross arranged for Year 11 students to experience a maths masterclass day, attending offsite lectures in the morning and returning to school in the afternoon to attend a series of workshops. We were delighted to welcome back former students, who returned to lead some of the workshops. Sixth Form students worked on their Economics, Theatre Studies and EPQ studies, with Mr Moore, Mrs Foley and Mrs Ellen. Mr Harvey arranged for a professional artist to visit us to work with Year 12 students. Sixth Form students supported our primary project with Mrs Gulliver and Mrs Guilloux. The project involved over 70 Years 4-5 girls from nine local primary schools, working with Year 12 students on several language learning activities. As ever, it was a delight to welcome primary pupils and their staff to our School.

Teaching and support staff are to be thanked for their excellent and innovative work.



Non-Uniform Day Friday 26th January 2018 By Mehzabeen Hakim, Marketing Prefect

The School raised an incredible £800 on nonuniform day in January supporting the 'Side By Side' charity; followed by other fundraising events over the past weeks, we brought the total up to £1,153. Katrina Kieffer Wells, a representative from the charity, gave a talk to students in March, and was delighted to be presented with a cheque for this amount.



As a school, we have been working with the charity over the last couple of years, and we are grateful to be supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Last year the CHIPS team also helped to send off hand-refurbished caravans with the aid of Side By Side to refugees in Calais.

As a small charity, they are able to provide dynamic, targeted support and change their priorities according to the greatest need.



The charity supports other organisations helping refugees along the borders of France. They collect and distribute donations and provide clothing, food and shelter for unaccompanied children and families. It is our duty as a school, not only to support each other within our local community but to realise the adversities the global community face and do all that we can to help; whether it is fundraising on behalf of charities or spreading the message of solidarity with the refugees.

Maths Challenge By Natasha Wickramasinghe 9H

On 6th March, three other students and I went to Bancroft's School in Woodford, where we took part in a fun, competitive day of maths challenges as part of the UKMT Team Challenge Regionals Round against twenty-six other schools.

In the morning, was the Group Round, ten tricky problems to solve, all successfully completed and a great start to the day. Next was the Crossnumber, a combination of teamwork and deduction, this tested their logic skills. After a break for lunch, things started to heat up with the Shuttle, split into two pairs each question was dependent on the previous one's answers. This ensued for a frantic hour, in which speed and accuracy were put to the test. To finish with, was the Relay, not only did this mean another set of challenging questions but also a significant amount of running around in a bid to get the right answer and pass on the next question to the other half of the team.

At the end of the day, it was revealed we had come third out of all 27 schools. The day was a very enjoyable experience and we all learnt a great deal about teamwork and maths skills.

> Team: Manaal Khan 8C Ishi Agrawal 8S Alexandra Cheesewright 9H Natasha Wickramasinghe 9H







With a little toil, trouble, and the occasional cauldron bubble...

By Mehzabeen Hakim and Inyange Rusimbi, Marketing Prefects

This year, our school put on a fantastic performance of Macbeth, which we had the pleasure of being in. Rehearsals started early on in the school year and everyone's excitement and enthusiasm only grew throughout this time. Anyone who had the opportunity of seeing either of the two performances would have seen the fantastic acting and heard the beautiful music, which was reflected in the amazing feedback we received from the audience.

Macbeth started early in the summer of 2017, simply an idea planted in Mrs Foley's mind. It then evolved into weeks of script editing and finalising and eventually into auditions, rehearsals and of course, the show! Thankfully, our Year 13 directors Priya Gupta and Lucy Myatt were by our side and Mrs Foley's (quite literally, being sat in the wings for the whole show!) through everything and we are thankful for their encouragement, incredible management and infectious enthusiasm. None of this could be possible without them!

As with any professional production, the rehearsal process was challenging, but nevertheless fulfilling. It was a great opportunity for older and younger girls to bond, laugh and develop their love for performing. There were the usual pressures of a show - learning lines, cues, getting makeup done, costumes etc. But none could be prepared for the gargantuan task of not only speaking in Shakespearian but actually understanding what was going on! Our cast was extremely talented, some of the main parts held by Caitlin Farrell, Fleur Smith, Mary-Beth Kogbe, Alicia Cash, Luckshaa Thiruchelvam, Eve Percival, Amelia Chapska and Antonia Rankin. It was really inspiring to see how they each individually rose to the challenge and how much they learnt and developed throughout the making of this production. Around 100 girls took part in Macbeth, with each and every one of them, demonstrating tremendous amounts of talent, and have no doubt that they've created memories they won't ever forget.

One of the things that made our production of Macbeth outstanding was the music which was entirely composed by our very own students: Abigail Palmer, Caroline Penn and Lucy Wickers. Everyone who saw the production would agree that the music was beautifully composed and fit absolutely perfectly with the scenes. We would also like to thank the band run by Mr Lamberti who never failed to amaze us with their performance and really brought the whole production together. It was a wonderful collision of performing arts.

Not only did the students prove their dedication, but staff members too; the everresilient Mrs Foley and Mrs Broughton continued to give the best advice to the young actors on how to perfect their performance. Mr Lamberti, our new Director of Music, was thrown straight in the deep end and worked with his band to create pure magic. Will we ever forget when Dr Palmer overheard our game of 'Never Have I Ever', or the endless mic checks done by Mr Rowell and Mr French? A well-deserved thanks must be given to them, for they were a vital part of the production and their perseverance and patience were beyond compare.

Through the ups and downs, CCHS exceeded expectations once again and kept up the school's tradition of producing outstanding productions. We feel so proud to have been a part of Macbeth and are filled with anticipation for what next year will bring. "All hail King of Scotland!"







Bar Mock Competition By Pragya Sinha Kumar, Year 13

On 11th November, after months of debate and discussion, the CCHS Bar Mock team made its way to Maidstone Crown Court, flanked on either side by Mrs Selden and Mr Summers. The following accounts by Puja, one of our barristers, and Asfia, the notorious Jules Devere, will hopefully lend an insight as to what an illuminating experience Bar Mock is, and how grateful all of us are for what we have learnt.

"Participating in Bar Mock was undoubtedly one of the best experiences I've ever had, and it's one that I cannot wait to repeat. At first, I found the prospect of presenting as a barrister to a real Judge incredibly daunting. I've never been a particularly loud person, but I knew that if I wanted to study law, public speaking is an essential and unavoidable skill.

We all worked extremely hard in the lead up to the big day, and I can honestly say that our victory was truly a team effort; every member contributed massively to our success. There were three heats in the day, followed by the final heat in which we competed for a place in the national finals in Cardiff.

Leaving Maidstone Crown Court with the Shield in our hands was a massive highlight for all of us. But whether we won or not, it's safe to say that we all learnt an incredible amount during the competition. For those of us who want to study law, we gained an invaluable insight into the Court. But I would recommend Bar Mock to anyone, whether you want to study law or not. The skills you learn are useful in all areas of life, and the team around you are just amazing people. Thanks goes to Mr Summers, Mrs Selden, Rida and Pragya for making this fantastic day possible!"

"Bar mock was an insightful, inspiring and amazing experience for me. Having the opportunity to be a witness was a fascinating experience as I had to transform myself to play the role of another character. Being a witness meant that there was an element of surprise entailed within as I was unaware of how the other teams would cross examine me. Whilst this may have been nerve wracking, I found it to be extremely exciting as I was challenged and made to think on the spot. When I was not on the witness stand, we were also able to be the jury for a couple of cases. This was another insightful and interesting part of the day as I understood how important the jury are in our legal system and the vitalness of barristers being able to make their case persuading to ensure for their clients. Moreover, I was able to watch everyone else from our team participate in the competition with their respective roles. This was genuinely a motivating and inspiring experience as everyone's hard work and dedication to the competition really came to the forefront and it was incredible to see how confident everyone was.

Though the build-up was daunting and stressful, the actual day could not have gone better. The announcement of our win was an exhilarating moment where we were able to relish in our achievements; feeling proud of all the work we had all put in. Bar mock has only strengthened my aspiration to becoming a lawyer and has taught me a wide range of skills which will definitely help me in the near future. I am looking forward to the next round in Cardiff!"





Budapest Music Tour February 2018 By Mrs Sarah Clements

Whilst England was sleeping and many were looking forward to their first half term lie-in, 49 CCHS Musicians and 5 staff were meeting cheerfully at 3am at Stansted airport on a cold Saturday morning. After Mrs Clements had run around the group excitedly yielding her new luggage scales, and Mr Lamberti had counted heads for what seemed to be the hundredth time, we were Hungary bound.

Our 4* Hotel was lovely, and the food plentiful. Daytime excursions included a tour of the beautiful Opera House including a close up performance with two of its current performers, a tour of the impressive Parliament building, an excursion to a nearby town and a trip to the oldest Café in Hungary (which featured cake!) and on our final morning, a browse around Budapest itself to try and spend our leftover Forints.

But the best excursion of this trip had to be the unforgettable Folklore meal and show on our final night. The Hungarian band were absolutely incredible, even by our standards! And we were all bowled over by the ferocious tempo played on the instrument none of us could name, nor repeat once our tour guide had told us. What a great time we had watching some of our girls be pulled up to dance, almost as funny as seeing Mr French and Mr Lamberti do the same, but you'd have to look at our twitter feed to see that......

Of course this trip was all about the Music, and oh did our girls deliver. Three concerts in three nights in breath-taking venues. Night one felt like an aristocratic lounge, especially when we discovered we were using Bela Bartok's very own piano. That amazing opening concert will be remembered by the very enthusiastic gentleman shouting 'Bravo, Bravo!' after every item. Our next two concerts were in equally impressive buildings with even more enthusiastic audiences, the final one even getting the encore they so wanted. The programme was a varied one including Western Classical, Film, Pop, Jazz and Musical theatre, a programme which Mr Lamberti spoke about at length in English to the audiences each night before the notable relief on their faces when our tour guide translated all that he had said! We were asked by one concert dweller if our girls are professional Musicians or if we are a specialist Music School. No, we just have outstanding Musicians! Their conduct on stage is demonstrable by our being asked such questions in the first place.

As well as all the toing and froing between accompanists, page turners, and baton passing between Mr Lamberti and Mrs Clements, we were treated to real quality solos from Mary-Beth Kogbe, Eloise Wood, Madeline Sully, Sasha Carter, Millie Ward and Jasmine Randall, and an expertly timed party popper from Mrs Clements (even if I do say so myself!!).

Well done everyone for a memorable Music Tour 2018, a first for many staff and students. And I couldn't possibly conclude without a heartfelt thankyou to Mr Lamberti for planning this trip in a short space of time. Planning the programme and rehearsing the pieces every week were just a small part of it. Liaising with the tour company was fairly exhaustive at times, and he was regularly seen measuring instrument cases and even weighing them on some scales he'd acquired in the Music Office. His efforts were absolutely appreciated by all of us, and paid off spectacularly. And a huge thankyou to the staff members (Mr Lamberti, Mrs Clements, Miss Sales, Mrs Dale and Mr French) that gave up some of their well earnt half term to accompany the tour.



Cyber First Competition

By Alesha Mead, Mariella Jasper, Oluwafemi Akentemi and Charlotte Podd

The Zen Coders Team



To get into the grand final we had to do a series of online activities. There were four sections full of different tasks: cyber security, logic and coding, networking and cryptography. We had to complete as many tasks as we could in one week. Our overall 'score' was based on not only the total percentage of completed tasks, but also on the total number of hints used. Our team got 66% of the tasks completed but we barely used any hints. 1300 other teams were competing against us.

On Sunday 18th March, Miss Cope, Miss Walsh, Charlotte, Mariella, Alesha and Femi all met in Chelmsford Station car park at 7:40am in the freezing cold snowy weather. As no trains were running, we got on a bus to Newbury Park. After getting the next train to Tottenham Court, we switched to the Northern Line and went to Euston station. We spent 2 and a half hours on a train to Manchester Piccadilly, but finally we arrived at Manchester MacDonald Hotel at 1:30pm.

When we arrived the Cyberfirst team gave us a challenge to get to know the other teams and learn about social engineering. Social engineering is all about whether you believe what people are telling you. Prior to the competition each school gave in two facts one true one false. We had to ask the 9 other schools what their 2 facts were and we had to decide which fact was true or false by dinner that night. We got the results and found out that we guessed only three of the schools facts correctly. This showed that we had a lot to learn about social engineering and that we should not believe everything we're told. At 2:30pm, all the teams boarded a coach and travelled to MediaCity UK. We were given an incredible tour, which included several interactive tasks like performing a radio drama, reading out the news on the actual BBC breakfast red sofa, having a go at reading the weather and playing several other CBBC based games. One of the highlights of the trip was going inside the actual Blue Peter studio! We saw all the props that they use and the different displays inside the corridors. Everyone had an incredible time!

On Sunday evening, after the BBC Studio Tours, we were taken to eat at the Manchester Museum. When we first got there we were served drinks and allowed to wander around, looking at the exhibition and taking selfies with a full size T-Rex. We were also given the chance to properly talk to other competitors. We were then taken upstairs, where we sat down to eat. On each table there was a member of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) who we could talk to. We found out a lot, such as they can't have any social media or photos taken of them. We were given a lot of great food. To round off the evening we took lots of team photos and were briefed about what lay ahead.

During competition day we had to solve puzzles and clues. We acted as a company who got hacked and we had to figure out who and why we got hacked. Later in the day we had to present ideas in a board meeting. We had to gain points by finding clues and solving as many problems as we could. The maximum amount of puzzles to solve was 40; we solved 35 of the puzzles correctly so we were very proud. BBC Newsround followed our journey from start to finish and interviewed us along the way. At the end of the day we were all quite tired but we persevered and powered through to the end. Although we didn't win we have been invited to Buckingham Palace for afternoon tea with the Duke of York and we received a certificate, trophy and a goodie bag. After an amazing day we collected our bags and headed to the train station.

On the way back we got on a train again from Manchester to Euston. Then we got the tube from Euston to Liverpool Street. Once we arrived at Liverpool Street we got on a train to Chelmsford. The overall journey took around 4 hours. All our parents picked us up and took us home, we went to bed and thought what a great trip it was. We cant believe how much our teachers Miss Cope and Miss Walsh supported us. We are very excited and can't believe what a great opportunity we took part in.



Music Mr Chris Lamberti

This term has been an extremely busy one with many exciting musical events.

The first major event was the school production of Macbeth. With Macbeth being a play, the challenge was on for girls studying A level music to compose a suitable underscore, the girls excelled themselves! The music was truly outstanding and it has even been suggested that the girls look to publish their work. The two performances from both cast, musicians and crew were breath taking.

Hot on the heels of Macbeth came our biannual music tour to the stunning city of Budapest. During our five days stay, 49 girls put on three concerts which were extremely well received by the audiences. We had the pleasure of performing in some stunning buildings with the highlight of using Bartok's piano at the Institute of Musicology. The girls really did the school and themselves proud with some beautiful playing.

At the time of writing final rehearsals for this year Spring concert are in full swing. It is shaping up to be another exciting performance with a wide variety of genres being performed ranging from Vivaldi to Take That! There are again numerous girls taking part across all year groups. There will be a sense of sadness as well as we say goodbye to our year 13 music students who have given so much to the department across the years at CCHS.

Cantatrice run by Caroline Penn, have entered the Music for Youth competition again this year. This time we have submitted a recorded entry and we wait with baited breath for the results which are due at some point in April. The recordings were absolutely stunning!

This is also the term for Years 11 and 13 coursework to be finished. This involved recording numerous performances from these two-year groups. All GCSE coursework has been recorded in the studio with Mr French's technical expertise. There have been some simply delightful pieces this year with many gaining full marks.

Learning Resource Centre Mrs Angela Martin, Librarian

The Essex Book Award ceremony took place at Danbury Outdoor Centre on Tuesday 13th March and 6 CCHS students were privileged to be invited to see who won this coveted award. Only students are able to vote for the overall winner which makes it a more accurate reflection of the best fiction book for the target audience. The authors of 5 of the 6 shortlisted titles were there for the presentation and each gave a speech about the background to their books and how they became writers. The winner was Stewart Foster with his book 'All the things that could go wrong', a tale of two boys, of bullying, OCD and two enemies stuck together for the whole of the holidays. Stewart was inspired to write this story as a friend has OCD and he wanted to give an insight into how daily life is like with this condition.

World Book Day is celebrated in the UK on the first Thursday of March and is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) reading. The 1st March 2018 was the 21st year of celebrations and CCHS Library staff arranged for Andrew Lane to come to visit. Due to the atrocious weather, the visit was postponed until Wednesday 14th March when Andrew came in and entertained all of the Year 7 classes with tales of Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who only created the most famous detective to pay the bills! Students from all years also came to meet Andrew during lunch and bought signed copies of his 'Young Sherlock Holmes' series of books.

In conjunction with the English Department, the CCHS library staff have been adding QR codes to the inside of book covers which are short videos of students giving a review of the book – do look out for these to see which books have been recommended.



"Every day is World Book Day for Librarians!" Elizabeth James

Sports News



Netball

Once again, it has been a very busy couple of terms with lots of fixtures, considering the weather we have been reasonably lucky with the weather and did not have too many fixtures cancelled and managed to play several rearranged games from the Autumn term. We still do not know the results of the MESSSA Netball Leagues, they should come out in late April. CCHS have organised the Year 8&9 CESSSA Netball Tournaments this year and we must thank our PE Prefects and Sports Officials for helping us to make them run so smoothly. The Year 7 tournament has been postponed until Monday 23rd April. Sadly, we did not come away with any trophies so far, but the teams worked very hard to perform their best.

Improvers Swimming Sessions

The sessions have been going for several weeks and the students are progressing well. There will be another assessment for all students who were requested to attend the sessions after Easter.

Table Tennis Club

Our U13 & U19 teams won the County Team Championships and went on to qualify for the South of England Finals which were held in Bristol at the start of February. The teams played very well and finished in the top 4. Congratulations to all involved.

We would really like to see our students progressing onto the next level of competition by joining a club outside of school, please ask Dean for ideas on where is best to join.

Football – MESSSA Girls League & Tournament

The Year 7/8 combined team have worked hard in training and during matches, however they only managed one win in the league this year.

The U15 team entered the MESSSA Tournament held at Plume and performed outstandingly, not letting in one goal. Having won all their games in their pool, they met Becket Keys in the final and went on to win 3-0. Being crowned MESSSA Champions!

The U16 Futsal team competed in the Essex Futsal competition and won their competition and will now compete in the finals at University of Essex on May 6th. We wish them every success. Well done to all the teams and Mr Lodge.

Badminton

Our Senior Badminton Team took part in the East Region Finals of the National Schools Badminton Championships yesterday in Thetford. As the winners of the Essex Schools Championships they represented Essex against the County Champions from Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and Bedfordshire. The winners would go through to the National Finals in April. The 6 teams were divided into 2 groups of 3 teams who all played each other, with the winner of each group playing each other in the final. We won the 2 group matches quite easily, 5-0 and 5-0 and faced Fakenham School from Norfolk in the Final. The games in this match were a little tougher but our strength in depth told and we triumphed 5-0 again. Congratulations to the girls who now go on to the National Final in Milton Keynes on Saturday April 28th.

The team: Alicia Chu; Mia Hillsden; Arushi Agrawal; Bethan Evans; Devishi Mathur.





MESSSA Swimming Championships 2018

As the championships last year could not take place due to pool reconstruction, the CCHS swim squad were ready and raring to go for the 2018 gala and to hopefully retain our title from two years ago. We had teams competing in every age group, from Year 7 all the way through to year's 12/13. We tend to dominate this competition every year, and this year was not going to be any different. Every single team swam their hearts out and qualified for their finals, for their age group – a brilliant achievement!

The Year 7 and 8 teams took this competition on for the first time, competing against all the other schools in the district. The Year 7's finished in 6th place and the Year 8's in 3rd, with some fine swims from Katie Harris and Zoe Barnard (Year 8) and Mo Osilaja and Grace Phimister (Year 7). The Year 9 team came in $4^{th}\ place$ and the Year 10 team finished in a fantastic 2nd place to Brentwood school. A stellar swim from Scarlett Morine who chased the Brentwood swimmer down on the anchor leg of the Freestyle relay, narrowly missing out on the gold. A fine swim from Lauren Bailey (also Year 10) who stepped up at the last minute to represent her team. The Year 11 team (see picture below) swam to victory (again!) winning both the Medley and Freestyle relay in some style. Lauren, Millie, Megan



and Rebecca won the Medley relay by two whole lengths! That is pretty impressive swimming! Finally, in the Year 12/13 competition only saw two schools competing, however, the CCHS girls dominated from start to finish winning both relays and becoming district champions. Might I add that this was the biggest CCHS senior team we have ever had!

The overall results saw CCHS finish on top for the 4th consecutive year, and also finishing in 2nd place in the combined girls and boys competition – and that is without any boys points! Well done to all girls who took part, and hopefully we will retain our title next year!

Kit

We have had to deal with a lot of lost PE kit, this year.

- ⇒ Please can you ensure that your daughter locks her PE kit in her locker with a padlock, so it cannot be taken or borrowed.
- ⇒ All PE kit should be labelled and jumpers and polos should be embroidered/printed with your daughter's first name and surname initial in her house colour.
- \Rightarrow Please ensure that your daughter has all her kit ready for April 2018.







Chelmsford County High School for Girls Broomfield Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 1RW T: 01245 352592 . E: office@cchs.essex.sch.uk