

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 28  
Spring 2019



**Oliver! Production**

**January 2019**

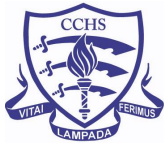


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## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents

This has been yet another term filled with huge success from our exceptional students. Your daughters never fail to amaze us, they are such a pleasure to educate, so responsive, hard-working and aware of their place in the world. This has been in evidence throughout the term as you can read in this newsletter.

Year 11 and 13 have responded well to finishing their courses and the need to be focused, given the impending public examinations which are earlier than ever. As you have already been notified Year 11 will go on study leave on Friday 3rd May 2019—so acutely aware of the pressures we have decided that they will not have their lessons disrupted by any school activities next term. They will therefore not be attending the Commemoration Service on Thursday 2nd May and will be taught throughout the next day except for attending the Sixth Form Revue, period 5.

All students will be reminded that whilst they are on study leave their teachers will remain available to see them, should they have last minute revision needs.

As you will be aware we have had an unusually high number of staff sickness absences this term which has inevitably led to disruption to lessons. In such circumstances every effort is always made to ensure appropriate work is set in order to support the students completing their GCSE and A Level courses in particular.

We welcomed Mrs Melissa Mulgrew as our Business Manager in January. She has certainly hit the ground running and her experience working for a financial employer in the City has been excellent preparation for her busy and varied role.

Mrs Stephanie Holt is joining us as permanent full-time teacher of Mathematics, and Mrs Fay Lodge is our new Science Technician, after the Easter break. We are very grateful to Mrs Jones and Mr Dollery for covering Mathematics in the interim since September.

I am pleased to confirm that we have secured the services of Mrs Anna-Marie Hawke joined as a teacher of Art, and a supply teacher to cover the KS3 and Year 10 RS classes from next term, Ms Heaven.

I was very proud of the Association of State Girls' Schools (ASGS) Leadership Conference we organised at the Ernst & Young offices in Canary Wharf in March, with guest speakers: Dame Helena Morrissey, DBE, Jules Chappell, OBE, Dr Jess Wade, Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, and Dr Marina Della Giusta; plus a video link speech from former CCHS student, Tania Noakes from the top of a snowy mountain in France. Twenty schools attended the conference, and I was grateful for the support of our Year 12 students throughout the day.

All necessary preparations for our extensive building project are in hand. We are in the process of applying for planning consent and the size of our project requires us to go through





# Message from the Headteacher



the European Procurement procedure, which will delay the start of the building phase. We are confident, however, that we will say 'goodbye' to Bancroft in the summer.

I presented the attached plans for the new buildings in assemblies this term. Once the new Sports Hall is up and running we shall re-purpose the gym into a Library and Sixth Form study area. The existing library floor will include a new Art room, general classroom and office.

I am grateful for the support of Mr Peter Cook, Vice-Chair of Governors, in sharing his expertise as we work with consultants on our building projects. I am also grateful to Mr Jason Oster with his unfailing support of our Better Buildings Committee. Whilst we are receiving a

substantial injection of funds, no doubt it will not suffice to fit out some of the facilities, your support will therefore continue to be required and welcomed. Once tenders are in, and we firm up the details, I shall update you further.

Finally, I would like to remind you to check your daughter's log book weekly and use it to communicate with her Form Tutor, comments, compliments, and information about your daughter's achievements out of school are always welcome.

Good luck to Year 11 and Year 13 with their revision.

It remains for me to wish you all a Happy Easter and holiday.

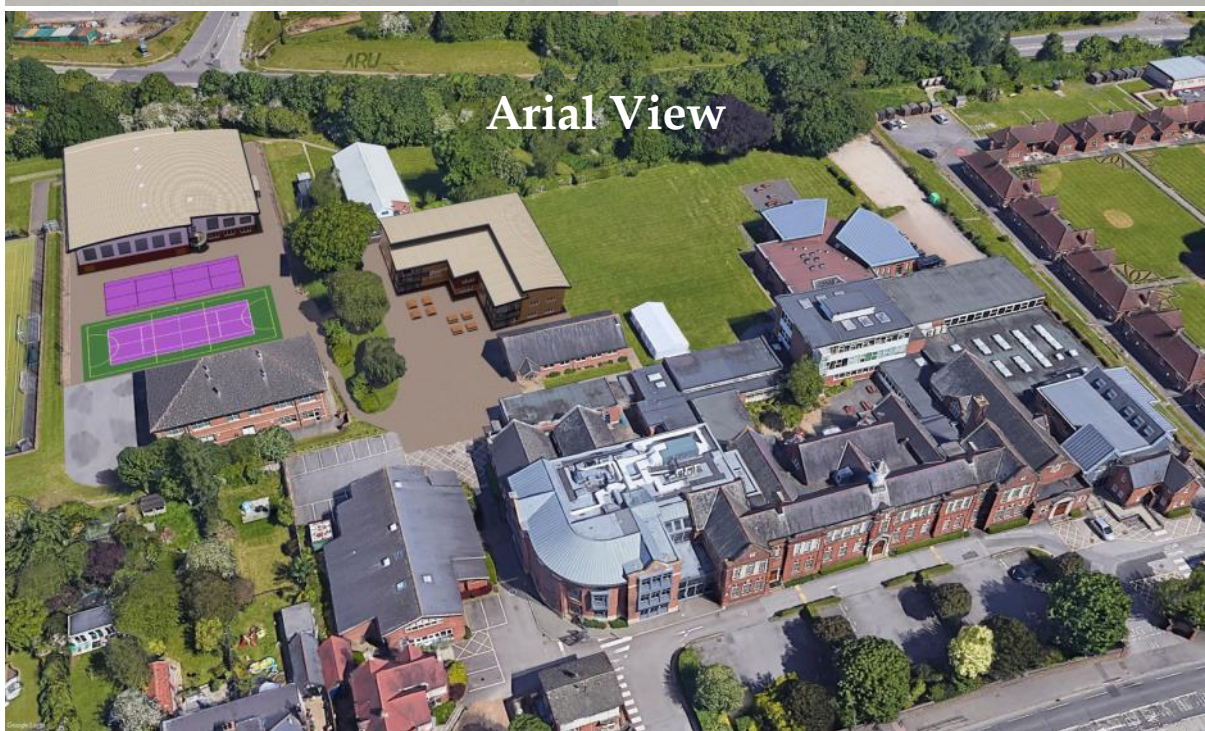
## Sports Hall

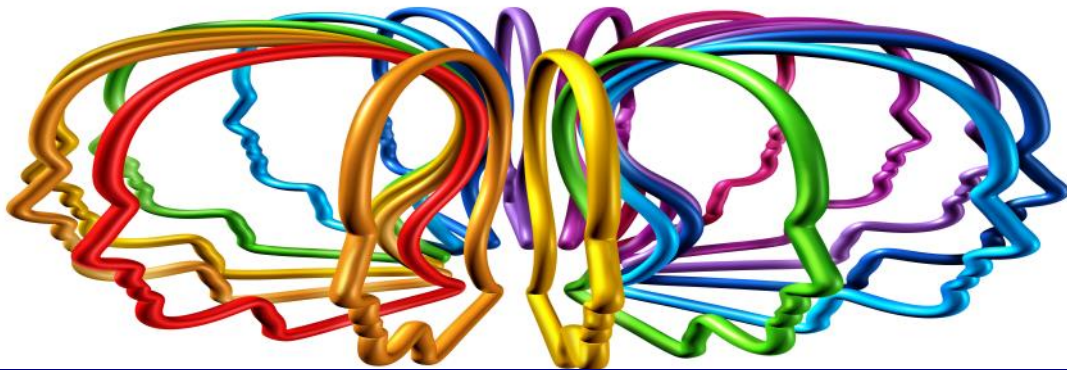


## Teaching Block



## Arial View





## Artsmark – bringing learning to life through arts and culture

*A culture consists of all those activities and artefacts which are organised by the “common pursuit of true judgement”, as T.S. Eliot once put it.*

Through the principal work of Mr Lamberti, Creative Faculty Leader and Director of Music, and with great support from Mr Worboys, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, we are now involved in the prestigious Artsmark award scheme. Artsmark, offered by Arts Council England, aims to bring “learning to life through arts and culture”, as the Arts Council website proclaims.

We want to recognise and celebrate the breadth and depth of creativity across our school community: the creative and performing arts, literary expression, conceptual thinking and exploratory endeavor.

Our Artsmark journey has highlighted the importance of reflecting upon the concept of culture. The philosopher Sir Roger Scruton provides insight into the meaning of culture in his book, ‘Culture Counts’:

*Anthropologists write of the “culture” of the people they observe, meaning those customs and artefacts which are shared, and the sharing of which brings social cohesion. Ethnologists, on the one hand, define culture more widely, to include all intellectual, emotional, and behavioural features that are transmitted through learning and social interaction, rather than through genetic endowment. Sociologists, on the other hand, use the term more narrowly, to mean the thoughts and habits whereby people define their group identity, and stake out a claim for social territory. In all those uses, the term “culture” is associated with the human need for membership, and describes a shared asset of a social group. (p.1)*

Scruton continues to provide a panoramic view of culture and the central role played by

judgement when considering qualities of culture:

*A culture does not comprise works of art only, nor is it directed solely to aesthetic interests. It is the sphere of intrinsically interesting artefacts, linked by the faculty of judgement to our aspirations and ideals. We appreciate jokes, works of art, arguments, works of history and literature, manners, dress, and forms of behavior. And all of these things are shaped through judgement. (p.13)*

Ultimately, Scruton argues that a broad conception of culture and the essential application of discernment lead us not only to self-discovery, but also an understanding of other people:

*A culture consists of all those activities and artefacts which are organised by the “common pursuit of true judgement”, as T.S. Eliot once put it. And true judgement involves the search for meaning through the reflective encounter with things made, composed, and written, with such an end in view. Some of those things will be works of art, addressed to the aesthetic interest; others will be discursive works of history or philosophy, addressed to the interest in ideas. Both kinds of work explore the meaning of the world and the life of society. And the purpose of both is to stimulate the judgements through which we understand each other and ourselves. (p.13-14)*

Our Artsmark project speaks to a determination to protect, preserve and prosper the culture of our school community. We are a proud multi-cultural grammar school – a community that prizes self-expression, collaborative enterprise and a searching ambition to allow students to be alert to and respectful of all members of the school.



# Extra-curricular Project

Mr Stephen Lawlor, Deputy Headteacher



Students, staff, parents and competition officials gathered in the upper foyer, outside Court number 1 of Medway Magistrates' Court, in the early afternoon of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019. One of the competition judges noted that she was very pleased with the high standard of work and performance from the schools. Participation certificates were being proudly presented to the different schools for their involvement in the day's Magistrates' Court competition. The name of each school was greeted with warm and sustained applause by all present. Students, united in a shared experience of planning, preparation and performance for the competition, were now able to recognise the work and effort of all. CCHS students waited for their school's name to be mentioned. Every other school, but still no CCHS. Then the final words, 'And the winners of today's Magistrates' Court competition...Chelmsford County High School'.

It is a remarkable thing to witness such a moment - the natural and spontaneous energy of accomplishment. Our CCHS students excitedly embraced each other to a chorus of applause from the assembled audience. The auditory experience was quite something, with CCHS students cheering, congratulating each other and thanking others. All members of the CCHS team played their parts brilliantly throughout the competition: magistrates, advocates, legal adviser, defendant, witnesses, usher and court reporter. They certainly worked hard, supported each other and wanted to do their very best - and they did.

This success came after many weeks of work and preparation - lunchtime meetings, after-school meetings, emailed drafts, re-worked drafts, etc. The students themselves were clearly at the heart

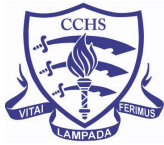
of this. In particular two Year 12 students, Imogen Dowman and Jasmine Randall, who led, advised, encouraged and inspired the participating students from Years 8 and 9. Mrs Selden, who entered the team for the competition and co-ordinated the venture, organised the trip to Kent, and provided wise words to all concerned throughout the process, as students prepared for their day in court. Indeed, this is one of many extra-curricular projects supported by the English Department, others including Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' (Mr Carter) and MACE public speaking (Mrs Watt).

Special mention must be made of the work of Mr Summers, a CCHS parent, who has supported teams through the Magistrates' Court competition over several years. He gave many hours of his time to work with the team, sharing his legal knowledge and insight. His service to the team was quite simply wonderful and a testament to a true sense of school spirit.

The photos of the team show the joy and team-spirit that fuelled this adventure. And an adventure it was - 12-14 year olds undertaking two hour-long court-based rounds, with a serving Magistrate presiding and legal professionals judging student performances.

Like so many school activities, notably the House system, this competition brought students together in a common cause from different year groups. New friendships have been forged, which will be strengthened as they now prepare for the regional round of the competition.

Congratulations to team CCHS and thanks to all who worked with and supported them.



# Pastoral News

Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral

## NCS Awards Ceremony at Pontlands Park Hotel



Last summer, our Year 11 girls made a magnificent contribution to the National Citizenship Service. Their work and efforts were rewarded at the Annual Awards Ceremony, where they received the Gold Award. Students, now in Year 12, attended the dinner and ceremony to receive the award, Gbemi delivered a wonderful speech and this really was a celebration of the girls' contribution to their local community and a fine example of social action.

The scheme is available for anyone in Year 11, to offer great opportunities during the long summer break between Year 11 and Year 12.

## Healthy Schools Awards Ceremony at Chelmsford City Racecourse

A team of girls gave a superb presentation on *Find Your Voice!* At the recent Healthy Schools Awards Ceremony, held at Chelmsford City racecourse. Lots of local schools gathered and heard the voices of some of our Year 9 girls as they spoke with great passion and confidence on their chosen subjects of the environment and creating a plastic free school and positive mental health. Huge congratulations to Amelia, Sam, Femi and Victoria who received the award on behalf of the School, from the Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford. The girls received wonderful feedback after their presentation and were commended for the quality of their public speaking in front of such a large audience.



## Primary Schools Outreach Team

A group of Year 9, who form the outreach team, have been spotted out and about in the community with Mrs Lewis, our Admissions Officer, Mrs Adams, Mrs French and Mrs Chapman. The girls deliver assemblies to Years 4 and 5 in local primary schools to talk about life at CCHS. The team are an absolute credit to the school and their families, as they field many questions from the primary school girls and their parents alike, extolling the virtues of all the wonderful opportunities on offer in our School and dispelling some of the myths of grammar school life. A big congratulations and thank you to Ruby, Akshaya, Yindy, Meghan, Vishalini, Hafsa, Lucia and Si Qi.



## Leadership Awards

Leadership Awards will be presented in the final Easter Assemblies to girls who have demonstrated leadership characteristics and qualities in and out of the classroom. Some girls have really challenged themselves to be leaders of learning in the classroom, whilst others have absolutely committed to extra-curricular activities and the fuller life of the school.

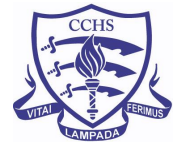
## Intake 2019

Next term we begin the wonderful journey of the induction programme to welcome our new girls for Year 7 in September 2019. Congratulations to all of our new girls, who will be attending welcome meetings, sporting opportunities and their Taster Day after Easter. This will be a busy time for our Year 10 Events Prefects and PE Prefects who support these wonderful events.



# Pastoral News

Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral



## Pastoral Reminders

### School Uniform Shop

School Uniform Shop open: Monday 12:35 – 1.30 pm and Wednesday 8:15 – 9:10am. 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.

### Counselling

Please do not hesitate to contact us if your daughter needs extra pastoral support or counselling. We are often able to help, so please do get in touch with us rather than sit on something that may be worrying you or your daughter.

### 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 non-qualifying 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:

Go online to <https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support/Pages/Free-school-meals.aspx>  
[www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards](https://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 Leaders in the Main School

Year 7	Mrs Adams
Year 8	Miss Sales
Year 9	Mrs Connolly
Year 10	Mrs Chumbley
Year 11	Miss Harrison







## Year 7

### Mrs Katharine Adams, Year Leader

Year 7 are now well and truly settled and fully integrated into CCHS life. We have welcomed Mrs Semeniuk to the Year 7 team and she, and all the tutors, have provided great support to their forms.

This term has seen girls continue to participate enthusiastically in sports teams and the various choirs and music ensembles, as well as put on their dancing shoes for the Dance show, dress up for the House Pancake competition, speak out in the MFL "Have your say!" competition and tread the boards as street urchins in Oliver! All done with great panache.

All forms have now presented assemblies including "Easter traditions from around the world" which was followed by the testing Quizmania to check we had all been listening! 7F produced a film "What is great about CCHS" and more recently we watched a dramatized debate on the merits of books vs film from 7C. These assemblies have also seen some amazing individual performances from a number of

talented musicians.

The Internationalism project on Enrichment Day 3 enabled girls to showcase their creativity and engineering skills by designing and building game boards to test their friends on fun facts about the featured countries.

Our thanks go to Miss Maynard and Mrs Guilloux for masterminding what was a really enjoyable day.

Amongst all the fun, the teacher assessment shows that Year 7 are doing really well in their academic studies too and, as usual, tutors will be reviewing grades with each student giving advice and encouragement to help them make even more progress.

Preparations for the 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 ice cream buying and café-based language challenges.





## Year 8 Miss Georgie Sales, Year Leader

Year 8 have continued to thrive this term by completely immersing themselves into their studies, house events and extra-curricular clubs. We started the new term with the school production; *Oliver*, and it was fantastic to see so many Year 8's involved. No doubt more will be involved in next year's show, with starring roles! There were also record numbers in the annual Dance show, with 76 pupils in Year 8 alone performing (over half the year group!). It was so lovely to see Year 8 performing in a variety of different dance numbers, ranging from Street, to Bollywood, to Junior Ballet. It's always lovely to see the girls away from the classroom, and watching them perform in ways I wouldn't normally see them doing, on stage.

We have also had two exciting Enrichment Days – Music day back in December and a trip to Bletchley Park last month. Both of which were very enlightening and interesting and also gave the girls a chance to be creative too! Bletchley Park was very eye-opening; organised by Miss Walsh, the girls had a booklet to complete, which also created a self-directed tour of the campus. Our last two Enrichment days take us to a Biology field trip, and a trip to the theatre to see *Matilda* to finish. We also have the exciting prospect of Rhineland to look forward to!

House events are always an exciting event to look forward too, and I know the preparations have started early for House Show this year, even though it isn't until the end of July! But, this term we have competed in house debate, house pancakes and house swimming.

Form assemblies continue to be a success with some very interesting topics being covered,

along with them being very eloquently presented. 8S recently delivered an interesting assembly on Brexit and 8F delved into the lives of their teachers, to see what we really like to get up too, outside of the classroom.

It has been yet, another fantastic term and I wish Year 8 a lovely Easter break.

## Year 9 Mrs Rhiannon Connolly, Year Leader

It has been a busy term for Year 9, January seems a very long time ago! The end of January brought the production of *Oliver*, with many of the year group taking part either on stage, technical roles or behind the scenes. A special mention to Chloe Connolly who played the lead role. Soon after we said goodbye to Miss Cope, as she went off to enjoy her maternity leave, she didn't get many days of peace, as baby Charlotte was born shortly before half term. All are doing well.

This half term kicked off with dance show and house pancakes, jointly won by 9C and 9S. The Dance Show was amazing, as usual! Enrichment Day was soon upon us where the students created their own newspaper. They took on roles from the news room and produced a newspaper by the 3.40pm deadline. All of the students were engaged by the project and they produced many interesting articles. Since then, we have been focussing on the future, with Parents' evening, followed in quick succession by Options evening. By the time of reading, the students will have made their decision and I have been very impressed with their levels of maturity whilst choosing.

I look forward to an exciting Summer term.





## Year 10 Mrs Marion Chumbley, Year Leader

The Year 10 pupils have worked extremely hard preparing for their first block of examinations taken formally in the hall. They have taken them seriously and behaved impeccably- even if a tad noisy in their post-exam discussions!

The remaining 105 year 10 girls enjoyed their day in Cambridge following the end of their examination period. They had a tour around two colleges, lunch and time to visit the bookshop. It was wonderful to hear them questioning the student tour guides about life at Cambridge University and it was heart-warming hearing their discussions about which college they would like to apply to! A lot of the girls were in awe of the place, but they could see themselves there nonetheless. They were also inspired by the former students they met along the way throughout the day including being our guides.



It was wonderful to see the fruits of their Internationalism work pay off in a very slick MUN conference in the last Enrichment Day; staff were very complimentary. On the whole Year 10 are embracing all aspects of school life and I look forward to hearing about their recent exam successes later this term.

## Year 11 Miss Fiona Harrison, Year Leader

The Year 11 students have taken the Spring Term in their stride. It has been a very busy time for them – finishing courses, preparing for Art examinations, attending revision sessions and still getting involved in extracurricular shows.

They enjoyed the revision day the Mathematics department ran on Enrichment Day 2. They seemed very 'grown up' attending lectures at County Hall – all were engaged and enthused by a fabulous day.

I was astounded to see so many of the students in the Dance Show. It is incredible with all of their academic commitments that they still managed to throw themselves into such a demanding show. A special mention has to go to Mary-Beth Kogbe her incredible energy was infectious – she made everyone want to get up and dance along. I nearly lost my voice cheering them all on!

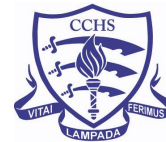
We are currently completing the final TA discussions in the lower school – there will be many joyous chats about how they are getting on. This will also give us a chance to see if anyone needs anymore support. The weeks are flying by now! I wish Year 11 the best of luck for their examinations. I know they will all do their best!

I hope everyone has a Happy Easter – which includes some well-earned rest.



# Sixth Form News

Dr Michael Palmer, Mrs Hayley Ellen and Mrs Emma Hiett



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

Since their mock examinations in January Year 13 students have been busy with work for their A levels this summer; 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 cases students have now reached 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 grateful to our Year 13 Dance Officials for all the work they put in to making this year's Dance Show such a success and also thank our Year 13 musicians who performed in this year's Spring Concert. Over the past 7 years some students have performed on more than 50 separate occasions when we count up concerts, shows, cathedral services and other events. We are grateful for their commitment and energy.

We also extend particular congratulations to Ina Kruger and Julie Tang on their excellent performance in the British Biology Olympiad. Having come in the top 16 nationally they have been selected to train further over Easter prior to possible selection to represent Britain in the International Biology Olympiad in Szeged, Hungary in July.

As a result of the fact that a number of A levels have been timetabled before half term Year 13 study leave will start much earlier than it ever has before. Combined with a late Easter this means that we only have a very few weeks left to complete final preparations for examinations.

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 9th 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 10th and the beginning of A level study leave. A group of Year 13 students have already scripted this year's Sixth Form Revue for performance on Friday 3rd May 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 13th and May 24th and we envisage the results for these examinations being available on 19th 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. We extend particular congratulations to Madeleine Boardman who recently won third prize in the essay category of the RSCU Science Challenge. She was invited (along with the other top three students in each category) for tea at the House of Lords to meet the leading scientist Lord Winston. We are also grateful to Jessica Steadman, Jessica Shaw, Shraddha Arshanapillai and Jasmine Randall who presented and helped to facilitate the recent national conference of the Association of State Girls' Schools. This prestigious event was held in the offices of Ernst and Young in Canary Wharf and was addressed by a range of fascinating speakers. Our students put a good deal of effort into this event and enjoyed it hugely.

## CyberFirst Competition



### By Victoria Dare

It was very exciting leading up to the week of the initial competition. Our team, which we called 'The A Team' was made up of the four of us - Vanessa, Amelia, Aiesha and myself (Victoria). We met first to arrange when and where we were going to complete the challenges and most importantly - team tactics. In order to reach the Grand Final of the CyberFirst girls competition, which was to be held in Edinburgh, we had to place in the top 10 schools nationally in a series of Cyber challenges. These challenges, which we had one week to complete as many as possible, were across four categories:

- ◆ Cryptography
- ◆ Cyber Security
- ◆ Logic/Coding
- ◆ Networking

Throughout the week, we had access to a live leader board where we could see our progress against the other CCHS teams. The challenges taught us how to work well as a team, how to solve technical problems as well as many cyber security skills which were ultimately needed in the final. The leader board was constantly updated, making it very competitive between us and all the other teams! When the initial competition closed, we were all overjoyed to know we were best in school but still wondered if we had scored high enough to make it to the final.

The next day, we received an email asking us to

meet with Miss Walsh. We were all considerably excited but unsure what it would be especially since Amelia reminded us "it's probably just well done - here's a chocolate bar!" However, all our hopes were met as we were told we would be attending the final in Edinburgh. Nearer the time of the competition, we were all very excited and were really looking forward to the trip. We were very surprised when BBC News wanted to interview us for Look East, where the reporter Leigh Milner came into our school and interviewed us for the news! We were all incredibly nervous and excited about being interviewed and it was very strange to see ourselves on TV that night! Our pre-competition media experiences didn't end there though, we were also featured in the Essex Chronicle. We couldn't wait for the finals!

### By Amelia Chapman

Early on the morning of Sunday 24th March four excited CCHS girls and two just as (if not more) excited teachers were on their way to Stansted Airport, ready for an adventure of a lifetime. At 11:30am, we took off and started our expedition.

Once we touched down, we took the tram to the hotel. Because we were earlier than expected, we had to wait several hours for our rooms to be ready, in that time we explored Edinburgh and tried to find where Miss Sales wanted to find lunch and a tube of toothpaste for Miss Walsh. After 3 hours of waiting and sussing out the other teams, we were able to

find our rooms. Upon entering our room, Victoria and I found a beautiful view of the castle from the window and two enormous single beds.

That evening was the icebreaker and welcome meal. The icebreaker was held in the hotel cafe and soon after we got on a coach with the rest of the teams and set off to dinner. We were honoured to find out that the dinner was to be held at Edinburgh Castle with special guest The First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon. However upon arriving and having a private tour of the castle, we were told that, due to Brexit, Nicola Sturgeon was unable to join us, therefore we had the Deputy First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney.

Before dinner was to be served, us four and the other 9 teams went outside for a photo, whilst the teachers and special guests found their seats. Upon returning to the slightly warmer interior of the castle, I was delighted to find that I would be sitting next to the Deputy Director for Cyber Skills and Growth at NCSC, Chris Ensor. Over dinner we were able to hear of the amazing experiences Chris has had whilst working in cyber security.

After a warming 3 course meal, we jumped back onto the coach for the ride back to the hotel. After this glorious welcome, we went to bed tired but excited for the day ahead.

## By Vanessa Mankin

The competition day was very intense - all 10 teams and media were all in the same room. We were told about our mission and a short briefing, but the rest was up to us to complete. As a team, we decided to split up the work between us, we each did a few stages, and Aiesha went around the room to find and complete the bonus Easter Egg questions. Our mission was that we were a cybersecurity team, working for a company called Pomboo - a social networking app. Recently customers of the app were complaining about it, and it was our task to find out what the security breach was and fix it. We answered 18 related questions which included writing emails, using our knowledge of different things, and the internet to help us. The competition lasted from around 9am to 4pm, with a lunch break in between. We were allowed

hints from the staff, and by the end we had completed all the 18 questions as well as all the bonus Easter egg questions, apart from 1. At this point we were 7th on the leader board, but we knew we were able to redeem ourselves from our presentation afterwards. With our new-found knowledge of what had happened to Pomboo, we had to come up with a pitch to the board, explaining what went wrong and how they can fix it. It went really well, and we managed to climb up to 4th place, an achievement we were really proud of. After receiving our certificate, we were pleasantly surprised when we received an invitation to Windsor Castle, to meet HRH the Duke of York for afternoon tea. We can confidently say that although we may not have won, the once-in-a-lifetime experiences made it worth it.

## By Aiesha Ahmed

On Monday 25th March after the going through the testing trials of the competition Miss Walsh and Miss Sales were kind enough to take all four of us for dinner at Wildwood (which was amazing) and then an Escape room. I found that even though the competition was over, the Escape room was still a really effective team building experience and all of us had a great time and managed to escape. Unfortunately the next day it was time for us to leave Edinburgh so we got up bright and early, had breakfast and we took off for the airport by tram. We were all extremely sad to be leaving such a wonderful place, but at the same time we were relieved to be leaving the stress and work of the competition behind us. After going through airport security and entering the aircraft we had a nice hour flight back to Stansted. This was when I realised that our whole adventure was actually over, and although I wished it was longer, I've had the best time ever going to this competition and it's definitely the most exciting school trip I've ever had and I think I can say the same for all of us. Even though we didn't win the competition, we've all taken away so many important skills and we are extremely proud just to have made it all the way to the final out of the 12,000 girls that applied!







## Trendsetter

### Dance Show 2019 by Olivia Harris

After watching this year's Dance Show, Trendsetter, not only did I realise the extreme amount of effort that goes into it, I was also inspired to get a hold of more opportunities as they are presented. Being the first Dance Show I've seen, I know for definite I'll be going to the next one. The stunning performances put on by every student involved got me thinking about the amount of opportunities we have presented to us in school.

Firstly, I would like to hand it to the Dance Officials. I can't imagine the amount of work they put into this show and how much time it took to get it to be perfect. The many lunchtime rehearsals clearly paid off as the whole show was fantastically put together. The dances were amazingly executed, and everyone put in so much heart and effort into all the performances. Each of the year dances were unique, as were the wonderful costumes. It was a delight to watch! Especially the afro beats dance which was full of energy and vibrancy. I didn't realise before watching the dance show how many people took part and I'm sure this will inspire many people to take part in the upcoming years.

I left feeling completely inspired. To get involved in more activities outside and inside school. We constantly take for granted the amount of opportunities we are presented with every day, the dance show being one of them. Whether you just want to get involved and have fun dancing or you are passionate about a certain type of dance, I recommend giving it a go. Getting involved in a dance show like this is sure to leave you feeling like you have accomplished something. From my past experience of being in shows, the camaraderie is beyond compare. Being in the dance show is something I would recommend to everyone, whether you think you're good at dancing or not.

In conclusion, I would recommend to anyone reading this to grab every opportunity with both hands. You never know, you may find a love for dancing you never knew existed. It's such an amazing way to make new friends and get involved in something new. I'd like to congratulate every single person involved; the prefects, the girls involved and everyone who helped including the Events Prefects, the teacher and the PTA. It was an incredible performance and an amazing evening altogether.



The English Group at the welcome meeting in Backnang



The whole German and English group in Heidelberg

## German Exchange

On 22nd March at 6am a full coach of 28 Year 9 and 10, five Year 12 students and 3 members of staff set off for a week long visit to Backnang, near Stuttgart, for the annual German exchange. The exchange programme has been running for almost 30 years with Gymnasium in der Taus; incredibly this was Frau Lowe's (a previous head of German) 20th visit and she has forged many friendships with staff at the school there. Some students have also made great friendships with their partners, and there has even been talk of some meeting up again; always a sign of a successful exchange visit. A big thank you to Frau Gilbert and Frau Lowe for assisting with the exchange trip. Below are some of the comments from the students we took:

*"...we were also able to visit historical sights and make chocolate! .... It has enabled me to learn more about the German culture.....I really enjoyed the exchange, it is a great experience where you can improve your German and make new friends.....I would do it all again .....I've made*

*loads of new friends and memories .....this trip has helped me to improve my spoken German ..... it was so much fun ...I got to know people I would never have otherwise known or talked to.....the families were very welcoming....it was so interesting learning about the German way of life.....food was nice.....I had lots of fun and enjoyed spending time with my exchange partner's friendly family and friends .... as well as improving my oral and listening skills it has also helped me as a person; being organised and meeting new people has challenged me....good balance of time with friends and time with the family ....I would definitely recommend!"*

The Sixth Formers spent Monday to Thursday working at a variety of businesses, including the secondary school, primary school, Kindergarten, a Museum in Stuttgart and a Doctor's Surgery.

Do follow us at @CchsGerman on Twitter to see photos from the various excursions we went on.

## German Work Experience

During the week, I worked in two separate kindergartens and I found the experience to be extremely insightful. As well as able to cement my knowledge of basic German, whilst talking with the younger children, I could learn more about the German education system and talk about cultural and political differences with the staff. I would recommend the experience to anyone who is considering studying German at A-Level because my speaking skills have improved so much and I am so much more confident in my ability to be able to hold a conversation in a foreign language.

When I went on the exchange I took part in work experience at a primary school in Backnang. I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of German that I could understand and use throughout the week. Everyone was extremely welcoming and during the week I helped the children with their German and maths work and on one day accompanied them to the cinema on a school trip. I found the entire experience extremely valuable not only to consolidate my knowledge of German but for also improving my communication skills and independence. At the weekend I spent time with my host family visiting Stuttgart and a high ropes course, both of which were a lot of

fun. I would definitely recommend this experience to anyone studying German and I thoroughly enjoyed both staying with my host family and going to work experience.

I completed work experience in a grammar school in Germany, helping in the English department with students between the ages of 11 and 17. I found this really useful to get to know the German education system, as well as meeting a lot of new people. Overall it was a very rewarding experience that gave me some knowledge of what working in Germany in the future will be like.



## Year 10 Cambridge Trip By Saskia Gotts

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March Year 10 made a trip to Cambridge University, to tour the colleges and the surrounding town.

Our trip to Cambridge, for some in our year perhaps the first of many, was an energy filled day of exploration with an atmosphere undoubtedly fueled by the conclusion of exams! Free from worries of physics papers and the like, we set off early and abuzz for a day of discovery.

Our tour officially began at Churchill's college, whereupon we were warmly welcomed by Doctor Bullimore. He introduced us to Cambridge as a whole, with regards to its work ethic, admissions process and the world-class standard of education the university provides, as well as giving a brief background of Churchill College (a dedication to Winston Churchill as a tribute to his admiration for the sciences). He went on to explore the various values and attributes of the university, making a point to mention one area in which Cambridge found itself lacking: women studying STEM subjects, these being Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Following this introduction, the students were given tours of Churchill College, one of the more modern colleges, having been founded in 1958, and for many this will be the first university campus to be looked around over the next few years. A particular highlight of the trip was the friendly interaction the students enjoyed with the tour guides at all the campuses, as a result of their openness to inquiries about the university.

After having enjoyed the Mess hall at Churchill College, we made our way to other colleges to experience a variety of the educational and social atmospheres that Cambridge had to offer. One group visited Pembroke College, founded in 1347, and were in awe of the remarkable architecture, many students pointing out how it bore a rather striking resemblance to Hogwarts!

Our excursion concluded with an exploration of



the market town opposite the revered King's College, before we journeyed back to school.

Visiting Cambridge and touring some of the colleges has certainly shone a light on the university as a potential path for many students, even for those who had previously discarded Cambridge as an option on account of its prestigious reputation. However, whether a student has been encouraged to aspire to studying at Cambridge, or is now stonily set against the university, the visit was an invaluable and educational day; therefore, the students of Year 10 are very grateful to the team of staff that organised this trip, and to Cambridge itself, for hosting over 100 touring students.





## The work of CHIPs and the Senior Charity Officials

From left to right the Senior Charity Officials are as follows; Eleanor White, Leah Callan, Naimah Qureshi, Oluwagbemisayo Akinyosoye, Prithika Jothimurgan and Swetha Vignaraja. This is the first school year in which the Charity Prefects have been independent of the House system to allow a greater focus on the charitable work of CCHS. They help Dr Graham in leading the lower school representatives at CHIPs and each Charity Official has a designated role relating to the specific charities CCHS has chosen to support.



Key initiatives for 2018/19 include the continued charity work for CHESS, the local homeless shelter, as well as Side by Side, a refugee charity and providing funding for over 5 Nepalese girls through university. We have also added two more initiatives this year which are raising awareness of female health and the work of the Surjer Hashi clinic in Bangladesh.

Swetha has been leading our work on CHESS and last Christmas we had great success in being able to provide toiletries, chocolate and some warm clothing for over 40 of the homeless in Chelmsford. As always there was great participation in the wrapping of these gifts. Before donating the presents, some of the CHIPs representatives went on a visit to the CHESS rehabilitation centre where counselling, career advice and a free bed is provided to those in need. This was an eye opening experience which provided insight into causes of homelessness and brought some context to the very real need

for charities like CHESS in Chelmsford. There was also a collection at the school production of Oliver, the proceeds of which were donated to CHESS.

Gbemi is the representative for Side by Side on the CHIPs team. As always our connection to Side by Side is an excellent opportunity for us to use our position of relative luxury to help those in desperate need, who have fled their homes only to face further hostility. We have been a presence at most parents' events raising money and awareness for Side by Side. This has been put to great use providing resources for refugees. In the past week a sanitary product collection took place and the kind donations will be sent to a number of charities for the homeless and refugees.

Last summer, Naimah spent some time volunteering at the Surjer Hashi clinic for gynaecological health in Bangladesh. She is leading the initiative to raise awareness of female health in developing countries and closer to home. As part of this Naimah was also involved in the sanitary product collection. She hopes this initiative will prompt people to think more about the inequalities facing women in the world around us, and how we can really help those in need.

Eleanor is our representative for the movement to reduce plastic waste in school, a highly topical and important issue. A group of Year 8 to 10s held a whole school assembly on this issue to engage the wider school community on this issue. In February CHIPs held a successful evening for promoting sustainability in business by reducing the use of plastic, which more than 100 students and parents attended. Influential speakers included Sian Sutherland, Dhruv Borah and Ian Bates. We hope to continue raising this issue and awareness of it in school and the wider community.

Prithika and Leah have been given the opportunity to manage and organise the fundraising for a number of Nepalese girls from Kathmandu who are studying a range of different courses at university. Our fundraising provides enough money for these girls to



complete a full year at university, a scheme which has been running for a number of years with great success. Over the past three years, we have raised nearly £8,000. They believe, as we all do, that our position of privilege places us in the unique position to be able to help other young women, much like ourselves. Our proceeds from the recent non uniform day will go towards this initiative, in which we raised an impressive £873, with particular success from the Sixth Form.

Through charity we can come together as individuals to make a meaningful and necessary change to our world. At CCHS we are doing charitable work on a local, national and international scale. Each can have a profound impact on the communities it targets, the significance of which should never be

underestimated. Through charitable work we create bonds with individuals all over the world with lives as vivid and hopeful as our own, through the provision of resources and the recognition of their struggle. The work of CHIPs links each of us to the homeless of Chelmsford, refugees expelled from the Calais jungle and female Nepalese medical students. This year at CHIPs our aim is to help care for those less fortunate than ourselves through our charity work. The work of CHIPs touches those in the wider school community, bringing us all together and in the name of many great causes. We hope our year is the most successful yet for these projects, and that all of our aims are fulfilled!

Thank you for your continued support.

## CultureFest Day – 3rd April 2019 by Ashitha Abdul

Honouring our school's diversity, we organised a CultureFest day, where food from around the world was served, including cultural performances by students.

World Culture Day was created in order to celebrate everyone's differences by embracing different races, religion, genders, sexualities and many more. It was designed to promote peace and equality in a world where war and violence is still an issue. This day is still relevant in many ways despite society having progressed so far.

For two years now, our school has indulged in spending two afternoons during school days outside in the field fundraising for a different charity each time. These were proven to be both successful and fun for the students of the school to take part in, as we all coordinated our clothes to match the chosen colour for the afternoon, and explored all of the different stalls present. Live performances from teachers and students allowed us to cheer our friends on, and appreciate the various talents within our schools, whilst also letting us

take a breather from the challenges that school life comes with. Our regular non-uniform days provide opportunities again for us to show our support for charities and raise money for them, as well as bake sales, and of course our school's own Interact Club. As a school we take pride in our participation in various activities and events that benefit charities, and in turn the people who are helped by those charities; with Interact Club we aim to continue this tradition with our Culture Fest event, to raise money for the charity Side by Side and for the Surjer Hashi Clinic in Bangladesh.

Diversity at CCHS is one of the most fundamental aspects of our school that we treasure and are proud about. We don't turn down a student due to a certain type of background because education is for everyone. Diversity encourages a more intellectual outlook, it enables us to empathise and sympathise with others, and to adapt our thinking by looking at other viewpoints. In working in harmony with others, we are able to exceed further in our understanding of sciences, business and analytical arguments.

## Music

Mr Chris Lamberti

This has been another exciting and busy term for the music department. There have been two events that have involved hundreds of students from across the school.

In the final few days of January we put on the musical production of Oliver. The students begun preparations for this way back in July. As we returned from school after the Christmas holidays the cast and crew focussed on the final rehearsals. The band of 21 students performed superbly through every performance. The score was the original work of Lionel Bart and was very challenging throughout. Needless to say our students had put in the significant time to rehearse to ensure the cast could feel confident in singing their songs. It was an absolute pleasure to conduct such an impressive and talented ensemble.

Throughout the term our regular 17 extra curricular ensembles rehearsed in preparation for the Spring Concert. The 2 evenings were simply superb with each and every piece performed to a high standard. As ever the audience were treated to a wide variety of music from Vivaldi to Bizet and Disney to Michael Buble! The concert involved approximately 200 students!

Through all this, three of our ensembles entered this year's Music for Youth competition (Gospel Choir, Cantatrice and Symphony Orchestra). We await to hear whether they have made it through to the next round.

The GCSE music students have put the finishing touches to their coursework which is now all finished and leaves them to focus on this summer's listening and appraising examination. The standard of the performances has again been exceptional this year.



## Learning Resource Centre

Mrs Angela Martin & Mrs Alexia Treadway,  
Librarians

The Spring term is always a very busy time in the library as World Book Day is celebrated in the UK on the first Thursday of March with lots of activities planned around the country. For the last 9 years an author has been invited to speak to the Year 7 students and this year we were privileged to welcome Holly Smale to our school. Holly's 'Geek Girl' series has sold more than 3 million copies across the world showing how Holly is enjoyed by many teenagers in lots of other countries.

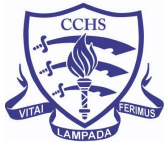
In our county there is also the culmination of the Essex Book awards with the winner being announced in the middle of March. The authors of the six shortlisted titles are invited to talk about their books at a ceremony, which this year took place at Brentwood County High School with 13 CCHS students in attendance. The speeches made us all laugh and the winner of the award was 'Extinction Trials' by S. J. Wilson. Our students agreed with this decision and were also pleased to receive a certificate for their book trailer with Sophie Lee winning a £10 book token for her review of one of the books. In all, it was a successful and enjoyable morning.

If you would like to read more about the events happening in the library or the regular clubs we run then do look at the Spring edition of the Library News or read the updated information on the CCHS website [HERE](#).

*"Reading is to the mind what  
exercise is to the body"*  
**Joseph Addison**







# Sports News

MISS Sarah Bellamy, Miss Georgie Sales and Mr Paul May

## Cross Country – Miss Sales

Back on a dark and cold day in February, Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster, hosted the annual Year 7 and 8 Essex Schools' Cross-Country Championships. Competing against all schools' in Essex, at a very tough course, four girls from Year 7 and 8, ran through the mud, puddles and up the hills! From experience of running at this course myself when I was their age, I knew the course was tough, however, the girls got to grips with the course once we walked round the 'big lap', and even decided the course was quite scenic! If you finished within the top 16 places, you were automatically selected to represent Essex at the Southern Regional finals in March.

The Year 7 competition saw over 200 competitors on the start line, and the same number finished the muddy and wet course. This was a new experience for all of our girls and they did superbly well. Alexa Mann was the first home in 98<sup>th</sup>, closely followed by Chloe Staines in 100<sup>th</sup>, and the team was completed by Rosie James and Katelyn Horngold in 163<sup>rd</sup> and 164<sup>th</sup> place. The CCHS team finished in a respectable 35<sup>th</sup> place over all.

In the Year 8 competition, again, more than 200 runners competed, running up the hills and round the lakes. First home was Alice Bower, who finished in a fantastic 11<sup>th</sup> place and gaining her first Essex vest! The rest of the team were made up by: Libby Healy in 39<sup>th</sup> place, Matilda Fry in 93<sup>rd</sup> and Emily Brooks in 102<sup>nd</sup>. The team finished in a brilliant 10<sup>th</sup> place over all, making them the 10<sup>th</sup> best in the whole of Essex.

I am so proud of the girls, and even though some nerves were shown on the start line, they didn't let that phase them and they truly did themselves proud too. We wish Alice good luck for her Regional competition in March!

## Hockey – Miss Burnham

This hockey season has been a positive one for all teams, especially the U'16 team. The pupils have put in a tremendous amount of effort, making sure they are continuously training in their teams, in order to create team cohesion

and a positive morale. The Year 7's played a number of friendly matches against various schools with a large number of pupils attending training and fixtures each week. The progression that the pupils have made since the start of the year is phenomenal, especially considering some of the Year 7's had never played hockey before! The U'14 team have had to play some tough teams in their Essex schools cup but have remained positive with a great last fixture of the season which took place this week. The U'16 team made outstanding progress in the Essex cup this season only just missing out on going to the finals. I have every confidence that they can make it all the way to the final next year especially as the majority of the team are year 10.

Well done to all of the pupils who have attended training and played this season. It is important that the commitment for training as well as fixtures is maintained for next season in order to continue to flourish individually and as a team. It is great to see so much interest from the pupils in hockey and the excitement of it being back at CCHS. Can't wait for next season already!

## Badminton – Mr May

On Friday the school's Junior & Senior Badminton teams took part in the East of England Regional Badminton Finals at the Cambridge University Sports Centre. The Senior team, as expected, were comfortable winners of the competition winning their 3 matches, they now qualify for the National Schools Badminton Finals on 4th May at the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes for the FIFTH YEAR running, a remarkable achievement!

The Junior team did extremely well to reach the Regional Finals having unexpectedly won the County Championships in January. They started well with a 4-1 win in their first match but lost 1-4 – it was a very close and tense match which was eventually decided by just ONE point in the final game which we unfortunately lost 20-21! The team therefore won Bronze medals for coming 3<sup>rd</sup> a very creditable result for a relatively inexperienced team, 3 of whom had never played at this level before! Congratulations to all of them!

# Sports News

By Students



## Hockey

by Isabelle Keegan year 10

After a three-year break, hockey has returned to CCHS, led by our new PE teacher, Miss Burnham. All of the teams have trained hard at least once a week, showing the girls' determination to improve their skills in hockey, but also be team players.

The U16 team has had a successful run this season, only losing one match out of the seven we participated in. Our first match was for the Essex Cup, against Appleton School. The team tried exceptionally hard, wanting to do well for each other, managing to walk away with a 5-0 win under our belts as our debut as a new team. We then continued to win both matches against the other teams in our division; narrowly

beating Brentwood School 1-0, and Fitzwimarc 4-1, meaning that we progressed to the County Semi-Finals. The girls played well and continuously tried to gain back the goal difference, but unfortunately Bancroft managed to steal a 3-0 win. However, it was a good experience and the team should be proud of what they have achieved this season. Going into the next season, we will return stronger and fight again for a place in next year's final.

On behalf of all of the hockey players at CCHS, I would like to thank Miss Burnham for her continued support and determination for us to do well, as well as Mr May for umpiring most of the matches. Furthermore, I would like to thank Miss Sales and Miss Bellamy for their help behind the scenes.



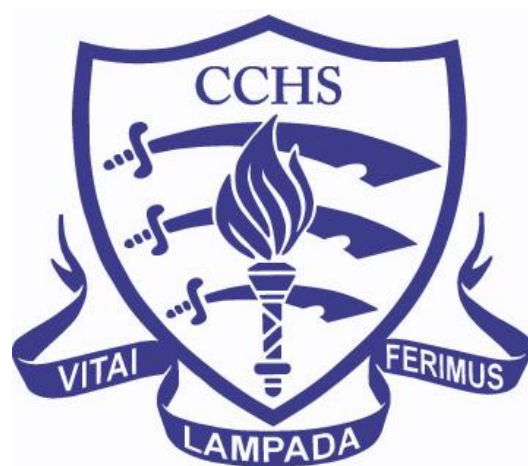
## Badminton

By Surabhi Srivastava Year 9

Last Friday, the under-14 badminton team represented Essex at the National Schools Badminton regionals held at Cambridge. Rithika and Surabhi played singles and doubles and Ahana, Javee and Mia played doubles. Previously, in the District round, we had to play our own B team as there were no other schools (in the same age category) present! The County round was quite challenging, as it was our first tournament against another school and there was a very competitive atmosphere. We won against every school and also learnt how to play more confidently as a team. The Regional round was, by far, the most competitive tournament we played as a team. We all played well and supported each other throughout the event, leaving the competition with bronze medals and missing silver by just one point! Although we

will not be going to Nationals, it was an unforgettable experience for all of us as we were nervous yet eager to do our best for ourselves and for the school. We were really pleased with the result and the opportunity to play and we will try even harder next year to hopefully get a chance to play at Nationals.





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