

# COMMUNITAS

Autumn Term 2019



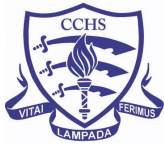
Christmas Card design by Angela Shi, Year 9

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## Message from the Headteacher

*Dear Parents,*

It is my pleasure to introduce our School Newsletter: *Communitas*. The staff and students who present material here provide insight into the care, vitality and ambition that distinguish the CCHS community.

This is a very special place to me, both professionally and personally. Having served as Deputy Headteacher since 2011 and then being appointed as Headteacher from September, with our campus development and growing school, we are entering a major new phase in the evolution of our community. Moreover, my youngest sister studied her A levels at CCHS and my youngest daughter is currently in Year 10, so I can bear witness to the extraordinary impact of growing and learning as a member of this community.

There is something quite special about the Autumn Term. Staff and students return from the summer break refreshed and ready to start anew, and we were delighted when Ms Katharina Angerer joined us in November as Subject Leader for German. It is a testament to the nature of our community that we are always focused on learning in its broadest sense, with staff and students working together to challenge, support and develop. It has been wonderful to see students settling into their new year groups across the term.

Year 7 students found their bearings very quickly and it was a delight to see their parents at the Welcome Evening in early September. The blend of enthusiasm and energy that characterise Year 7 students brings such a freshness to the Autumn Term.

Having had the experience of studying Philosophy last year, students in Year 8 are now enjoying their Latin studies. The Year 8 Meet the Tutor Evening in September provided another opportunity to shine a light on this year group.

Year 9 students have started the final phase of their Key Stage 3 curriculum this year, as they prepare to make their GCSE course choices in

the Spring Term. We provide lots of guidance and support to students, and parents, across several weeks before choices are submitted.

Having made their option choices last year, students in Year 10 have now embarked on their GCSE studies. This process of personalising their programmes of study will, of course, develop as they move through to the Sixth Form. As ever, it was lovely to welcome parents to the Year 10 Meet the Tutor Evening in October. Year 10 students now embark on another new chapter as they prepare to step up to become Prefects.

Year 11 students have worked hard and, building on their Year 10 school examinations in March, have now completed their mocks. As ever, students in Year 11 impress their teachers with their dedication and hard work. Our Sixth Form Open Evening in October provided students and parents with an insight into the qualities and strengths of our Key Stage 5 provision, as students give thought to their A level course choices. It was fantastic to see so many students from other schools who are interested in joining the CCHS Sixth Form.

Students in Year 12 are enjoying the reality of studying the A level courses that interest and excite them. It has been so good to welcome students new to the School into Year 12 – they have settled in well and we are thrilled that they chose to join us. Year 12 students are preparing to take on their Prefect roles, which will be a culmination of leadership opportunities that have been provided to them.

Our Year 13 students have been finalising and submitting their university applications. With great support from the Sixth Form team and teachers from across all Faculties, students are taking control of their future studies and preparing to realise their scholarly ambitions.

If you visit the School website you will find a promotional film, which was produced by Mr Steele, who, until recently, taught English at CCHS. Mr Steele began his teaching career with

# Message from the Headteacher



us, having first started his professional life as a film-maker and documentarian. He has decided to return to this now, but he will be working with us across this year to make an ambitious film about CCHS. We will be making a documentary to mark, celebrate and showcase our expertise in educating and empowering able girls since 1907. We work in the shadow and spirit of Mary Wollstonecraft, Millicent Fawcett, Emmeline Pankhurst, the CCHS alumnae, et al. and we wish to capture on film what is special about the School and why what we do is so important. A group of students from across all year groups will support Mr Steele this year to make this film, the working title for which is:

***Building a future for our girls –  
my School, your School, our  
School!***

The letter I sent out to parents at the start of term detailed how we intend to build on our many successes to ensure that CCHS offers the

very best opportunities to our students. We are committed to excellence in girls' education and empowerment and our expertise allows us to serve the needs and ambitions of our students from Years 7 to 13. The work and commitment of our alumnae demonstrates that the CCHS ethos stays with our students long after they leave us. Indeed, do they ever really leave us? The reality is that our School community is bonded by a respect for an institution that has been shaping and transforming lives, students and staff, since 1907. With our 'building a future for our girls' appeal, linked to our campus development and growing school, we are making sure that this remarkable community continues to thrive and innovate.

I wish you Season's Greetings and a very Happy New Year!

*Stephen Lawlor*  
Headteacher



**Christmas Concert Programme**  
designed by Bethany da Costa, Year 9

**Carol Service**  
designed by Aliza Khan, Year 9

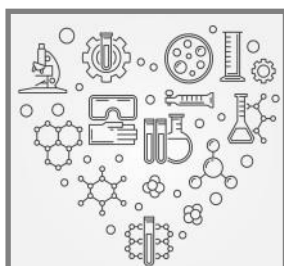




## Mr Nicholas Minnican

In memory of our friend and colleague, Nick Minnican, we held a dedication Service in November. Mr Minnican served CCHS as Assistant Headteacher and teacher of Chemistry from 2017-2019.

With Mr Minnican's wife, his parents, members of the School community, including Mrs Chapman, who appointed Mr Minnican, and Dr Worboys, one of our senior Governors, and students who were taught by Mr Minnican, we planted a tree near the Music Centre. Mr Minnican was a gifted musician and this will allow us to remember and celebrate him.





## *Making it Stick: The Science of Smarter Learning*

***Learning has been defined in cognitive psychology as an alteration in long-term memory: 'If nothing has altered in long-term memory, nothing has been learned.'***

*Kirschner, Sweller & Clark*

Curriculum has certainly been the buzz word of the term, and schools up and down the country have been auditing and refining their curriculum design in light of Ofsted's Quality of Education measure. This aspect of Ofsted's new framework, involves evaluating the extent to which school's deliver on the '3 Is':

- ◆ Intent – the substance of what is taught. This is the framework for setting out the aims of a programme of education, including the knowledge and skills to be gained at each stage. It is distinct from pedagogy, which is how the curriculum is taught.
- ◆ Implementation – the translation of that framework over time into a structure and narrative, within an institutional context. This, in turn, is distinct from assessment, which is a means of setting out the desired outcomes.
- ◆ Impact – the evaluation of what knowledge and understanding students have gained against expectations.

The curriculum we offer at Chelmsford County

High School for Girls, shapes and determines what students will get out of their educational experience. At Chelmsford County High School for Girls, expectations are high, and so it follows that gains in knowledge and understanding must be too.

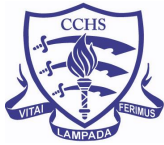
Anything that can further enhance incremental gains, 'the aggregation of marginal gains' as Sir Dave Brailsford, who instigated the revolution in attitude in British cycling, put it, is to be applauded, and, carefully considered and tested, implemented wherever feasible.

And it is in this light, I, for one, welcome the fact that the new inspection framework is the most evidence-based, research-informed, and tested framework in Ofsted's 26-year history.

Much of this research has come from the field of Cognitive Psychology, in particular work on memory retention and recall. Cognitive Load Theory, which is the capacity of the short-term memory to process information, is one such aspect of Ofsted's research.

It is unhelpful to think of students' minds as 'empty vessels' waiting to be filled with isolated, disconnected pieces of information. People learn new knowledge when new concepts are connected in their minds with what they have already learned. New knowledge and skills do not exist in isolation, but rather build on what our students already know and can already do. The order in which knowledge and skills are





# Curriculum News

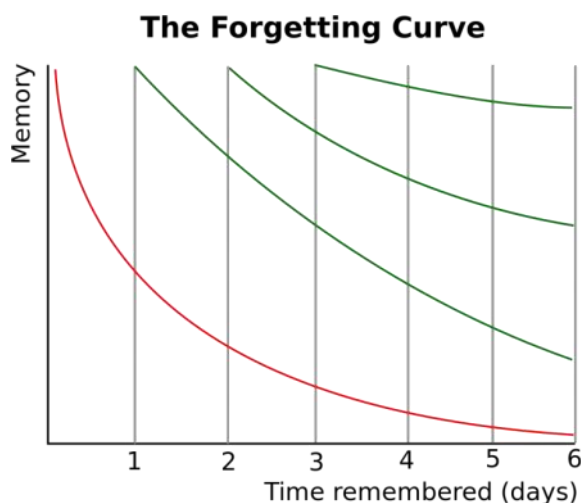
Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher

taught is therefore imperative. Since knowledge exists in rich schemata, our curriculum ensures that students are taught concepts and skills in a sequence that enables them to make useful connections that are not misapprehensions.

Where students lack prior knowledge, they may find it difficult to learn new knowledge or skills, because their short-term, working memory is likely to become temporarily overloaded. If they are able to draw on their long-term memory and attend to a small number of new features, they are more likely to have the capacity to learn and make progress.

Learning has been defined in cognitive psychology as an alteration in long-term memory: 'If nothing has altered in long-term memory, nothing has been learned.'

This could be down to Hermann Ebbinghaus' theory of the "forgetting curve". This is the hypothesis that if we do not revisit learned information, then, over time, the likelihood of us remembering that information will be drastically reduced.



It's not hard to see the connection to teaching here. I have personally lost count of all the times that I have taught a unit in September, only to find that students cannot remember key information later on – no matter how well it was initially taught.

This problem with memory is undoubtedly something that we are more aware of when

planning curricula, especially as the current GCSE model requires students to retain information over a two-year period.

Progress, therefore, means knowing more and remembering more. When new knowledge and existing knowledge connect in students' minds, this gives rise to understanding. As students develop fluency in this competence, this will allow them to develop skills, i.e. the capacity to perform complex operations, drawing on what is already known.

At CCHS, we have developed a knowledge-rich curriculum, designed to develop memory and a student's ability to recall information. As previously mentioned, individual facts are of little use in isolation, however, if you acquire more factual knowledge, you are able to build a mosaic of information that is a prerequisite for deep understanding. In essence, the more you know, the more you are able to learn and understand.

One method that can be used to improve the chances of committing learning to long-term memory is "interleaving". This replaces the traditional method of block learning, where students cover one topic at a time. Instead, an interleaved curriculum works on the basis that different topics are woven together, switched between, and revisited at intervals throughout the year. Progress may seem slower initially, but long-term retention of information is improved by regular recall.

**To this end, students and teachers at CCHS are trialling 1 day, 1 week, 1 month, 1 year, a 'spaced learning' initiative to implement and evaluate these findings, to see if...**

**Knowledge, like Velcro, sticks best to other related knowledge.**



## Achievement Awards

CCHS students continue to demonstrate their care and interest in charitable and community work. The Jack Petchey Foundation provides a nationally recognised scheme for such altruism to be celebrated. As a Gold Award School, we are able to recognise the work of nine students, and one member of staff, across an academic year, in relation to school, local, national, and international community work. Award winners for the Autumn Term are noted below – congratulations and thank you to them all.

**Isabella Dobre**, was our September award winner. She achieved her Jack Petchey Foundation Award, following a lovely nomination concerning her work with the Eco-Committee. Isabella regularly attends meetings to voice new ideas and initiatives in an effort to raise awareness of our impact upon the environment. Fellow students were keen to nominate Isabella and were delighted that she received the Award. Isabella has chosen to pledge the Jack Petchey financial donation towards material for our new vegetable beds that are planned for the quad.

**Aditi Kuzhupilly**, was our October award winner. She achieved her Jack Petchey Foundation Award, following a wonderful nomination concerning her significant work supporting the Year 7 & 8 cricket team. Her peers and members of staff have rightly recognised that, despite being extremely busy with her GCSEs, Aditi has demonstrated dedication and commitment to coaching and supporting the younger years. She has been tireless in her efforts to ensure that she takes time out to be a great role-model and leader and plans to use the money donated by Jack Petchey towards cricket equipment.

**Shainna Thayaharan**, was our November award winner. She achieved her Jack Petchey Foundation Award, following her involvement with our primary outreach work and by being an enthusiastic member of CHIPS, the school's organisation specifically focussed on raising money for charity. Shainna was nominated by her peers for not only raising money, but for raising awareness of the plight and support needed by our local charities. Shainna has pledged the donated money for seeds and tools for our new vegetable beds.



## Year 11 Leadership Conference (sponsored by Birkett Long)

Huge congratulations to Year 11, Mrs Chumbley for her leadership and organisation of the event, the Year 11 tutors- Mr Lamberti, Mrs Saw, Mr Bradford, Mrs Buckley, Mrs Gulliver and Mr Lodge and all of the staff who supported the excellent Leadership Conference held in School on Friday 25th October.

155 Year 11 students spent the day exploring leadership and in particular understanding what that means for highly able young women. The keynote speakers were:

- ◆ **Caroline Rose BEng MSc CEng FIMechE** Group Leader Hydromechanics and Hyperbarics, Engineering and Operations.
- ◆ **Ayla Göksel**, CEO, CCME Director of the Mother Child Education Foundation (ACEV) and Hüsnü Özyeğin Foundation.
- ◆ **Tracy Dorée** Chairman at Farewill, Venture Partner at Entrepreneur First
- ◆ **Dr Heather Melville, OBE, CCMI, JP** Director and Head of Client Experience of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

To give you an idea of some of the details of the day and what your daughter has to look forward to in Year 11, we have included some of the workshop details below.

Adult led workshops included: **Pathways to Social Change** led by Ayla Göksel / **People Like Me** led by Caroline Rose/**People we Admire** led by Tracy Dorée / **Apprenticeships**

**in medical & military RF Power and an insight into Space Imaging.** E2V.

Student devised and led workshops included: **Murder Mystery:** Put your detective skills to the test as you crack a criminal case and uncover a murderer amongst us. **Rangoli:** Relax, eat Indian food and make some traditional designs! **Psychology of languages and linguistics:** Do the languages we speak affect how we see the world? How did we discover and decode ancient languages? Join us linguistic nerds to discuss this and more! **Escape Room:** Work as a team to solve puzzles and escape the room before time runs out. **Into the Spotlight:** Have fun developing confidence to a range of songs from your favourite musicals including Hamilton, Hairspray and Six, plus many more! **Self-Care:** Skin care, mental health, meditation, healthy eating. **Yoga** Discover yourself with the art of yoga! **Personality Tests:** Discover more about your inner self! **Cheerleading:** Come along to have fun and learn a new skill! **Trashion:** Create the latest fashion styles out of trash!

Congratulations to all of Year 11 who provided live music, superb workshops, formidable public speaking and excellent catering and hospitality. Thank you also to all of the parents who helped on the day and in particular mums and dads who provided food from around the world, Jollof rice, Biryani and handmade burgers, were just a few of the wonderful delights to feed the delegates during the course of the day.

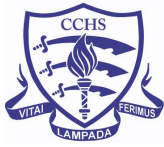


# Pastoral News

.....Mrs. Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral.....







# Pastoral News

Mrs Maria French, Deputy Head, Pastoral

## FIND YOUR VOICE!

Girls continue to develop their confidence in public speaking, including speaking out in class. In form time girls are encouraged to present small assemblies to their form on a topic of their choice, discuss items in the news and take an active leadership role.

## LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Please encourage your daughter to complete the leadership pages of her log book in advance of the end of the spring term. These awards are presented annually at the Easter Assembly. All of her leadership experiences should be listed here and nothing is too small.

## MEET THE TUTOR EVENINGS

It was lovely to meet so many parents at this term's New Parents Welcome Meeting for Year 7 and Meet the Tutor Evenings for Years 8 and 10. We trust that the opportunity to hear important presentations relevant to your daughter's year group and time set aside to meet the tutor and fellow parents was a useful experience. Congratulations to all of the form captains who spoke so eloquently too, as well as their wonderful Tutors and Year Leaders.

## REMINDERS

School Uniform Shop open Wednesday 8:15 - 9:10am and Monday 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. Whilst it may seem unnecessary, we still find that there are girls who persist in taking risks with their own safety and that of others. We are on a busy main road and girls need to remember that they should only attempt to cross the surrounding roads at a marked pedestrian crossing and whilst wholly abiding by the signals. We are grateful for your support in this matter to keep all of our girls safe. Often younger girls will follow the older ones and so there is a communal duty and expectation that we all stick to the rules.

## COUNSELLING

We have managed to extend our counselling provision to 3 days a week (Tuesday, Weds, Thurs by appointment and referral) and the girls are also supported by our School Nurse. (Wednesday drop-in check) and some appointments available) If you feel that your daughter needs such support then do not hesitate to get in contact with any member of the pastoral team. The team are pictured below:

## 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 [www.essex.gov.uk/educationawards](http://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 Nina Lewis, Year Leader

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their school life at CCHS and as their new Year Leader I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them. They have continuously surprised me over the past term by demonstrating outstanding levels of teamwork, inquisitiveness and tenacity, which has made my job an extremely rewarding one. Our new students have adapted very well to their new school environment and its demands, such as mastering the logistical challenges of finding and using a locker, reading a timetable and navigating their way between lessons.

Our first enrichment day in October was spent at Danbury Outdoors. The weather poured with rain but that did not stop our Year 7s! They embraced every raindrop and we witnessed girls facing their fears, from swinging across the tree tops, lighting campfires and toasting marshmallows, to navigating a very muddy obstacle course and harnessing their inner Katniss Everdeen in archery. A particularly memorable moment was when we witnessed 20 students squeezed together on top of a wooden platform, singing lean on me as they one by one shuffled across a muddy, wet tree log - this truly summed up the ethos of the day.

Over the past term, various house events such as house obstacle and house winter games have

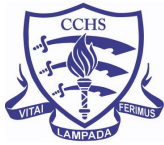
taken place, which saw many girls pulling together to support one another in various sporting activities. The Year 7s have also exposed their musical talents and were given the opportunity to stand on the big stage in the hall and perform their house karaoke song, they did not disappoint. Each tutor group had to work together to choreograph and learn a group performance, they were all fantastic. 7H were crowned the winners with a vibrant and 90s inspired performance as the Spice Girls.

7C, 7F and 7G have delivered their Friday morning assemblies. I was particularly impressed to see so many students speaking confidently in front of the whole Year 7 and Year 8 cohort, with some students managing to present without notes. Assemblies are a great way for our musicians to perform and gain experience too, Elana Cuthbert, Holly Bowen-Long, Olivia Bentinck and Aine Lawson all performed beautifully.

## Year 8

### Miss Fiona Harrison, Year Leader

This has been a busy term for Year 8 and I am sure they will be glad of the up-and-coming holidays. Tutor groups remain the daily starting point, a time for the tutors to connect with the girls and give them a positive start to the day. They continue to get involved with Wind down Wednesdays – where they look at



## Pastoral News

how to be mindful and 'take 5' on a busy day.

October saw the annual Year 8 Enrichment Day 1 - Roman Day. They had lots of fun hearing from Roman soldiers and making their very own mosaic tiles.

They are currently involved in Enrichment Day 2 - they are making their very own Christmas track and also designing all of the merchandise to promote it. It's always a really fun and creative day. Furthermore, Year 8 have been working hard on their Internationalism projects this term. They have been researching countries and planning their performances - which I will look forward to seeing in the new year.

We are all looking forward to the many exciting activities that the end of term brings. We have already enjoyed the Christmas Concert and House Decorated Classrooms; however, we are very much looking forward to the Carol Service which will be 'at home' this year and the traditional Languages assembly on the final day. I wish you all a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

### Year 9

#### Miss Georgie Sales, Year Leader

Year 9 made an excellent start to the year and made a smooth transition from Year 8. The students are still creating new friendships beyond their form classes and cementing friendships to last for many years to come. All lessons, across all subjects are now in different sets, and no more lessons happen in form groups, which is something I know the students enjoy, as they like to branch out and gain a new level of confidence, outside the form group. It has been a very exciting term, and Year 9 have certainly thrown themselves in to every aspect of the school.

We have enjoyed many House events so far this term, with many more to come. A favourite amongst the year group is House Decorated classrooms, which will take place just before the Christmas holidays. A competitive House event is House Karaoke, which saw 9G take the win for the second year running! House Winter Games took place last week, with 9S winning

their first ever House event! Well done!

On Enrichment day 1, the year group ventured to Ypres, where we got to learn and appreciate stories from WW1, visit various museums and spend some time down in the trenches. Year 9 on a whole were fantastic on this trip and showed impeccable behaviour throughout, showing maturity beyond their years. I was an extremely proud Year Leader!



April Lwin, 9G, dressed in full army

We have seen a change in the tutor team this year, and the students have welcomed their new form tutors with open arms. We have various different activities going on in form time; debating on a Wednesday and form 'takeovers' on a Tuesday/Thursday, where the girls will take over and host their own form time.

In Internationalism, the year group have been exploring their family history and have created family tree's and then delivering their trees to the rest of the year group. It has certainly been an interesting project and something I know the girls have thoroughly enjoyed doing. A big thank you to parents, grandparents and great grandparents who have taken part and been involved!



In the new year, Year 9 will start to select their options for GCSE, where they will be able to be more selective in their studies. All in all, it has been a fantastic term and I have every faith that Year 9 will carry their enthusiasm from this term, in to the New Year. I wish you all a well-deserved Christmas break.

## Year 10

### Mrs Rhiannon Connolly, Year Leader

Every term here at CCHS seems to be crammed full of opportunities and this term has been no different. Year 10 have now begun their GCSE courses, and are enjoying studying the subjects they have selected. We have had Meet the Tutor evening and it was lovely to see so many of you there. House activities have included karaoke, football and winter games. We are all looking forward to decorated classroom in the last week of term.

Enrichment day 1 saw all pupils participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. I was lucky enough to see 30 speeches with topics ranging from allergies, mental health, religion, and also socks with sandals! I was once again reminded of the confident young adults that this cohort are fast becoming. We are currently looking forward to the second Enrichment trip, which will be to the Tate Britain in December.

Twenty Year 10 students were lucky enough to attend the Year 11 Leadership Conference in October, in preparation to take ideas forward into their own Conference next year. This is an annual event and gives the girls a chance to experience talks by keynote speakers, create and undertake workshops planned by their peers. We are very much looking forward to taking on this event next year and I know some of the girls have started to come up with some of their own ideas!

Well done on all your hard work this term, Year 10, and I hope you all enjoy a restful Christmas holiday.

## Year 11

### Mrs Marion Chumbley Year Leader

It has been a very busy term for Year 11, with the Leadership Conference, revising for their

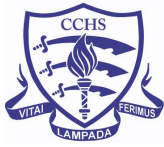
mock exams, studying for their GCSE's, house events, societies at lunch time – and the list goes on! The main focus before half term was on the 25th October; the annual Year 11 Leadership Conference. A day that was hotly anticipated, where the planning all started back in May! The creative team worked tirelessly on colour schemes, flowers and logos, while the workshop team were busy creating and organising their very own workshop to deliver to their peers. On the day it saw the hospitality team welcome everyone, handing out packs and looking after our guests. It was a first to have a hot lunch with dishes from around the world being served by our very own catering team. Lastly, we were fortunate to be entertained throughout the day by live music organised by the entertainment group. There was an amazing line up of guest speakers including the inspirational Dr Heather Melville OBE, all of whom delivered the most fascinating speeches. Year 11 then had the wonderful opportunity to ask questions to the panel and then network during the break. The pupils didn't disappoint with their questions and networking skills, some even got hold of some very important email addresses for the future. The pupils then attended two insightful workshops, led by our guest speakers on various topics.

The afternoon was led completely by the year 11, with workshops such as: Rangoli, escape room, self care, murder mystery and cheerleading.

The whole day was very exciting; Year 11 were grinning from ear-to-ear all day. A lovely way to round off half term. The pupils went above and beyond and I am so proud of them. Good luck to Year 10 next year!

Closely after the half term break saw Year 11's GCSE mock examinations. A busy ten days full of exams and orals; the pupils conducted themselves brilliantly, from start to finish, and they have been congratulated for their efforts. Time to relax now with some exciting house events coming up before Christmas including karaoke and house decorated classrooms. I wish Year 11 a restful and well-deserved Christmas break.





# Sixth Form News

Dr Michael Palmer, Mrs Hayley Ellen and Mrs Emma Hiett

## Year 13

### Year 13 University Interviews and applications

We extend our congratulations to all those Year 13 students who have been asked for university interviews and to all those who have already received conditional offers from many of the universities to which they have applied. We are very fortunate to be able to draw on a team of specialist interviewers to ensure that all who wished to were able to have practice interviews organised by Mr Wolahan in October. We had further interviews in school to support those who are applying to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge to ensure they are well prepared. For future reference we would be particularly grateful to hear from parents who are practising Vets or Dentists or who have recently retired colleagues in these professions. Our interviewers always find the process of interviewing our students to be very rewarding and we know that it makes a huge difference to the confidence of the students when they are invited to 'the real thing'.

The students are very grateful for the extra interview practice that this gives them and for the detailed feedback which allows them to reflect on the interview process. We would like to thank all the interviewers who gave their time and shared their expertise. Mrs Carroll for organising the interviews. We hope for the very best of outcomes for all our students who have been or will be interviewed.

At the time of writing we have almost completed the annual round of UCAS applications; we are grateful to Mrs Hopkins for her thoughtful guidance of so many Year 13 students and for the calm and efficient way in which she and the Year 13 tutors have managed this lengthy process.

### Year 13 Examinations

Parents will be aware that we have scheduled Year 13 mock examinations in the first week of next term. We have arranged these so as to

ensure that all these examinations are completed in one week and thus disruption to teaching is minimised. Subject teachers have been asked to inform students of the general areas which these examinations will test; the hope is that this will enable students to target their preparation to specific parts of the syllabus.

## Year 12

We have been very impressed with the way in which our new Year 12 students have approached their work over the past term and they have made the very best of a range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities. The Model United Nations Conference in November was extremely successful, and particular congratulations are due to Lauren Bailey for her energy and success in her role as the Chinese Ambassador. Lauren showed both energy and knowledge in defending 'her' government's actions in Hong Kong and its treatment of its Muslim minorities. All students were able to use the conference to develop their knowledge of the complexities of international politics and Dr Graham was particularly pleased with the work of those on the specialist UN committees.

Other activities are also proving to be successful: Our Young Enterprise team is developing its financial basis and final product and recently won an award at the Essex Winter Trade Fair. The Engineering Education Scheme team is also making good progress.

### Year 12 - Essay Competitions

CCHS has an excellent record of success over the years in the various essay competitions which are run by universities for Year 12 students. These competitions provide an excellent opportunity for students to show how they can think and research beyond the confines of the curriculum and are an excellent way for them to prepare themselves for university study. All Year 12 students have been provided with a list of competitions and we encourage them to consider very seriously writing one of these essays.

# Sixth Form News

Dr Michael Palmer, Mrs Hayley Ellen and Mrs Emma Hiett



## Year 12 - Prefect Appointments

Congratulations to those Year 12 students who have already been appointed to leadership positions as Senior Prefects, House Officials, Sports Officials and Dance Officials. We are sure that they will enjoy their year in office and learn a very great deal from their work. At the time of writing staff are considering applications for Subject Prefect roles and these will be announced early next term. We also thank the Year 13 Prefects for their work over the past year; this will be formally recognised in the Prefect Handover Assembly in the second week of next term.

## Year 12 - Permission to go offsite

Year 12 students are now coming to the end of their first term in the Sixth Form and have made a good transition to life in the Sixth Form. As a result, from January, they will be allowed to leave the school site after 12.35p.m., if they have no further commitments in school in order to travel home and study for a longer period of time, uninterrupted by travel. Students should not organise a regular commitment outside school during this time as there may be commitments which arise in school which do not feature on a student's regular timetable. These are the arrangements already in place for Year 13 students and are a Sixth Form privilege which may be reviewed if a student's progress or organisation give cause for concern. Please note that all Sixth Form students are required to attend every day between 8.45a.m. and 12.35p.m.



## End of Term

We have a number of traditions at CCHS which are particular to our School, for example, the Christmas Concert, House Decorated Classrooms, the Languages Assembly and the Carol Service. These are fondly remembered by students for many years after they have left us. As ever, the Sixth Form are particularly busy in supporting these events and we are very grateful for their contribution. We trust they will enjoy these events and in particular that Year 13 students now in their last year with us will make the most of these opportunities after a long and demanding term.

All students and staff will have found this to be a very busy term and I would like to wish all Sixth Form students a relaxing holiday; I look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.

## Government 16-18 Bursary

The Government 16 -19 Bursary Scheme is available to assist students in continuing in full time education, and is managed internally by the School. A number of awards were made to students earlier in the term but a second chance to apply for funding will be publicised in January; details will be forthcoming at the start of next term.





## Senior Prefects

### Alana Appleton

As the only girl from my primary school to go to CCHS, I was nervous about pretty much everything when I started in Year 7. With a rucksack that practically swallowed me whole and a kilt down to my shins, I had no idea what to expect. However, reflecting back on the past five years at CCHS, I can safely say that I had no reason to be worried. I have been involved in a multitude of events and activities: I have been a part of the athletics team, I delivered the vote of thanks at the Leadership Conference, and I have always proudly worn my yellow swimming cap and hockey socks in countless house events (despite Stewart's impressive losing streak).

I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Psychology for my A-Levels, with the hopes of studying medicine at university. I am really looking forward to working with the rest of the Senior Prefect team and I am ready to embrace any new opportunities that the role may offer!



despite leaving most things to the last minute it has been so rewarding for our work to pay off, especially being the last house to ever win the 4 house shield last year!

I am currently studying Maths, Economics, French, Latin and also EPQ and am enjoying my subjects greatly despite the increased workload. In the future I hope to study International Business with French at University, however in the mean time I am looking forward to making a positive impact as part of the Senior Prefect team, aiming to give back to the school which has helped me so much over the years.

### Mary-Beth Kogbe

If you don't recognise me from this photo, you might recognise me from the frame in the drama studio where it looks like I'm at a grey pyjama party, or maybe you'll recognise me from the photo outside Room 8 where I attempt to look like an "enquired learner". In other words, I always try to put myself out there, even if I do tend to make a fool of myself in House Pancakes.



I've truly developed the skills to be a leader of tomorrow, whether that's speed-walking through the corridors (definitely not against the one way system...) to be punctual for my numerous maths lessons, learning to stand my ground as a goalkeeper in front of numerous footballs being booted at me or simply facing things head on. (Did I mention that I often injured myself whilst playing?). The extra-curricular opportunities at our school are nothing short of fantastic and I'm genuinely so proud to have been a part of such a welcoming school community.

At the moment, I'm studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry and German to follow my aspirations of achieving a degree in mechanical, materials or civil engineering at university. However, my science-based subjects do not stop me from pursuing my passions in the arts with the amazing dance show and the

### Alicia Chu

After 5 years at this school, I have certainly seen a change within myself, not just the transition away from my hair in bunches or the longest kilt which lasted me all of 5 years (so either I just didn't grow or it was down to the floor in year 7!) but also a real boost in my confidence as a result of all of the opportunities I have received by being a part of CCHS. Along the way I have also made irreplaceable friends and memories which have shaped my positive experience at the school so far.

I have a driving passion for sport, being captain of the school's badminton team for 5 years, which consistently reached the national finals each year. I also play on the school netball team and was once a part of the swimming team... that one didn't last quite as long... However, house events have been definite highlights for me, from house karaoke to decorated classroom,





# Senior Prefects



spectacular musical concerts produced each year.

As your new Student Voice Chair, I am eager to listen to your form representatives and make the school a better place for students of all years. Helping others to realise to full potential has been my goal since starting the school and in my opinion, there is no better way of doing that than being in team of senior prefects. I can't wait to work with them and really make a difference to the school.

## Emily Lodge

On applying to and getting warmly welcomed into CCHS this September, I knew that becoming a Senior Prefect at this school would be a role that aligned with so many of my passions, such as: motivating others to reach their potentials no matter what the circumstance; representing something I am proud to be a part of; and simply being able to collaborate with other like-minded young women who are as motivated as I am.

Currently I am study: Biology, Chemistry, Maths, French, alongside EPQ, and I am eagerly aspiring to study Medicine in the future as a way to continue the notion of being able to improve the lives of others – no matter how seemingly insignificant a problem may seem. Outside of school, I have been a member of Scouting for the past 9 years – something which has offered me many opportunities such as a week canoeing across Scotland one year! As well as Scotland, I've been a member of Chelmsford Gang Show on and off for the past 8 years performing a variety of acts each April. Both inside and out of school, I have been able to experience so much personal growth, something I know that my time at CCHS will further contribute to.

As a member of the Senior Prefect team, I am keen to help with all that I can – even if that means mediating the lunch queue to stop squabbles over who gets their fish and chips first

on Fridays! I am excited to be able to represent and further encourage the thriving sense of community abundant in CCHS across the next year.

## Anna Peterson

As a loud and slightly over enthusiastic year 7 entering the distinguished doors of CCHS, I had to wonder: would the daily one hour trek into unknown horizons be worth it? The answer to that question would undoubtedly be a resounding yes: CCHS has been my home for 5 years, where I have been given infinite opportunities to grow as a person which I'll forever be grateful for. I have always been supported by teachers and friends who have guided me on my journey of life, no matter how rocky the path. Something I never expected of myself was applying for Senior Prefect (after all, I don't have 2020 vision!) but it has turned out to be the best decision of my time in Sixth Form so far. Throughout my time at CCHS I have cultivated my interest for languages and music, as I've taken part in the Linguistics Olympiad and most recently have been accepted into Cantatrice, which has been a dream of mine since Year 7. However I have to say that the pinnacle of my CCHS career would have to be being cast as Dora in the languages assembly; with minimal acting and even less Russian experience, Swiper may not be the only one saying "Oh man!" after that performance! I am currently studying English, German, Latin, Maths and Italian, and I aspire to hopefully study English or Classics at university, but for now my sights are set on making the most of the Senior Prefect role and leaving the biggest impact as I can.

## Sophia Pisano

It does not seem like it has been five years since a slightly smaller and extremely quiet version of myself walked



through the school entrance for the first time, as a very nervous year 7, unaware of the amazing opportunities that I would be presented with, or the incredible people I would meet. As the years progressed, I slowly built up my confidence, however it was not until starting year 12 that the thought of becoming senior prefect even crossed my mind. I applied for the role with the mindset that, if you don't put yourself out there, then you'll never know what you're capable of, and now here I am, slightly terrified but very proud of what I have achieved. Previously in school, I've taken part in house events such as House swimming which I actually really enjoy (despite its' reputation) and also helped out at the Anne Frank exhibition, which helped me to boost my public speaking skills. I am currently studying Politics, History, RS, Psychology, and Italian as my A levels, with the hopes of potentially continuing with history and politics at university. But in the meantime, I am ready to embrace everything that my new role as an Alumnae prefect will offer!

## Isabella Rew

If you had asked little, year 7 me if she could imagine herself as a Senior Prefect she'd probably tell you she'd rather be a House official, a dream which died around the time I realised I'd actually have to participate in sport's day for once. Despite this blasphemy, the Senior Prefects remained highly impressive role models to me and it doesn't feel real to be in their shoes, representing a school which I am so grateful to and proud of.



My time at CCHS has been filled with a wealth of opportunities, which have especially allowed me to develop my great passion for standing on a stage and talking at people. Last year I was invited to act as MC at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge regional final, having placed runner up the year before and this year I'm a member of the team for the MACE debate competition, which has made it through to the second round! I've also had a role in every play put on by the school since year 7, performing a

variety of parts from munchkin to the titular role of Antigone in this year's production, which you should really come and see: it'll only end tragically for one of us. And who could forget the enrichment of House events for which I must have learnt a hundred clumsy dance moves and shoddily decorated a thousand cakes. I still remember with fondness year nine House Decorate a Classroom where my form transformed our room into a hospital so realistic, the judges left looking more ill than when they went in.

At A-level, I am studying English, Religious Studies, History and Drama and yes, I'm aware that's four essay subjects meaning although I couldn't tell you what I'll study at university, I'm sure my hand will spend the entire time cramped no matter what I choose. Throughout my five years at CCHS, I've gained lifelong friends and experience that will serve me for decades to come. Physically, I've only grown about two inches in height but the internal growth I've undergone from that little year seven to who I am today is extraordinary and all down to the inclusive, supportive and motivating atmosphere of our school. I hope to perform the role of Senior Prefect with enthusiasm, *resilience* and an excellent team around me.

## Fleur Smith

It feels like hardly any time at all since my first day in year 7, when I first walked into CCHS. And whilst I may have not grown much in height, CCHS has supported my growth every step of the way as I blossomed from the scared little girl who walked through the doors for the first time, into the confident young adult that I am today; this is largely because of the incredible role models within the school who I have been able to emulate as I have grown up. Now as a Senior Prefect I aim to inspire the younger students, just as previous prefect teams before have inspired me. Throughout my time at CCHS I have jumped into every opportunity I could (of which there were a lot), whether that be house



# Senior Prefects



events or the countless clubs I've attended; through these activities I have made lasting friends. One of the highlights of each year, for me, was performing in our school shows, in which I really enjoyed making friends in different years.

I am interested in studying medicine at university as I have found a real love for biology and chemistry through my A levels- the subjects I take are Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Drama as well as an EPQ. For now, however, I look forward to getting completely stuck into everything this year has to offer as a senior prefect, and hope to do the role justice.

## Lily Vass

When I was lower down in the school I didn't aspire to be the girls I saw at the front of the stage in assembly. To be honest I hadn't even realised they were the Senior Prefects till year 10. But now, I wanted to push myself and really make the most of the opportunities CCHS has to offer.



Over the years I've always enjoyed the music concerts and being part of a team, even if I'm the most clumsy, uncoordinated person ever to play netball! I looking forward to working as part of the team and collaborating to help give us all a voice.

I'm currently studying Maths, Further Maths, History, Economics, and Physics, and I'm hoping to continue my studies at university in the field of engineering.

However, for now I will make the most of my time here and enjoy the life of the school.

## Demi Wey

It feels like only yesterday that I took my first steps into this school, and that's because it practically was! Since joining the school, as an external, I have found it to be a welcoming community of intelligent and strong-willed girls with an undeniable passion for education. I have been selected to undertake the 'Building a Future' role, and I fully intend to make the school and its new building developments as remarkable as they can be for all of you and the new students to come.



Currently, I am studying Psychology, Government & Politics, Religious Studies, Art and EPQ, and I would love to pursue a creative career in Advertising.

I am really looking forward to working with the rest of the Senior Prefect team, as well as having the chance to integrate myself into the community and bring a new point of view to the table. The year ahead will bring many challenges as well as many amazing opportunities, and I can't wait to make a start on them. The motto I like to lead with is that: "The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones that do", and hopefully this quote will inspire the rest of you to reach for your goals and possibly apply for Senior Prefect in the future!





On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, our Young Enterprise group, Team Evolve, held a stall at the Trade Fair in the Meadows Shopping Centre, in Chelmsford. We did this alongside other Young Enterprise groups from local schools, including KEGS, in order to fundraise for our product, a bamboo speaker, which we are still in the process of developing.

It began with a slow start, but soon became busy as the day continued. We had some members of the team working in front of the stall, encouraging passers-by to visit the stall and buy something, whilst the rest of the team worked behind the stand to fill the baubles and personalise them. Our personalised baubles in particular were a best seller, as they were affordable but a unique gift. We stuffed clear, plastic baubles with gold and silver tinsel before customising each one with different names, helping to give them all an individual touch.

Near to the end of the day, a judge from the Young Enterprise Charity came around to ask us all questions about our product and to give us advice. We received lots of reassuring, positive feedback from both him and members of the public, including the Mayor. They were both supportive and fascinated by our final product, a bamboo speaker, that we soon hope to begin selling. We had not anticipated what a success our stall would be, but all of our hard work soon paid off; at the end of the event we were even given a certificate for having the best Sales Team! This left us feeling excited for the next trade fair, and gave us confidence in our product.

We are very grateful to everybody who visited our stall and bought something, as well as the ongoing support from Mr Moore. We look forward to future trade fairs, where we hope to eventually sell our final product, a wireless bamboo speaker which we have called BamBoom, to help promote sustainability.

## Snowdonia By Lottie Merrylees, Year 11 Marketing Prefect

In September I had the chance to take a trip to Wales along with the rest of the year 11 geography students, and of course the wonderful geography department. An early Saturday morning start may have dampened our spirits slightly, but it certainly wasn't long before the inevitable coach sing-a-longs began. After a few hours, a couple of stops, and about a hundred drinks purchased from Starbucks, we were crossing over the Welsh border and our excitement began to increase. I must say, there is something profoundly 'CCHS' about the screams of pure joy when a corrie, or a pyramidal peak was sighted for the first time! And so began our first experience of real geography on the trip, with a stroll up part of Snowdon to discuss the glaciated landscape, and of course to take a few photos.

Day two had us thinking about the course of the Afon Glaslyn, but more importantly of course, gave us the chance to buy ice creams in a local shop (arguably an important contribution to the local economy). Later in the day we walked up a large part of Snowdon, and I can't speak for everyone but it has certainly got me thinking about going on more mountain walks – the school will make a geographer of me yet!

The next day was our last full day in Snowdonia, but by no means did that make it any less busy! Our actual fieldwork was undertaken – think ranging poles, clipboards, and wellies, but also plenty of fun. The calm, Welsh river surrounded by flat stones made the

perfect location for skimming stones, and a competition with Mr Lodge that I definitely won!

There was another long coach journey in store for us the next day, as we said a fond farewell to our Snowdonia hostel and instead headed off to Cardiff. Our first stop was a museum containing information on the social history of the city itself, including some children's clothes it was possible to dress up in to look like a wartime evacuee, which we naturally were desperate to try on. After some free time in the city, we were thankful to be able to head back to our new hostel, where we had the newfound luxury of ensuite bathrooms!

At last arrived the final day, and with a tinge of sadness we packed up our suitcases and found plastic bags for wellies and muddied walking trousers. Our work was not quite finished however, with one final morning of fieldwork ahead of us. This is the point where I must apologise to those wandering around the Cardiff Bay area at 10 o'clock on a quiet Wednesday morning in September for having been accosted by about twenty teenagers bearing clipboards and begged to answer their questionnaires.

I can honestly say that the Snowdonia trip was the best school trip I have ever been on, and a massive thanks goes out to all the staff who came with us, and had the misfortune of suffering through the attempts to harmonise at the back of the coach.



### Blood Brothers Trip at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford Mr Selby, Head of Drama

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, Year 10 and 11 Drama students, accompanied by an array of teachers and support staff ventured across the Thames to Dartford. As part of the GCSE course, students are required to study a 'set-text' for their written exam; and with our set-text being performed locally, we all took the opportunity to experience it live on stage.

Set in Liverpool, Blood Brothers is a classic tale of two brothers, separated at birth. The two brothers, grow up living completely different lives; with Edward, living in luxury; while Mickey, is experiencing the hardships of 1970's Liverpool.

Students were in awe of the set, lighting, songs, and most importantly, accents. The accents are something we practice in class, a lot, with vary-

ing levels of success! On a more serious note, it has given us all so many creative ideas for the exam; which when applied effectively, will lead to strong outcomes for all.

The students were a credit to us, and behaved impeccably! We look forward to taking them out to experience many more examples of live theatre, in the near future.



### Maths Summer School By Natasha Wickramasinghe

Last summer, I was invited to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> National Mathematics Summer School, at Leeds University, run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. This was a fully immersive experience which aimed to enhance mathematical ability through workshops, small group sessions and problem-solving activities. It was a very exciting opportunity to explore areas of maths not covered in the school curriculum and to also understand the many applications of maths in the real world.

After arriving on a Sunday afternoon, we were introduced to the group of 6 we would be working with for the duration of the week, a mix of both Year 10 and 11 students and also our 'senior'. Each group was assigned a senior, someone who had previously been on a Summer School and would be able to guide us through the challenging problems we were soon to face. The next five days consisted of numerous workshops led by mathematical educators from schools and Higher Education centres and postgraduate mathematicians from various

universities. Each session was one and a half hours long but usually focused on only one problem, allowing us to thoroughly explore it and approach it from different angles. There were a few particularly memorable activities, including when we derived the formula for the area of a spherical lune and were introduced to the world of chaos theory. Throughout the week we were reminded of the collaborative nature of maths, as it was only by the sharing of ideas and working together that we could arrive at certain answers. Every evening there was also the chance to get to know the other students there, through activities organised by the seniors such as film night, a fun take on the UKMT Team Challenge and my personal favourite, a trip to go bowling.

This was a truly unforgettable week, in which I learnt about many fascinating fields of maths and also made lots of new friends. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity and look forward to being able to delve further into maths with my newfound insights.



## Year 9 Trip to Ypres, October 2019 By Duaa Sultan and Eleanor Whitwam

On the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, we all stood by the side of our coaches, very tired because of the early start but all chatting in excitement of the brilliant trip ahead of us. Everyone scrambling onto the coach, we were all ready to stuff our faces with as much Belgian chocolate as possible. After waving goodbye to our parents, we were off and ready to start the first part of our journey. Once we had picked up our tour guides, who were going to be showing us around Ypres for the next two days, we made our way to the Eurotunnel and boarded the shuttle. The journey to Belgium was spent gorging on sweets and bingeing on Netflix. Finally, at midday we reached our first destination - Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

We were astonished at the sheer number of graves as we walked around the cemetery; all of them had been kept in pristine condition with many adorned by beautiful flowers. One particularly moving story, that we were told by the tour guides was of Staff Nurse Nellie Spindler, who was hit by an exploding shell in the battle of Passchendaele. She is one of only two British female casualties from the war buried in Belgium, and is the only woman buried among over 10,000 men in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. This was very inspiring as she had bravely put herself forward, in one of the most dangerous jobs, to do her part for the war effort. The guides also showed us the graves of some boys who died at very early ages such as 15 and told us that they would pretend to be older than they were so that they would be accepted into the Army. In fact, a few of us even discovered relatives that had been buried there whom we were not previously aware of.

The next destination was the Bayernwald Trench System, where we were given an insight as to what life would have been like on the German front line. We saw the effect that war had on people mentally, and how the trauma made them appear significantly older. We also learnt about the poor hygiene and how soldiers would have been at risk of contracting lice and getting trench foot. Thankfully, they would not spend more than a few days at a time in the front lines, however the experience was a dangerous one that never left most survivors.

After leaving the trenches, we set off for our next war site - Hill 60. This was a very important area of land in Ypres for it was a hill which was advantageous to whichever side was at the top of it, with views all over the area. It also had many tunnels underneath it and we saw a massive crater, which was created after the British left explosives in the underground tunnels to blow up the Germans. We were shocked by the extensive damage caused by explosives in World War One and found out that the very uneven ground nearby was because of this. The guides also talked to us about how gas mask protection evolved throughout World War One and then World War Two. Lots of us had a chance to try on these old gas masks which was very fun and eye opening as to what gas attacks were like. After saying goodbye to the very amusing sheep whose job was to mow the lawn, we made our way to the hostels in which we would be spending the night.

Once given our room numbers, we quickly dropped our bags and then rushed downstairs, excited to explore the beautiful town of Ypres. We began to walk through the atmospheric town center of Ypres, passing by the complex architecture and old buildings laid out before us and also the grand Cloth Hall center. Finally, it was time for the anticipated chocolate shopping (which was considered by many as the highlight of the trip)! After cramming into the shop and being introduced to an abundance of chocolatey deals, we all filled our baskets to the top and bought the famous Belgium chocolate. At last, we all made it out and walked down to the stunning Menin gate. It is a very moving memorial dedicated to British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient and whose graves are still unknown, and services are still held there every single day. Lots of us found family members names, which really emphasised the sheer number of soldiers who died in the war.

One of the hostels had an amazing view of the Menin Gate Memorial and some students had an excellent view right from the windows of their rooms. After we had finished paying our respects and wandering around to look at all the hundreds of names, we



strolled on, to a restaurant where we ate dinner. Finally, after a super first day in Ypres, we went back to our hostels, quite tired but very happy with all the chocolate we had managed to buy. After the teachers coming around a few times to shush us all in our rooms, we eventually fell asleep, ready for a full day tomorrow.

We were up bright an early the next day, and after breakfast made our way to the coaches so that we could go to our first destination – Talbot House. Talbot House is located in Poperinge, which at the time, was part of unoccupied Belgium, this meant that soldiers often came here for rest and recreation when they were not fighting; all soldiers were welcome, regardless of their rank. We watched a short film about the history of Talbot House and after walking through its beautiful garden, we climbed to the top of the building and saw the chapel. It was very moving because we were told sometimes this would be the last place some soldiers prayed before battle. After having a while to reflect up there, we made our way back to the coach. We also had a chance to have a sing song round the piano.

Next, we went over to the Passchendaele museum, where we looked at many interesting war artefacts. After, this we went out to the replica trenches which were built to look like real trenches with barbed wire and many other features. As it began to rain slightly, we went back inside and drank delicious hot chocolate whilst one of us dressed up in the uniform that would have been worn by a real British soldier for a demonstration.

Our penultimate stop was the Langemark German war cemetery. We found it quite different to the British cemeteries, and they were much more sombre with the German national tree of oaks surrounding the graves, which often had around 15 people buried under one headstone. It was also much darker with grey flat headstones, which was very contrasting to the British white graves. After being told about the cemetery, we had a chance to walk around, in fact

someone had a relative buried there, which was very emotional and made it all more real. We also saw the mass grave with hundreds of people buried there. In fact, we were told by the guides that just the weekend before our visit, soldiers' bodies were found and added to the huge number resting there already, this allowed us to consider the impact of the war on both sides. Once we had finished looked at the countless names of German soldiers who died, we made our way to our last stop.

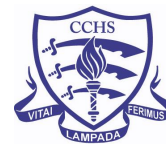
Finally, it was time to go to our last destination of the trip, Tyne Cot. This is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world. The cemetery itself was once a battlefield, but now is a resting place for the thousands of soldiers who are buried there, it is also home to the Memorial of the Missing, which commemorates the men who have no known grave. At this time, some of us were also informed by the guides about relatives whose names may have been written on the wall or who may be buried there. Then we all gathered for a short, touching service before we left. Some of us were given the opportunity to read a poem and lay down a wreath as we reflected on all that had taken place during not only the First World War but also many wars and battles since. The guide's powerful last words "And now you will be doing something that these young men were not able to do.... go home" were ringing through our heads as we silently filed out of the graveyard.

Visiting Ypres allowed us to truly get an insight into everything that ordinary people went through in order to shape the world that we live in today, and we are grateful to them for all that they sacrificed. We will never forget the great losses suffered and the everlasting effect that war would have had on these people. This incredible trip will never be forgotten either and was so much more than you could ever get from a history lesson. We are so thankful to all the teachers who gave up their time and especially Mrs Saw who organised the trip.



# Music

Mr Chris Lamberti, Director of Music



This term has seen numerous musical successes from our students.

Early in September we welcome Mr John K Miles, a professional composer, into school to run composition workshop with our year 11 GCSE music students. This proved a highly productive day not only giving an insight to the life of a composer but also showing ways that students can create and develop interesting compositions. These skills have already come into fruition as they work through their second GCSE compositions.

Also, in early September we welcomed the external moderator for the bronze Arts Award came into school to check all 57 year 10 students' portfolios. I am extremely proud to say that all 57 passed with flying colours. The moderator was very complimentary about the standard of work shown by all. This bronze award is a nationally recognised level 1 qualification. Plans are now in place to offer this award for our current year 8 and year 9 students during this academic year.

Enrichment Day 1 saw 9 local primary schools bring 8 students each to take part in our cultural day. The students took part in music, dance and art workshops which culminated in a final showcase at the end of the day. It was lovely to see how well the pupils engaged with all the activities and their feedback was extremely positive about their experience.

In October our year 11 music students all recorded their solo performance. Both myself and Mrs Clements were very fortunate to listen to a set of truly fantastic performances.

The build up to Christmas is always a busy one for most but especially within the music department. As I write we are one week away from what promises to be two amazing nights for our annual Christmas concerts.

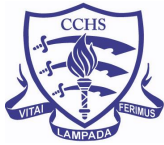
This year sees all our ensembles once more perform a variety of music including many festive favourites. New for this year is our string quartet which was setup by Lauren Bailey in year 12. The 4 girls involved make a beautiful sound!

We are also gearing up for our year 8 enrichment day where once again the students will play and sing in order for us to capture a high-quality recorded performance of the piece "White Christmas".

With the annual carol service on the horizon we have seen many rehearsals taken place to ensure the standard of the performances as high as ever. Of particular note is this year's Cantatrici choir run by one of our A level music students Ashlynn Chan. She has done an outstanding job in organising what promises to be a beautiful performance. We also wish Ashlynn all the best as she attends an interview at Oxford University to read music.







# Learning Resource Centre

Mrs Angela Martin & Mrs Alexia Treadway

Grant Strong visited our school on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and ran a hugely popular workshop for all our Year 7 students. They learnt about characterisation, plot development and how to have your book published whilst dramatising the opening scene of Grant's book 'Running Deep'. The book is a futuristic adventure where armies of drones are running wild and the main character discovers he has amazing powers which he needs to thwart an evil renegade. 'Running Deep' is available to borrow from the CCHS library or you can buy a copy via the Elf Books website.

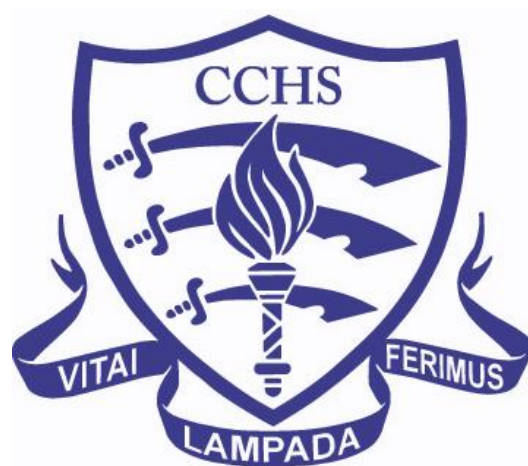
As a school, we are keen to become more environmentally friendly and what better way to do this than to borrow books from the CCHS Library rather than buying them new. Do have a read of our Library Newsletter to see the benefits of not buying new books and also the huge amount of money that can be saved!



To continue with the ecological theme, we have introduced eBooks to the CCHS Library. This new platform will allow students to search the CCHS Oliver catalogue as normal but download some of the most popular titles instead of borrowing the equivalent printed books. The Parents' Association were kind enough to fund this new initiative and I will email instructions to all students on how to access this valuable resource before the Christmas Holidays.

*"Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are"*  
—Mason Cooley





**Chelmsford County High School for Girls**

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@CCHS4G

# CCHS Parents' Association



*Working to Support*  
**Chelmsford County High School  
for Girls**

A Grammar School with Academy Status

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A huge hello and heartfelt thank you from all of us to all you wonderful parents, pupils and staff who have supported PA events this term and in previous years, so helping us raise funds to benefit the whole school community.

## **Elected Committee Members**

**President** - Mr Stephen Lawlor (Headteacher) - appointed 1st September 2019

**Chair** - Catherine Carby - appointed 13th September 2019



*"I am delighted to take on the role of chair of the CCHS PA and look forward to seeing the PA go from strength to strength. My personal goal is to increase parent involvement and revenues, so that the PA can offer even more wonderful experiences and support to our amazing girls".*

Catherine is an opera singer, and Mum to a year 8 student. She is a passionate baker, gardener and advocate for the performing arts. She is a founding trustee of Swap'ra, a charity who advocate for women and parents in the arts.

**Vice Chair** - Julie Martyn - appointed 13th September 2019

**Treasurer** - Niki Sutton - appointed 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

**Secretary** - Tracy Gigov - appointed 13th September 2019

**Parent Committee Members:** Steph Smith, Sarah Burgess, Janice Oster, Bridget Stonebridge, Nicola Bailey, Mamta Mehrotra, Rick den Blanken, Anna Marsland, Alison Maguire, Berenice Kude, Sally Jones, Alex Pike, Julie Bushell, Alison O'Connell

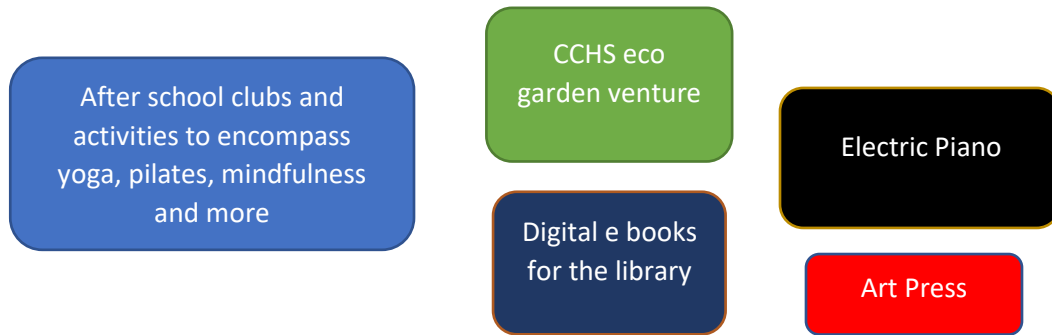
## **Mission Statement**

To arrange fun and varied fundraising events with the aim to:

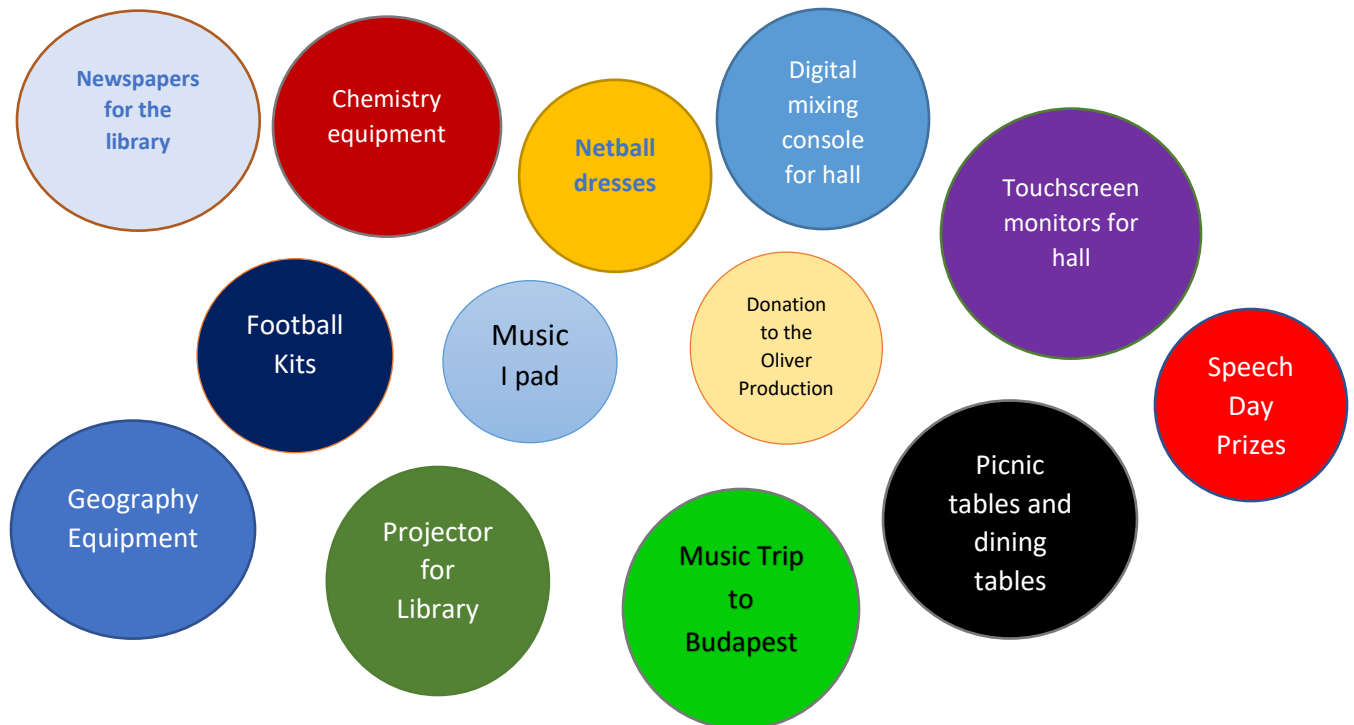
- Support the school in the purchase of items that might not ordinarily be justified from within the school budget
- Provide opportunities to enrich and enhance our daughters' education and experiences at CCHS
- Foster extended relationships between staff, parents, pupils and the wider school community



### What we are fundraising for:



### Over the past 2 years the PA have fulfilled pledges of almost £40,000 which have included the following:



We would encourage you all to please talk to your daughters about items/ideas/activities/experiences they might like us to possibly fund, and to let their Student Voice Committee Representative know.

## Ways To Help

We are always very grateful for your support and attendance at our fundraising events through the year, but if you do have any extra spare time to offer, we would be delighted to welcome you to our half termly committee meetings. Alternatively, give us a hand serving refreshments, donating prizes, baking cakes – any help at all, whether regular or as a one off is hugely appreciated. Just drop us a line on [pa@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pa@cchs.essex.sch.uk)

### Second-Hand Uniform



### Co-op Cards



### Amazon Smile



## Clothes Recycling [www.happyschoolbag.co.uk](http://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk)

Our recent House Recycling Competition raised a fantastic **£811.50!**

### CCHS Parents' Association



**REDUCE**  
**REUSE**  
**RECYCLE**

\*Our clothes recycling bin, situated on site, earns 65p per kilo for the PA

\*We run a popular House recycling competition for the girls, so do save your unwanted clothes/shoes/curtains and help us raise funds!

\*Alternatively, bring in your donations anytime

### How our scheme

#### WORKS

The Happy School Bag scheme is free, quick and easy

#### What we collect

At happy school bag we collect men's, women's and children's reusable clothing which could have ended up in landfill.

#### What we pay

We ensure that we pay out the highest market prices. At the moment we pay £0.60 per Kg for reusable quality clothing.

#### We accept

- Reusable clean and dry clothes
- Reusable paired shoes and footwear
- Fashion accessories, Handbags, Belts, light jewellery, scarves, hats, etc...
- Console games, souvenirs (small decorative ornaments, unwanted gift boxsets)

#### What we don't accept:

- Single shoes
- Mats, Carpets
- Duvels, Pillows, Blankets, Bedlinen
- Curtains
- Bric-a-Brac
- Dirty-Damaged-Wet-Damp-Smelly items
- No uniforms or toys (soft or hard)
- No Books - DVD's

### **Easyfundraising**

You can raise FREE donations for Chelmsford County High School PA - Essex when you buy gifts, decorations, food or anything else! Just take a moment to support this good cause on Easyfundraising. It's easy and completely FREE.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chelmsfordcchs/?invite=uvom1x&referral-campaign=s2s](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chelmsfordcchs/?invite=uvom1x&referral-campaign=s2s)

### **Wishlist Lottery**

This is a great way of supporting the PA if you can't come to events. It is a minimum of £24 per year for two lucky numbers. A monthly prize draw of 1 x £50 and 2 x £25 winners, with an extra prize of £100 at Christmas.

Thank you so much to all who support this - we will raise **£4,130** from the Wishlist Lottery this year.

### **Donations**

We make occasional requests for the girls to bring in donations for the Christmas Fayre, Christmas Raffle prizes, Mother's Day Stalls etc. This may take the form of chocolates, wine, small gifts, books etc. Please give whatever you can.

### **Christmas Fayre News** - we raised a fantastic **£3806!**

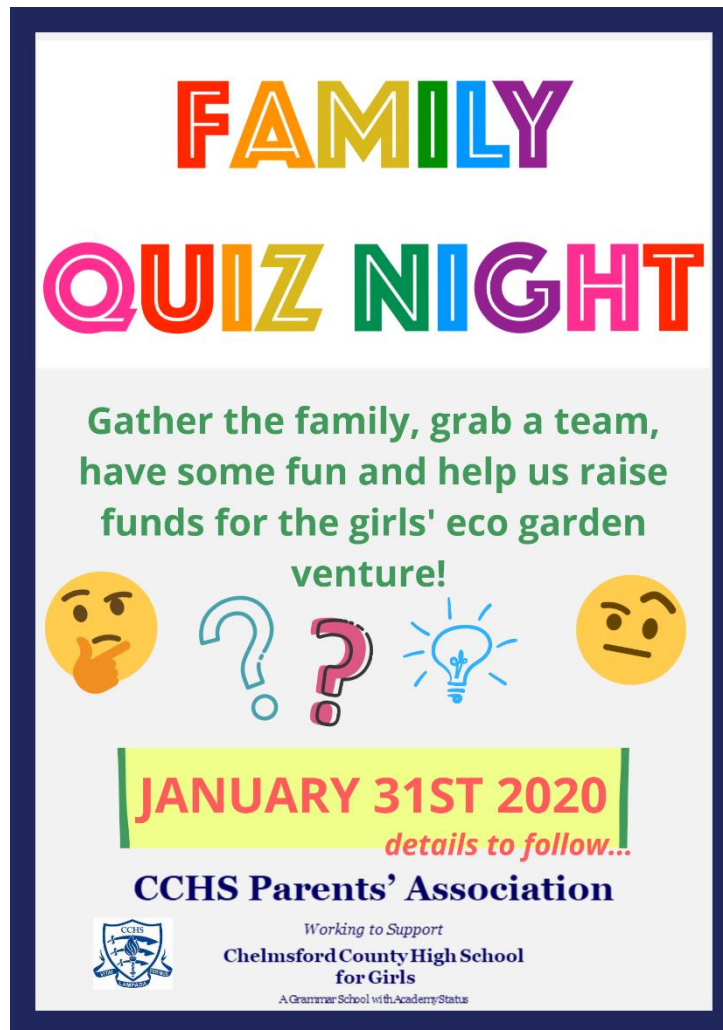
We hope everyone enjoyed the Fayre on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Our grateful thanks to the Indian Snacks Stall, Book Stall and Popcorn/Candyfloss Stall who generously donated their profits to the PA. A huge thank you to Amal Rana for her spectacular cake! Thanks also to all the students and parents for their kind donations of raffle and stall prizes, all those who helped run the event and especially those who came in and enjoyed the day and spent money in aid of our PA fundraising. **Merry Christmas!**







# SAVE THE DATE!



We look forward to seeing you  
there