



Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Sixth Form Prospectus Booklet September 2021 Entry



**The scholarly Sixth Form where girls have
every opportunity**

*'Thank you so much for your good wishes, and all the support that everybody at the school has given me. The last seven years have defined who I am as a person and what my goals are, and I'm truly grateful for all the opportunities that I have been given'.
Year 13 leaver.*

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Chelmsford County High School for Girls (CCHS) is a proud grammar school community. CCHS was formally opened in 1907 to provide girls with an academic education. We, as the twenty-first century guardians of this significant inheritance, have chosen to honour this legacy by defining and pursuing an ambition for CCHS to be a progressive grammar school, committed to excellence in girls' education and empowerment. Our Sixth Form is at the forefront of this work, with strong leadership, superb examination results, excellent pastoral care, an academic curriculum and expert UCAS and careers advice for all students.



We are determined to 'develop the leaders of tomorrow'. By inspiring future citizens to think for themselves and to act for others, we believe that we are preparing our students for leadership in tomorrow's global community. Our students complete their A level studies in the Sixth Form ready to thrive in their chosen university courses.

In the pursuit of excellence, we provide students with an outstanding education, with talented and committed teachers encouraging students to do their best in all endeavours. We challenge each student to fulfil her individual potential, motivating students to acquire new knowledge and stimulating them to develop new skills. Community is very important to us - we ensure that our students conduct themselves with civility and compassion at all times, supporting each other and looking beyond themselves.

Dr Palmer, Assistant Headteacher, leads the CCHS Sixth Form, supported by Mrs Ellen and Mrs Hicks, who are our post-16 Year Leaders. Mrs Hopkins, as our Higher Education Advisor, provides students with UCAS guidance. Dr Hiner supports students with broader careers advice to inform their decision-making. Our experienced team of Sixth Form tutors make sure that each student is cared for and nurtured as an individual.

Our Sixth Form is engaged and dynamic. We are key members of the Association of State Girls' Schools (ASGS) in the UK and work closely with the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) in the USA. This pioneering work ensures that we remain expert in educating girls who are highly able.

Over the coming months, you will be making important decisions about your Sixth Form studies. The information provided in our prospectus materials will help you with these decisions. We look forward to working with you as a member of the CCHS Sixth Form community, to instil confidence, fire ambition and promote advancement.

Mr Stephen Lawlor
Headteacher



The Sixth Form at CCHS

Chelmsford County High School has an enviable record of success and a tradition of excellence which is second to none. Our expertise lies in teaching able girls who thrive on the many unique opportunities available to them in the single sex environment. We have a long tradition of sending students to highly competitive courses at leading universities with conspicuous success in terms of Oxford, Cambridge and Medicine, Dental and Veterinary courses. Each of our students receives individual support and guidance as she prepares for her university application.



We encourage our students to develop their interests in Science, Technology and Engineering (STEM) subjects and a group of our students recently beat several hundred mixed teams to become national champions for the Engineering Education Scheme Future Leaders' Award. Our students whose strengths lie in the languages and humanities also find the school to be a busy and thriving place; we have exchange programs with schools in France, Germany and Italy as well as a successful program of lectures and other enrichment activities.

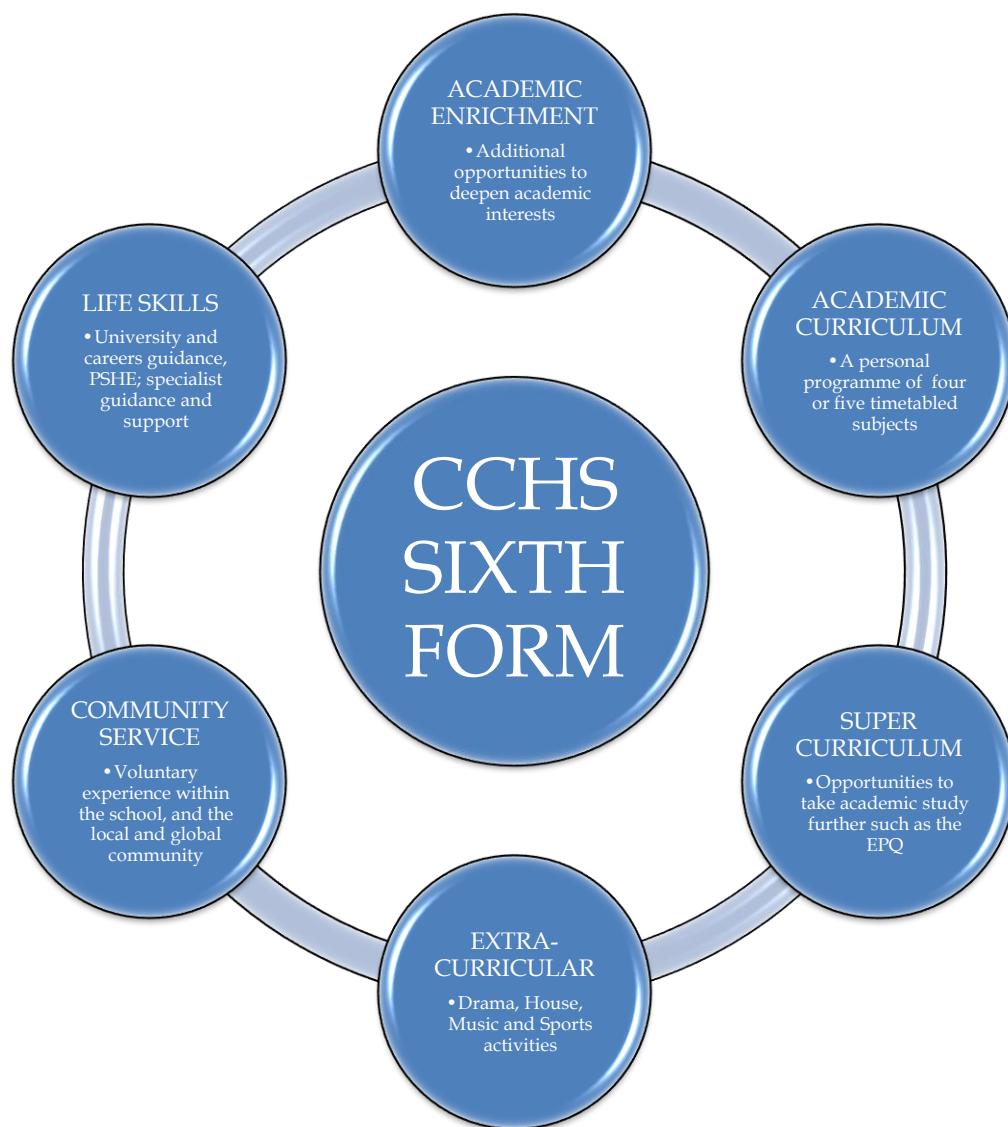
As a highly successful and highly academic sixth form we have set ourselves four priorities for the students who choose to study with us. Each of these speaks to our overall aim of developing students who will not only succeed in their examinations but in their university courses and careers:

- We aim to offer excellent and scholarly teaching which encourages our students to think hard about the material they study; our aim is that our students go far beyond simply learning the material and that they develop as reflective life-long learners with a deep understanding of the subjects they have chosen. Our teachers will constantly challenge them to improve and to think in different ways about their subjects. Our experience in delivering the IB Diploma helps us to encourage students to break down the barriers between their subjects and to reflect on the links across academic disciplines.
- We aim to encourage our students to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We believe that these activities, which may range from running a society in school to taking part in local community projects help our students to develop the skills and characteristics that will help them succeed. The ability to lead others, to balance a range of conflicting priorities and to develop resourcefulness and strength of character are, in our view, hugely important.
- We aim to develop an environment in which students will enjoy their learning and their extra-curricular pursuits and we offer a very great deal of support and guidance in this process. This school is staffed by teachers and support staff who enjoy their work and whose enjoyment is infectious.
- We aim to develop students who will leave school committed not just to high standards and hard work but also to playing a thoughtful and responsible part in the society in which they will be the 'leaders of tomorrow'.

Dr Michael Palmer, Assistant Headteacher; Head of Sixth Form

The Sixth Form Programme

Inspired by our experience in delivering the International Baccalaureate Diploma, we have developed a model for the CCHS Sixth Form Curriculum which is animated by the three core principles of breadth, balance and challenge.



Each of our Sixth Form students will be involved in activities relevant to each of these six dimensions, and it is our belief that these different activities are mutually reinforcing in the way that they help our students to develop as thinkers and as individuals.

'I have had great opportunities as a result of coming to this school and I fully believe that this school is an excellent place. It has been the best place for me and I am sure would be for many others.'

Year 13 leaver.

The Academic Curriculum

CCHS offers a wide range of academic subjects and allows its Sixth Form students to make a free choice from within that range. However, we believe that certain core principles should operate when choosing a set of A level subjects:



- Previous or likely success in a subject.
- Interest in and enjoyment of a subject.
- The requirements made by universities for entry to certain degree courses.
- The need to maintain a breadth in your studies; all available evidence suggests that students with a broad range of subjects are more likely to be successful in gaining places on the most competitive university courses. They are also more likely to be prepared for the challenges of the world of work.

English <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Literature	Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics• Further Mathematics• Computer Science	Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Chemistry• Physics	Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography• History• Philosophy and Ethics
Social Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology• Economics• Politics	Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">• French• German• Spanish• Latin• Italian GCSE	The Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art• Music• Theatre Studies	

Please see the A Level Options Booklet for a detailed description of the syllabus for each subject and for details of the GCSE grades required to study them.

Please note that demand will determine whether or not a particular course will be offered. If a course cannot be offered students will be notified of this at the first opportunity and alternatives will be discussed with them.

Academic Study

Sixth Form students at CCHS study four or five subjects. Normally a student will have two teachers for each subject. For each subject, students will be expected to complete three to four hours of study beyond lessons in each week. In part students are able to complete this work in study periods during the working day. This work will in part be set homework and will in part be students' own directed reading and reflection on the material they are studying in lessons.



Throughout the two years in the Sixth Form, we closely monitor the progress of each student both formally and informally. Tutors have oversight of the academic progress and pastoral care of those in their charge and we encourage students to discuss their achievements and concerns with tutors on a regular basis. Subject staff provide regular feedback on students' academic progress and formal termly assessments of their likely eventual outcomes. These 'Teacher Assessments' are then discussed with the student by the tutor. Our emphasis is always on encouraging the

student to recognise their strengths and areas for improvement, and thus to set their own targets and take responsibility for their own learning journey.

Our SEN Co-ordinator and our subject teachers are experienced in providing appropriate support to students in need. Further information is available on request or by following the link [here](#) to the SEN section on our website.

Feedback is provided to parents through Teacher Assessment grades and School Reports, which are made available through the SIMS Parent App, and at Parents' Evenings. We value the close partnership which exists between the school and parents and to this end we encourage parents to contact the school to discuss any issues. Also, early in the Autumn term there is an opportunity to meet key Sixth Form staff at the Meet the Tutor Evening.

Academic Enrichment

At CCHS we are clear in our belief both that subject knowledge should not be bound by the expectations of examiners and that wide subject knowledge can only serve to improve performance in examinations. To this end we offer a wide range of academic enrichment activities.

Many departments have after-school seminar sessions at which students are encouraged to present their own ideas and to engage in high level argument and discussion about the subject concerned. For example, our 'Philosophy of History' group has been running for many years and has helped a huge number of students access the higher level knowledge and thinking skills necessary for success in admission to the most competitive universities. Departments also make great efforts to invite a range of visiting speakers to make presentations to students. These speakers range from recent graduates drawn from our alumnae network to distinguished academics with international reputations.



The Super-Curriculum

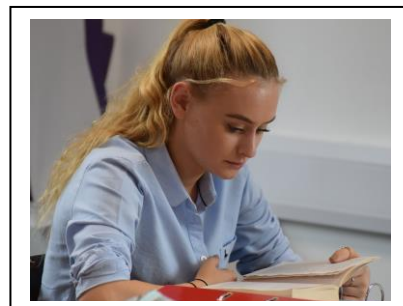
In addition to your four main subjects you may choose one of the following additional subjects:

- Further Mathematics
- Italian - this is offered as a GCSE *ab initio* course, which means no prior qualification in this subject is required.
- The Extended Project Qualification - the EPQ will offer you an opportunity to pursue a particular academic interest, developing your research, presentation and writing skills. The EPQ is a well-established and highly-regarded academic course. It is a Level 3 course, equivalent to an AS Level in terms of the UCAS tariff. The project is commonly completed as an extended essay, but there are opportunities to complete alternative projects such as compositions, plays, artwork and technical design projects, subject to approval by the EPQ Co-ordinator.

Sixth Form Facilities

Our Sixth Form students have their own facilities and privileges and learning to make good use of them is a part of the process of developing good study habits and a productive work pattern. We offer students:

- Two Sixth Form Common Rooms.
- A Sixth Form computer room.
- A number of other dedicated study spaces.
- Use of the school library in the vast majority of lessons.
- A dedicated Sixth Form Café.
- A kitchen for student use.



After an initial period during which we monitor students' success in developing good study habits, Sixth Form students are allowed off the school site at certain times for certain purposes. Students are expected to dress in accordance with the Sixth Form Dress Code.

Sixth Form Physical Education

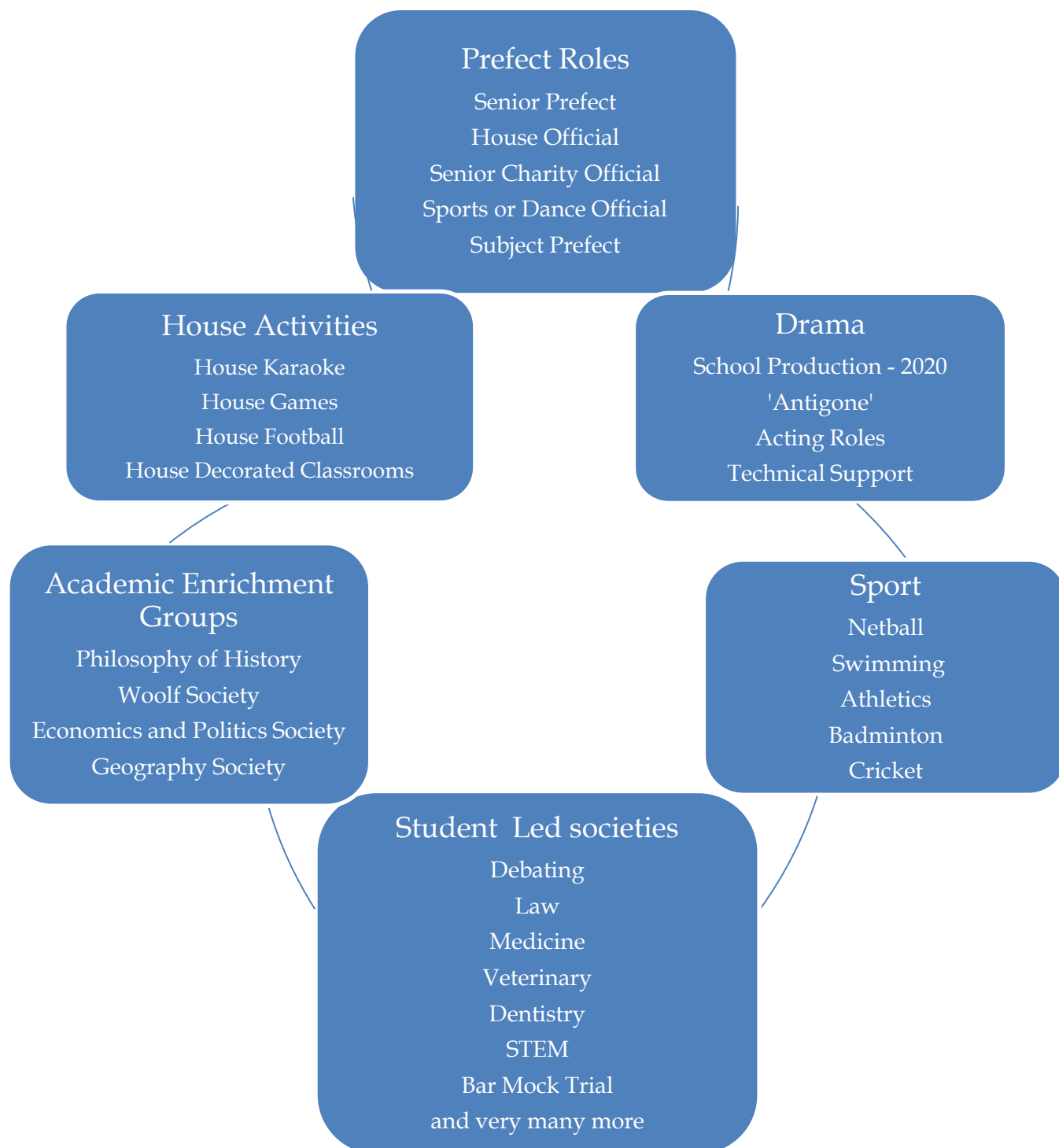
Physical activity is an important part of a balanced lifestyle and an important complement to the time our students spend studying. Throughout the Sixth Form our students have a timetabled two hour P.E. session once a fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon. All students are encouraged to enjoy their sport whatever their level of ability.



A wide range of activities are available, from aerobics to self-defence and from golf to ice skating. This gives students an excellent opportunity to try out a variety of different activities and we hope that they will discover at least one which they will continue beyond their time in school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

CCHS is proud of the huge range of extra-curricular opportunities and activities that are on offer. Many of these societies and clubs are student led and we encourage all students to participate in them as they provide excellent opportunities for personal and intellectual development as well as encouraging the development of a real sense of community across the school. At the end of the first term of Year 12 all students are asked to apply for one of a range of leadership opportunities in the school and many will in addition take on the leadership of a student society.



Extra-Curricular Activities



Contribution to the local and global community

All Year 12 students undertake a period of service to the local community. Students can choose from a wide range of schemes such as helping children with special educational needs or supporting at a local homework club. Year 13 students can choose to continue with this work, often in an area which supports their career aspirations. We take great pride in the way in which our students give their time and help to others and they always find this to be a most enriching part of their school experience.



We are also keen to develop our students' understanding of the world around them. Each year we run our own Model United Nations Conference, under the title of 'Leadership in a Global Society'. Students work together to represent the views of different countries around the world and of the leading committees of the United Nations. We are often fortunate to be able to invite high profile speakers to help in

our preparations for this event. Our emphasis throughout is on helping our students to develop their awareness of global issues, a greater awareness of challenges facing different parts of the world and a sense of the difficult realities of reaching consensus in international affairs.

University and Careers

We make excellent provision for our Sixth Form students in terms of guidance on careers and on university entrance.



'I'm so glad that I chose to stay at CCHS for the Sixth Form. I have really felt that a girls' school has been the best place for me to learn; my teachers have understood me and encouraged me to read and to think and I have loved working with people who have known me since I was 11. I wouldn't have got to Cambridge without them. If you are thinking of something different, remember that Sixth Form is different to Year 11 in many and in surprising ways. The grass is not always greener elsewhere.'

Recent Leaver.

We have great experience preparing girls for applications to competitive courses at leading universities and encourage all to be aspirational. All students have the opportunity to have interview practice organised by our Parents' Association and students applying to

Oxbridge, or for Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry will be offered a further academic interview in preparation for their university interview. We are also fortunate in being able to draw on the experiences of our former students in providing support and information for our current cohort.

The vast majority of our students go on to Higher Education, with a good number each year taking up places in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and we offer targeted support to encourage girls to enhance their applications for highly competitive degrees, including BMAT and UKCAT courses as well as specialised guidance on preparatory reading. Our programme of guidance is co-ordinated by our Higher Education Adviser (Mrs Hopkins) and students also have access to a Careers Library, guidance in the use of online resources and excellent support and advice on careers is also available. We are very proud of the successes of all our students and have included data from our UCAS applications below. Moreover we are proud of the success which our students achieve at university; the proportion of our former students who achieve first class degrees is extremely high and our contacts in university departments always speak highly of the quality of the students who come to them from this school. Similarly our students are successful in accessing a wide range of challenging, interesting and rewarding jobs.

2020 University Entrance Headlines

The table below indicates the most popular universities and courses amongst those who left the school last summer.

University	Number of students
Oxford and Cambridge	19
Other popular destinations this year:	
Durham, Exeter, KCL, Nottingham, QMUL, UEA, Warwick, York.	43

Subject area	Number of students
Medicine	14
Medically related	19
Dentistry	4
Veterinary medicine	0
Law	5
Mathematics, Economics, Finance and Business	17
Science and Engineering	13
English & MFL	12
Humanities	12
Creative	5
Architecture	1

'On a daily basis I am reminded of the positive values and lessons the school has instilled in me. I am so empowered as a young woman living her life at university and in the world because of the foundations I have from my seven years at CCHS.'

Recent leaver.

Admissions Policy and Arrangements

External students will need to complete the online Application Form. This will be available on our website just after the Autumn half term. Internal students will need to fill in an Options Form which will also be available at that time. Each of these forms will allow us to consider your choices, discuss them with you if necessary and then to build a timetable which allows the vast majority of students to study exactly their chosen options. Please complete and submit the online Application Form (external applicants) or submit the online Options Form (Year 11 students) by **Wednesday 10th February 2021**. Entry into the Sixth Form is competitive and is determined by GCSE results. The exact requirements are set out in our admissions policy which is available [here](#).

Offers of places in the Sixth Form are made when GCSE results are published but all prospective Sixth Formers will be invited to participate in the Induction programme which begins in July.

Key Dates

- Tuesday 20th October 2020. Unfortunately we will not be able to welcome visitors into school in the normal way for our Sixth Form Open Evening due to the current situation and government guidelines. However, our **virtual** CCHS Sixth Form Open Evening 'event' will give you the opportunity to learn about the school and to hear from current Sixth Form students. There will also be talks by the Headteacher and the Head of Sixth Form and presentations by Subject Leaders so that you are well informed regarding the Sixth Form curriculum and about Sixth Form life in general. Any questions regarding the Sixth Form should be addressed to the following email account: sfadmissions@cchs.essex.sch.uk.
- January 2021. For internal students, guidance meetings with the Sixth Form Team will be arranged in January.
- Wednesday 10th February 2021. Deadline for both external applications and for internal students to submit choices.
- Spring Term 2020. Sixth Form Taster Days.
- June 2021. Sixth Form Induction event. Our Sixth Form Induction in the Summer Term will help all students to prepare for life in the Sixth Form. External students will also be briefed on the process for contacting us on GCSE Results Day.

'I am constantly reminded of how lucky I am to have been able to thrive in such an environment under the care of such excellent staff. I am so grateful... it has made me who I am and helped me to achieve my best. I hope that this continues and that younger students realise what this school has to offer.'

Year 13 Leaver