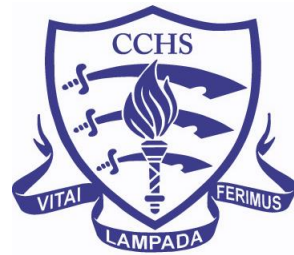


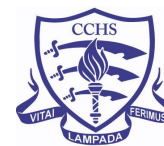
# COMMUNITAS

Summer Term 2021

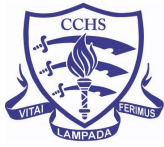


*Artist of the Week – Jasmine, Year 7*

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## Message from the Headteacher

*Dear Parents,*

In the pages that follow you will be provided with an insight into what students and staff have experienced and achieved this year. Of course, we have had to change, reschedule and enjoy things differently; but so much has still been accomplished, thanks to the determination of students, the hard work of staff and the support of parents.

My abiding memory of this academic year is of our community pulling together. Strange as it sounds, we have had more contact with and from parents, albeit via email and phone calls, rather than in person, than ever before. So many parents have taken the time to contact us to share their feedback, to pass on comments and suggestions, and to thank members of staff. These messages were shared with members of staff and definitely helped us all to know that we had such support, as we worked to move things forward.

It has been wonderful to see students showing such courage and fortitude as they adapted to the necessary changes brought to school life. As ever, it is the seemingly small things that are actually, in the living, really very important: a smile, laughter-filled chats with friends, helping and encouraging one another, etc. With the need to keep classroom doors and windows open, we have all experienced lessons in different ways. The corridors have been filled with the voices of teachers and students as they work, including lively discussions, group work activities, music and drama lessons, and so on.

Each year group has lived a particular experience this year. Year 11 and Year 13 students had to deal with a very different approach to their GCSE and A level course assessments.

I think they did remarkably well, staying positive and working hard with their teachers. I would like to thank parents for the part they played – in challenging periods such as this, the home-school relationships become so significant.

Looking to the future, we will take these, and many more, experiences with us as we continue to prepare for the new term and academic year. Our current campus development project will be completed for the start of September, offering more space, additional resources and new opportunities for students and staff. This speaks to our future-focused approach and we are resolved to continue this campus development with new projects to realise our ambitions for our School.

This theme of ambition will animate the forthcoming academic year and beyond – pressing ahead, on a variety of fronts, as we live our commitment to excellence in girls' education and empowerment.

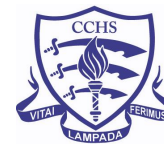
I leave you to read on and hear from members of staff and students in our newsletter. I wish you all well for the forthcoming summer break and thank you for your contributions to our School community.

I wish you a happy summer break.

*Mr Lawlor*

Headteacher

# Staff News



We wish Miss J Stevens and Miss G Sales all the very best as they depart to go on maternity leave, and we look forward to hearing their news in the Autumn term.

## **This term we have said farewell to:**

- ♦ Miss Silverio, Teacher of French
- ♦ Mrs Nicoll, Teacher of Physics
- ♦ Mrs Jethwa, Teacher of Chemistry (maternity cover)
- ♦ Mrs Puri, Teacher of Biology (maternity cover)
- ♦ Mrs Adams, Teacher of Mandarin (extra curricular)
- ♦ Mrs Carnell, Music Peripatetic Teacher – Cello
- ♦ Mrs Smith, Cover Supervisor
- ♦ Mrs Lewis, Admissions and Attendance Officer
- ♦ Mrs Carroll, PA to Dr Palmer and the Sixth Form Team
- ♦ Mrs Reilly, Assistant Examinations Officer
- ♦ Mrs Bates, Senior Assistant to Mr Lawlor

## **We welcome the following new members of staff:**

- ♦ Mr Badmus, Teacher of Chemistry
- ♦ Mrs Howard, Teacher of Mathematics
- ♦ Miss Miller, Teacher of French
- ♦ Miss S Sales, Teacher of PE
- ♦ Mrs White, Teacher of Mathematics
- ♦ Mrs Poole, Music Peripatetic Teacher – Cello
- ♦ Dr Dervin, Trainee Chemistry Teacher
- ♦ Mr Davies, Trainee History Teacher
- ♦ Ms Erhanon, Trainee German Teacher
- ♦ Mrs Church, Education Support Officer
- ♦ Mrs Hassan, Examinations Officer
- ♦ Mrs Bailey, Assistant Examinations Officer
- ♦ Miss McGrath, Senior Assistant to Mr Lawlor
- ♦ Mrs Brown – Office Supervisor & Personal Assistant to Deputy Headteacher

## **We congratulate the following members of staff who have either taken up new positions or changed positions within the school:**

- ♦ Mrs Ellen, Subject Leader for Psychology
- ♦ Mrs Dawson, Subject Leader for History
- ♦ Mr Copper, Global Citizenship Co-ordinator (additional role)
- ♦ Mr Goodier, Second in charge of Mathematics (Strategic)
- ♦ Mr Mitchell, Second in charge of Mathematics (Operational)
- ♦ Mr Jones, Teacher of Mathematics (from full time to part time)
- ♦ Mrs Greenland, Teacher of English and Art (additional roles – maternity cover)
- ♦ Mrs Cutmore, Teacher of English (now permanent member of staff)
- ♦ Mrs Manning, returning from maternity leave as Teacher of Biology (was formerly Teacher of Chemistry)
- ♦ Mrs Guilloux, Trainee French Teacher
- ♦ Mrs Kurian, STEM Lead
- ♦ Mrs Connolly, ITT Lead
- ♦ Mrs Dale, HR and Office Manager
- ♦ Mrs Hiskett, PA to Dr Palmer and the Sixth Form Team
- ♦ Mrs Maslin, Admissions & Attendance Officer
- ♦ Mrs Newton – after 15 years service at CCHS, Mrs Newton will retire as HR Manager; however, she will continue her role as Clerk to Governors



# Curriculum News

Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher

Since the adoption of the National Curriculum in 1988, many leaders and policy makers assumed that, because the government had stipulated what schools were required to teach, no further discussion about the curriculum was needed.

This assumption was a mistake for two reasons. Firstly, it set out the legal framework in terms of the minimum requirement that schools were legally required to teach; schools were always entirely free to teach whatever they wished in addition to the prescribed national curriculum. Secondly, no reference was made to the 'real curriculum', by which I mean the lived daily experience of young people in classrooms, purely dependent on the creative input of teachers.

Following a shake-up of the education system, schools with academy status were advised that they were no longer required to follow the National Curriculum but that they must teach a broad and balanced curriculum, to include the subjects of English, Maths, Science, and Religious Education.



The School Inspection Framework published in 2019, reiterated this advice, but extended it to include the period during which it must be taught: 'schools must have made provision to ensure that pupils still have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, commensurate with the national curriculum, in Years 7 to 9'. And in an interview in July 2019, Ofsted Inspector Heather Fearn wrote, 'during inspection, inspectors will talk to senior leaders to find out whether the curriculum is broad and balanced. Is it at least as ambitious as the national curriculum?'

It appears to me that 33 years since its adoption into the education system, and 7 years since its relaxation, the National Curriculum still dominates as the supposedly 'gold standard' of education.

I am certainly not opposed to the notion of a framework of subjects that students are encouraged to study, and very much in favour of a broad and balanced curriculum, but I am opposed to the notion that curriculum begins and ends with subjects, courses, and programs of study, and very much in favour of driving forward the notion that curriculum is so very much more nuanced.

It involves the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn, which includes the learning objectives they are expected to meet; the units and lessons that teachers teach; the assignments and projects given to students; the books, materials, videos, presentations, and readings used in a course; and the tests, assessments, and other methods used to evaluate student learning. In this sense, every school's curriculum will therefore, by definition, be unique, by establishing, meeting and adapting to the individual needs of their students.

# Curriculum News

Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher

Teachers develop their own curricula, often refining and improving them over years. Curriculum development is an inherently creative process in which teachers take the desired outcomes from the intended curriculum and convert them into engaging activities in classrooms, thinking about, studying, discussing, and analysing curriculum, until they have acquired a specialist's expertise in curriculum development - i.e., they know how to structure, organize, and deliver lessons in ways that facilitate or accelerate student learning.

To non-educators, some curriculum materials may seem simple or straightforward (such as a list of required reading, for example), but they may reflect a deep and sophisticated understanding of an academic discipline and of the most effective strategies for learning acquisition.

The curriculum is the result of many choices that have been made during the curriculum development process and interestingly, what is left out speaks just as loudly as what is included, what Eliot Eisner calls the 'null curriculum', 'the options students are not afforded; the perspectives they may never know about, much less be able to use; the concepts and skills that are not part of the intellectual repertoire' (Eisner, 1985, *The educational imagination*).

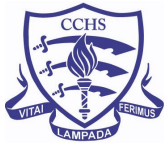
What I think is apparent is that there can never be a paint by numbers approach to curriculum development. A school's curriculum has to be relevant to the students for whom it is intended, and it is teachers that connect the valued outcomes to the students in front of them. This is where teacher creativity is most important.

During my research for this article, I was interested to learn that the word "curriculum" is a Latin term for a track around which competitors race. If that is the case and we take the literal meaning in the Latin sense, then the race that we are running, perhaps to obtain the perfect curriculum or gold standard, will be a long one.



Curriculum development is not something done periodically, but part of every school's regular cycle of improvement and renewal, and so perhaps if we are running a race, it is an infinite relay.

Either way, a framework is one thing, but the reality of curriculum development is much less linear and much more organic, much more locally, or indeed, individually devised, which means there can be nothing national about it.



## Teaching & Learning

Mrs Jo Cross, Assistant Headteacher

As a school we are continually looking for ways in which we can enhance our students' learning journey and to equip them with the skills needed for academic enjoyment and success both now and in the future.

Following the successful launch of the CCHS Academic Excellence in Research Award for our Year 10 students, Mrs Cross and Mrs Ellen have continued to work in conjunction with NACE (The National Association for Able Children in Education) and with Cambridge University's Education Research Faculty to identify specific study skills and personal attributes beneficial for students at different stages of their secondary education. This has enabled us to put together a programme of academic enrichment starting in Year 7 and continuing until Year 13. The overarching aim of this programme is to give all students the opportunity to develop, practice and build key academic skills and personal attributes as they progress through the school which will be of benefit to them in their school careers and also in their future ambitions.

Our Year 7 and 9 students were the first year groups to take part in this programme. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June they participated in a morning of activities designed to build academic resilience and to develop important study skills. For both mornings we were joined by [Elevate Education](#), who specialise in delivering research based, high impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. This was followed by two additional workshops lead by CCHS staff building on the skills and activities from the Elevate session.



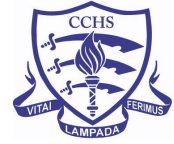
Both days were an incredible success with 98% of Year 7 and 9 students suggesting they would recommend the sessions and 99% stated that the mornings were time well spent. When asked about her experience one Year 7 student told us that the "sessions we participated in on Monday were very beneficial to me and taught me a lot. I learnt about how to make studying more efficient and I am now able to recall and successfully apply all the tips and tricks I was shown into my revision and daily work".

As a school we are excited for the future development of this project in the next academic year with further events and opportunities for students planned, starting with Year 12 in September. We are grateful to all the staff involved who gave their time to support these incredibly successful launch events and look forward to sharing updates on Academic enrichment at CCHS over the next year.



# Jack Petchey Awards

Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher



## 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.

We have a bumper crop to celebrate during this newsletter recognising winners between the period January – June 2021.

**January 2021**      **Winner:** Ella      **Age:** 11

**Reason for award:** Ella has been an amazing member of the CHIPS team, attending all the meetings both in school and throughout lockdown, as well as lately becoming a valuable member of the ECO committee. She volunteered to do the Monday memo and recently wrote an excellent piece. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Ella has made a great contribution through her enthusiasm and commitment to her Charity Rep role.

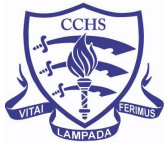
**February 2021**      **Winner:** Subhiksha **Age:** 13

**Reason for award:** During her time at school she has gone above and beyond to volunteer in all aspects of school life and has demonstrated outstanding commitment to learning this year. It has been noted that she is always willing to help teachers with anything they need at a moment's notice, going out of her way to help. She is such a positive student and her cheery disposition and can-do attitude are highly infectious. Despite having to remote learn for a long time this year, she has never let this stop her in her educational journey. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Subhiksha has made a great contribution to the school community and truly represents the spirit of CCHS.

**March 2021**      **Winner:** Alex      **Age:** 14

**Reason for award:** Alex is a brilliant and dedicated student, always volunteering to help. She recently helped the PE department with some Year 6 taster sessions, attended all of the hockey sessions and really performed in the new coaching role. As well as this she put herself forward in a number of ways volunteering to help her Year Leader with an assembly and assisting some Year 6 students as they came in for their entrance test day, amongst other things. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Alex has made a great contribution to the school community through her work.





# Jack Petchey Awards

Mrs Emma Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher



## Achievement Awards

**April 2021 Winner : Lottie Age : 17**

**Reason for award:** Lottie has been nominated for her excellent contribution to the school. It has particularly been noted that she has been pivotal in the setting up and running of the Classics Club for the Latin Department and her enthusiasm and commitment to the cause have been much appreciated. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Lottie has made a great contribution to the school community through her work.

**May 2021 Winner : Eleanor Age: 14**

**Reason for award:** Eleanor was recently elected for the Essex Young Assembly and worked tremendously hard to achieve this. She has also thrown herself into many competitions beyond the curriculum, an example of which is the recent ESU Performing Shakespeare competition where she reached the grand final. It has been noted that she is a stellar student who will always go above and beyond and her Year Leader has advised that she has been an asset to the events prefect team too. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Eleanor has made a great contribution to the school community through her work.

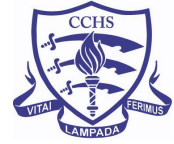
**June 2021 Winner : Thanisha Age: 12**

**Reason for award:** Thanisha was recently voted House Captain and not only demonstrates outstanding leadership skills but has also taken part in nearly every House event this year, even refusing to be subbed during House bench ball despite taking a nasty fall. Last week she was nominated Artist of the Week and was also one of the top students in Year 7 for House cakes. Thanisha has also lately achieved a Silver Award, one of the very few in the year group to do so. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community and we believe Thanisha has made a great contribution to the school community through her efforts.

**Congratulations and thank you to them all**

# Pastoral News

Miss Fiona Harrison, Acting Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral



The Summer Term has been busy in the pastoral world. As always, the Year Leaders have continued to support their year groups and all staff have worked hard to safeguard our community. Although we have not been able to run events in the usual way this year, due to COVID, we have managed to ensure all students have had individual TA discussions, Parents Evenings (even if they were virtual!) and celebration assemblies with certificates. We have been able to respond to a need for more training on social media and the cyber world.

We welcomed 'The Two Johns' who ran sessions for both students and parents. We had a fabulous reaction to 'The Two Johns' and hope everyone remembers the important messages they shared as we move into the summer holidays. We were also able to invite our new Year 6 students in for their 'Welcome Meeting' - although they were slightly different - the students were able to speak to a staff member and meet some of their fellow tutees. We look forward to welcoming them in September.

The students have coped and adapted exceptionally well with everything that they have faced this term. They have put all their enthusiasm into House Events, Sports Day and all Extra-Curricular events we have been able to offer. At lunchtimes they have embraced the fresh air and raised an incredible amount of money by buying all the cakes at the Pride Cake Sale.

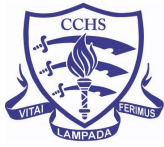
All of this, as well as working their socks off! The students have filled the corridors with joy again after the period of remote learning - and for that - we are grateful. Life in the pastoral world is so much better when the corridors are filled with voices and laughter.

Should anyone need support over the holidays the Year Leaders have shared support numbers, email addresses and websites. Of course, there is always the CCHS pastoral email address:

[pastoralsupport@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@cchs.essex.sch.uk)

I wish you all a restful, safe, and fabulous summer.

Enjoy the break and I look forward to seeing you all in school very soon.



## Year 7

### Mrs Nina Lewis, Year Leader

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge congratulations to all our Year 7s on a fantastic first year at CCHS....and what a year it has been! Year 7, you have really done yourselves proud.

Since returning to school following the Easter break Year 7 have tried to make the most of every opportunity that has come their way. Despite the poor weather so many Year 7 students have signed up to sports clubs at lunchtime where they have been able to enjoy fresh air and exercise. The swim and tennis teams were selected, and our athletes were able to take part in some long-awaited competition.

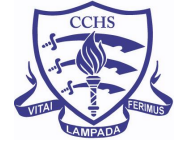
The Year 7 contribution to World Book Day and the Born this Way festival was fabulous with many of our older students commenting on how well our younger students did. The Academic Resilience Workshop at the end of June was very well received by the Year 7s who have already been able to put into practise their new skills. Year 7 shone in their House Drama performances and really added a comedy value to the event with staff and students commenting on how much talent they have.

Year 7, you are a wonderful group of young people, please continue to spread kindness and positivity to those who need it, educate one another without judgement and be happy. Thank you for being an amazing year group to lead and I wish you all the very best for the future. I will leave you with the incredible words of Maya Angelou, "if one has courage, **nothing** can dim the light which shines within".

Have a lovely summer break!



# Pastoral News



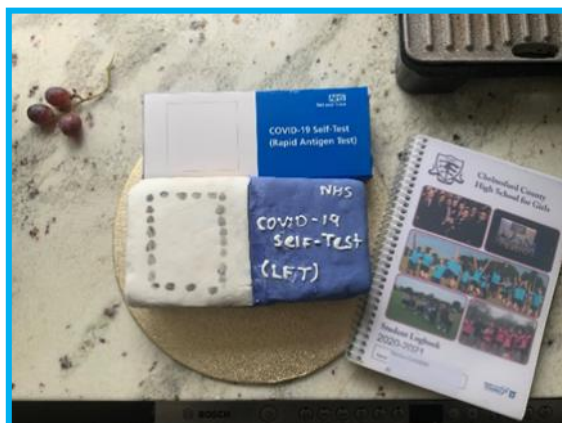
## Year 8

### Mrs Hayley Busby, Year Leader

As we close on the end of term, this marks the end of a remarkable year for Year 8. With this term marking the longest time they have spent in school for quite some time, I couldn't be prouder of their dedication to learning and ability to smile through all the adversity (yes even beneath the masks).

Despite there not being the typical end-of-year-8 enrichment activities we are used to seeing, the students have jumped with gusto at all the enrichment activities we have been able to offer. 8G, literally, jumped into first place with an outstanding win in the House Obstacle race.

There were also some fantastic entries from Year 8 in the House cake competition, with this very tongue in cheek entry from Naviya Ganesh that does seem to sum up the year so far! Joely's cake also managed to capture the beauty of the CCHS colours, a cake pretty enough for any bake-off contestant to be proud of.



'Winning Wednesdays' have been a great hit in form times, 8G being the winner so far but with a few weeks to go who knows what will happen. With our students competitive spirit I know it's all to play for. Class assemblies have also been a real highlight of form-time activities.

The students have also continued to practice their oratory skills in class assemblies; it is an amazing opportunity as well to learn what they are so passionate about. The noise around the Year 8 forms at break and lunchtime are buzzing with laughter, chatter and heated Uno games!

I look forward to taking the year group through to Year 9 and starting the options process with them. It is my absolute pleasure to watch them grow and develop into articulate young people. I know they will grasp all the opportunities next year has to offer.





## Year 9

### Miss Charlotte Burnham, Year Leader

Well what a year it has been and I am sure Year 9 would agree with me! From the summer sun (only a few days from March to May) to the down pours and soaking wet PE lessons in June, it has certainly been strange. Nonetheless, no matter the rain, wind or hailstones nothing will stop Year 9 rounders extra- curricular club.



We have had some brilliant house events that have continued to take place such as house no bench benchball, house cakes, house obstacles and all of the other subject competitions in between. The Year 9 students have been involved with all of these activities and participated to the best of their ability.



With the start of the year being remote schooling it was so wonderful to come back to school and for everyone to be reunited. A personal favourite was the Christmas feeling when will all came back, with presents being exchanged and lots of sweet treats being handed out (all COVID safe of course) in March.

Year 9 have tackled big decision making, in choosing their GCSE options. Although, as ever they have taken this all in their stride with great determination and maturity. I know that they will be excited to take on the next big step and challenge in their school life when they come back as Year 10 students.



I look forward to welcoming back this cohort in September ready to hit the ground running. I hope that everyone has a wonderful and restful summer, hopefully with some sun!

# Pastoral News



## Year 10

### Miss Georgie Sales, Year Leader



Year 10 have had a very busy term, with the main priority being the Year 10 school exams. That said, the year group as a whole managed these exams brilliantly, and as their Year Leader I was extremely proud of how they coped with them and how they conducted themselves. I did try to put a few extra smiles on some faces with a silly meme on my whiteboard for every exam...but I think most of Year 10 were laughing at me and not with me!

The students have fully involved themselves in to Prefect life. You can see the Year Leader Prefects (right) in action in the hall, speaking to local primary schools about coming to CCHS. This is part of the Primary School Outreach programme that we organise every year. Sadly, due to Covid, we were unable to physically go in to these schools, but by the power of technology and MS Teams, we were able to deliver our usual assembly to Year 4 and 5 students. The Year Leader Prefects were absolutely fantastic, displaying leadership qualities beyond their years. More recently, the above prefects worked well with Miss Harrison's Events Prefects to launch the Summer School this year, and Miss Harrison said the students were brilliant with the little ones when they came for a taster day to CCHS.

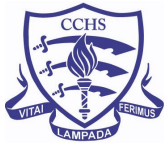
Lastly, I launched the annual Year 11 Leadership Conference last week and the students will be busy signing up for their group that they want to work in. something I have heard Year 10 all discussing, so hopefully they all pick the right group for them.

Real preparation will begin for this event in September but hopefully Year 10 will be coming up with some ideas over the Summer holidays too! This is always such a fantastic event, that is enjoyed by everyone, and I know this cohort of students will 'pull it out of the bag' to make this one of the best conferences this school has seen.

Sports day and House drama events have provided a nice finish to what has been a very different year.

Moving forwards, and as I am soon to start my maternity leave, I leave Year 10 in the wonderful hands of Mrs Chumbley, who I know is very excited to take this cohort through their final year in the main school, and through to their GCSE exams.

I will miss this year group so much, and I feel sad that we won't be finishing this journey we started together all those years ago! But, I will be back for visits! I wish Year 10 all the very best going forwards.



## Year 11

### Mrs Marion Chumbley Year Leader

As Year 11 came to the end of their mini-assessments we turned our minds towards having some fun to celebrate all their hard work. We organised a House Tournament, led by Miss Holt, which featured games as never seen before. Who would imagine wearing a pair of tights on one's head and trying to knock over 2 litre bottles of water could be such fun!



The second part of the competition featured old favourites including no-bench benchball for 130 students at one time. On the day that the year 11 began their long Summer break we had lots of magnificently decorated shirts to sign and a wonderful picnic. It was a scorching afternoon and the ice cream van made good business.



My favourite part of the day followed as the year 11 students laid on some entertainment for the audience and it was lovely to see all of year 11 on their feet and dancing as 11H led us all in



the Cha-Cha Slide (check name of song?) After such a challenging year it was fabulous to witness such camaraderie. I know that this will serve the year 11 well as they enter the Sixth Form and I wish them all the very best.



## Sixth Form News

Dr Michael Palmer, Mrs Hayley Ellen and Mrs Emma Hiatt

Despite the continuing challenges of Covid this has certainly been a busy and dynamic term in the life of the Sixth Form.

Our Year 13 students left us in May having completed their final assessments and they are looking forward to receiving their A level grades on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. We wish them well as they make the best of the summer to pursue relaxation, employment and preparation for further study.

We were very pleased that we were able to run very many of the events to mark the end of their time in school, albeit in a changed and Covid secure way and we hope that their leavers' week has left them with many good memories of CCHS.

Our Year 12 students have been working incredibly hard this term. In May they revised for and sat their school examinations and since half term they have been much engaged in starting their Year 13 courses and in thinking hard about applying to university or to other post-school opportunities such as degree apprenticeships. We have celebrated many excellent Year 12 examination results and also congratulate the many students who have entered and been commended in university essay competitions.

The last weeks of term have seen a number of Year 12 students having to isolate. However we are very pleased that despite this disruption our senior students have continued to be effective leaders of the school community. Our Year 12s played a leading role in supporting the events of Sports Day.

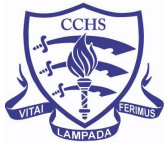
They also provided excellent support to their peers in the Senior Prefect Team in the running of 'Born This Way' - our summer festival. This event had to be scaled down and adapted to meet the challenges of Covid but nonetheless gave the school a great opportunity for an afternoon of entertainment and relaxation.



At the time of writing we are still waiting for a final figure but we hope to have raised a good sum for Young Minds, a charity who do excellent work to support the mental health of young people.

We wish all students a relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing the current Year 12s as Year 13s in September as well as to welcoming our new Year 12s coming up from Year 11 at CCHS and joining us from other schools.





## German

We have had a busy year in the German Department where lots of students have taken advantage of the extracurricular activities on offer, even in a global pandemic.

We were thrilled to be awarded the Jack Petchy funds from Gracie G (Y8) after all her hard work in lockdown which has purchased a year's Linguascope subscription which has benefitted all MFL students from all year groups so we are very grateful.

There were a number of translation competitions offered to all year groups with success for Eesha (Y10), Mariella (Y11) and Manaal (Y11).



We have started a pen pal scheme for Y10 students with the Taus Gymnasium, our Exchange school. In Year 12, students took part in an online debate organised by the Goethe Institute. Hannah (Y13) was also successful in two competitions including the German Olympiad and one of her prizes was to take part in a virtual event with other young people learning German, again organised by the Goethe Institute.

## CCHS Academic Excellence in Research Award



In September 2020 the Year 10 cohort embarked upon the CCHS Academic Excellence In Research Award, a programme based on the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ).

The HPQ requires students to carry out research on a religious, philosophical or ethical topic that they have chosen and is not covered by their other qualifications. They then use this research to produce a written report and presentation.

This was the first time we ran this initiative and it provided Year 10 students with the perfect way to extend and develop beyond the material studied in class and offers students an opportunity to explore their passion for a subject.

Upon completion of the projects there are nine Year 10 students who have been awarded with the Platinum Prize for their exceptional reports and presentations.

We offer our huge congratulations to **Shivaani , Victoria, Hashna, Eleanor, Khalen, Ruth, Naomi, Martha and Ishika** who have all been presented with their awards during Junior Prize Giving this week! These students will now become ambassadors for the next Year 10 cohort to take on the programme of study next year.

## Bar Mock Trial

### Competition Report by Sasha, Year 12

The Bar Mock Trial is an annual competition designed to introduce students to the legal system, in which students are organised into roles to mimic a real-life court scenario, with barristers, witnesses, and juries. Under the guidance of Mr Summers and Mrs Selden, we had been working in a team of 15 to prepare for a trial against the Bournemouth School, which ended up taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. The rehearsal was not to be underestimated, because we were often practising until late in the evening, perfecting cross-examinations and trying to carry out interrogations over Microsoft Teams.

Under normal circumstances, the actual trial day would have been held in a court room, but this year's venue was even more incredible because we were in L1. Still, the trial ran surprisingly smoothly, and both our defence and prosecution teams did extremely well, resulting in a resounding win for CCHS. As an overview of how the Bar Mock court works, a barrister from CCHS would interrogate a witness from Bournemouth, and then this would switch over for the second run of the hearing. This meant that though we had practised within our own school teams, the unique experience of the Bar Mock is its spontaneity and having to adapt to new questions and answers.

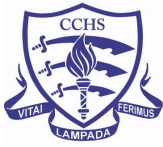
Without having to go into the intricacies of the case, there were certainly some tense moments where our witnesses had to challenge the evidence presented to them. Likewise on the barrister side it was particularly rewarding when a cross examination was just as manipulative as you had hoped. Ultimately, with all of us dressed up in itchy wigs and plastic bottle t shirts, we really could not have experienced a more enjoyable insight into the world of law.

It simply isn't possible to talk about the Bar Mock without considering the huge efforts that went into organising it.

The complications of Covid meant the actual competition was cancelled, and therefore it was only through the work of the staff that we got the opportunity at all. Mrs Selden was sending us at least three emails a week trying to organise a trial date, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without her continued support. Mr Summers' help in coaching the team was incredible; if we hadn't been scrutinised in perfecting our performance it would never have been so fulfilling.

Hopefully next year the competition will be able to run in full again – and this is very much an advert to audition and take part.





## English

It has been a fantastic year for Year 10 who have had some incredible successes in the world of competitive public speaking and debating. In January, **Manya** and **April** won the first round of the English Speaking Union (ESU) Mace Debate despite being a team member short. They were joined in March by **Rhythm** at the regional final where they performed amazingly over the course of a gruelling and hard-fought four-hour competition, although their competition ended there. Well done to the girls and thank you to Mrs Watt for coaching!

At the start of the academic year all Year 10 students took part in the annual Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshops, run by a fabulous team of external coaches who help students to develop their confidence in public speaking. Out of the entire year group, **Mayumi** was judged the best overall and went through to the national competition, where she won both the local AND regional round with her powerful speech 'Why girls need to stop apologising'. She will be competing in the final in the Autumn having beaten thousands of students around the country – well done Mayumi!

The spring term also saw a team enter the ESU Public Speaking Competition – a notoriously difficult contest due to its unusual formalities and structure. The team featured three exceptionally strong students – **Aseel**, **Khalen** and **Matilda**. Incredibly, this team also fought through three rounds to reach the national final, driven by Aseel's powerful and creative speeches taking in everything from David Bowie to chess, Matilda's sharp and insightful questioning of the opposition, and Khalen's infectious enthusiasm as chairperson. Although the team as a whole did not finish first, Khalen was crowned 'Best Chairperson' in the country – an amazing achievement! Well done to all the girls involved.



More recently, **Akshada** and **Eleanor** made it all the way to the final of the ESU Performing Shakespeare Competition with their dark and atmospheric performance from *Macbeth*. Their performance was streamed live over Youtube and, although they did not win overall, they were praised by the judges for their range of emotions and dramatic performances. Well done and thanks to Mrs Selden for her coaching through the competition!



**ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**  
discovering voices

## Year 6 Sessions

The year 6 sessions are held by the PE Department in order to allow our new students joining us in September a chance to meet others and to start friendships. There have been lots of CCHS students from various year groups volunteering to help out at these sessions and have done so brilliantly. The PE department would like to thank every CCHS student that came to coach those younger students, you exceeded our expectations as you always do. Below are some of the reports from students in Year 9.

### What I did:

*I helped out by leading a group of year 6's with 2 other year 9's, and we took them through warm-ups, taught them different hockey skills from the basics like how to hold a stick to techniques to play skillfully.*

*I enjoyed teaching them the hockey skills and talking to them about CCHS and finding things out about them - I remembered taking part in this before I joined the school.*

*I gained more confidence in teaching others, and therefore learning more myself about teaching skills effectively.*

*Nhyira, 9C*

*I really enjoyed teaching the Year 6's because I not only got to pass on my own knowledge to others, but also got to increase my knowledge in it too, because while teaching the girls, I also learnt quite a few tricks. For example, when holding the hockey stick, you should hold the hand at the top of the stick more tightly and the hand lower down much more loosely, so that when dribbling, it is easier to rotate your stick. By helping to teach the Year 6's, I also got the chance to improve my organisation skills and leadership skills, which I believe are good skills to have in life.*

*Overall, I believe that this experience has been very beneficial for me and I am certainly glad that I took this opportunity.*

*Kirit, 9C*

*There are several qualities which I believed I improved, most notably confidence. Being on the astro meant that it was slightly hard to be heard, so we had to speak much louder to keep the year 6s engaged, something which is quite different from my usual voice dynamics (I discovered an entirely new volume level I didn't even know I had!). I also am of the opinion that my organisation skills improved too. Before the year 6s came onto the astro, Kirit, Nhyira and I would plan out exactly what would do, to avoid confusion and to make sure we got through all the tasks set. If something didn't go to plan, we tried again, reflecting on how to give the best possible experience to the year 6s, another attribute to CCHS learner profile.*

*To sum up, this has definitely been a positive experience for me, as a result of the skills I've learned and the satisfaction I've gained from watching the year 6s grow in confidence. In the future, perhaps if I'm doubting my confidence, I will look back on this, to remind myself that I have the ability to be a leader and that I am capable of fulfilling many of the qualities on the CCHS learner profile, something which I could only dream of at the start of my personal CCHS journey.*

*Emily, 9C*

*I loved doing it as I got leadership skills from it and also learnt how to help people and teach them how to do a skill they have never done before. I took a lot away from it also regarding organisation and communicating in my group of 3 and organising drills and equipment before the year 6s arrived. I really enjoyed doing it and it was an amazing experience to have and would definitely do it again if I was presented with the opportunity.*

*Amy, 9C*

*I really enjoyed the hockey session. Despite me only attending the final one, I believe my leadership skills were challenged and therefore broadened. I coached two sessions, which I enjoyed thoroughly. I even volunteered to join in on one of them, since we were a player short. We did 'the gate game', in which the players were instructed to dribble and pass through colour-coordinated gates. For the second session, I assisted on teaching the players how to get around a defender, through right and left drags. I believe this not only taught them effectively, but it also taught me to be a better leader, and how to successfully introduce a new skill to others.*

*Millie, 9H*



# House News

Ms Stephanie Holt

## Report by Anugraha Year 12 House Official

As brand new house officials in January, whilst still in lockdown we were given the task of having to come up with house events that were online-friendly and easily accessible to everyone, especially given the extenuating circumstances. Online school certainly was not the easiest, and instead of completely changing our traditional events, we decided to adapt and conquer! House Pancakes (a Microsoft Teams version), House Photography, House Benchless-Benchball and House Cakes were, to name a few, some of the events we came up with.

Spring term kicked off with House Pancakes 2.0. Though nothing can beat seeing your peers in costume attempting to flip flour tortillas in action, Microsoft Teams did not fail to impress! It was a huge success with great participation overall and seeing everyone's creativity with costumes was impressive; everyone really getting into character was definitely appreciated.

House Photography was a brand-new house event that allowed people to show a different side of their imagination. Once again, this was greatly popular with several submissions - us House Officials can all agree that they were very difficult to shortlist. It was nice looking through the massive variety of pictures submitted - there are certainly a few budding photographers!

House Benchless-Benchball was our first in-school house event following our return to school and was also our first time as house officials to introduce and familiarise ourselves with everyone. We were blown away by the team spirit and can-do attitude that everyone had - Year 7's commitment and enthusiasm was really lovely to see, considering this was their first time competing in House Benchball (though adapted)! Nonetheless, our CCHS competitiveness did not lack and, through the benchballs thrown too far out and countless benchballs to the face, this house event really enhanced our community spirit and togetherness, which was wonderful to experience, following our change of events.



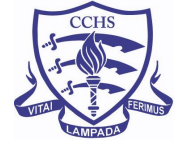
Everyone's cake decorating skills were tested with House Cakes, which did not miss! COVID restrictions and waste reduction meant that pictures of the cakes were submitted instead of bringing all the cakes into school and though most people will miss eating cake virtually the whole day, the amount of time and effort placed into decoration was truly reflected with the amazing submissions we were given. A huge congratulations to the winners, you guys truly deserved it!



CCHS' efforts to house events and our house system has been key in maintaining our strong community spirit. Our commitment is what makes us so unique and our school so special! On behalf of all the House Officials, I'd like to say a massive thank you and a huge congratulations to everyone who participated and helped out with the House Events this year, we made sure to make the most of it and couldn't have done it without you!

# Drama News

Mr Adam Selby



## GCSE and A-Level Performances

As has been the case with Drama departments up and down this country, we have had to make massive adaptations to our curriculum this year. A particular adaptation has been to GCSE and A-Level practical performances. In usual years, we rehearse our scripted performances in small groups and perform these to an audience of parents, friends and other school staff. However, this year our students were challenged with preparing a monologue for performance to both Mr Selby and Mrs Broughton.

Beginning our preparations over lockdown using Microsoft Teams our GCSE students were given a monologue to prepare over a five-week period. Collaborating with peers (both online and eventually in person) we were treated some outstanding performances from our GCSE students. These performances came from plays such as: *Daisy Pulls it Off* by Denise Deegan, *Girls Like That* by Evan Placey, *Things I Know to be True* by Andrew Bovell and *DNA* by Dennis Kelly (to name just a few...). We were astonished by the quality of these monologue performances, with students overcoming the nerves of performing by themselves to deliver outstanding pieces of Drama.

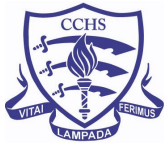
Our A-Level students received a similar experience to those at GCSE, starting their scripted performances during lockdown via Microsoft Teams.

All students performed their chosen monologue using the style of Naturalism influenced by Konstantin Stanislavski. His belief was that actors should present 'truth on stage' and our students did a tremendous job of creating this effect in their performances. We were treated to monologues from the *Talking Heads* series by Alan Bennett; from *My Mother Said I Never Should* by Charlotte Keatley and many others. Mrs Broughton and Mr Selby were blown away with the quality of the performances produced over such a short time period.

We have been so impressed with the determination and resilience shown by all our students in Year 11 and Year 13 this year. In a year where isolation has made collaboration so difficult, we are so proud of all our students have achieved.

## Extra-Curricular

You may recall in our Christmas newsletter, I spoke about our plans for extra-curricular Drama this year. Like so many things, Covid-19 has made these things difficult to achieve. However, by the time you read this, we should have (fingers crossed) successfully held our first House Drama competition in a number of years. Students throughout Year 7 to 12 have been preparing an extract for performance within their form groups. These were performed to a panel of expert judges and to their peers. Well done to all those who took part.



# Music

Mr Chris Lamberti & Mrs Sarah Clements

It has been fantastic to have lessons return to the music department for all year groups this term! Whilst there have been restrictions in place it has allowed us to explore more practical based lessons especially for years 7 & 8.

M2 has been transformed into a music keyboard suite and students in all years have benefitted from this resource. It has been a treat to listen to year 7 students compose their own variations of Dvorak's Largo from the New World Symphony as well as year 8's improvise and play some inspiring blues music.

Gradually more and more live music has been returning. The return of our annual Cabaret concert was a real pleasure. Mrs Clements auditioned so many students across all year groups and as such had the unenviable task of choosing a varied programme. Like everyone else we very much hope can return to live concerts next year. This virtual event is an absolute joy to watch and really highlights the wealth of musical talent in our school.

Over the year we have had so many students unable to sit a graded music examination. Due to built up demand we now have 3 days of exams taking place after we have broken up for the summer in order to accommodate a visiting examiner from ABRSM. I must thank our superb team of peripatetic music teachers for all the hard work in delivering lessons and preparing the students.

We have approximately 65 students taking examinations from grade 1 to grade 8 and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Our year 10 prefects provided some lovely, live, music performances for our school art exhibition. This helped add another layer of atmosphere to this stunning event. Being able to view the highly impressive artwork and listen to our students was a joy and shows just how much we have missed live performances.



## Arts Awards

We have 10 students putting the finishing touches to their Silver Arts Award. This level 2 qualification is a highly demanding course under the best of times, but the students have dealt superbly with everything that has come their way through the year. The award allows them to focus on an arts skill they are interested in from art to music. Indeed, we have had two pairs of students work together in putting together a lunchtime concert and a virtual samba performance. The quality of everyone's work has been superb.



We also have a further 59 year 8 students working towards their Bronze Arts Award (level 1 qualification). All this work has been completed outside of the usual lesson times of the school day. It is a real credit to all involved as to how dedicated and passionate they are about the arts.



We will have a visiting moderator in school at the start of the academic year to formally assess their work. All this work highlights why we are recognised as an Artsmark school.

## Cabaret Concert

I'm thrilled to be able to share our virtual Cabaret Concert which we recorded at the beginning of the month. These were to chosen performances after 4 weeks of auditioning around 75 students so a huge well done to those that were chosen and to those that prepared and performed for an audition. You will enjoy a range of abilities, ages, instruments, genres and ensemble arrangements. I hope you enjoy the immense talent on show and I'd like to thank Mr French for his expertise and recording on the day, and for making this final video:

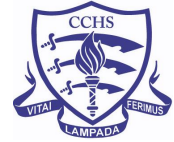
<https://youtu.be/w8YqjoHjdrk>

## And finally....

We very much hope to bring back all our music ensembles from September. The thought of hearing our Symphony & Concert Orchestras, Windband, Jazz Band, String Group, Show Choir, Senior Choir, Cantatrici, Junior and Senior flute ensembles, Guitar ensemble, Brass ensemble, Samba band, Recorder Consort and even more (I hope I haven't missed anything!) is something everyone is excited about.

# Learning Resource Centre

Mrs Martin & Mrs Davis



*“Children have the right to get information from the Internet, radio, television, newspapers, books and other sources.”*

– UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child

We have been delighted to see so many students visiting the Library and borrowing books. They have taken the changes to access and borrowing in their stride and we are always pleased to see their enthusiasm around reading and additional learning.



We are extremely grateful to all the parents who have kindly bought books from the [Amazon wishlist](#) and donated them to the Library. Often books from the wishlist are the students' own recommendations, which is something that we love to support. It's wonderful to be able to offer such a variety of reading material to the students. As per the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children have the right to access a selection of books. We work hard to ensure that the Library stock covers fiction and non-fiction in equal measure, and that within our fiction selection we have a wide variety of genres and authors to appeal to all readers.



In June Authors Abroad ran a creative writing competition, which asked that students carried on either a short story or a poem from a brief starter created by an author. We had a very positive response to the competition and were pleased to be able to submit 3 poems and 3 short stories for final judging. Congratulations to those who were put forward to the final stages; we enjoyed reading their creations!

Following a delay to our usual World Book Day activities we were able to celebrate with some fun competitions over the last weeks of term. Thank you to all who dressed up for the day – seeing everyone in their imaginative costumes was fantastic!

We also had a great response to our Book in a Jar competition and to the Library quiz. A big well done to the winners of each, who have been awarded their prizes.

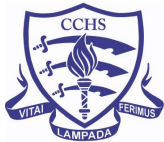


From September the Library will be in its new home on the ground floor of the school. We are looking forward to have a new, bigger space for students to study and visit during break times. We will have areas dedicated to themed displays, which we hope will allow the students to find new topics to read around, and perhaps try a different type of book that they had not previously considered.

We now have over 1500 eBooks on the Wheelers ePlatform. eBooks have proved very popular over the last year, allowing books to be borrowed when physical copies cannot be accessed. The eBook selection can be accessed from the [Oliver Library Catalogue](#).







# Sports News

Miss Sarah Bellamy, Miss Georgie Sales, & Miss Charlotte Burnham



With restrictions easing slightly, it enabled us to open up more extra-curricular clubs and activities, take part some fixtures and finally plan our Sports Day!

We have been busy at lunchtimes with Athletics club, Rounders club and Tennis trials too, and it has been so lovely to see some normality again out on the fields and the astro. And it has been even better to see some record numbers attending these clubs too! We are very thankful to the Year 12 Sports Officials for running the Rounders clubs for each year group - without them, these clubs would not have happened.

We had record numbers in Years 7-9 and we look forward to participating in some fixtures next year. Miss Burnham hosted Tennis trials for each age group where I know (again!) she had record numbers attend, especially in Year 7, and we look forward to seeing them represent the school next academic year.

Luckily, we were able to safely compete at the District athletics championships this year and what a lovely day of competition it was. We came away from the day with 4 District Champions: Sarah Yuen (Year 7 Shot Putt), Lottie Wilkin (Year 7 1500m), Bethan Davies (Year 7 800m) and Sarah Adesanya (Year 8 Shot Putt). A brilliant achievement for all 4 girls in their very first Districts and very first competition for the school. We had many other fantastic performances on the day and well done to all students who stepped up and took part. It was so lovely to see you all back out and competing again.

At the start of this term, we hosted our annual Year 6 taster sessions in Hockey, Netball and Athletics, and what a success they were! We had lots of future CCHS students attend and it was brilliant to see them all with smiles on their faces and to also see our own CCHS students in full swing, leading these sessions, and leading these sessions showing leadership qualities beyond their years.

The final sporting event of the year was Sports Day, that, as a Department, we always look forward to and this year did not disappoint!



**Congratulations**



Well done to Emily, 9C, for her winning entry to the Imagine! Environmental Challenge—a STEM Competition, run by Chelmsford and Engineering Society. The competition involved designing a poster or making a video to persuade people to get vaccinated.

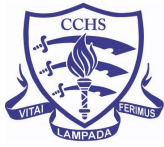


Well done to Ellie, 9S, for swimming at the Henley Regatta. Ellie was the youngest participant in this 4 mile swim challenge in the river Thames. Assisted by her brother, Ellie raised over £600 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. A fantastic achievement for such a worthwhile cause.



Well done to Nidhi, 7F, for her winning NHS Competition entry. Nidhi was the East of England regional winner for her informative video, website and game showcasing the role of a forensic psychologist. Also highly commended in the same competition was Eva (7S), Nesochi (7S), Shayaneka (7G) and Sylvie (7S).





# Parents' Association

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Despite a very difficult year due to the pandemic, your PA has continued to work hard on behalf of the school community. We have had to find some creative ways to fundraise, both virtually and contact free. New ventures have included online 2nd hand uniform sales, a Christmas pudding sale, an online quiz night and online raffles.

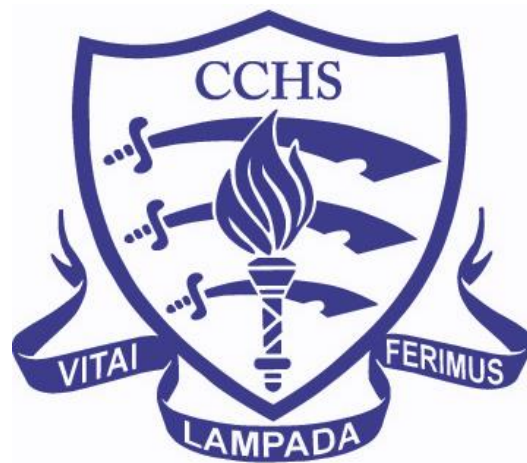
This year we have donated a whopping **£22000** to the school for the Build a Future for our Girls project- £10000 for a removable floor covering for the new gym and £12000 for equipment for the new buildings which are to open in September. Further to that, we have also committed a further **£15000** for other projects during the year. Many of the projects we funded were a direct response to coronavirus, eg. picnic benches to enable covid-secure outdoor dining, top ups for free school meal vouchers and safety equipment such as music teaching screens and keyboard covers.

Thankyou to you all for your continued support, both financial and in kind. Without parent involvement the PA cannot continue its excellent work in raising much needed funds for our girls.

If you would like to become involved with the PA, please email us:

[PA@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:PA@cchs.essex.sch.uk)

Our next meeting is 1pm, Friday 10th September, 2021.



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