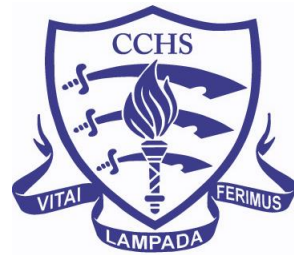


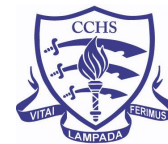
# COMMUNITAS

Autumn Term 2021



Winner of the Christmas Card Design competition:  
Oyin, Year 9G



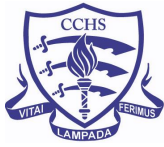


# Contents

Message from the Headteacher	3
Celebrating Mr Moore	4
Curriculum	7
Teaching & Learning	9
School Development Leader: Mr Rowell	11
Jack Petchey Awards	12
Pastoral News	13
Sixth Form News	22
Senior Prefects	23
House	28
Drama	29
Music	31
Art	32
Sport	33
Sporting Achievements	36
School News	37
School Production	39



**Winner of Christmas Concert Design  
Melisa, Year 9C**



# Message from the Headteacher

*Dear Parents,*

## STAFF NEWS

To mark and celebrate the great Mr Moore, Dr Palmer has provided a wonderful account of his distinguished service. We send our collective and heartfelt best wishes and affection to Mr Moore.

Our Sixth Form Administrator (and former Examinations Officer), Mrs Hiskett, will leave us in early January, after 9 years of great service. We are very grateful to Mrs Hiskett for her excellent contribution to the School and we wish her all the very best with the next chapter of her life.

Earlier in the term, we said goodbye to one of our Science Technicians, Mrs Lodge, and wish her all the very best.

This has been Mrs Lockwood's final term as Subject Leader for Mathematics. We thank Mrs Lockwood for the sterling work she has done in leading an outstanding department

**In the Spring Term, we welcome the following new members of staff:**

- **Mr Coleman** – Subject Leader of Mathematics & A level Economics Teacher
- **Mrs Dixon** – Subject Leader of Economics
- **Mr Thompson** – Subject Leader of History (Maternity Cover)
- **Mr Sikora** – Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)
- **Mrs Barker** – Teacher of English (Maternity Cover)
- **Ms Huttig** – German Assistant
- **Mrs Bernard** – Sixth Form Administration Officer/PA to Head of Sixth Form
- **Mrs Kamma** – Science Technician
- **Mrs Wood** – Cover Supervisor
- **Mrs Lam** – Examinations Invigilator/Cover Supervisor
- **Ms Howchen** – Examinations Invigilator/Cover Supervisor
- **Mrs Grant** – Examinations Invigilator

## COMMUNITY

In greeting parents at our Year 13 Parents' Evening, on Thursday 11th November, very many parents spoke about the fact that this was their final formal event at the school, before their daughters move on next year. My initial reaction to this was one of sadness. School staff experience these moments of transition sensitively.

We are always so happy for the brilliant young women, who grace this school, as they prepare for the next steps in their lives: whether it be university, an apprenticeship, a gap year, work experience, or another adventure. The reality is, though, that we really miss them when they leave the school. We work hard to build and maintain strong relationships with our students. When they join us in Year 7, Year 12, or in another year group, the students become part of a community which cares for and about them, advocates for them, celebrates them, and cheers them on.

My deeper reflection on these exchanges at the Parents' Evening is one of optimism for these students - indeed for all our students. How fortunate are the people who will, in the future, come to meet and know, and call friend, CCHS graduates. The universities, companies and organisations will benefit greatly as they welcome them. They will bring with them, as they have done for generations now, their ambition, integrity, compassion, and boundless energy to envision a world bettered through hard work, imagination and sorority.

For now, we are blessed that they are here with us, as we work with them - in the classrooms, on the sports field, during House events, the school production, the dance show, and the countless clubs and societies - to maintain and develop a school dedicated to, and a community committed to, excellence in girls' education and empowerment.

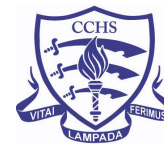
Season's Greetings to all our CCHS families and friends.

*Mr Lawlor*



## Celebrating Mr Moore

### 32 years' service at CCHS



The great Mr Moore, is retiring at the end of this term, having served our school community with distinction for over 30 years.

Mr Moore joined CCHS in 1989, having previously taught at Shenfield High School. He has taught A level Economics at CCHS throughout his years here and also at times taught both History and Mathematics.

Throughout his time at CCHS, Mr Moore has been an inspirational teacher who has succeeded in instilling a love of Economics in his students. So many of his former students have gone on both to study Economics at university, or indeed to work in careers using their economic knowledge. Many others have found the economic literacy they developed at CCHS to be massively useful in their lives. Hundreds of students will have great memories of lively lessons, demanding questions and complex diagrams drawn on the board at high speed. Mr Moore's knowledge and enthusiasm were a huge factor in motivating his students to want to succeed and he was rightly proud of the consistently excellent results which his students achieved.

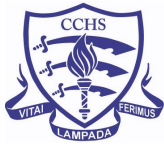
He is a consistently inventive teacher who responded with enthusiasm to new challenges and opportunities. He thought hard about the best way to make complex topics accessible to all his students and was always looking for new ideas with which to experiment in his classroom. He also organised a wide range of trips to conferences and businesses and was always keen to bring in his former students to enthuse their younger peers with information about universities and careers.

Mr Moore was proud of the fact that for many years he was (in his words) 'a hut dweller'. Indeed it was only in 2018 that the projected demolition of the Economics demountable classroom led to his relocation to teach in a classroom in the main school building; a change of whose merit he was not fully convinced.

For many years Room 35 out on the field was a workspace that Mr Moore made truly his own, with a ready supply of fresh fruit, teaching resources old and new, a healthy collection of mugs and a wonderful array of posters and visual aids. These he made excellent use of to inform and enliven his teaching and to encourage his students to think about challenging questions beyond the Economics syllabus. A special part of the wall in Room 35 was for many years set aside for photos taken of each Year 13 Economics class as they came to the end of their studies.



*Mr Moore and Dr Huckvale, on '1907 Day' in 2007, celebrating the school's centenary.*



## Celebrating Mr Moore

### 32 years' service at CCHS

Even before he was installed in Room 35 (latterly repainted outside in cheerful orange, much to Mr Moore's delight) he previously taught in another demountable at the front of the school, contending with the passing ambulances and the occasional soft patch in the floor as he expounded the intricacies of economic theory to his classes.

Throughout his time at CCHS Mr Moore has had a number of roles in addition to his primary focus on A level Economics. For many years he was in charge of school publicity; few photos of him can be found from the 1990s and early 2000s as he was almost always behind the camera or working with visiting journalists to ensure excellent coverage of events at CCHS.

He was also for many years in charge of Work-Related Learning and was the founder of the school's annual Careers Evening, an event he ran with consistent success. Likewise, his work with Young Enterprise was rewarded with a string of prizes for the teams he helped to manage.

For more years than he would admit to he was in charge of the Year 12 Community Service Program, building excellent links between CCHS and many local charities and primary schools as well as notably with Columbus College. Between 2009 and 2017 he also ran the Creativity, Action and Service program for the school's IB Diploma students, supporting the IB students in these important activities.

Of course, Mr Moore will also be known by a huge number of students as a dedicated Sixth Form tutor whose Monday quizzes engaged students' brains early in the week and whose support with UCAS was always excellent.

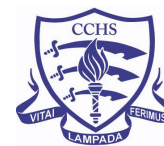
The wider school community enjoyed his regular appearances in his signature role as a dwarf in staff pantomimes and his devastating performances in Y13/Staff House Football have regularly left his colleagues and students gasping for breath. By contrast, his attention to detail and his serious commitment to education were well shown by his long service as a staff member of the school's Governing Body and his care for all students shown by his commitment for many years to the school Chess Club.

We celebrate Mr Moore's amazing commitment both to education and to CCHS. At the time of his retirement he will be the longest serving member of the teaching staff. He has worked with commitment and character through a multitude of changes at CCHS and his enthusiasm, sense of the absurd and absolute dedication to doing his best for his students have been remarkable and inspiring to witness.



# Celebrating Mr Moore

## 32 years' service at CCHS



*With Year 13 Economists on the steps of his first hut, in 1997.*



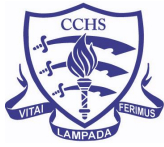
*Mr Moore in the 2002 staff photo with Mrs Curtis, Headteacher, and Mr Bramley, Mr Randall and Miss Gentilli, Deputy*



*G house Tug of War, Autumn 2016. Poppy and Sophia, current Y13 students, with Frankie (G House Captain 2016) and Miss Harrison.*

*Mr Moore with Mr Warner and former CCHS Art Teacher Owen Lennox in 2012*

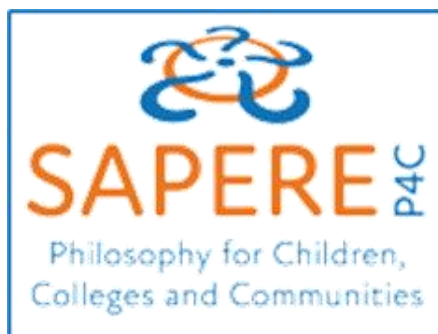




*“Curiosity, especially intellectual inquisitiveness, is what separates the truly alive from those who are merely going through the motions”*

**- Tom Robbins**

As this is the first Newsletter of the academic year, I would like to express a very warm welcome to the parents of our Year 7 students, who might be reading our Newsletter for the very first time. As such, I thought it might be appropriate to provide you with a bit of insight into what goes on during a Philosophy for Children (P4C) lesson.



Our Philosophy course is inspired and informed by SAPERE (Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education). SAPERE’s research into the P4C approach to teaching and learning has found that it “enhances student’s thinking and communication skills, boosts their self-esteem, and improves their academic attainment.”



Established over forty years ago by Professor Matthew Lipman of Montclair State University in the United States, the P4C pedagogy is influenced by educationalists and philosophers such as Vygotsky, Piaget, Dewey, and Socrates. In P4C, a stimulus, such as a story, video clip or image, is shared with the students. They are then encouraged to come up with big, engaging philosophical questions about the stimulus which are at the heart of P4C.

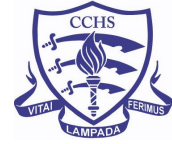
Philosophical questions are open to examination, further questioning and enquiry. During one of the first lessons with our Year 7 students, we explain that there is more than one valid point of view. As the questions grow more philosophical, multi-faceted and subjective, students learn to listen carefully to each other, to explore differences of opinion respectfully, and to value the ideas of others.

Some of the philosophical questions that the students I teach have come up with already are:

- **What makes you, you?**
- **Do we have to respect everyone?**
- **Do we all have the same rights?**
- **If we lose our memory, are we still the same person?**

# Curriculum News

Mrs Ledwidge, Deputy Headteacher



"P4C aims to help children become more thoughtful, more reflective, considerate and reasonable individuals."  
Professor Matthew Lipman, Founder of P4C

Through a vote, students choose the question they would most like to discuss. We then give our students time to think and reason individually about the question, before facilitating the exchange of ideas and opinions as a class. Over time, we support our students to think more deeply and philosophically by encouraging the 4Cs of P4C – critical, creative, collaborative, and caring thinking.

Throughout the course, I notice that students increase their respect for others' opinions, they improve in their ability to express their views clearly, and most noticeably, they grow in self-confidence. Our students have experienced two years like no other and it has become increasingly important to provide them with airspace to talk about the really important issues that affect them as a community as well as in their personal lives. It's about giving them a voice to talk about things that they probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to discuss otherwise, and on top of all that, it is a truly enjoyable and engaging subject.

P4C is primarily a discussion-based subject. You might have seen your child making notes in a journal, based on conversations that have taken place in a lesson, or preparing something to talk about next time, but on the whole, the lessons have limited written content, and that is because the power of the lessons comes from the promotion of oracy.

Oracy is our ability to communicate effectively using spoken language.

This means having the ability to:

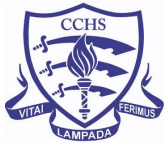
- express ourselves effectively and with confidence
- speak eloquently, articulate ideas and thoughts
- influence through talking, and to listen/respond to others
- have the vocabulary to say what you want to say
- structure your thoughts so that they make sense to others

My students have shared how much they enjoy being able to express their own opinions in a non-judgmental way.

Philosophy for Children is an integral part of our Year 7 curriculum, not least because critical thinking, oracy, and expression, are transferable skills that can be used in every other subject across the curriculum; also, because the subject itself enables students to demonstrate improvement in the attributes of our CCHS Learner Profile. We want to give students the opportunity to become articulate, creative, enquiring, knowledgeable, principled, reflective, and resilient throughout their 7 years at our School:

I know that many of our parents ask about ways in which they can support their child with specific subjects. My advice with regards to support for P4C would be to nurture your child's curiosity and foster enquiry.





# Teaching & Learning

Mrs Cross, Assistant Headteacher

This term we have delighted in the return of normal teaching practices following the pandemic restrictions. Embracing new ways of working over the last two years we have maintained the open-door policy for all classrooms and it is wonderful to hear lessons being enjoyed in all areas of the school.

Earlier in the term we invited our students to share with us some feedback on their experiences at CCHS and they generously gave their time to complete a school survey which gave us real insight into how they view the quality of education we offer. The feedback we received was outstanding and we were delighted to learn that 96% of our students said they enjoyed learning here and 93% said they were confident or very confident in the quality of education on offer. Following the survey a number of students kindly offered their time to discuss key points and this, coupled with insight from the survey, has allowed us to further develop our practice to the benefit of our students.

Following the summer edition of the newsletter we continue to support our students through the Academic Resilience project and this term we have invited Elevate Education in to school to support Years 7, 11 and our sixth form. This important work will be supported during registration using Elevate's library of online resources.

We have also seen the introduction of School Development Leaders, senior middle leaders committed to upholding our School's vision and aims. The focus of these roles is to share the strategic development of the school through delivering research-based projects and professional development sessions for colleagues.

With a key focus on teaching and learning, the School Development Leaders have provided an outline of their work below.



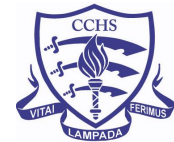
### **Miss Pocock: Diversity and Broadening the Curriculum**

Focusing on 'Diversity and Broadening the Curriculum', the aim of this focus is ultimately to foster a sense of belonging at CCHS by all students, parents and staff, and to ensure that everyone feels included, represented and seen. This will in time include exploring different ways to equip CCHS staff, students and parents with the tools (including language, knowledge and confidence) for being actively anti-racist; to create opportunities for our school community to come together to celebrate a diverse range of global cultures and festivals, and to build on existing approaches to further enable critical engagement with knowledge through curriculum audits and opportunities for exploring our subject disciplines from different perspectives.

So far this term I have attended the Diversifying the Curriculum Conference – organised by DiverseEd – and have met with the Diversity Prefects to discuss the subject areas they consider to be priority areas for curriculum updates. Following this I will be meeting with Subject Leaders and completing a Key Stage 3 curriculum audit to identify meaningful ways to embed diversity across the CCHS curriculum.

# Teaching & Learning

Mrs Cross, Assistant Headteacher



## Mr Harvey: Inclusion

This year my work will be focussed on improving/developing inclusivity within school- concentrating on LGBTQ+ and disadvantaged students. The main aim of my project is for every young person in our community to feel like they belong and to prepare them for a life in modern Britain.

Initially my project involved working with our students, gaining insight and discussing key areas including: school experiences, identity, environment and the curriculum.

This has been developed through collaborative work with teaching staff with the goal of creating an environment where everyone feels they belong and that our school reflects the full diversity of the world we live in. To celebrate this focus we are proud to share our 'Art is for Everyone' display and look forward to developing this work further in the Spring term.

## Mr Rowell: Meta-memory and knowledge retrieval

The focus of my project is to work with students in improving long-term learning, developing their understanding of how we learn things and building long-term memory.

One aim of this work is to share with our students the benefit of changing the way they prepare for assessments and how they recall their knowledge.

The project compliments the work we are doing on Academic Resilience with Elevate Education. This term we have completed a survey with Year 11 students which reviewed their study habits, this allowed us to identify ways that we can support them in developing key techniques.

Insight from the survey and from independent research then fed into a Teaching and Learning CDP session for colleagues looking at different research-based techniques we can use to support our students with their exam preparation and knowledge retrieval.

## Mr Lodge: Monitoring and Standards

The focus of this project is looking at reviewing and refining the school's approach to monitoring and standards of Teaching & Learning. As the disruption of COVID begins to fade, now is a prime time and opportunity to reflect on our teaching practice, celebrating successes and looking for moments to hone our practice further. The first stage of this has involved reviewing the lesson observation process with the aim of having an even more immediate and consistent impact on students' learning.

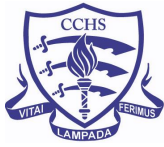
Future developments will include seeking feedback from the students themselves, via surveys and panels, to glean their perspective on teaching and learning approaches which they find most effective. Initially my project involved working with our students, gaining insight and discussing key areas including: school experiences, identity, environment and the curriculum.

This has been developed through collaborative work with teaching staff with the goal of creating an environment where everyone feels they belong and that our school reflects the full diversity of the world we live in.

To celebrate this focus we are proud to share our 'Art is for Everyone' display and look forward to developing this work further in the Spring term.

## Mr Carter: Academic Resilience and Challenge

In leading the School Development Project on resilience, I will be researching and gathering feedback on the ways in which students demonstrate this key characteristic during normal school time as well as how they have shown this throughout the disruption of Covid, lockdown and internal assessment. I will be considering how students develop academic resilience, particularly in forging a healthy mindset around the function and efficacy of formative assessment, and how this is related to the systems, structures and language used in school. I will also be working on strategies to develop students' personal resilience through an enrichment programme of non-academic challenges, team competitions, outdoor activities and sports. Additionally I will be reviewing our systems for identifying and providing for our most able students.



# School Development Leader

Mr Rowell



## LONG TERM LEARNING

If students cannot remember what they have experienced in lessons, despite high quality explanation and learning activities, then they have really learned very little.

The focus of my project is to try and develop better long-term learning with our students by developing their understanding of the way we learn things and improving their long-term memory.

The aim is to move our students away from the last-minute cramming for tests and exams and to see the benefit of changing the way they practice and recall their knowledge.

The project should link in well with the new work we are doing with Elevate Education, as well as taking on ideas that Adam Selby started to develop with Year 11 a couple of years ago.

I would like to do some research with our students to see how they think about their note taking and learning (quite like the Elevate education study) and to see how their approach aligns with overall performance.

The outcome would hope to be a series of ideas and approaches that staff can easily apply to their own teaching from Year 7 upwards. Poor learning strategies can often be difficult to break so we need to work with all our students right from the beginning of school. Spaced learning and regular review will be a key feature of this approach.

This is not meant to be a ground-breaking change in how we teach, rather an incremental development, leading to bigger changes in to how our students learn.

The work may result in some re thinking how we approach revision throughout the year and how we plan our lessons and curriculum.

## PROGRESS THIS TERM

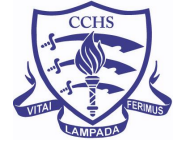
- Survey of Year 11 students looking at study habits showing they have similar patterns to other students and similar issues with learning and retaining content.
- Twilight CPD session with staff looking at retrieval practice.
  - Discussed the rationale behind its use in lessons
  - Looked at how to implement in lessons
  - Shared ideas within departments
  - Staff will now be looking at how to develop/ tweak use in lessons.
  - Survey of departments and how they use retrieval practice

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Re-visit Retrieval practice in twilight session and ask staff to share any changes they have made to their practice.
- Share ideas from staff survey.
- Look at impact of use of retrieval practice on progress (small project)
- Introduce and develop metacognition

# Jack Petchey Awards

Mrs 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.

In this edition we are celebrating winners between the period September – November 2021.

### September 2021



**Winner:** Laura

**Age:** 18yrs

**Reason for award:**

Laura is always helping above and beyond for the PE Department. She is thoroughly organised and always checks if anything extra needs to be done to help. She works brilliantly with the younger years and her fellow sports officials at clubs and was outstanding at our recent open evening – fully involving herself in practical activities and greeting parents and students. The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community, and we believe Laura has made a great contribution to the school community and truly represents the spirit of CCHS.

### October 2021



**Winner:** Rishika

**Age:** 12yrs

**Reason for award:**

Rishika had 45cm of her own hair cut off for the charity Action Aid. Rishika raised an amazing £440.00 for this great cause and even though she was really nervous, she still went ahead and did it! All her friends and peers at CCHS are very proud of her and for raising such a great amount of money for a very well-deserved charity.

The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community, and we believe Rishika has made a great contribution through her dedication and commitment for this great cause.

### November 2021



**Winner:** Sophie

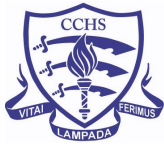
**Age:** 15yrs

**Reason for award:**

Sophie has recently been showing her interest and support by attending meetings at the Brentwood Climate Action group.

In her free time, she has also been doing lots of research in Biology and attending various seminars to further her understanding of this subject.

On top of this Sophie volunteers at an animal sanctuary on the weekends, helping animals in need! The Jack Petchey Foundation recognises contributions to the community, and we believe Sophie has made a great contribution through her volunteering roles.



# Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral



What a fabulous start to the year for the Pastoral Team. We said goodbye for now to Miss G. Sales as she went on maternity leave and embarked on her new adventure. We then welcomed Miss S. Sales into the Pastoral Team as Year 8 Leader. As ever, our doors have been open—we are always here for your child whether it is to celebrate successes or to be their parachutes when they need support.

You are always more than welcome to contact us should your child need support and they are not able to reach out. I managed to speak to quite a lot of parents at various Meet the Tutor Evenings - I highlighted how to contact the Pastoral Team and who to contact. This complimented the Pastoral Cards that have been issued to students, so they can always get help should they need it.

We believe in wrap around care—we want to support both our students and parents. So, I just want to wish you all a restful break. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

---

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October saw the students enjoying the Black History Month programme. A team of Sixth Form students put together a timetable of workshops and an assembly to celebrate BHM. The theme this year was 'Proud to Be'. This enabled our students to share their 'Proud to Be' stories with the whole school. Of course, in the future, with CCHS' @Change project—our hope is not to be confined to a month of celebration and reflection.

## COUNSELLING

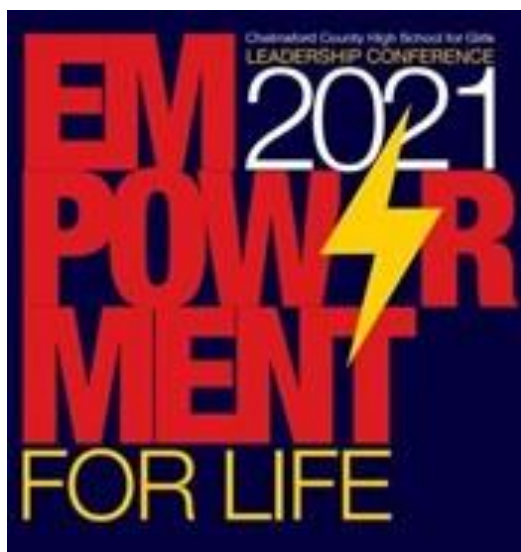
Our counselling provision is 10 hours a week (Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays by appointment and referral) and the students are also supported by our School Nurse—Tina (appointments available on Tuesdays).

Our Mental Health First Aid Drop-in service is on Friday Lunchtimes in The Pastoral Hub. Each week the room is supervised by a trained Mental Health First Aider, so please encourage your child to pop in if they need to speak to someone. If you feel that your child needs such support then do not hesitate to get in contact with any member of the Pastoral Team.

# Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



We were lucky enough to be able to revive our Year 11 Leadership Conference this year with a slightly new look in the Chapman Centre. Under the expert guidance of Mrs Chumbley, this year's focus was 'Empowerment'. We had three speakers: Mitra Janes, Emma Bullimore and Alison Jackson-Carter.



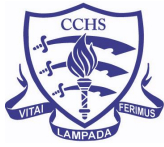
What a powerful message to see three ex-students on stage speaking about their journey and how it is possible for anyone to achieve their dreams.

They also ran interactive workshops to compliment their speeches – which the students really enjoyed. The corridors rang with music at lunchtime as music returned to CCHS, post-COVID, in a big way.



The afternoon student led workshops also went down a storm. We were lucky to be joined by other school's from the community who thoroughly enjoyed their day at the conference.





# Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral

## MEET THE TUTOR EVENINGS

The New Parents' Welcome Meeting, the Year 8 Meet the Tutor evening and the Year 10 Curriculum Evening were well attended. How wonderful it was to have parents back in school again. Parents received various messages throughout the meetings, but one thing I was able to speak about was the Pastoral Systems and the ways we can support parents/students. All parents were given timely advice on the use of social media and the dangers of the 'Whatsapp group chat'. We are very much looking forward to seeing all parents back in school soon.

## 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 students who persist in taking risks with their own safety and that of others. We are on a busy main road and students 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 students safe. Often younger students will follow the older ones and so there is a communal duty and expectation that we all stick to the rules. We also ask for your support in not dropping your child off on the main road – some students just open the car door and jump out – not remembering there is a busy bicycle lane.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You may qualify for free school lunches if you receive:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.00
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Work Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax

Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190I.

If any applies to you, go online for more information: [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 students in receipt of free school meals and there is no embarrassment.

## THE PASTORAL HUB

We are creating our very own pastoral haven in school. The new Pastoral Hub is taking shape. It is a room where students can have a 'time out' if they need a minute out of their day to support their wellbeing. We have been lucky to receive some Jack Petchey money from Ella and Rishika towards furnishing the hub. All has been gratefully received and we hope both students will use it if they are ever in need. We look forward to it being fully unveiled after Christmas.



## Year 7

### Mrs Lewis, Year Leader

Our new Year 7 students have made an amazing start to life at CCHS. They have coped extremely well with the new demands of secondary school life and do so with huge smiles on their faces. Friendships have formed and are blossoming, and the year group is full of positive energy.



The first term has been jam-packed full of events. The Elevate programme took part at the beginning of September. This provided transition support with a focus on organisation and study skills which have proved essential as our youngest students manage a variety of new subjects and adapt to new ways of working. The school disco was a hit and I've received lots of requests for another one later in the year – watch this space!

Extra-curricular clubs for Year 7 have been in full swing with origami and netball among some of the most popular so far. Even as the weather has turned colder it's amazing to see so many Year 7s heading over to the astro for their PE clubs with so much enthusiasm.

Year 7 are finding their voices as student-led year group assemblies have started along with form roles being assigned and extra responsibilities being carried out.

House events have been a highlight for everyone including staff. The Year 7 house

events are extremely competitive, but mostly they are full of laughter, excitement and create huge amounts of noise as the Year 7s cheer each other on; it really is amazing to see. House football kicked off the events, followed by house karaoke more recently with 7H being crowned as the winners and finally, the magic of house decorated classrooms brought the Autumn term to a close.

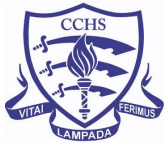
To end the first term Year 7 took part in their first enrichment day which was a trip out of school to the 'Cinderella' pantomime in Southend, which was enjoyed by all.



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 7 on making a fantastic start at CCHS and I look forward to seeing what's to come next term.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!





## Year 8

### Miss Sales, Year Leader

Year 8 have thrown themselves into school life this term, whether that's been in lesson, House events, assemblies, or extra-curricular clubs. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them as their new Year Leader and I have come to realise what a fantastic and talented year group they are, and I look forward to getting to know them better over the coming weeks.



*Talented Year 8 musicians*

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 had a varied programme during form time this year, consisting of lots of different activities, assemblies and quizzes. We start the week off with 'Mindfulness Monday'.

Every Monday is a different Mindfulness activity which will focus on different methods and techniques to support our mental health. From colouring in, to listening to music, to walking and talking round the astro, to breathing exercises and many more. The benefits of this is to help our year group become more self-aware, feel calmer and less stressed, cope with difficult or unhelpful thoughts and to be kinder towards themselves.

The main attraction of the week is 'Friday Frenzy', where forms go head-to-head in different types of quizzes winning points for their form. Not only do they need to get all the answers right, they also need to get their scores in as quickly as possible.

8F were the winners last half term, while 8H are the winners for this half term, narrowly beating 8C.

Form assemblies have been fantastic this year, allowing the students to find their voice on a topic they are passionate about. Not only that, 8H set the bar extremely high with the first tutor group assembly on courage, to the whole year group.

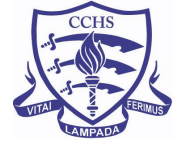
Moving into Year 8 naturally brings some changes. The cohort have moved away from their form groups and into different Science sets and have already started learning the wonderful language of Latin; something in which I know the students have found very interesting and thought-provoking.

The first Enrichment day saw Year 8 working alongside 60 students in year 4 and 5 from local Primary Schools, showing the younger students' different experiments in Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Teachers from the primary schools were in awe of how our students carried themselves and were highly commended for their efforts; well done to all.



*District Cross Country Winner – Lottie, 8G*

# Pastoral News



## Year 8 Continued

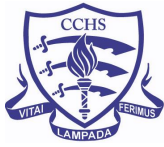
### Miss Sales, Year Leader

I have given Year 8 a mantra to go by; a way of life for the year, and I have taken it from the Disney film, Tangled: 'Venture outside your comfort zone. The rewards are worth it'. This is all about trying new things, and so far they are definitely living up to our motto. It has been a very busy year so far for year 8, with lots of extra-curricular events happening alongside their studies, as well as the famous House events! We had some spectacular performances in House Karaoke, with 8S narrowly pipping 8G to the top spot with their wonderful performance of Elton John, 'I'm Still Standing'. I look forward to the term ahead and to getting to know year 8 even more!

Overall, Year 8 have settled in very well and are fully involved in everything that CCHS has to offer. I am so proud of their high work ethic and enthusiasm. I have absolutely loved every minute of getting to know Year 8 so far, they are an absolute delight and a lovely year group. I am looking forward to seeing the year group shine, in the classroom and beyond. I wish you all a well-deserved Christmas break.



*'Restart a Heart' Week*



## Pastoral News

### Year 9

#### Mrs Busby, Year Leader

This has been a fantastic term for Year 9 students this year. They are now half way through their time in main school at CCHS and they have rose to the challenge of the new year, throwing themselves into house events, form activities and making the most of the expanded extra-curricular club offerings we have opened up this term. They have also had some changes this year, now they are in creative sets, so many are enjoying to get to know more people in the year group and making new friends after the removal of the bubble system from last year.



Form time has a varied program, continuing with the structure of last year with some slight changes. 'Mindful Monday's' continue to provide a quiet start to the week to get pupils in the right frame of mind for a calmer and less stressed start to the week ahead. Here they have opportunities to meditate or do some silent reading of a book they enjoy. Lots of the students have enjoyed sharing their books with each other and having lots of positive literacy discussions. The rest of the week is filled up with lots of activities. TED talks especially have been a key discussion and debate point too for our students. "Teach girls bravery, not perfection" was particularly inspiring for our students to see the importance of having a go at new experiences and not being afraid of failure, as this is how we eventually succeed. "I am not your Asian stereotype" was also important for our students to see as part of our

Change initiative, making out students challenge and question any preconceptions they have had about other races. Debates, weekly quizzes and finishing on 'Fun Friday' make up the rest our week, where the students get to participate in a past time of choice. Usually this involves Uno, playing cards or Jenga!

Many more house events have been running this term. House football and house obstacle were two particular highlights of mine. In the House Karaoke performances this term, S house managed to claim the title, although it was close and a fantastic effort by all. I can still hear 'call me maybe' in my head from all the practices. It was so great to see such a team spirit, and I eagerly anticipate seeing the same next term.



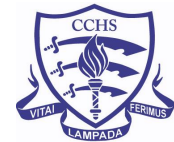
There have been some fantastic achievements outside of school too, and many people have been sharing their personal successes. From Karate competitions, swimming Nationals, music awards to speech competitions, it is amazing to hear

about many of our students continue to grow in all aspects of their lives.

Overall, Year 9 have had a fantastic start to the year. They are kind, passionate and conscientious and I look forward to seeing them excel in the new year. Next term Year 9 will be going on their first school trip to Harry Potter Studio tours. This year group has missed out on lots of trips during these uncertain times so I am sure we will create lots of great memories.

I wish all of you and your families a great holiday and restful break.

# Pastoral News



## Year 10 Mrs Burnham, Year Leader

This term has been fabulous! We have so many events back in school that we are now able to run almost the same as we could before with the likes of House Karaoke, form room bubble mixing and so much more extra-curricular. It is so brilliant to see the corridors 'buzzing' at lunch and break with students mixing with their friendship groups. I have to say I think I knew all of their House Karaoke songs and dances with the amount of practise I heard! They have also had their Jack Petchey speak out day, it was so wonderful to see so many students using their voice to speak out and doing so with such passion and confidence.



The Geographers have had the opportunity to attend a school enrichment day to Epping Forest. It was great to see the students being able to get stuck in with their curricular subjects in a practical way, ensuring that they had all of the information required for their coursework. The enrichment for curricular subjects didn't stop there, with the new drama production up and running and of course the long awaited dance show.



All of Year 10 have also had the opportunity to actively participate in 'Restart a Heart' week.

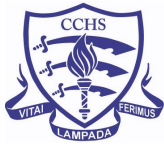


During this week they spent a lesson learning how to give CPR, put someone in the recovery position and how to prevent someone from choking. This was extremely important to us as a school and now means that all students are educated in how to do this. Year 10 did so with great maturity and questioning and were also able to practise on some CPR dolls.

During form time this year we have adapted the timetable slightly in order to engage Year 10 in these activities every morning. We have of course kept our form roles, which you can see in the photo and friYAY! However, on a Monday we now have mindset Monday which includes a whole variety of activities, including but not limited to; thank yous to teachers (I know that these were very popular with students and staff), how to make someone smile and TED talks/ podcasts on mindset.



Finally, Year 10 have had the opportunity to select their prefect roles. This is a pivotal role for students, enabling every student to take on a role of responsibility within school in an area they feel passionate about. I know that myself and other members of staff are looking forward to working with the students to get an insight into their ideas.



## Year 11

### Mrs Chumbley, Year Leader

It has been a very busy term for Year 11 students, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, advertising 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 the first time in a while that we were able to open our doors to other schools in the area. 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 all of whom delivered the most fascinating speeches.

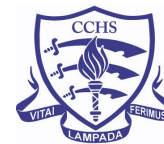
Year 11 then had the wonderful opportunity to ask questions to the panel and then network during the break. The pupils didn't disappoint with their questions and networking skills, some even got hold of some very important email addresses for the future. The pupils then attended two insightful workshops, led by our guest speakers on various topics.

The afternoon was led completely by Year 11, with workshops such as: astronomy, escape room, dance and many more.

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. This was followed with some exciting house events including karaoke and house decorated classrooms. I wish Year 11 a restful and well-deserved Christmas break.





# Sixth Form News

Dr Palmer, Mrs Ellen and Mrs Hiatt

Students in the CCHS Sixth Form have relished the return to a little more normality over the past term. Whilst university interviews have continued to be online our senior students have been able to do much more in terms of working with younger students to support them in their studies and to run the extra-curricular events that are so much a part of life at CCHS.

## YEAR 13 UCAS AND MOCK EXAMINATIONS

All students are grateful to Mrs Hopkins, our Higher Education Adviser, for the support she has given to them in the UCAS application process. At the time of writing we are checking and sending the remaining UCAS forms which are currently ready to be sent and we intend this to be complete by the end of term. We are extremely grateful to those parents who gave up their time to run practice interviews for Year 12 students and staff have also been very busy supporting students in their preparation for Oxford and Cambridge interviews as well as offering advice on applications and personal statements.

Year 13 students have recently received their mock examination timetables; these examinations take place in the first week of term in January. We have no doubt that all the students will make the best use of the opportunity the mocks provide to practice and to prepare for their future examinations. Students will receive the results of these examinations in their lessons in January and formal statements of results will be published to parents in the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February. We will then ensure that any students who are identified as being in need of particular support are closely mentored over their remaining time in school.

## YEAR 12

We have been delighted with the progress Year 12 students have made since starting their sixth form work in September and we are very aware of the fact that they did not sit their full GCSE examinations. Mrs Hiatt and her team of tutors have been on hand to support the students and subject staff have been impressed with the engagement and commitment from all their Year 12 classes.

## 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, Dance Officials and Global Citizenship Prefects. 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.

## YEAR 12 - PERMISSION TO GO OFFSITE

From January, Year 12 students 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 8.45am and 12.35pm.

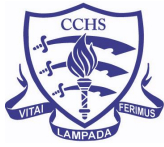
## GOVERNMENT 16-19 BURSARY SCHEME

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 beginning of next term.

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

We have a number of traditions at CCHS which are particular to our School. Some of these have not happened in the normal way this year but we hope that the virtual Languages Assembly presented by our Year 12 languages students will give the whole school community some much needed festive cheer

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.



## SENIOR PREFECTS:

We congratulate all eleven of the Year 12 students who Mrs Ledwidge recently appointed to be our Senior Prefects for 2022. We have given them the opportunity overleaf to introduce themselves to the CCHS community.



**Jessica Chu**

I have many memories at CCHS consisting of me being mistaken for a year 7 in the corridors because of my height. Now that I will proudly be wearing the 6th form uniform and Senior Prefect badge, maybe these instances will stop occurring. That is not to say I have not made many other memories of course. My CCHS life so far has been amazing, the staff and students have helped me to grow (although not physically) as a person. I want to guide all the younger students in navigating their way through CCHS life, and the ups and downs that come with it.

The opportunities here are limitless from house events to extracurricular activities, all of them are worth your time. I got involved in every house event, decorated classroom is one of my favourites. Taking part in these events was a definite highlight for me, I have so much fun doing them, and I am glad to be a part of this school community.

I am currently taking Biology, Psychology, Economics, Maths and EPQ with the hopes of studying Psychology in Business at University. However my studies do not stop me from throwing myself into the sports and arts at this school, I am excited to take on my role as Senior Prefect and am looking forward to giving back to the community I have grown so fond of, and maybe I've inspired you to step outside your comfort zone and take part in anything and everything you can, because it is so worth it!



**Erin Cameron**

Ever since the beginning of year seven I have aspired to become a senior prefect, constantly admiring and looking up to the inspiring students sitting on stage, amazed at their confidence, and desperately wishing it could be me up there one day. So you can imagine the honour and privilege it was to be selected as part of the team.

The true importance lies in what we will achieve in the upcoming year. I am beyond excited to work with the rest of the senior prefects, the staff, and all the students to bring about change as your new student voice chair, and to help support the brilliant school I am fortunate enough to be a part of. The tight knit community has always been special at CCHS, something I feel delighted to have experienced.

I am currently studying English Literature, Maths, French and Geography with a view to furthering my study of English at University. On top of my academic studies, I enjoy playing the saxophone, doing karate, reading, and as most of my teachers will tell you... I love to talk!

You may see me around school encouraging you to write an article for the Torch magazine as I am co-editor, or promoting the Young Enterprise product, or even in the Symphony Orchestra playing my saxophone. Feel free to say hi!

# Senior Prefects 2022



**Mariella Jasper**



Throughout my time at CCHS, I have had so many incredible opportunities. School trips, enrichment days and competitions spring readily to mind, but one of the most important opportunities at CCHS is being in an environment where students are free to express themselves and gain a passion for learning in academic, personal, and social contexts.

I am currently studying Economics, Maths, Further Maths and German for my A-Levels, and plan to study Economics at university. Outside of lessons, I have enjoyed getting involved in extra-curricular clubs in school – particularly in music ensembles, but I do remember being in origami club in year 7! Further to this, CCHS has helped my confidence and my acceptance of who I am, giving me the tools to grow and be prepared for the future.

I am really looking forward to working with the Senior Prefect team to make an impact and improve the school. As an Alumnae Prefect, I hope to continue supporting our school, as well as to provide connections with previous students and share their advice and ideas. Hopefully there will be a return to in-person events and guest speakers this year!

I am so grateful for everything CCHS has provided for me, and I am proud to be part of this safe and supportive community. I hope that students will continue to embrace every opportunity, and build a foundation of lifelong friends, valuable experiences, and an amazing education, in the same way I have been able to at CCHS.

I also hope that students will be able to fondly remember happy memories from their time here (clubs, drama performances, dance shows, sports events, music concerts, summer festivals, enrichment days and more) in decades to come. I know being a Senior Prefect will be one of those memories for me.

**Ody Ozono**



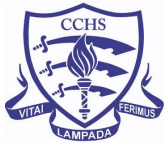
Time at CCHS has flown by, and it almost took me by surprise when we were told that it was *our* turn to apply for one of the 12 positions as a Senior Prefect.

This was a role that I had seen others hold, but I never really thought about until recently- despite this, I decided to write an application letter and put myself forward for an interview. To my delight, I was selected, and I am looking forward to celebrating all the successes and taking on all of the challenges that this role will bring.

At CCHS, there is a seemingly endless number of activities to take part in, and I have tried my best to do all I can- from music ensembles, to sporting activities. The highlight has definitely been taking part in the school's Gospel Choir, which I now lead with a few other members of Year 12. These activities have, without a doubt, greatly enriched my school experience.

I am currently studying Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Psychology at A-level, with the hope of studying Medicine at university, so I can learn more about the workings of the body and apply that knowledge to help people and hopefully improve their lives. However, I have a long way to go before I get there, and until then, I plan on embracing everything that this role has to offer and continuing to immerse myself in every aspect of life at CCHS.





## Senior Prefects 2022



**Ivett Lobo**

It feels like hardly any time at all since I took my first steps into this school, that's because it practically was! I came in as an observer, a foreigner unfamiliar with this school and unsure about my goals. Although it has only been a couple of months, I've seen that the school has a lot to offer, CCHS has given me opportunities that I regard as a privilege that not many schools can provide. In the past few months alone, I've been involved in a multitude of events: organising house karaoke, presenting in clubs, hosting a chess club, designing and building a super surveillance robot at Cambridge and so much more!

I am currently studying Computer Science, Physics, Maths and Chemistry and yes, I am aware they are all STEM subjects thus, although I'm not sure of what I'll do at university, I can guarantee that there are many fun times ahead. However, my love for science doesn't stop me from pursuing my other passions: as I'm fond of painting and am currently a brown belt in karate (aspiring to compete in the National Karate Championships).

As Secretary of the Sixth Form Council, I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts for our school and hope that together we can create a better experience for ourselves with the limited but precious time we have left at CCHS.

**Esha Patel**



Before starting at CCHS in September, I was apprehensive about moving to an entirely new school, having known nobody, it was a daunting experience- little did I know, it was a perfect fit for me.

I have been met with the most amazing opportunities, introduced to so many interesting people, and welcomed into a community that really values its members.

I am studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science for my A levels, and am hoping to go on to study either Maths or Physics at University. Aside from lessons, I have loved getting involved in extra-curriculars opportunities that the school hosts; the Industrial Cadets Engineering team has been a favourite (it's not every day you get to go to Cambridge and build a military defence system!). I'm also excited to be writing for The Torch- look out for the upcoming edition!

I am extremely grateful for the confidence I have gained during my (short) time here at CCHS, and hope to inspire others to accept challenges and put themselves out there for great opportunities that they might also be scared to try. I look forward to working with the Senior Prefect team to bring a fresh set of views to help improve our school and make a difference! :)

**Millie Austin**



I am honoured and delighted to be a member of the Senior Prefect team for 2022. I am currently studying Art, Physics, Economics, Psychology and EPQ for my A-levels and I hope to study architecture or interior design at university.

This might be the most stereotypical thing for a senior prefect to say but I've wanted to be a senior prefect since Year 7, and I'm so excited to work with all the other senior prefects to make 2022 at CCHS amazing! I have been selected to represent and support the Parent's Association, and I look forward to all the fundraising events and opportunities to improve and make a difference to the school.

Outside of school, my main hobby is Scouting, something I have been a part of for 12 years! I am a Young Leader for a Scout Troop in Brentwood which I find incredibly rewarding and a lot of fun. I had the amazing opportunity to represent the UK at the World Scout Jamboree held in the USA in 2019 and I am hoping to attend the next one in South Korea as a member of the International Support Team in 2023.

# Senior Prefects 2022



## Tara Lawlor



It does not feel like 5 years since I first walked into CCHS. My bag was bigger than I was, and my kilt was down below my knees (I was the stereotypical Year 7). As one of only three girls to come here from my primary school, to say I was worried would have been an understatement.

Looking back at my time here so far, I can confidently tell my younger self that I had nothing to be worried about. I have always admired the Senior Prefects, so much so that if you had asked me in Year 7, I would have said I wanted to be one. The vast opportunities offered to all of us have helped me develop from that worried Year 7, jumping at the sight of any teacher, to the young adult I am today. I am a very proud member of our school, and I will work hard to serve our community as a Senior Prefect.

I am studying English Literature, Theatre Studies, History, Psychology and EPQ at A-level. I really enjoy them all, and the accompanying hand cramp from all the essay-writing! I am planning to study Law at university. For now, I am looking forward to getting involved and making a positive contribution as a Senior Prefect.

## Sophie Dulake



It's safe to say I have changed a lot over the past five years; by throwing myself at every challenge I have definitely built my confidence and learnt that the most important thing is to try.

Some of my favourite memories are from participating in the Dance Show every year up until Year 11, as being able to meet new people from different year groups and bonding with those from my own really showed me what this school is all about: community.

My involvement in clubs and societies such as Diversity Society and Philosophy of History has also allowed me to see the importance of taking every opportunity, which is something that I would strongly encourage younger students to do.

I am currently studying Economics, French, Geography, History and EPQ and since I can't imagine a world without both History and French, I would love to study History and Modern Languages at university.

For now though, as a member of the Senior Prefect team I will be chairing Sixth Form Council, and I hope to ensure that this school community which has supported me so much will continue to progress and be enhanced through the feedback of the student body. But beyond that, I am keen to help in many ways across the school and as a Senior Prefect team we hope that we will help to get students involved in what this school is about; supporting each other, resilience and being yourself.

## Victoria Abbott



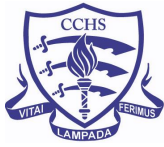
I'm Tori and I'm really looking forward to being one of your senior prefects in 2022!

You may have seen me around school previously helping out with Philosophy of History or more recently co-editing The Torch. Throughout

my time at CCHS I have thrown myself into everything and anything, finding lots of new things I love and – after the second broken finger – quickly realising netball was not for me! I enjoyed making lasting friends along the way and am looking forward to meeting a far more of the CCHS school body.

For my A-levels, I'm studying English Literature, History, Geography, Economics and EPQ and I'm hoping to go on to study English Literature at University.

Having admired the Senior Prefects we have had before, I'm honoured and excited to have been offered this opportunity to contribute to improve the CCHS experience to make it greater than ever before. I'm particularly looking forward to working and bonding with the rest of the team throughout the year we have to achieve everything we hope to, and beyond! Taking on this role, I hope to inspire younger students just as the previous prefects have inspired me and hope to continue making this role as special as I feel it is.



## Senior Prefects 2022

### Erin Vaz



I always remember my first day of school in Year 7, standing outside the gates donning my knee-length shirt, kilt and oversized Smiggles backpack- I knew that I was going to a “highly academic high school” but didn’t know what this meant. After 6 years, I can gladly say that I have found enrichment in my studies from my wonderful teacher as well as an embracing community. I have taken part in many of the school’s drama productions and dance shows- whether I was good at them is another question but the sense of belonging and purpose I felt while performing aside my friends was undeniable.

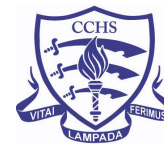
One of the most unforgettable experiences in school has to be the house events. Whether it’s house karaoke, where groups of students band together to plan a dance and song to perform in an hour (not speaking from experience), or house show, where you chose to play Fiona in Shrek and get stained by the green paint (also not speaking from experience), you can always count on your participation in house events creating unforgettable bonds and making for hilarious or, at the least, amusing memories.

I have discovered my passion for innovation, problem-solving, and technology through my A-level studies of Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Computer Science, and English. I hope to get into the computer science or engineering fields in the future. This may change slightly later on but I know that my teachers will be there to help me on my way.

I take great pride in working alongside so many wonderfully bright individuals and I am very excited to work with many more during my time as a Senior Prefect to ensure that I can help to create an environment for everyone to thrive. One of the most lasting memories I have of the previous years of prefects is the ambition and inspiration their actions and personalities instilled in me and I hope to have a similar impact on younger years. Overall, whether it’s coming up with improvements or just asking where a particular room is- I’ll be happy to help.

# House News

Ms Holt, House Co-ordinator



## HOUSE UPDATE BY YATHAVI, 13RCO

In September, a new group of Year 7s joined CCHS, but little did they know, they were about to become part of arguably the most competitive house system there is. House events are not taken lightly at CCHS. As a student, you are encouraged to take part in a variety of events ranging from house pancakes (where you competitively dress up and flip 'pancakes') to sports day (where you competitively run around a track and do other competitive sporty things).

We ended the summer term with C house (obviously the best house!) leading in the 5-house cup, and A house leading in the 6-house shield. The scores were quite close meaning that this term was particularly important in determining who won 2021's house shield and cup.

The first event of this term was House Football. Regardless of whether they were a seasoned professional or had never kicked a football in their life, students threw themselves into the game, resulting in some extremely tight matches. Year 7s brought an abundance of energy to their first-ever house event and even made posters to cheer on their players. Teachers participated in the Year 13 and staff matches, which was both terrifying and entertaining for those involved.

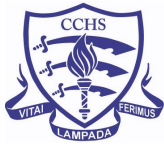


Another major house event was House Karaoke. Last year, due to Covid-19, it was replaced by 'House Lip Sync' and students could not watch other performances, but this year the original event returned. Song choices were immaculate as always, with performances including '24K Magic' by Bruno Mars and 'I want it that way' by the Backstreet Boys. So, tell me why, I never wanna hear you say, that house karaoke isn't great. Despite the competitive nature of the event, the audience cheered on and sang along to performances from other houses. A definite highlight was 11G's Michael Jackson medley, which they performed twice (because it was so good)!



House events are an integral part of CCHS tradition, and are undoubtedly a source of entertainment, laughter and memories. They have a magical way of bringing the CCHS community together, and in defiance of the tumultuous year that was 2021, the whole school has participated in keeping the house system running.

December marks the end of this house cycle, and the end of our time as house officials. I think it would be fair to say that we have really enjoyed this year, and on behalf of the house official team, I want to say a massive thank you to everyone for the enthusiasm that you have shown. Also, we need to say thank you to Miss Holt for organising these events and good luck to the incoming house officials!



What a wonderful term it has been for Drama at CCHS, with us picking up all of our extra-curricular provisions for the first time since March 2020. In Drama, we have made a massive effort to enrich ourselves with all the joys that we missed over the last academic year.

### SPLENDID PRODUCTIONS

Way back in September we welcomed Splendid Productions who brought us their adaption of UBU by Alfred Jarry. Key Stage 4 and 5 Drama students were treated to this hour-long production, with those students in Key Stage 5 also taking part in a theatre workshop. Both Year 12 and 13 students explored the production through workshops on the style of Epic Theatre and the work of Bertolt Brecht, which helpfully informed many of our Year 13's devised performance work. It was absolutely wonderful to have live theatre back in our school, as for most of our students, it was the first live performance work they had seen in years!



### KEY STAGE 3 DRAMA CLUBS

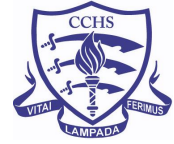
The first part of the autumn term saw the return of our renowned Year 7 Drama Club. Our Year 11 prefects, led by Mrs Broughton, lead a small group of avid and dedicated thespians in a variety of Drama games, activities and improvisations. Around 30 Year 7 students meet each Thursday to share their passion for Drama. We are thankful to the dedication and commitment of our Year 11 Drama Prefects who plan, prepare and deliver these sessions week on week.

Afterschool on Wednesdays, students from both CCHS and KEGS join together to take part in a Drama Society. The Drama Society brings together a collection of Year 8 students from both schools, taking part in a variety of Drama games, practical improvisations, and scripted scenarios. The Drama Society is primarily led by Year 11 and Sixth Form students at both schools, who plan and deliver engaging and thought-provoking Drama activities for our Year 8 students. The first half-term has been a real success, and we look forward to what progresses over the next academic year.



# Drama News

Mr Selby



## YEAR 7 CREATIVE ENRICHMENT DAY

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, Year 7 took part in their first enrichment day here at CCHS. All Year 7 students were taken off timetable to take part in creative activities throughout the day. In the morning, students spent two hours exploring pantomime, first of all from a traditional perspective, before exploring it through a modern lens. These practical based sessions were effectively led by staff members from both the English and Drama department. In the afternoon, students and staff members attended the annual pantomime at the Cliff Pavilion in Southend. Again, this was, for most students, the first time they had experienced live theatre in some time. A fantastic day was had by all, and as ever, our students were a credit to us in this public space.

## YEAR 13 PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

I wanted to end this section of the newsletter by celebrating some excellent performance work showcased by our Year 13 students. Only a few weeks ago, our Year 13 Theatre Studies students performed devised performances in the style of a chosen practitioner. At the end of the last academic year, our students started working on building performances based around a selected stimulus. Upon their return in September, they worked hard to perfect and polish their devised performances before their final assessment, taking place in November.

Upon competition of their practical assessments, we were thrilled to welcome our students' friends and families to showcase their outstanding work as part of our annual Theatre Studies showcase evening. Even after performing their work for their assessments in the day, they stepped up and delivered dynamic and engaging performances, which captivated the audience.

## A MOTHER'S VOICE

A major part of the Drama programme in the autumn term is our whole school production, which this year, is a production of A Mother's Voice by Chris Owen. A Mother's Voice tells the story of one woman's journey from wilful innocence to horrified experience in a fictitious South American state. It deals with the subject of Los Desaparecidos - "the disappeared". It is a powerful and hypnotic piece incorporating music and dance alongside more conventional performance.



Our students have been working hard over the past 12 weeks to rehearse and prepare a performance which will be performed to an audience at the end of January. Each week on a Monday and Tuesday students have met to rehearse and stage elements of the production. As we were unable to perform a whole school production last year, the energy and enthusiasm of our performers has been wonderful as we built our show this year, more determined than ever, to put on a great show.

Tickets are now available to purchase for A Mother's Voice by clicking [here](#).

We look forward to showcasing our production to you on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022** and **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.



This term has seen numerous musical successes from our students.

Ensembles are back! It has been such an uplifting time in the music department with the return of our music ensembles. There were always doubts that the number of students might drop after such a long absence of ensembles but if anything they have improved! Our Show Choir, 90, and Senior Choir, 70, are really good examples of this. I am thrilled that every single one of our 18 ensembles is back up and running. It took a little longer to get some groups back, but I have been delighted that numerous 6<sup>th</sup> formers have stepped up and taken on the running of clubs like Samba band, Gospel Choir, Sax trio and Cantatrici. We also have new ensembles in the pipeline which I hope can commence in the Spring term.

CCHS is an exam centre for ABRSM grades. We have been fortunate to have held 2 separate sittings for this with the first being at the start of the summer holidays and the 2<sup>nd</sup> just a week ago. There has been a real back log of students wanting to sit a graded music exam with them being postponed during lockdowns. We eagerly await the results from our December cohort.

In October our Year 11 GCSE music students all recorded their solo performances (30% of their final grade). Both myself and Mrs Clements were very fortunate to listen to a set of truly fantastic performances.

The number of A level music students continues to rise. We now have lessons with 17 A level music students in which is the largest group Mrs Clements and I have ever taught in our careers. It is so lovely to see so many students see the value of A level music and develop their learning to even greater depths.

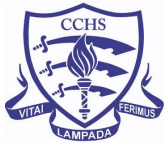
This term also saw the return of singing in the classroom. All year groups, especially KS3, have enjoyed the love of collective singing again.

The build up to Christmas is always a busy one for most but especially within the music department. There has been a real excitement for us to return to live concerts again and the students didn't let us down. This year saw all our ensembles once more perform a variety of music including many festive favourites.



Thank you to our wonderful Art Department and our talented Year 7 and 8 students for transforming our dining hall into a red and white festive wonderland!





## Sports News

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



It has been so wonderful to get back fully working with the students in a variety of sports, in both lessons and extra-curricular clubs. With our new state of the art facilities, it has been fabulous seeing the students training and even trying new sports.

Numbers for Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball clubs have been excellent and allowing all students the opportunity to learn new skills while having fun. Fixtures have started in Netball & Hockey already and it is fantastic to see the students come together as a team and work towards improving themselves individually but also as a group.

The fixture list for the Spring term has been sent out and you will see that we have swimming, netball, hockey, football, cricket & indoor athletics fixtures coming up; where possible if your child is in a team, can they write these dates in their logbooks and keep their calendar clear. Thank you in advance.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing your children in the New Year.

### TENNIS - LTA EAST ANGLIA CHAMPIONS

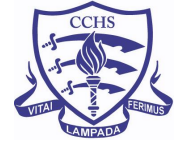
Due to covid the summer tennis competition has continued into the Autumn term. Having beaten Forest School in the semi-finals, our Year 10/11 students had to play Lister Community School in the final. Luckily, it fell as a home fixture so the team were able to play on our newly refurbished courts.

The Final was a very difficult match with the students playing singles and double games resulting in them drawing on the number of wins and so a championship tiebreak doubles game needed to be played to decide the winners. Our students held their nerve and went on to win 10-3. The team were an absolute credit to the school and to themselves for their performance and sportsmanship. We are so proud of them and this was extremely well deserved. Congratulations to our newly crowned LTA Division 2 East Anglia champions!! The team consisted of: Akshaya, Diya, Niva and Jessica and Camille.

A big thank you to Miss Burnham for all her coaching and support. Year 8/9 Tennis team still need to play their LTA final against St Paul's Trust school in the new year. We wish them every

# Sports News

Miss Bellamy, Miss Sales, & Miss Burnham



## CRICKET

With the new outstanding facilities, the cricket team are finally able to train properly in the sports hall.

The Friday afterschool club has been so popular that we are having to alternate year groups to allow everyone to safely play. Though in the summer we hope to run two clubs weekly clubs again.

The indoor cricket competitions have started already with our U13 team playing in a prelim qualifier at the Essex Cricket grounds.

They easily won both their matches and are through to the first round stage of the Essex Championships. We wish our U13 & U15 teams the best of luck!

A big thank you to Mr May for all his hard work.

U13 Prelim Qualifier Round of Essex Championship

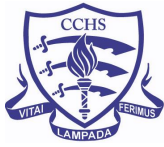
- CCHS beat Redden Court by 70 runs
- CCHS beat Gosfield by 40 runs.

## TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Table Tennis club is back up and running again, which is so wonderful to see, especially as they have much more space in the Sports Hall to move around the tables. We are so lucky to have Dean Andrews at the school and though covid stopped the club for a while, we are gradually getting back up to full strength.

Dean who has been working with our students for over 12 years now, sharing all his knowledge and experience with them and enabling them to compete in competition and represent the school. Along with helping older students to get the umpiring and coaching qualifications. We are so lucky to have Dean working with our students & it is wonderful to see the progress the players are making.

Dean has also kindly put on some lunchtime sessions over the last couple of weeks to allow students to try out this amazing sport and see if they want to join the after-school club on a Wednesday night. The club has a small fee attached to it, in order to employ Dean to work with our students. For more information, please email Miss Bellamy.



# Sports News

Miss Bellamy, Miss Sales, & Miss Burnham

## FOOTBALL

Football training has been going very well and we thank Mr Copper for giving them. We are lucky to also have several very good football players in the older years who are also wanting to help at the Tuesday lunchtime club, resulting in these students using and improving their leadership skills and as well as helping their younger peers improve their techniques and tactical awareness.

So far this year, we have competed in the Mid-Essex Football Tournament, where the team didn't lose a game all day, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Our U13 team completed in their Mid-Essex tournament and though they didn't make it to the play-offs, they did produce some excellent displays of football.

U13 team will have a further 5 matches as they are entered in the MESSA league. Please see the fixture list which was sent to all students for the dates. We wish the team and Mr Copper the best of luck.

## VOLLEYBALL CLUB

This sport was newly introduced this year to some year groups who have absolutely loved learning a new sport. We are very lucky to have Mr Badmus (Chemistry) join our school as he is a highly experienced volleyball player and coach. He has been taking the club on a Friday lunchtime and numbers have been fantastic. The PE dept. would like to thank him for all his time and help with the club. We know the students appreciate all you do for them.

## IMPROVERS SWIMMING SESSIONS

Swimming assessments took place at the end of last year and in September to check that all students are at the expected national level for their age and to ensure they are safe in and around water. Letters have been sent out to the students who need to attend these sessions will start on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Some students who missed their assessment last year, need to attend one of the sessions the first week so they can be assessed, those needing to attend Improvers swimming will be sent a second letter. Mrs Doubleday and our new PE Prefects will be working with the students over the next few weeks to improve their techniques and stamina in order for them to pass their assessments.

## KIT

We have had to deal with a lot of lost PE kit, this year. Please can you ensure that your child locks her kit in their locker with a padlock, so it is not left around school and is kept safe.

All PE kit should be labelled with a proper name tag (as should their school uniform which is often found left behind). If items are unnamed we are unable to return the items. Jumpers and polos should be embroidered/printed with your child's first name and surname initial in their house colour. Please ensure that your child has all their kit ready for January 2022 to prevent them receiving behaviour points.

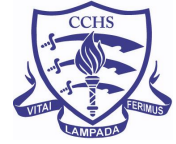
## SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS TRAINING

Having our amazing Sports hall has allowed us to introduce Sports Hall athletics to all Year 7-10 classes through their PE lessons at the start of the year and run a club for Year 7&8 students every Thursday lunchtime. Student participation has been overwhelming and thankfully due to some Sport England funding, we managed to buy brand new equipment to practice all the elements of the sport. As the spring term moves on, we plan to invite Year 9&10 students to the club in order to get ready for the summer Athletics competitions.

We have the first round of the National Competition is on 25<sup>th</sup> January and we will have trials for Year 7&8 teams after the Christmas holidays.



# Sporting Achievements



Many congratulations to Akshaya, Diya, Niva, Jessica and Camille, who became Lawn Tennis Association division 2 East Anglia champions earlier this week!

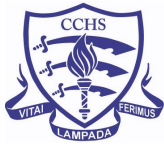
## Sarah, 8A

Congratulations to Sarah in Year 8 who recently won gold, with her doubles partners, at the Suffolk U13 Bronze tournament.



## Akshaya, 11C

Akshaya is on a roll—not only pictured above in our winning tennis team but has also been selected for the Essex Badminton County U16s Squad—well done Akshaya, we are very proud of you.



## GERMAN FASHION SHOW

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 9s have been performing in German fashion shows and red carpet events as comperes, presenters, models and film stars. Prizes were awarded for groups with the best outfits, the best script and the best use of their learning resources. Some chose the Berlin film festival as their inspiration, others chose the eco-friendly Munich Fashion Week and others the theme of Karneval – a yearly celebration in German speaking countries with lots of fancy dress parties.



*Thank you to all of you who participated in our Christmas Jumper Day – we are pleased to report that we raised an incredible, £1,364, which will be split between Save the Children and the CCHS PA.*



## CCHS Parents' Association



Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who have supported the PA Grand Christmas Draw by buying tickets or donating prizes.

We have sold £2,371 worth of tickets which is fantastic!

The Wishlist Lottery Winners are:

### October

£50 S. Kistapur

£25 M. Taylor

£25 G.H. Bailes

### November

£50 S.L. Markham

£25 N.R andive

£25 R. Sterry

### December

£100 A. White

£50 Mrs Wallage

£25 L.C.E. Brindle

£25 H.R. Grint

Cheques have been handed out to students.

If you have any comments or feedback about this newsletter, please email Miss McGrath:

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

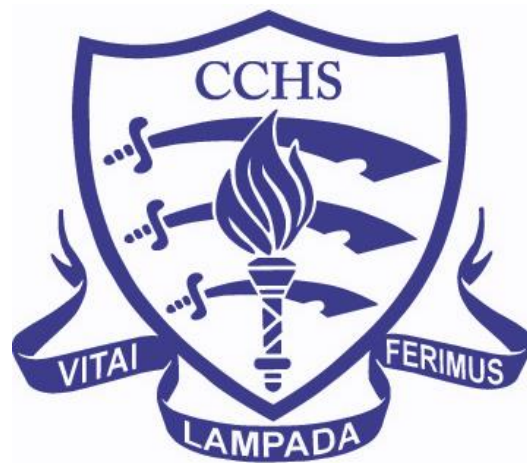
# A Mother's Voice

by  
Chris Owen



**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
**Doors open 6:30pm – performance starts: 7pm**

Tickets available here. <https://www.positickets.co.uk>



**Chelmsford County High School for Girls**

Broomfield Road

Chelmsford

Essex CM1 1RW

T: 01245 352592 . E: [office@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@cchs.essex.sch.uk)



@CCHS4G