



Community Assembly: Human Contact



At CCHS, we have been acutely aware of what has been lost to us all over the past 15 months, with the interruptions and compromises to usual school life: whether it be staff gatherings, school assemblies, House events, Parents' Evenings, Concerts, Shows, etc.

MS Teams, Zoom, and the like have been a boon to facilitate remote schooling, meetings, etc. There is a convenience and efficiency to these online platforms; but hopefully we agree that, as human beings, we expect, want and need more than this. There is nothing as powerful, as energising and as fulfilling as actual human contact.

I had the privilege to address Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students in separate assemblies across Monday to Friday last week. It was so wonderful to see each year group gathered, with their tutor teams. School assemblies should be routine, and yet they have become an occasion. This speaks to the reality of human contact more broadly since March 2020: members of families not seeing each other for months, hugging a loved one becoming a matter of national comment, handshakes relegated as a no-no, etc. As a school we embarked on our own 'roadmap' to a sense of normality before the half-term break, with all year groups returning to our usual 3.40pm finish.

We continue this now with year group assemblies and other important steps. I am mindful of the fact that parents of CCHS students have not been able to visit the campus in usual ways for so long and that your contacts with members of staff have had to be by phone, email or online.

To begin to remedy this unfortunate reality, I would like to invite parents to make appointments to visit our School, to have a chat with me as we tour the campus, across the remainder of this academic year. I do not teach on Mondays, so if you would like to spend some time reconnecting directly with CCHS, I would be delighted to see you.

Please contact my colleague, Miss McGrath (hmcgrath@cchs.essex.sch.uk), who will happily arrange an appointment for you between 9am and 2pm. You bring a facemask and we will provide the hand-sanitiser; and more importantly, a chance to witness the School in operation, with corridors and classrooms full of life and learning, thanks to your wonderful daughters and our brilliant staff. I look forward to welcoming you.

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