

# Chelmsford County High School for Girls

## Alumnae Newsletter



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We hope you enjoy this Newsletter!



QR codes and links to our alumnae social media can  
be found later in the Newsletter.

Winter 2022

Issue 7



## Headteacher's Welcome

We have been delighted that so many members of the CCHS Alumnae have been able to return to their school over the past few weeks. Whether it be a school reunion, supporting our careers day for Year 10 students, delivering a CCHS Institute lecture, or coming back to see members of staff – it has been our privilege to welcome you back to your school and we are most grateful for the support you continue to offer us and our current students.

I know the CCHS Alumnae will be delighted to hear that Mr Moore has responded well to treatment over the past few months. We are in regular contact with the great man and his humour and spirits remain undaunted. I had the pleasure of visiting him and his wife over the October half-term break. It was great to see them, and Mr Moore was on fine form.

I hope you enjoy reading through your newsletter. I would like to thank Mrs Carroll and Dr Palmer, who work hard on the newsletters, the social media platforms, and in so many other ways, to ensure the CCHS Alumnae are included as members of the school community.

Our school, your school, has a very special place in Chelmsford, Essex and beyond. It is important to us that you are involved, informed and welcomed back. If you do wish to arrange a reunion, return to speak to students, etc. please do get in touch with us. You will always be warmly welcomed back to your school.



*Photos on the left and below show Mr Lawlor meeting and chatting with alumnae who visited us in September. These former students left CCHS in 1982.*



Later in this Newsletter we include more photos of this and other school visits that have taken place this year.

# The CCHS Institute

We are pleased and proud to tell you about the CCHS Institute, which is a project that provides an umbrella and a focus for our academic enrichment work. We have started to host a range of lectures and seminars and will be publishing a regular bulletin to celebrate the academic enrichment which is so important to our students.



We are delighted that four of our alumnae have agreed to act as patrons of the CCHS Institute and to support our work. Each of them continues to be very successful in their own field and they are all looking forward to supporting the next generation of CCHS students in developing their knowledge and understanding.

- **Sïan Cleaver** left CCHS in 2008 and studied Physics and Astronomy in the University of Durham. A former board member of WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), she currently works for Airbus in Bremen, Germany, where she designs satellites and vehicles for space exploration. Sïan has appeared on *Blue Peter* to showcase the Airbus Mars Rover and is passionate about widening understanding of and participation in science. The Telegraph has also celebrated Sïan's work in an article titled '*The Essex stargazer aiming to put mankind back on the Moon*'. There is more information about Sïan and her incredible work towards NASA's Artemis 1 mission, later in this Newsletter.
- **Sophie Rashbrook** left CCHS in 2006 and studied French and Russian in the University of Cambridge. She has worked for many years in the world of opera and classical music, translating, writing, directing, facilitating performances and working to introduce new audiences to classical music and opera. She currently works for the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, focusing on informing and educating audiences about the works presented each season.
- **Eloise Davies** left CCHS in 2013. She studied History in the University of Cambridge and is now a Fellow of Pembroke College Oxford where she teaches early modern history and continues her research. This focuses on the history of the Venetian Republic in the seventeenth century and in particular on relations between Venice and the wider world. Her work on Anglo-Venetian relations was recently awarded the Institute of Historical Research's Sir John Neale Prize for Early Modern British History.
- The Reverend Dr **Caroline (Cally) Hammond** left CCHS in 1982. She studied *Literae Humaniores* (Classics) at St John's College, Oxford where she also completed her doctoral studies on Caesar and Livy. She then moved to Cambridge for postdoctoral work at Downing College. After studying Theology at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge she was ordained priest in 1999. She was appointed to her current role as Dean of Gonville and Caius College in the University of Cambridge in 2005. She is Director of Studies in Theology at Caius, teaching early Christian doctrine as well as Greek and Latin and is also a columnist for the *Church Times*. Her two volume translation of the *Confessions* of St Augustine was published in 2014 and 2015 and she also writes about liturgy and the Christian life.

We were particularly delighted that Eloise agreed to give the Mary Kenyon Memorial Lecture here at CCHS recently and that Sïan also came into school to report on her work at Cape Canaveral working on the test-flight of Artemis, the first crewed moon landing since 1972.



# Speech Day 2022

Since the difficulties of 2020 and early 2021 staff at CCHS have been working hard to restore as much of the pre-pandemic life of the school as possible and to effect this restoration as quickly as possible. We were therefore delighted to be able to run Senior Speech Day in April 2022 after the two previous years' events had been cancelled in consequence of the first national lockdown in 2020 and the continuing Covid risks in 2021. The evening gave the leavers of 2021 the chance to celebrate their A level grades together with their parents and former staff and also the Year 12 students the opportunity to receive their GCSE certificates and celebrate their achievements.

Our guest of honour was Bridget Kendall, MBE. Bridget is currently Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge (the first woman to hold that role in a history which stretches back to 1284). However many readers will be familiar with her work as a BBC journalist – she was, in succession, the corporation's Moscow and Washington correspondent and then for 17 years the BBC's Senior Diplomatic Correspondent. These roles gave her a front row seat in global events from the collapse of communism to the rise of President Putin, via of course the 2001 attacks on the USA and much else besides. As well as presenting certificates and prizes Bridget spoke about her experiences as a pioneering woman in what had for so many years been a male dominated field and she encouraged all in her audience to grab the chances and take the decisions that would open opportunities to them.

We congratulate all who received certificates and prizes at this evening and also thank those former staff and parents who continue to fund many of the named prizes which are awarded.



*Above, Mr Lawlor with Bridget Kendal, MBE and Chair of Governors, Mr Steve Miles.*



*Above right certificates and prizes being awarded in the beautiful Cathedral setting, and right some of the cups and trophies on display and ready to be given out during the evening.*



# Music, Drama and Dance

Music, Dance and Drama were among the extra-curricular activities most affected by the pandemic and the lingering restrictions. In 2020-21 we lost the Christmas Concert, the school production, the Dance Show and the Spring Concert to Covid. Whilst the Christmas concert 2020 was released as an online performance, it was not possible to do this for the other events. We did then plan for a Christmas Concert in December 2021 but this went online at short notice as the Omicron variant of Covid swept through Essex. We are grateful to Mr Simon French, our Performing Arts Technician for the huge efforts he made to ensure high quality online versions of these concerts.

It was therefore a great joy to see in 2022 the return of live Music, Dance and Drama to CCHS. The Spring Concert in March 2022 was the first large scale live musical performance in school for 839 days (since December 2019) and all our musicians really relished the chance given by this concert (and indeed by the summer Cabaret Concert) to perform in front of a live audience.

Similarly our dancers were delighted to see the return of the Dance Show in late February 2022. It has proved quite difficult to be definite as to how long the Dance Show has been part of CCHS tradition – the early shows were more irregular and less ambitious than has been the tradition in the last 20 years. However it is thought that the Dance Show in a form similar to that which we know today has been an annual event at CCHS since around the mid 1990s. The 2022 show, entitled *Legacy* saw students participating in dances in a huge variety of styles, all ably choreographed by students themselves. We congratulate Dance Officials Talya, Isobel, Abigail, Danielle and Ivie on all the work that went into producing such a stunning show. Miss Bellamy as producer and Mr Rowell and Mr French (lighting and sound) also deserve our thanks.



Given the continuing uncertainty of the Covid situation in the autumn of 2021 it was decided that the 2022 school production would be small scale. Mr Selby and his team chose to offer a production of Chris Owen's play *A Mother's Voice*. This play deals with the impact on a community of the phenomenon of 'the disappeared' and is universal in its message despite originally being inspired by events in various Latin American countries. The dark subject matter gave our actors real opportunities to explore characterisation and to experiment with a range of theatrical techniques. Mr Selby, assistant direct Sam and all the cast are to be congratulated on the moving and thought-provoking evening of drama they produced for their audiences. At the time of writing rehearsals are in full swing for a production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in early 2023 and we look forward to reporting on this much larger and very different piece of theatre in next year's Alumnae Newsletter. Have a look at page 50 for the promotional poster.



Photos from *A Mother's Voice*, together with the Dance Show 'Legacy' poster (above).



Change@CCHS continues to be a really important part of the school's work; our commitment to ensuring that our staff and students are equipped to work against all forms of discrimination and to pursue a fair world for all. In June 2022, and thanks to the support of the CCHS Parents' Association, our two Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Cross and Miss Harrison, presented on our Change@CCHS work at the Global Forum on Girls' Education III in Boston, USA. They received many compliments on the energy and commitment with which CCHS is pursuing this agenda and have since corresponded with colleagues around the world about our work.

We have also undertaken a good deal of work reflecting on the curriculum taught at CCHS and how staff might be able to celebrate diversity in the topics they teach and through the resources they use. This reflection has built on past changes made and will see new topics appearing on syllabi and some old topics being revisited with new resources.

### **Black Excellence Fest 2022**

The BE Fest 2022 at the start of November was a fantastic, fun event that students and teachers alike thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. I took inspiration from my sister and her own celebration of black culture a few years ago, making my own version bigger and better with a wow factor more than before. With Black History Month on the horizon, I knew I wanted to create an event that reminded people with joyous singing and dancing that despite the black community often being overlooked and underappreciated we have a lot to offer. I wanted to show people the vibrant and lively culture of the black community and show how far we, as a race, have come despite the constant hardships and tribulations. So, after lots of hard work the event came together, and it was explosive.

As soon as the doors opened, I could not believe the amount of people that flooded in, creating a buzzing, excitable atmosphere that put a smile on everyone's faces. There was colourful, delicious African cuisine - jollof rice, coconut fried rice, fried plantain, etc to eat and a bake sale, all money raised going to the charity we selected called 'the Black Curriculum' which teaches black education (among other things) in schools across the UK. Also, there were various activities, promoting not only black excellence but diversity and change too. The main activity, courtesy of my mother's sewing skills, was a bedsheet that had the words 'all colours are beautiful' stitched on, inviting people to draw round their hands in different colours in a beautiful attempt to stomp on racism and colourism.



The performances that followed tied the event with a bow, getting the whole crowd excited and amazed at the songs performed, inspirational poems read and dances done to their favourite songs. The atmosphere was electric, and the event was wonderful. I look forward to BE Fest 2023!

**Martha (organiser of BE Fest 2022)**





## **Culture Fest 2022**

From the 28th of November to the 2nd of December, CCHS held a Culture Fest: a week of lunchtimes dedicated to celebrating the vast range of cultures and backgrounds represented at CCHS. Organised by the Change and Diversity Prefects, the celebrations ranged from talks to food to henna to performances, with the climax being Friday, as it included a Cultural Dress Day. Starting off the week, a lecture on 'How My Cultural Identity was Formed' was delivered to years 11-13 by Louisa, one of our Change and Diversity Prefects. Taking the idea from 'The Map Woman' by Carol Ann Duffy, she discussed how her memories of growing up in the UK impacted how she viewed her culture, and the personal growth it took for her to connect with her culture again.

The performances were arguably the highlight of the week, taking place on the 1st and 2nd of December. The overwhelming flurry of auditions received meant that a change of plan was required to allow for twice the number of performances originally envisaged. Many students witnessed talent from many performers, primarily singing and dancing acts, which ranged from West African High Praise to Afrobeat to fusions of Nigerian and Ghanaian dances, as well as Bharatanatyam, Bhangra, Giddha, Bollywood and many more.



The hall was overflowing with people and their enthusiasm only made things better.

Lehengas with both long and short cholis, Agbada, Kente, half or full sari, Gele, tikkas, Qipao – these are just examples of the wide range of displays of cultural clothing, headpieces and jewellery worn on Friday. There was an admirable explosion of colour and style the students were eager to express, and they did not disappoint. Being able to witness the pride people had in their cultures reminded us why Culture Fest was created in the first place - to celebrate and appreciate culture in its purest form.

We can't wait to see how this new tradition will blossom and grow within CCHS.

**Louisa, Davina and Tal, Change and Diversity Prefects for 2022**

# Alumnae Memories

In March we received some interesting responses to a Facebook post regarding school trips and associated reminiscences. Here Debbie Roe, former CCHS student who studied here from 1978 to 1985, recounts some of her memories:

*We had some really enjoyable school trips in the years that I was at CCHS. Our week in Normandy in the second (?) year was great fun, and one of my first experiences of being away from home. Staying in the annex at a chateau (instead of inside the chateau itself like some of the other students) we thought we were in the second class accommodation with long communal basins in the bathroom for washing and cleaning our teeth but in fact the rooms were great for socialising.*

*The annual skiing trips were an exciting opportunity and I was really glad to be able to go to Nenzing (Austria) for a week (also second year I think); lots of exciting memories including going on the overnight train from France to Austria to get there and totally in awe of the sixth formers who had to look after us; and a fellow student skiing backwards all the way down the hill on the nursery slope much to the hilarity of us all.*

*The pièce de résistance for me (and somewhat poignant now) was a once in a lifetime trip to Moscow and Lenin-grad in the third year. I remember coming home from school to tell my parents excitedly that there was a school trip to Russia (with absolutely no expectation of participating) and their immediate reaction was 'well do you want to go?' It was so memorable in many ways - and probably now will be the only time in my lifetime that I will visit there. The food was basic, the hotel we stayed in was very drab, and yet the architecture of the basilica in Red Square and the Hermitage in Leningrad were incredible.*

*And the final trip of note was to Paris in the sixth form; still my favourite city in the world, and totally magical!*

Catrin Conway (née Gwynne) also got in touch with us. She was a student here from 1980 until 1987. Her memories are below:

*I was at the high school from 1980-1987. I went on the school ski trip twice in that time - this was where I learned to ski. So many fun memories! The overnight train was super exciting. I seem to recall waking up in the morning to look out of the window and see the most spectacular scenery ever - snow capped pine-covered mountains and lakes as blue as the sky. The hostel we stayed at was comfortable but basic. The host, Frau Maurer, was particularly memorable. An intensely severe woman - we never saw her smile - and once a week she would serve pancake soup for dinner; simply the most bizarre and unappetising meal imaginable! Then there was Hugo, our ski instructor, who apparently owned a reindeer station and being a big clown-like character who was constantly smiling, he was the yang to Frau Maurer's yin. At the end of the trip we would all stock up on massive bars of Milka chocolate to bring home. One year I made the very poor decision to bring home some particularly pungent cheese, which announced its presence everywhere it went, even hidden in the depths of my luggage. My mum insisted we ate it promptly when I got home as it even stank the fridge out! Happy days!*

## From the archives.... 1986

### *School's First Pupil Makes a Visit in October 1986*

*Kate Driver (now Mrs Luckin-Smith), who was the first pupil entered on the School Roll on its first day on 6th May 1907, paid a visit to the School in October 1986. Pictured right, Mrs Luckin-Smith sat at a pupil's desk during her visit and tour of the school.*





# Alumnae Memories

An alumna memory which we have found in our archives, tells of a visit by one of our alumnae to Buckingham Palace. Memories of this day when she and her mother accompanied her father, who was to receive the MBE, to Buckingham Palace, were apparently her happiest memories of the war years. A keen royalist, she looked forward to seeing the King in person. The piece below is taken from the July 1945 School Magazine and describes her visit:

*"In the taxi she tried to identify many of the buildings they passed, successfully identifying the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and St Paul's Cathedral. Then driving up the Mall in the wake of many other cars and driving in through Buckingham Palace gates, showing their passes and being directed into the inner courtyard where a great many other cars were stationed. Along one side of the courtyard stood an enormous queue of people slowly winding their way up the steps which led into the Palace. At the top of the steps were two guards resplendent in their scarlet and gold livery, white stockings and buckled shoes. In the queue the heroes who were so soon to be decorated looked nervous as they talked and laughed with their relatives. The queue was a mass of uniforms and gay hats bobbed up here and there as people stood on tiptoe, eager not to miss a thing. Eventually they mounted the steps, showed their tickets to the guards and passed through the door to eventually find themselves in the Grand Hall of Buckingham Palace. It was already half filled with people. Her father had had to leave them at the entrance to join the men who were to be decorated. Mother and daughter followed a Home Guard to their seats where they could look around and see the huge portraits of previous Kings and Queens of England on the walls and the decoration of the room. The Hall was very long and filled with chairs cushioned in pale pink satin with a raised pattern with quilt backs and legs. Facing the door through which they had entered was a red carpeted dais reached on either side by stairs and railed off from the audience.....Behind the platform, double doors provided much interest for through these the King would soon enter. In one corner of the main hall an orchestra of Guards was playing softly. Eventually the doors behind the platform opened, everybody stopped talking and looked expectantly at the dais, but it was only the Lord Chamberlain who came to ask everyone to stand when the King entered and to remain standing until told to sit. This done, he retired, the doors were shut and all settled down again for what was hoped would not be a long wait. After a few minutes the doors once more opened and the Lord Chamberlain announced 'His Majesty King George the Sixth' which was followed by a terrific roll of drums and the playing of the National Anthem as the King stepped onto the dais and stood to attention. Then the King, heard probably only by the people nearest him, for the hall was really tremendous, said 'pray be seated.' With one accord all sat down. It was delightful to see how simple the King was, how sympathetically he spoke to those who had been wounded and how friendly his smile was to all who were presented to him. As each man stepped on to the dais his name and decoration were read out by the Lord Chamberlain. He saluted the King and then stood to attention as the medal was pinned on his chest. The King shook hands with each man and in many cases spoke to them. Writer, and mother, were very proud when the King spoke to her father. When the King had left and the investiture was over all returned to the courtyard where the decorated men showed their awards to admiring relations. Then it was back into the car and down the Mall taking one last look back at the Palace".*

Memories from another alumna taken from the Summer 1910 magazine tell of a school 'Historical Expedition to Danbury and Bicknacre' that took place on Saturday 23rd April 1910. This trip was taken "by about a dozen pupils on bicycles accompanied by Miss Boothby. On top of the hill they looked round to see the site of the Danish camp from which Danbury derives its name, visited the church, and then cycled about two miles to visit the remains of Bicknacre Priory, now only a Gothic arch".

What a lovely 'school trip' taken by students on bicycles!



Mary Mournie, who joined CCHS in 1928 contemplated the school uniform in her time and apparently later recalled:

*"How lucky children are now not to have to wear that bulky liberty bodice with its buttoning-on suspenders! How those buttons were always popping off at inconvenient moments, and how difficult it was to keep the stockings up without the horrid white gap known as the 'the smile' appearing between the top of the stockings and the knicker elastic".*

# Alumnae Memories

Alumna Katherine White contacted us back in May and produced a really interesting piece about her memories from her school days here at CCHS. Katherine was a student here from 1972 until 1979 and is now a published author under the name Elizabeth Keysian. We will be keeping the full transcript of her wonderful CCHS memories in our archives and a snapshot of these is included below and overleaf:

**Uniform:** By the time I started at CHS in 1972, the smart, navy-blue uniform of my predecessors was gone, and we had to wear round-necked tunics striped in light and dark blue—horribly nylon, horribly hot. If you fidgeted too much on your chair, you ended up with a polished behind. What a joy it was when summer frock time came around! I can just about picture these; I think they were a patterned blue sack with a sash at the waist. I have a feeling that once you reached the Third Form, separate shirts and blouses could be worn. In high summer heat (if we were lucky enough to get any) you could remove your tie and open the top button of your short-sleeved shirt. How grown up I felt as I marched down Broomfield Road to the bus station. How rebellious, how hip, how cool!

I didn't mind the uniform too much; we hadn't had any at my junior school. But the novelty wears off after a while, doesn't it? You want to assert your individuality. So, I managed to sneak in a blouse with deep cuffs and collar - (I think civilians may have called them dagger collars in the 1970s) - and when I got to the Fifth Form, I acquired a blanket coat in a snazzy zigzag design, with a hood, and toggle fastenings. The only stipulation about coats was that they should be blue, so I got away with it.

By the Fifth Form, I was really finding myself. No longer did I struggle up Broomfield Road wearing pigtails, leaning to one side due to the weight of the School Mathematics Project book in the black briefcase that I carried. I was now striding forth, sporting a new "page boy" haircut that refused to curl under unless savagely tamed by curling tongs, clad in my Bohemian coat, and bearing a blue canvas shoulder bag with a Pink Floyd Dark Side of the Moon sticker on it.

Then came Lower Sixth—you could wear what you liked, within reason. You could wear zip-up, knee-high boots, if you could afford them, but jeans were forbidden. Some girls turned up the collars of their shirts; how the Lower School must have envied us!

**Teachers and Subjects:** I remember that Mrs Clarke taught us English in my first year, 1972. We worked in one of the old-fashioned, high-windowed classrooms at the front of the school—Room 2, I think. The weekly lesson followed swimming and first break. I remember sitting there with dripping pigtails, eyes stinging from the chlorine, my stomach full of comforting Wagon Wheel as we worked our way through *The Hobbit*. I was stunned. I'd never expected to study such a "fun" book at secondary school. I was eager to read out loud in class; I must have been like Hermione Granger from the Harry Potter books in those lessons, always with my hand up. I was the opposite in German lessons, where I worked hard on being invisible.

I studied A-level English and loved it. One of my teachers was Mrs Jean Greenwood (though of course, you weren't supposed to know teachers' Christian names at that time—that was classified information). Our very first lesson with her was in a small room next to the library where we pored over the workings of the Elizabethan theatre. When the bell sounded for break, she said, "We've been doing so well, let's continue through break." We were too polite to cavil, at which she laughed and said, "Look at your faces! Just joking."

I knew then, that we were in the hands of a very special teacher.

# Alumnae Memories

Katherine White continued...

A-level history was brilliant. We had Mrs Mackrill teaching us about the Tudors and Stuarts. I wrote her a thirteen-page essay once, on the causes of the English Civil War, but despite that, she was kind to me. I've dedicated one of my Historical Romances to her, and to Mrs Greenwood.

Mrs Mackrill kept us on track in the Sixth Form by telling us that if we worked really hard, she would do her impression of James I at the end of term. She did. It had us in stitches!

Thank you, CHS, for employing such creative teachers with such big personalities.

Chemistry: Ah, the smell of ammonia! The hiss of the Bunsen burners! I remember the moment something sputtered out of my test tube and burnt a small hole in my forehead, but there was no fuss made. I just had to put up with it.

The best part of studying chemistry was that, for end of term fun, you got to see the teacher burn stuff. We're talking magnesium ribbon and iron filings. Sparklers! Yay! Although, it would have been even better had we got to burn the stuff ourselves.

After O-levels, when those who knew they weren't continuing with science subjects dispensed with their lab coats, we all got to autograph them. We wrote poems and jokes and drew cartoons. It was a better badge of honour than the scar on the forehead; I kept my lab coat for years.

PE: The PE activity that I enjoyed the most was fencing. I think this happened either in our final O-level year or our first A-level year, when we did a different activity each term. I opted for table tennis, trampolining and fencing.

Fencing afforded me one of my greatest moments. When the teacher wanted to test our reflexes, she dropped a gauntlet down the wall and we had to stop it with our foil. I was the only girl in the group that managed to pin it to the wall before it hit the floor!

**Clubs:** There were plenty of after-school or lunchtime clubs where we could develop our interests and skills beyond the classroom. I belonged to the Debating Society and I fancied myself very good at public speaking; but I wasn't. I was also on the committee for History Club, and our job was to present fun and educational content for half an hour or so, one lunchtime a week. I distinctly remember doing a guess-the-historical-character game, where I hid in the Geography cupboard and changed into my dressing gown and my father's Cossack hat so I could be Queen Christina. I also remember a session where we pulled the blinds down, turned the lights off and entertained our audience by candlelight with stories about vampires. I suddenly let out a bloodcurdling scream. You should have seen everyone jump. A proud moment for me.

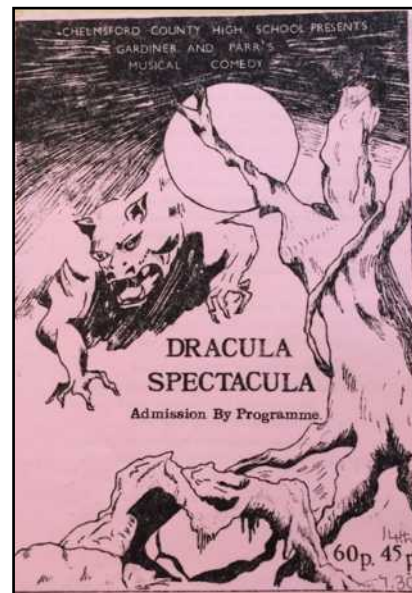
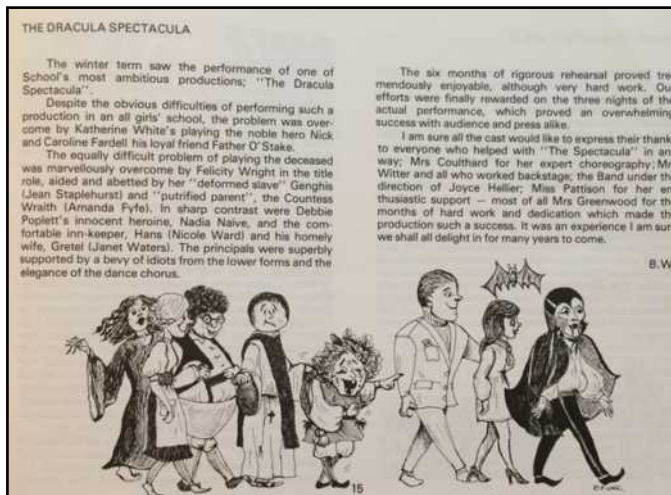
We had Junior Choir and Senior Choir. I loved those, although Mrs Greenwood drove us hard. Some of the girls had such beautiful voices, it was a privilege to listen to them and I thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing descants for Christmas carols which we would sing during the school Christmas Fair or at the cathedral for the Carol Service.

Because the Lower Sixth A-level groups were – theoretically – smaller classes, we had to squeeze into some tiny rooms. There was a residence on the left of the school as you look at it which was known as the **Sixth Form House**, which had a little neglected garden where you could sit outside in a deckchair and revise, and a tiny kitchen for making coffee, or toast and Marmite. What treats! There must have been a hob there as well, because I remember staying late when performing in the school musical, the Dracula Spectacula. I had one of those boil-in-the-bag meals of cod in butter sauce, and I stank the place out, much to my embarrassment.



# Alumnae Memories

Alongside Katherine White's memories, some of which we included on previous pages, she also kindly sent us some newspaper reviews of the 'Dracula Spectacula' that she referenced in her memories. Katherine was a student here from 1972 until 1979 and no doubt other readers of this Newsletter may remember this special performance!



Katherine White (CO 1972-1979) sent us the image of the School Magazine cover from 1979 (left) and commented...

*"I love the 1979 cover, as it represents the school corridor as I remember it. The doorway ahead is into the room where I did first year French with a teacher who was called Mrs Davies but insisted we call her Madam Dupont. I think the cupboard used for storing the French books, and where I had my O Level French oral exam, is the last door on the left of this corridor. Round the corner to the left were bookshelves, and the lower school entrance. As first years, we occupied the rooms nearest that entrance".*

More about the main corridor on the next page....

# Alumnae Memories

In September we posted on our alumnae social media platforms a picture of the main school corridor (below). Despite the many changes to the school site over the years, some of which we documented in our 2021 Alumnae Newsletter, this corridor generally still maintains its original look and 'feel'.

You may be interested to read the two excerpts below from our archive materials regarding use of the corridor in both the First and Second World War as a form of air raid shelter for students and their teachers.



## From the archives: (CHS History Book)

### Enemy Action 1917

*Miss Bancroft described how, on a beautiful sunny day in June 1917, the School's lessons were interrupted twice by the danger siren - 3 short blasts and a long blast - signalling enemy bombers passing overhead on their way to London.*

*The "shelter" was the inner long corridor of the ground floor of the school building where the children from upstairs classrooms sat on the floor in groups, around their mistresses, along the corridor.*

*Pupils in downstairs classrooms sheltered under their desks.*



## From Mary Kenyon's 'History of Chelmsford County High School':

*In 1941 the Allotment Club began. Tools were obtained by the sale of coconut ice, for which everyone was asked to contribute one lump of sugar. By the summer, seven dozen lettuces had been sold to Mrs Brundle for school dinners. By now there were daylight raids and dinners were frequently served in the lower corridor. The white cloths, the maids taking round the vegetables, the meat cut ceremonially by Mr Brundle had gone, never to return.*

**We were so pleased that the image above prompted so many memories on social media from you and a few of these are included below.**

I remember doing the "I'm not running, I'm just doing the Fast Walk Shuffle" along there many times when I was late for something!

So iconic....it continues to shine!

Definitely brought back memories from my time there - 1963-70.

Oh wow, that brings back memories. I can still remember what was round the corners of the stair entrances and where the office and main entrance is.

I followed my mum's footsteps!

In my first year my plait got hooked on someone's backpack in between lessons in that busy corridor once and I was pulled along politely saying 'excuse me....erm excuse me!'

That just feels like home!!

Wow! So evocative! I remember Miss Hunter standing checking us for posture as we filed out of assembly in the gym! 1959-1964!

It sounds like the school has changed massively since my time there, but this picture took me straight back to my first day in 1968!

I remember standing outside the Headmistress's study along there far too many times....

That floor!!!! My goodness me, what an incredible building!

# Alumnae Memories

We hosted a school reunion on 10th September for alumnae who left CCHS in 1982. There will be more about that reunion later in this Newsletter, but below and on the next page are some school memories from Carol Christophi (née Charles), prompted by her visit back into school that day in September.

Here we are 40 years on; how wonderful to see familiar faces; how daunting to be back at school. We never considered that we would be this age. At school we lived in the moment, we were active, vibrant and energetic. We wanted to leave school, drive, travel and have new and exciting adventures. Well that was me. I wasn't the most academic; I was a sporty girl. I loved all sports (including swimming in the freezing pool). I enjoyed challenges, teams, trips and tours and I have always loved just being around people. I had no idea I would be a teacher but it was my PE teachers at CCHS who picked me up by my collar and sent me on that journey. I then spent 4 years gaining a B.Ed. Honours Degree. I taught for a few years and then went into the Travel & Tourism Industry, and years later back to teaching. I have met the most amazing diverse people and realised that being energetic is great but this must be balanced with calm moments and the ability to be happy in your own company.

In school all those years ago we maybe saw one computer, and we had one male teacher which was a real moment at CCHS. I do not remember any negatives such as 'if you fail'. This was not part of the language; it was all very positive: you will, you can, you are able. Discipline and a good work ethic, and the importance of good manners were instilled in us all.

Our headteacher was Miss Pattison. She was frequently out on the hockey field in a white track-suit. I am very sad that by the time I realised I wanted to write to her she had passed away. She was very supportive of us in sport and I feared and adored her equally. We also had a fearsome PE teacher, Miss Donaldson who was known by all as 'Daisy'. She was a tough taskmaster and we on the sports field wanted her approval. It was a good day if she noticed you and called you by name. We all remember that any girl who felt ill or had an injury needed to get back out there. One girl hit by a hockey stick was told 'you've got another leg get on with it'. I thrived on that tough talk but at school age I was unaware of those who didn't and those who hated PE and dreaded the lessons. At our reunion some of that hurt was laid bare. As we walked around school many memories flooded back in.

I will explain how 'Daisy' gave me 'a defining moment' in my life and one I would like to thank her for. One dark and cloudy afternoon after school she was giving me individual help with my javelin technique. We were on what was the bottom field, 8 javelins just for me, throw and collect. I did it over and over again. I was exhausted, the rain began to fall. The javelins were landing wrong end first and 'Daisy' eventually told me 'enough': 'This is a mess. Forget County. Forget Javelin. Just put them away and go home.' I was crushed and thought my whole sport life was over. I didn't know if I was meant to turn up to practice the next day. I just felt dismissed. A day later in my cookery lesson there was 'Daisy' at the door, asking for me. We stood in the corridor by the stone wall and she apologised to me. She said sorry. She told me it was nothing to do with me, she had been in a bad mood and I had got the brunt of it. She was sorry if she had made me feel bad and hoped I would be back at practice as normal. That moment stuck with me and in my life, with my family, in friendships, relationships and teaching I have used the word sorry when appropriate and I am so very grateful for that moment. It is not an easy word to master, but it is sometimes correct to use it.

.../contd.



# Alumnae Memories

As we walked around school 40 years later I felt incredibly humbled to stand at that wall just outside where the teachers work room is now. I remembered how I felt. I remembered the moment in detail. I was a bit overwhelmed as I reflected on the impact that those few seconds had on my life. It was one moment and I encourage you all to look for those moments.

Students be careful to listen and teachers never underestimate your influence on young minds.

As I moved to Sixth Form, Miss Brookes came along as Headmistress and now technology was the way to go. I was on the other side, no longer smiled at by the Head of School. I was told to stop sport and raise my grades. I made a pathetic effort to leave but my parents told me A levels were the way to go. I stayed and scraped through A levels. I had a few visits to the Head's office to discuss my progress and on our recent visit I think we all remembered that long corridor of power, and the feeling in the pit of the stomach when being called to the Head's office.

I was privileged to have stable parents who told me 'no' and meant it. We travelled a lot. I had a lovely home and family. As I went in to the world of work I realised despite always having thought I was at the lower end of the academic achievement at CCHS, I wasn't unintelligent. I had 'on my feet intelligence' and in the real world I was smart. I had manners, respect and kindness. At school I had survived on a smile and a good sense of humour and got away with murder with most teachers as I was quiet and polite. Sport had taught me discipline, organisation, teamwork and camaraderie. I learnt the power of motivation, the power of kind words. People then told me I was good at my job and my confidence grew. I never thought of myself as a learner but I continue to this day. I love conversation and I love to gain new knowledge. I could now look back and realise my education had been excellent and I was using all the skills I had learnt and developed at school. I value the discipline and extent of my education.

When my year group met at CCHS a couple of weeks ago it was a lovely experience. I was shocked but happy that our gym had been replaced and made into a library. I did smile when I realised our old wall bars had been made into display furniture. What a lovely idea.

Thank you to Rowan Carroll and Stephen Lawlor who made us feel so welcome and I was pleased to learn how the school has changed, embracing current affairs, technology and pastoral issues. There were always mental health issues due to the nature of the school and the pressure put on some students by parents and at times teachers, but we had no pastoral team at all. It was very much stiff upper lip and just get on with it. I was pleased to see there are sessions students can attend to talk through difficult moments. We didn't have this and it was clear in chatting to my classmates we could have benefited from that.

So young CCHS ladies make the most of your time in school. What a well resourced vibrant school you are lucky to be in. Discipline and boundaries are good; respect them. Be proud of the school you attend. Take it from me, you don't have to be the best in everything to be the best you can be. Humour, respect and kindness go a long way. We are not on this earth to be perfect but we have a responsibility to learn and grow and help and support others to do the same.

Our journeys are all different but the end is the same. Enjoy the adventure and watch out for the small moments, they can sometimes make the biggest difference.

We thank Carol for taking the time to send us these memories and thoughts.

*Carol is pictured here alongside former classmates during their reunion in September 2022.*



# Alumnae Memories

Some of our alumnae may have seen a post we put on our Alumnae Facebook group back in May regarding the LP record that was made in the 1970s by the CCHS 'Folk Group'. Following up on this, we then heard from former student Susan King – CCHS from 1964 to 1971 – who was the main guitarist on the LP. Below is a picture of Susan with her guitar, and below and overleaf is what she had to say:

I think I possibly was the founder member of this “Folk Group”, in a way, along with another student called Linda... as we both used to sing and play our guitars during our free time at school, and we both had a shared love of folk music and enjoyed that informal approach to music making....especially when we were in the Upper 6th Form. We had more free time in our timetable then and there was less tight structure on the way in which we studied for our A Levels.

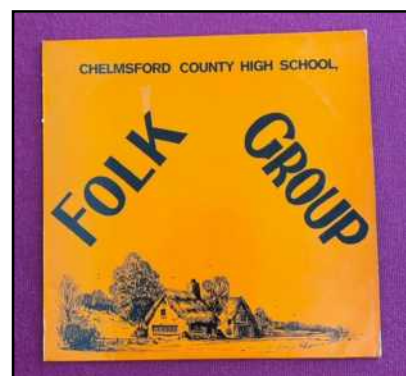


I used to sing and play at Folk Clubs a lot outside of school at this time too. I learned a lot of my repertoire from the music that I heard - and played and sang - at these folk clubs, in the company of my two older brothers. These included clubs at Chelmsford, Coggeshall and Maldon. My family used to have music sessions at home every Friday night too. This was with my brothers, and in the company of some of my brothers' musician friends. I learned a lot from these informal music evenings. The repertoire on this LP - apart from the Portuguese Song - was therefore probably chiefly mine. Some of it (such as Tumbalaleika) was Linda's. Most of the musical arrangements were also probably mine, or sometimes, Linda's.

As we were also in the Madrigal Group, and we all sang together a lot of the time anyway, the singing of the Folk repertoire together sort of “happened”. Over half of the group were in our class, and would have heard Linda and myself playing songs together in our 6th Form Common Room at school. It was a very musical environment in our common room at that time. The Madrigal Group did a tour in Lisbon and the surrounding area in the summer of 1971. This was organised by our colourful and inspirational Portuguese music teacher, Edila Gaitondé. We stayed in her parents' house in Rua d'Escola de Veterinaria, in the Estofania Region of Lisbon. An interesting cultural experience. And huge fun!

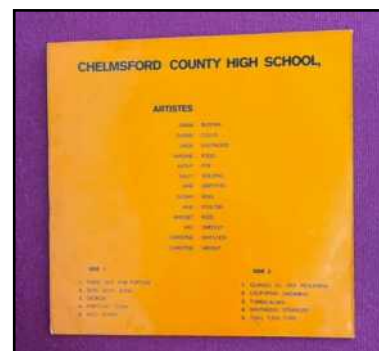
We sang on the radio, for the Consulate, and up in the castle at Sintra. We had a beautiful time. All of this was arranged by Mrs Gaitondé, who was a well known and highly respected pianist and accompanist on Portuguese - and British - radio at that time. She was a real “mover and shaker” - and she and I really hit it off and got on very well. I loved her fiery temperament. I found her way of running the choir, and various music ensembles and orchestral groups in school, inspirational and empowering. She was not elitist, so under her baton, I blossomed.

*Susan says that of the 14 girls in the Madrigal Group, 13 of whom were on the LP recording, 9 were from the same class: Upper VI C. At least two of the group were in Pennefather House and Susan remembers that, though Pennefather didn't perform so well at sporting events, they 'always won the music cup!'*



# Alumnae Memories

When some of the boys at the University Radio station in Lisbon heard us sing a couple of these folk songs, (having already heard some of our madrigals) they were very excited - and offered to record us. Our CCHS Folk Group recording was born! Knowing Edila Gaitondé she had probably already set the whole thing up. She was very creative and spontaneous. She also seized opportunities.



Apart from the making of this LP - which was pressed and produced back in the UK - we girls in the Madrigal Group never performed this repertoire again! It was a purely “of the moment” thing. Part of our Lisbon musical holiday experience....and anyway, when we came home that summer, our days at CCHS were over, and we all went our separate ways.

I cannot recall, without listening to the recording, who sang what. I know I took lead vocal on several of the tracks. The harmonies were sometimes ad libbed by us, or were worked out by me and then taught to the rest of the group. (As for example in “Poor Wayfaring Stranger”). I expect Christine would have helped with the musical arrangements, too. Other girls in the group were musically talented, and played in the school orchestra, so they just picked things up at the drop of a hat, and then ran with them. It was like an old fashioned and quintessentially English version of the film “Pitch Perfect”. We all just clicked! And we all had something to bring to the musical table.

One of us played an impromptu bass line; I think it was Sally. We must have been given a double bass to play by the boys in the studio. I think I took my guitar out with me on the plane? Perhaps Linda did too? I cannot remember! Diana Bunyan played some excellent flute on some of the tracks, so she must have had her flute with her. I used to play a bit of harmonica – maybe I took that out with me, too.

I had not taken O Level Music when at CCHS. I had had no private music lessons, so lacked the confidence to think I could make music an area of serious study, or a career. The previous music teacher, Miss Wright, did not encourage me to do so. She thought I would struggle, I expect, with no formal musical training. She was probably right, but I remember feeling disappointed, at the time.

It wasn't until Mrs Gaitondé became Head of Music (when I was in the 4th Year) that she spotted my potential as a singer, and musician and invited me to join the choir and then the madrigal group. I am so grateful to her. She gave me my self belief. Without her my path might have been very different.

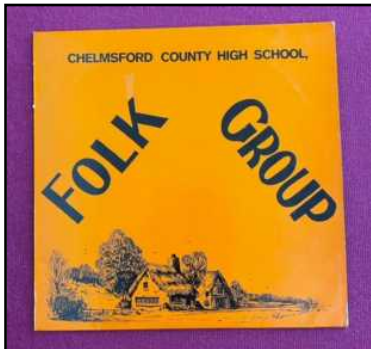
Christine was the real musical genius at school: a composer as well as a pianist and singer. I was in her Jazz ensemble, I remember, playing chromatic harmonica. This was very kindly bought for me by the then Head Teacher, Miss Pattison who also sponsored me to go on that madrigal trip to Lisbon. My parents could not have afforded it. What a kind act. She said I was needed in the ensemble; that I had to go. It was very generous of her, all the same.

.../contd.



# Alumnae Memories

The memories below are continued from the previous page, and were sent in by alumna Susan King (CCHS 1964-1971) .



Later on in life, I finally took all my grade exams, as a classical singer, and then my music A Levels, and finally my classical Music Degree— but not until many years later, and as a hobby and an enjoyable challenge, after I had already been a working singer and performer for many years.

I graduated in 2001 with a First from Exeter University. I should probably have done that 30 years earlier....but better late than never!

I have taught guitar and singing for many years now — even before I had my formal training, and I have since recorded many CDs of folk and classical music. I have also worked with various accompanists including collaborating with a lutenist on an album of Elizabethan Lute songs.

Music has always been at the heart of who I am— and what I was always meant to do! My love for Elizabethan Lute songs started when I was at school too. I remember a professional troupe coming and singing some of that repertoire — and I was hooked!

Coming full circle in my own “life story” - my Masters Dissertation (MEd, Creative Arts) was entitled “How Young Guitarists Learn” and was inspired by the writings of Lucy Green “How pop musicians learn”. It was also influenced by my own observations of the pupils I had been teaching, and by my own learning journey, of course. It focused on the role of informal learning practices in young people; learning that is “caught” rather than “taught”. My qualitative research study enabled me to challenge my own pedagogy and to reflect and become more creative and child centred in my approach; both as a peripatetic teacher and as a class music teacher, too.

I think that there was a strong element of that “informal” learning in our folk music making together, as the CCHS “Folk Group” .

None of us were taught how to sing and play those folk songs. They were caught from the zeitgeist of the moment, from our experiences and our lives outside of school, and from that wonderful time we spent together, in Portugal, in the summer of 1971.

Our magnificent, charismatic music teacher, Edila Gai-tonde, who made this trip a reality, and who made so many wonderful musical things happen at CCHS, lived to be over 100 years old. She only passed away in June last year. It would be nice to hear what other alumnae remember of her?



We were so extremely lucky to have this extremely talented and highly respected musician teaching us. I think much of my life’s musical journey and achievements actually started with my days at CCHS, and especially since our madrigal group trip to Lisbon, in 1971, and with those very earliest recordings of our madrigal group and “Folk Group”.

A wonderful memento of very happy days. And much more....

## From the Archives

# A day full of surprises

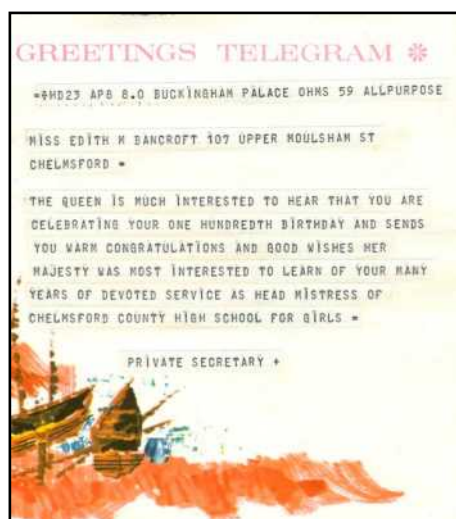
Saturday marked the 100th birthday of Miss Edith Bancroft, former headmistress of Chelmsford County High School and in the morning her home in Moulsham Street was deluged with telegrams, letters and flowers and telephone calls from well-wishers. Also in the morning, Miss Bancroft was honoured by a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford, Alderman and Mrs. Douglas Bellamy, who wished her a happy birthday from the whole of Chelmsford.

Mrs. Bellamy was also celebrating her own birthday. Miss Bancroft spoke about how she first came to Chelmsford, back in 1910, as one of the 117 applicants for the post of headmistress. A big surprise came in the afternoon, when two girls arrived at the house with an enormous iced cake. They were pupils from the High School in Miss Bancroft's native Bristol, where she was educated and later taught. In the evening, a dinner was held at the school, attended by over 200 people, including Miss Bancroft's successor, Miss G. Cadbury and present headmistress, Miss Pattison.

Miss Bancroft received telegrams from the Queen and Queen Mother.



Former Headteacher Miss Bancroft appeared in the newspaper when she reached the magnificent age of 100 years. She received a letter of congratulation from the Queen Mother as well as a Telegram from the Queen. She celebrated her birthday in school on 4th July 1970 by attending the Old Girls' Reunion Dinner that same day.





# Alumnae Memories

We are always keen to hear about your memories from your time at CCHS. Do keep in touch and contact us by emailing [oldgirls@cchs.co.uk](mailto:oldgirls@cchs.co.uk).

We often hear of wonderful memories from our alumnae on our Facebook page, and back in March was no exception. Perhaps prompted by news about the new school buildings Ann, who was a student here when Miss Cadbury was Headmistress, posted that she remembers the Gym (now our school library) being used as both the Gym and Assembly Hall.

Ann also recalls that it was used for external exams (then referred to as the School Certificate) at certain times of the year too.

She mentioned in her Facebook post that *'Miss Cadbury used to give every girl a tiny bunch of Rosemary (for Remembrance) and I think something else, before the first exam'*.

What a lovely memory of a very different time.



Miss G.M. Cadbury  
CHS Headmistress 1935-1961  
*Photo from the 1935 School Magazine.*

We have three alumnae social media platforms. Please join us!

*Artwork by former student, Isabelle.*



CCHS Alumnae



@CCHSAalumnae





# News from Former Students & Archive News

Sue Player (née Webber) was in touch with us during October and updated us on her interesting life since leaving CCHS in 1979. Here is what she had to say:

*I was Sue Webber and attended CHS from 1972 to 1979 when Miss Pattison was Head. I went on to become firstly a computer programmer and quickly changed to train as a Secondary Maths Teacher, later becoming a Deputy Head in a boarding school.*

*Since retiring from teaching I have trained with The Church in Wales as a part-time vicar.*

*The years at CHS have stood me in good stead throughout and despite moans and groans at the time the memories are good ones. I would urge your girls to make the most of every opportunity that school offers them.*

## From the archives.... 1970s

### The Pond Remembered

During the Speech Day of 1977, when the School was 70 years old, it was remembered that back in 1937:

“Mr Brundle made the pond near the Laboratories, and for forty years first formers have been jumping across it.”

### Cricket Ceases

The 1977 School Birthday magazine reported that the School had been ‘deprived of the joys of Cricket as a games option’.

### School Staff and Pupil Numbers



In 1977, on its 70th birthday, the School was staffed by Miss Pattison as Headmistress with 41 full-time staff and 12 part time assistants. The School roll stood at about 670 pupils, aged from 11 to 19, in 24 forms.

### Uniform

The 1977 Juniors' Uniform was a pinafore dress with blouse, and the upper forms wore navy skirts and white blouses. The Sixth Form enjoyed the liberty permitted in 1907, modified by fashion, i.e. clothes of their own choice within reason.



Above, 1970s hockey team together with trophy!

### Caretaker Retired

After some 31 years' service, school caretaker Mr Hodge retired in 'about' 1976, having helped in clearing away after school events such as the Christmas Fayre, jumble sales and school concerts, and every day clearing the hall after school dinners. On his final day he was invited to morning assembly to receive an engraved tankard as a token of thanks for his work over the years.

The new caretaker was Mr Leggett.

*Please remember to update us on your recent news. Ways to do this are included on the final page of this newsletter.*

## News from Former Students

We do enjoy hearing from former students about what they are up to post-CCHS. Feel free to contact us by emailing [oldgirls@cchs.co.uk](mailto:oldgirls@cchs.co.uk).

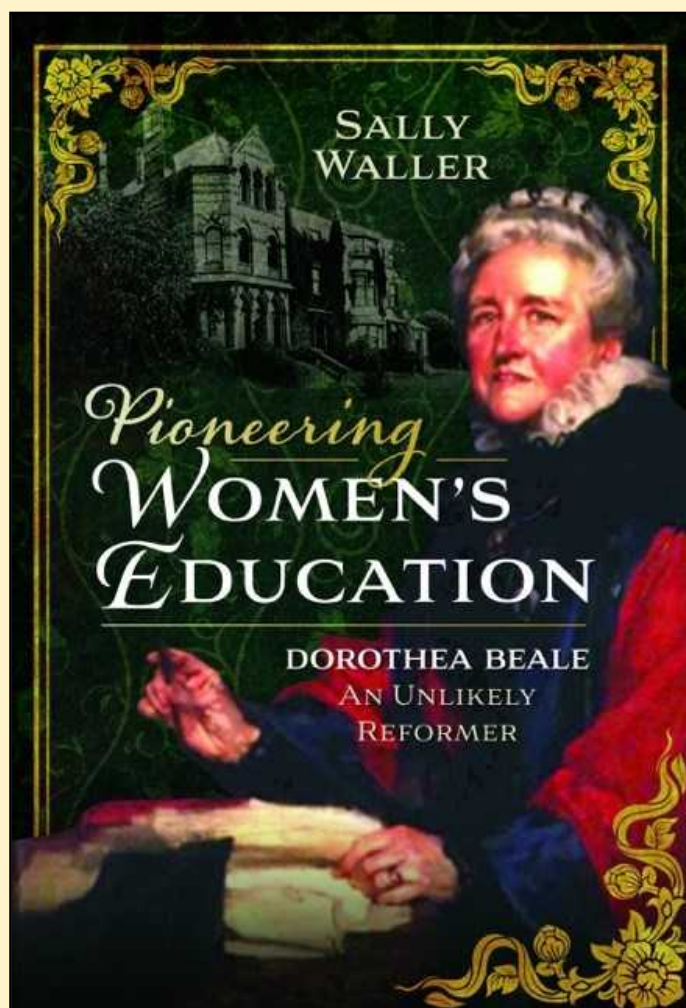
In November we heard from Sally Waller (née Golding) who was at CCHS from 1964-1971.

Here's what Sally had to say:

*I wanted to inform you about a book that I have recently had published and which could be of some interest to present pupils/staff and 'old girls' with an interest in Women's education. It is entitled:*

*"Pioneering Women's Education: Dorothea Beale, an unlikely reformer" and was published in hardback in August 2022 by Pen and Sword.*

*Dorothea Beale is best known as the pioneering Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, where I taught History from 2002 until my retirement in 2017. However she was far more than a headmistress. She contributed to the emancipation of women in a variety of different ways and I found her a fascinating and absorbing subject for study. She was in many respects quiet, self-effacing and conventional and yet under the surface she possessed a tremendous drive and sense of vocation which led her to fight for radical changes in women's education and society's expectations of the female sex.*



*In my research I attempted to get into the mind of this woman who was constrained by, and yet tried to challenge, some of the mores of late Victorian England. The result is a book that not only examines Dorothea's efforts to improve the position of women, primarily through better educational opportunities, but also sets Dorothea firmly in the context of her times, considering what made her the woman she was.*

For anyone who is interested to make a purchase of this book, it is available to order from booksellers or on-line from [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk).

The ISBN is 9781399012294.

## News from Former Students

We had a look at the Pen-and-Sword website and found the information below about former CCHS student Sally, as well as some further detail about her book (below).

"SALLY WALLER read Modern History at Oxford University and has subsequently devoted her life to education, through teaching, examining and writing. She has produced many history textbooks for a range of publishers in the course of her career and, most recently, has been the editor and part-author of a popular Advanced Level History series for Oxford University Press. She has also contributed articles to educational journals and has pursued a number of independent research projects. Her recent retirement after many happy years as a History teacher at the Cheltenham Ladies' College has given her the opportunity to combine her historical and educational interests through this study of that College's pioneering Principal".

About the book from [www.pen-and-sword.com](http://www.pen-and-sword.com) website

"Although much less well known than some other nineteenth century female campaigners, such as Florence Nightingale or Emmeline Pankhurst, Dorothea Beale is nonetheless deserving of wide recognition for her pioneering, and at times radical, ideas. Dorothea's work for the education of girls made just as significant an impact on the liberation of women as did that of Florence Nightingale in ennobling the nursing profession or Emmeline Pankhurst in drawing attention to women's political inferiority. Although very much a woman of her times, through her work as Principal of the Cheltenham Ladies' College, her writings, her speeches and her widespread involvement in societies promoting women's interests, Dorothea helped to show what women were capable of, providing them with greater confidence and self-belief.

"Drawing on a wide range of original sources, this book traces Dorothea's life and work. It considers the formative influences of her youth, her response to the disappointments of her early career and examines how her own educational ideas evolved, were put into practice and came to influence schools and colleges both at home and abroad. As well as an in-depth analysis of her pioneering work in Cheltenham, her many other interests, connections and involvements, including her contribution to the suffrage campaign are also explored. However this book is not just a story of one woman's achievements, great though they were. There is an attempt to understand Dorothea as a person with reflections on her character and personal life throughout and the book ends with an appraisal of the many contradictions to be found in this intriguing 'conservative reformer'.

"Dorothea Beale was a woman whose quiet and unassuming manner hid a strong sense of vocation, a fierce determination and an undoubted practical ability to achieve her ends. Dorothea would have been amazed at the changes that occurred in the position of women in the century after her death in 1906, and yet it was in no small measure thanks to her work that this breakthrough in female opportunities occurred".

*Dorothea Beale*



*Please remember to update us on your recent news and achievements.*

*Ways to do this are included on the final page of this newsletter.*



## News from Former Students

CCHS alumna Sîan Cleaver has been in the news recently for her incredible work as a member of the engineering team that has been working on NASA's Artemis 1 mission. Sîan and the team at Airbus built the Orion European Service Module (ESM) which provides the capsule's electrical power, propulsion and life support systems.

Sian left CCHS in 2008 and joined Airbus on their graduate scheme after gaining a master's degree in physics and astronomy from Durham University. We are so pleased to hear of Sian's incredible success since leaving CCHS, and we are also very honoured that she keeps in touch with us as a patron of our CCHS Institute. She has visited school to tell our current students about her fascinating work and to remind them of the importance of being focused in your goals and continuing to work towards them even when they might feel impossible.

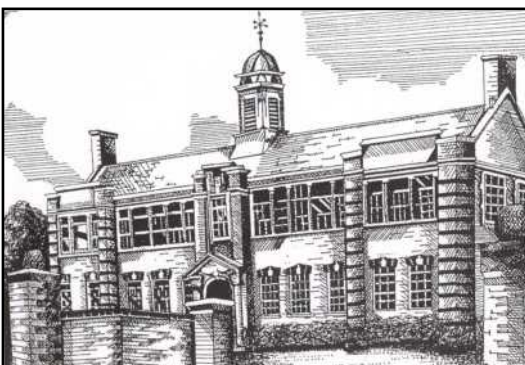


Sian was interviewed by the BBC in November and you can watch this interview at the link here:

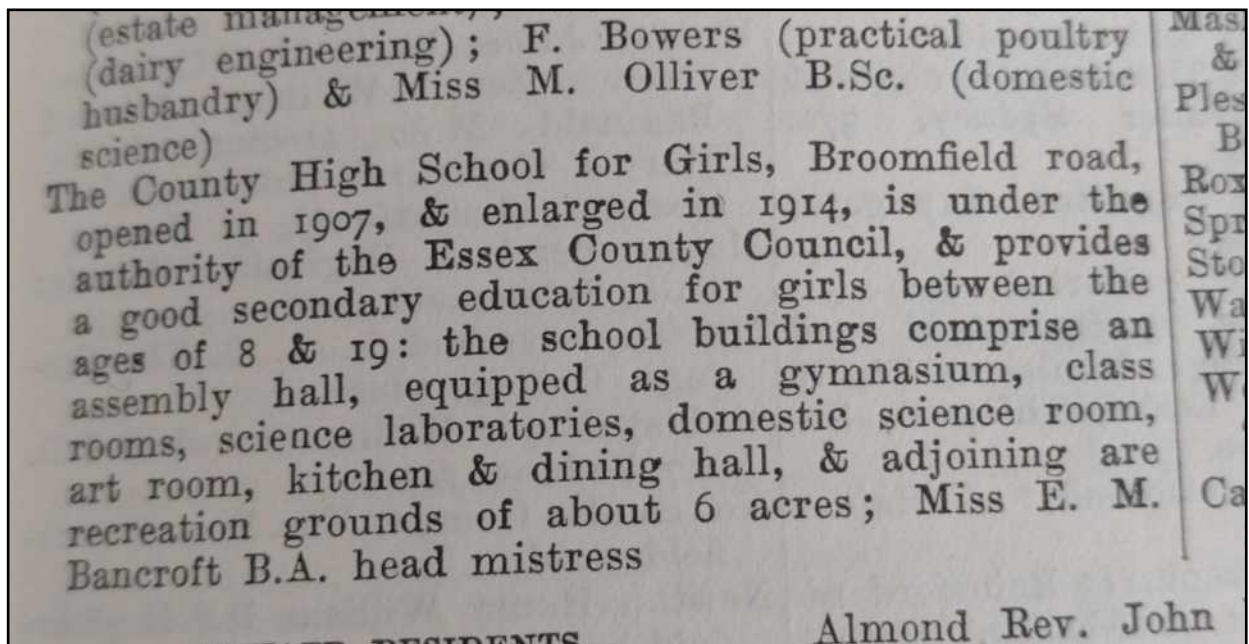
<https://youtu.be/sxSluSjMqDQ>

Dr Palmer remembers Sian well and was also interviewed for this BBC coverage in order to explain Sian's drive and determination even from an early age at school!

*The article (right) explains Sian's involvement in the work towards the successful launch of NASA's Artemis 1 rocket, as well as providing more information on the Artemis programme in general.*



## General News



The photo above was taken by Mrs Buckley on a recent Biology field trip (October 2022). The Suffolk field trip included time spent in an Information Centre and Mrs Dale and Mrs Buckley found the above reference to CCHS in the 1929 publication of 'Kelly's Directory of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex'. Mrs Dale also chatted to a volunteer working at the Centre, called Sue, and it transpired that she is an alumna of CCHS. Sue lives in Hadleigh in Suffolk and we are hoping that she might get in touch so that we can make sure she sees a copy of this Newsletter! She said that many of her classmates have sadly passed away but if any of our readers have kept in touch with alumna Sue from Hadleigh please do let her know how pleased we were to hear about her and how much Mrs Dale enjoyed chatting with her!



*CCHS students in the 1920s (left).*

*Please remember to update us on your recent news and achievements.*

*Ways to do this are included on the final page of this newsletter.*

# Interviews with Former Students

Mariella and Eniola interviewed a number of former students during their tenure as Senior Prefects with responsibility for Alumnae Development. Below and over the next few pages are the questions they posed and the answers they were given.

Catherine Ross left CCHS in 1995. She read Geography at Emmanuel College, the University of Cambridge, and graduated in 1998. Catherine joined the graduate training programme at NM Rothschild, a private investment bank and worked in both London and Australia before joining M&G, an asset management company. She is currently still working there as Head of the Private Credit Business making private asset investments on behalf of large institutional investors such as pension funds and insurance companies.

Catherine came back to CCHS recently to give a talk on her career choice post CCHS and inspired our students with what she had to say. After this visit, she agreed to be interviewed by Eniola and Mariella and her answers are below:

## **If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?**

Be yourself, be true to your own values and don't try to fit in or compromise what is important to you. Also, be kind to yourself! Challenges and setbacks will happen, and things might not always work out as you expect, but you'll be stronger for it, ultimately.

## **What are your favourite memories from CCHS?**

The fun and camaraderie that ran alongside hard work. I really recall fondly seemingly endless cups of tea and putting the world to rights with my friends in the Sixth Form House.

## **What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

I loved Sports Day up at Melbourne Stadium every summer. And I always found Speech Day pretty inspiring. I remember Peter Stothard, the then Editor of The Times, presenting to us one year and I had the chance to talk to him afterwards in the Library which felt like a huge privilege.

## **Did any teachers have a particular impact on you?**

Mr Moore was such a warm and enthusiastic teacher and he definitely sparked my interest in Economics. My Geography teachers, Mrs Hickman and Mrs Walker, had such an infectious energy for their subject that it rubbed off on me and I went on to study it at university. And our headmistress, Mrs McCabe - professional, dynamic, supportive even after I'd left the school; she was a great role model.

## **Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time at CCHS?**

I gave up competitive sport too easily! I was a good sprinter in my early years in the school, but was rather readily distracted in later years (!) and stopped too quickly; something I've regretted since.

## **After visiting CCHS for your talk, were there any changes/things which have stayed the same that surprised you?**

I was surprised at how familiar everything was, really - it didn't feel like it had changed all that much - although the new facilities, particularly the new sports hall and language labs, really are fantastic.

## **How did CCHS prepare you for life and your career?**

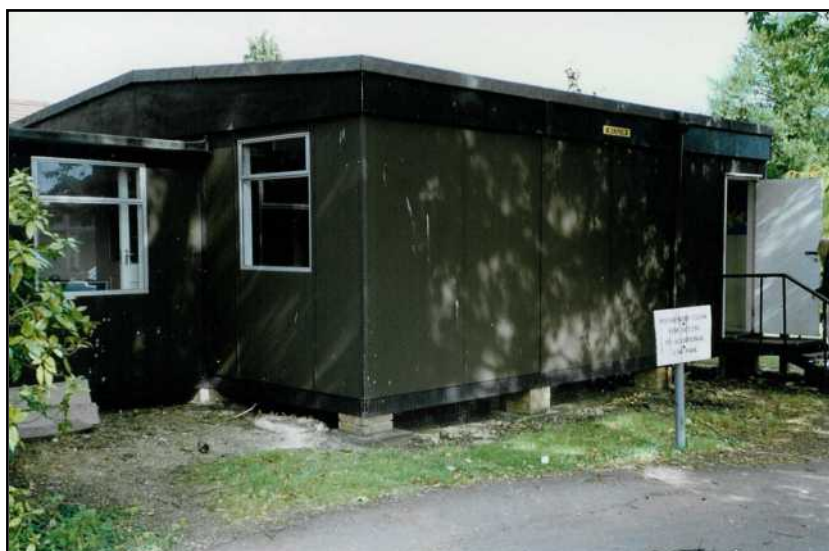
It gave me confidence that I could put myself forward for anything I was interested in, and a work discipline that really has stuck with me.



# Interviews with Former Students

## Is there any advice you would give to current CCHS students?

The things you are learning, the environment you're learning in, the views you are forming really will stay with you as you move through to the next phase of your careers and beyond - enjoy every moment, and remember you're only limited by the furthest reach of your imagination.



*The Sixth Form Demountable Common Room during the 1990s (left). This was attached to the back of the Sixth Form House and was funded by the Parents' Association in the late 1980s.*

*It was later (1998) moved to the school field for classroom use.*

*Perhaps Catherine would remember using this demountable for her 'seemingly endless cups of tea' and break and lunchtime chats with her friends!*



*The photo to the left was taken in the mid-1990s and shows the view of the rear of the school, taken from the Fire Escape next to the old Library space (now a space for Sixth Form private study) and Art classrooms above. The view includes the previous Bancroft building and the Cadbury Science Building behind (with the pointed roof) which was opened in 1994.*

*The Technology Lab was later opened in November 1997 and was situated where the students are working on the field in this photo. The building is now used as a second Sixth Form Common Room and also houses the Costa Coffee outlet for Sixth Form students and staff.*

*To the left of the old Bancroft building in the photo above, and just visible, is the apex of the Sixth Form Demountable Common Room (also shown in the photo above this one). It was replaced by the combined Drama Suite and Sixth Form Common Room which were built in 1998 and which are still very much in use.*

# Interviews with Former Students

Chris Griffith left CCHS in 2001. She is currently working as a Senior Engineer at ByrneLooby. Chris came into school to give a talk on Geology to some of our students and also kindly provided some answers to the Alumnae interview questions. These are below:

**If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?**

I would tell myself that things don't always work out the way we think they're going to, but that's not necessarily a bad thing!

**What are your favourite memories from CCHS?**

Hanging out in Room 21 (which I think may now be the old library) and making some really great friends for life.

**What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

Definitely House Karaoke and Decorated Classroom!

**Did any teachers have a particular impact on you?**

My Geography teachers were the most supportive and had the most faith in me. I like to think they helped me settle on Geology as a career.

**Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time at CCHS?**

Taking Chemistry for A Level!

**After visiting CCHS for your Geology talk, were there any changes/things which have stayed the same that surprised you?**

So much has changed but the resources have improved which is definitely a good thing.

**How did CCHS prepare you for life and your career?**

Resilience is key!

**Is there any advice you would give to current CCHS students?**

You can only do your best; don't be too hard on yourself if your best doesn't get you where you wanted to go, there are always other avenues or alternatives that may be a better fit in the long run.



*Some impressive House Decorated Classrooms from 2006 – after Chris Griffith's time at CCHS, but possibly very similar to the sort of thing she remembers!*

# Interviews with Former Students

Mariella and Eniola, our Alumnae Development prefects, met former student Rimsha Khan in February. She came into school to give a talk at MedSoc and also managed to meet a few of her former teachers as well as have a tour of the school. Rimsha left CCHS in 2017 and at the time of her visit in February was in her 5th year at UCL, studying Medicine. Below are her answers to the alumnae interview:

**If you could tell your Year 7 self one thing, what would it be?**

Don't worry, everything will work out! It's natural to feel apprehensive and worried about things when you're starting afresh, but everyone is in the same boat as you. Throw yourself into all the opportunities that CCHS offers you and never let fear scare you away. Remember, if something excites you and scares you at the same time, it means you should definitely do it!

**What are your favourite memories from CCHS?**

Definitely the House events, especially House Decorated Classroom as it even fell on my birthday a couple of years and the sense of spirit and excitement was incomparable! Also, PinkFest (a charity event hosted by Senior Prefects) and taking part in Young Enterprise and presenting our product at the Emirates Stadium were experiences I will never forget!

**What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

House Decorated Classroom for sure!

*Rimsha's Young Enterprise Team.*



**Did any teachers have a particular impact on you?**

I miss all my teachers very much! But a few in particular include:

Miss Pocock – she was just so lovely and warming and I always tell everyone, if I wasn't doing Medicine, I would be studying Geography for sure! Nothing beats a good geography documentary!

Mrs Nicholls – the loveliest Form Tutor! She was always a good laugh and looking out for us beyond our studies.

Frau Gilbert and Frau Bennett – both so encouraging & taught me so much!

Mrs Buckley – she really sparked my love for Biology and here I am today, studying medicine!

**Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time at CCHS?**

Not really – just wish the Costa had been built a few years ago haha!

**After visiting CCHS for your talk at MedSoc, were there any changes/things which have stayed the same that surprised you?**

It was so lovely to see the new sports facilities and library and it was definitely very strange to not see Bancroft which was pretty much our home in Sixth Form!

**How did CCHS prepare you for life and your career?**

CCHS, particularly in Sixth Form, made me a much more confident, creative and resilient person. I used to be very shy in year 7 and one of the "quiet" ones, and would never have imagined enjoying things such as public speaking, presenting etc. The qualities instilled at CCHS have enabled me to confidently throw myself into several leadership roles and responsibilities at university and I have very much felt prepared for the challenges that came my way, be that academic, social or personal. I remember always looking up to the older years and teachers and feeling a sense of inspiration and I am sure that atmosphere persists. I would be a very different person today if it wasn't for the way CCHS shaped me.

**Is there any advice you would give to current CCHS students?**

Don't be afraid to throw yourself into all opportunities that come your way! After all, you'll never know how great something could be unless you try it. Don't be afraid of failing; failures truly build you and there are so many learning points I can think of when reflecting on my CCHS days. Rather than thinking "oh no, how awful", think to yourself: "oh well, what could I learn from this to help me grow?" And most importantly, enjoy your CCHS days because once you leave, you will miss them thoroughly!



# Interviews with Former Students

Mary-Ann Dunn visited school in June. She was a student here from 1949-1956. We enjoyed meeting Mary-Ann who had so many good memories from her time at school. She also recognised faces from some of the archive photos we showed her from the early 1950s when she was at CCHS. Mariella gave Mary-Ann a tour around school – the old and the new, and also spent some time chatting to her.

Mary-Ann's answers to Mariella's questions are below:

**If you could tell your first-year-self one thing, what would it be?**

I suppose its something you can't do anything about, and it would be to have more confidence. You can't do anything about it, but that would have been better.

**What are your favourite memories from CCHS?**

On the field, every time! I loved being out there as much as I could.

And then history, that was my thing. I also enjoyed literature.

**What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

I used to really like carol service and commemoration. I remember every Saturday we were bussed to schools all over the county and played matches – I liked being on the field, so I liked doing that! I was also House Captain and we had lots of House events.

**Did any teachers have a particular impact on you?**

The famous Miss Blacker – she taught games, and she was a character. And a history teacher Miss Warren, who had actually studied at Edinburgh with the mum of my best friend at CCHS!

**Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time at CCHS?**

Nothing about the school itself, but I wish I had worked harder. But it all came right in the end.

**Having visited CCHS now, which areas stick out to you? Is anything the same as you remember?**

The number of buildings is surprising – we only had the main building and the dining hall, but that was it! To see all the new buildings is wonderful.

**How did CCHS prepare you for life and your career?**

Although I mentioned about confidence earlier, I think that was initially coming from a small school to a bigger one, and not being in the same class with the three others who also came from my primary school - that was scary. But I do think that CCHS gives you an air of confidence, which helped to prepare me for the future.

**Is there any advice you would give to current CCHS students?**

Work hard!



*Upper VIth Hockey Team in 1955, (right).*



# Interviews with Former Students

Mariella also mentioned to us that Mary-Ann fondly recalled playing hockey and other sports on the hard court that has now been replaced with the current field. She also remembered when the area with the astro and the field beyond used to belong to KEGS! She admired the languages building and remembers learning French, German and Latin, just as current students still do.

Upon reaching the new Bancroft building during the tour, Mary-Ann recalled how she knew Miss Bancroft through Speech Days. Miss Bancroft, as Headteacher, gave speeches there several times – Mary-Ann and fellow students would always anticipate her starting with the famous call “Can you hear me at the back?”

It is wonderful to meet former students and to hear their memories, many of which might be prompted as they walk around the school site. Both Mariella and Eniola, as current Senior Prefects responsible for Alumnae Development have particularly enjoyed hearing about school life at CCHS before their own time here.



Mary-Ann kindly sent us the photo, left, which shows her and other CCHS alumnae who still meet up regularly. The photo was taken in April and shows, left to right, Susan Wood, Caroline Hopkinson, Mary-Ann Dunn, Maureen Sanders, Christine Hicks, Pat Firman and Jean Burgess (all maiden names supplied by Mary-Ann). Mary-Ann says: *“This is a group, with previously more members, who for many years has met annually in each other's homes, though nowadays meeting in a pub. is less work!”*



*The Choir, 1950 (left).*



*Domestic Science Lesson, 1950 (above).*



*Upper VIth in 1955 (left).*

*Miss McKenna & Miss Cadbury are centre, front of the photo.*

# School Reunion

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we welcomed alumnae into school for a 40 year reunion visit.

Abigail Town had advertised the reunion amongst her peers (1975-1982) and it was a pleasure to welcome the ten former students who were able to attend that day.

The former students arrived promptly and although some had been in touch since 1982, others were meeting for the first time since then. People 'hadn't changed' at all and there was much laughter and reminiscing as soon as introductions had been made!

After a welcome from Mr Lawlor in the new Library, Mrs Carroll took the students on a tour of the school site. The tour began in the Library and comprised all the buildings on site – including the main school building which they remembered so well (the wooden floor, the wall tiles and even the traditional classroom doors), those buildings new since their time in school such as the Music and Languages buildings, and those new this year (Bancroft, Chapman etc). Of particular interest to our visitors were the Sixth Form House, the swimming pool (many bad memories of cold water and no excuses for missing swimming were conjured at this point) and some of the classrooms in which they had been taught. Interestingly, they were hugely keen to enter the Staff Room – which had, of course, been strictly out of bounds during their time in school. They remembered knocking on the door to speak to a member of staff and, when the door was opened, just a crack, the smell of smoke that drifted from the room into the corridor. How times have changed!

We provided a few photos from the 1980s and school magazines that related to their years at CCHS so that they could have a look through these during the visit. At least one of the articles had been written by one of those attending the reunion. This was a good spot by one of the others attending!

Mr Lawlor and Mrs Carroll said goodbye to the group and, after they had taken the statutory photo outside the front of school, they all left to continue their catch up and reminiscing at The Ship pub in Chelmsford. Perhaps times haven't changed so much after all!

Emma Stephens (née Taylor, 1975-1982) was one of the former students who attended and she kindly provided the following words:

It was terrific to meet old friends at the school for our "Class of '82" reunion last month, and even some new friends, as I don't think I'd ever met one or two while we were at school, having been in different tutor groups and subjects throughout, but we soon got chatting as if we'd known each other for years too.

I was really wary of coming to a reunion, imagining that everyone else would be Chief Exec. of some multinational by now – and what have I done? Well, I needn't have worried. A few of us did swap "career" notes in a quiet, supportive way – but most of the conversations were around how cold and dreadfully tatty some of the demountable classrooms were (all demounted now!); how brilliant some of the teachers were; but how terrified we were of some others. We were delighted to see everywhere looking clean and well cared-for, with new buildings and even comfy sofas in the common room. We saw one room labelled "Pastoral Advice". Now that's something I don't remember from the 70s.

We were warmly welcomed by Rowan Carroll, the Sixth Form Alumnae Development and Support Officer, who kindly hosted us – and I think we were all impressed and surprised that such a job exists. It was also a surprise to some of us (well, to me at least) that the school now has a male head teacher, Stephen Lawlor, who made us very welcome too, and took time to greet us, tell us about the school, and hear some of our memories. Thank you both very much – and to all those from my year who made it such a special day. I'm so glad I attended.



# School Reunion

A few photos from the class of 1982 reunion are included below:



*Class of 1982 Reunion in school.*

*10th September 2022.*

# School Reunion

Jenny Ball, who left CCHS in 1992, organised a 30 year reunion back in May. This reunion took place in The Ship in Chelmsford and Jenny told us that: *"Thirty-six of us were able to attend which was amazing – particularly as many of us had not seen each other since leaving school thirty years ago! It was fascinating to hear all the different things everyone has been doing – all really varied and interesting and very inspirational. And The Ship, a venue we all remember very well, did a great job of hosting us and helping make it a truly memorable evening"*.

We have permission to share the photo below of those who attended the reunion and it certainly sounds as if everyone enjoyed their evening.



## From the archives.... 1980s and 1990s

CHS & Blockbusters: Blockbusters on ITV, compered by Bob Holness, was a popular gameshow originally from America and was the first show in the UK to be screened five times a week.

In 1986 a team of two CHS pupils, Rachel and Shaoni, became Blockbuster Champions and in 1990, as Old Girls, they returned to the screen to take part in Champion Blockbusters where former winners could battle it out again.

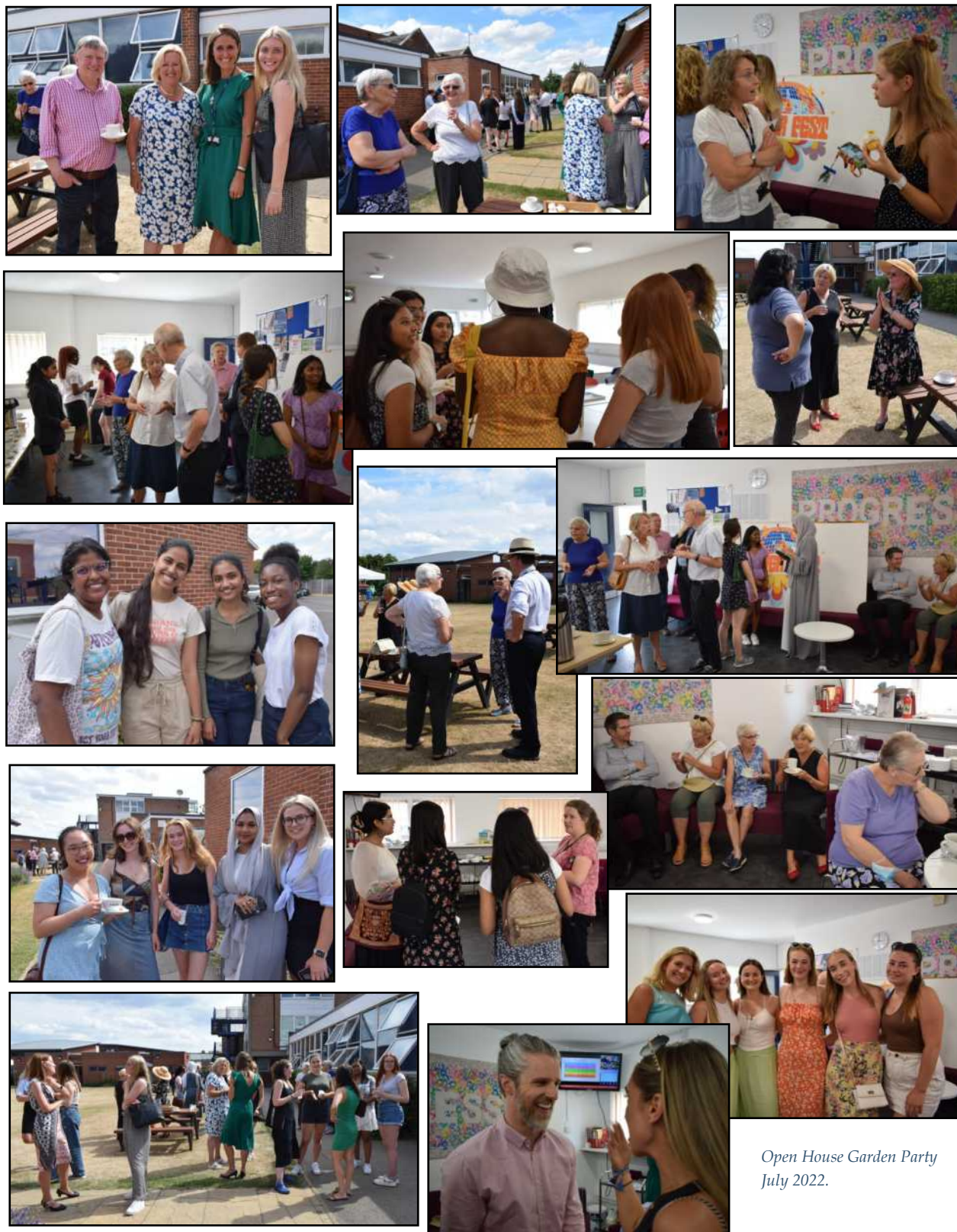
By winning the ordinary games the contestants would earn money for their nominated charities, and the final winners would take the Gold Run and could win valuable prizes for themselves. Rachel and Shaoni were beaten at Champion Blockbusters by their opponent Michael Price but their nominated charities - Chelmsford Hospice, Holiday Home Camps and the Down's Syndrome Association benefited from cash prizes for games they won.

In 1992 Nicki and Keeley also took part in the quiz show.



# CCHS Garden Party

In July we welcomed a number of former staff back into school for an 'Open House' Garden Party and we also extended the invitation to the two year groups who missed out on their Senior Speech Day due to cancellation of the important school event because of Covid regulations. It was a beautiful afternoon weather-wise and we were so pleased that so many were able to attend. Former staff and alumnae were really interested to receive a tour of the new school buildings and it was an excellent opportunity to catch up with so many of our extended CCHS 'family'. We hope to hold similar events in the future.



*Open House Garden Party  
July 2022.*



# In Memoriam



Back in April, Neville Clarke contacted us to let us know that his wife, Betty, sadly passed away on Saturday 16th April. **Betty Jillian Clarke (née Slater)** was a pupil at CCHS from 1947 to 1952.

Neville told us that on leaving school Betty joined the staff of Barclays Bank in London. She married in 1961 and, subsequently, was employed by Essex County Council. In 1968, with her husband and two children, Betty moved to Edinburgh, where she spent 16 happy years. Here she took up Scottish Country Dancing, which she loved. After a later move to the Midlands she continued to participate in her dancing hobby up to her early 80s.

Betty and her husband celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in September 2021 in the company of their children and four granddaughters.



In July we heard from alumna Elaine Shipton, who attended CCHS from 1966 to 1973. Very sadly, she reported that her mother, **Sheila Longman** had passed away. Elaine's mother Sheila was also a former CCHS student from 1938 to 1945; in addition Sheila taught Science at CCHS for a brief period. Elaine sent some lovely photos and also a letter of reference for her mother, from Miss Cadbury, and we will treasure these in our archives. Elaine also kindly provided her mother's gym slip which Sheila is pictured wearing in the photo here. Again, we will keep this in our archives.



Finally, we were fortunate to learn more about Sheila's life through these words from her daughter:

My mother, Sheila Longman attended Chelmsford County High School from 1938 until 1945 and made lifelong friends Lorna, Irene and June. She said many times how grateful she was that her parents valued the education of women, as she went on to be the only female in maths lectures at University College London.

She briefly returned to CCHS on the staff from September 1948 to July 1949 and, in her own words, taught science badly. She married at Chelmsford Cathedral in August 1949, moved to Wales, but on the death of my father in 1955, returned to Chelmsford to live with her parents. She returned to teaching Mathematics, mainly in further Education but from September 1960 until July 1961 she taught at the boy's grammar school. I remember that if it was choir practice day she managed to bring pink iced buns for my brother and I.

I attended CCHS 1966 -1973 and mum often came to watch hockey games at school played by the 2Hs, the 'Hopefuls and the Has Beens', a club formed from staff and students. On retiring in 1987 she settled in King's Sutton, near Banbury. She visited Miss Cadbury, then in her late 90s, as she lived nearby in Stratford. Mum kept in touch with her school friends, was a member of the Old Girls' Association and continued to receive their newsletter up until her death in May of this year.



# In Memoriam



Moira Pilkington (née Pates) was a student at CCHS from 1966 to 1972. Moira contacted us in June to tell us that her late aunt, **Una Sussex (née Pates)** who was also a student here, sadly passed away in January of this year at the age of 99. Una attended CCHS in the 1930s and Moira sent us the wonderful information below about her late aunt.

Una Muriel Pates was born in Chelmsford on Friday, 10th November 1922 to George and Ellen Pates and she was sister to Gordon, John, Peter, my dad Alan and Mary. Una grew up in Chelmsford and went to King's Road Primary and then Chelmsford County High School. She did well at school and when she left, she got a job at County Hall, working as a secretary for Essex County Council. She worked there for about five years and then she got a job with the Foreign Office, towards the end of the war, and she was posted to Vienna and worked in the Austrian Colonial Office. She was there for two years, and it was a harrowing experience. She was helping to repatriate people who had been held in concentration camps during the war, and sometimes the only means of identity was their tattooed number on their wrist, the initial letter indicating which concentration camp they had been kept in.

In 1945 Una was posted to the African Gold Coast where she worked in the general office, then she worked with Lord Twynning who was the Governor of the African Gold Coast. She worked there for about three years. It was while she was working in Africa that Una met John Sussex who was working as a mercantile agent. They played sport together – tennis and golf – and were married on 18th November 1951 in Government House in Ghana. Lord Twynning was due to give her away, but he fell ill so his deputy did, and Lady Twynning did the reception – it was a grand affair by all accounts.

Una and John then worked in Tanganyika, then Kenya and finished their working career in Nigeria, so for the best part of her working life, Una was working on the African continent.

They used to come back to England on home leave every three years and we always looked forward to their visits as we were growing up, and to hearing stories of their way of life which were always so fascinating to us. She was always interested in hearing about my time at CCHS. They could not have children themselves but liked to spoil their nieces and nephews instead.

After they retired in 1987 they came back to the UK and bought a home in Sedgeford, near Hunstanton. They lived in Norfolk for about fifteen years – John built boats and they sailed; they played golf and bowled, as well as playing tennis.

Sadly, John passed away in May 2007 and Una was devastated as he was her life, soulmate and chef! Una wasn't very domesticated herself as she'd been used to having servants while they lived in Africa. In 2008 Una moved to Clacton to live close to her sister Mary and bought a retirement flat there overlooking the sea. Mary and her family kept an eye on Una and fed her, and in time she had a carer who would come every day to clean and cook for her.

In 2012 Una was diagnosed with dementia. She was forgetful but still able to recognise people, and in 2020 she moved into St. Michael's Care Home on the Clacton seafront where she was happy and well looked after. Sadly it wasn't easy to visit her during the pandemic, but my sister and I managed to have some video chats with her, which were always quite a challenge. Una passed away peacefully in the care home with her sister and niece at her side, aged 99, on 12th January, 2022.

*Una Sussex, née Pates, 10th November 1922 – 12th January 2022.*



# From the Archives

Jenny Ball, CCHS alumna who left in 1992, kindly sent us some information that she unearthed at the Essex Records Office when she was there on completely unrelated research business! We are grateful to her for photographing some really interesting finds which included papers relating to the design of, and approval to build the school, costings for classroom-related items, a description of works to be carried out and even a list of the applicant names for the post of 'Assistant Mistress' (47 names!) According to these papers, the 'Board of Education' approved plans for the erection of CCHS at an estimated cost of £7,600. The cost of purchasing the Broomfield Road site was shown as £1,900. Further break downs of costings include, for example, a hat and cloak stand and a large rug for the entrance hall.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED PLANS.

The Board of Education have approved plans for the erection of the above named School the estimated cost of which is as follows:-

Buildings including drainage	66279.
Furniture	700.
Architect and Clerk of works	500.
Contingencies	150.
	<u>£7600.</u>

Cost of site in Broomfield Road  
agreed to be purchased £1900.  
Amount of loan to be borrowed £9500.

Approved on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1861.

ENTRANCE HALL

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 1.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 2.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 3.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 4 (large)

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
1 Headmaster's Cutting Out Table No. 103.	4-0-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

Ed. Feb. 1861-11-0.

ENTRANCE HALL

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 1.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 2.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 3.

20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
2 Chairs No. 141 @ 4/6.	15-0-0
1 Cupboard No. 274.	2-10-0
1 Round Glass Sliding Blackboard No. 119.	2-10-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

CLASS ROOM NO. 4 (large)

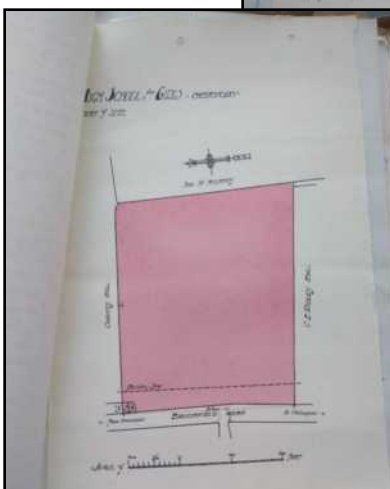
20 Single Box Seats @ 21.	420-0-0
1 Teacher's Desk No. 100.	2-10-0
1 Teacher's Chair No. 100.	2-0-0
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1 Headmaster's Cutting Out Table No. 103.	4-0-0
	<u>£7-10-0.</u>

Ed. Feb. 1861-11-0.

Deeds of Agreement for sale of Plot of Land on the Broomfield Road, in the Borough of Chelmsford in the County of Essex.

1. Chas. Top agrees to sell and The Education Committee of the County of Essex, agrees to purchase all that Plot of Land, situate on the East side of the Broomfield Road, having a frontage thereof of 316 feet or thereabouts, as is more particularly shown on Plan attached hereto referred to for the sum of £1900, upon the following conditions

- Any question as to the boundaries of the said Plot, to be settled by the Surveyor to the Vendor, whose decision is to be final.
- The Purchaser is to construct such or close wood fence not less than 3 feet in height, on the North side of the said Plot of Land, when marked by a T, to the satisfaction of the Vendor's Surveyor, and for ever maintain the same.
- The Purchaser shall not erect any house or Building nearer to the Broomfield Road than the Building Line, as set out on Plan, and by Vendor's Surveyor.
- The Purchaser shall submit to the Vendor, for approval, the Plans and Elevations of any Building proposed to be erected on the said Plot.
- The Purchaser shall not obtain any rights or easements over any adjoining lands of the Vendor.
- The Vendor sells subject to the present Tenancy.





# From the Archives

The following 'snippets' are taken from our archive materials:

*During the 1960s a new school Orchestra was formed, and the Staff Pantomime, Parents' Association, and Parents' evenings, were all initiated. A School Senate replaced the old prefectorial system and the pupils took on more responsibilities by producing the school magazine themselves. At the annual Speech Day, School Officials acted as Chairperson and proposers of the vote of thanks, and a senior pupil conducted the orchestra.*

*During the 1970s a School Birthday staging of 'Cavalcade' took place. This was performed over two nights on stage in the School Hall as part of the School's 70th birthday celebrations.*

*Over 300 students took part in a representation of life both inside and outside school from 1907 to 1977. All sections of the school took part, from the Gym Club to the Writers' Club, under the direction of Mrs Berry-Richards and with the help of many other staff.*



*Students with Hockey Sticks, CCHS 1970s.*

*During the 1980s the first male teacher taught at CCHS:*

*During Speech Day in 1981 it was reported that the School had said goodbye to several members of staff including Mr Clark who had the distinction of being the first and only male teacher in the history of the High School, for the brief span of the autumn term. Many more male teachers were to join the staff in later years.*

*The Debating Society*

*Debates were held in 1981 on the subjects of: Ronald Reagan, vegetarianism, euthanasia and the 'Shooting of J.R. (Ewing)' in the popular TV Soap of the time, 'Dallas'.*



*1982 – This 'BBC Computer' was won in a MAP competition. According to our archive records, the winning student names were Annalisa, Sandra, Clare and Maria. During the 1980s, technology and computers began to play an increasingly large part both in the administrative running of the school and as a subject to be studied by the students.*

## Staff who Left in 2022

### **Mrs Hayley Ellen:**

Mrs Ellen joined CCHS in September 2016 as a Sixth Form Year Leader, the EPQ Coordinator and a teacher of Religious Studies. Throughout her time here she was much valued by the students in her year groups – the leavers of 2018, 2020 and 2022 – for her wise advice and for the huge amount of support which she was able to give them. Her commitment to all aspects of the sixth form was immense – her work on teaching and learning in the sixth form and her interest in research on mindsets was useful to all and her efficient and insightful leadership of the EPQ program was most valuable. Indeed she pioneered this new addition to the school curriculum and helped each year's cohort to achieve absolutely excellent results in their essays and projects on a wide range of topics.



Mrs Ellen showed her ability and adaptability when she also took on the leadership of the Religious Studies department during two periods of maternity cover, and then in her last two years in the school she moved to lead the teaching of Psychology. Mrs Ellen managed to combine her dizzying workload with a passion for distance running as well as the responsibilities of family life and must be one of the few CCHS staff to have taught a full Monday at school having run a 43 mile cross country race the previous day.

Mrs Ellen left us to take up a post at Colchester Sixth Form College. The school is grateful to her for her enthusiastic contributions to so many different aspects of the life of the school during her time with us.

### **Mrs Mary Jarvis:**

Mrs Jarvis joined CCHS in June 2017 to support the teaching of French. She then undertook a number of periods of consecutive support of both the French and the German departments, showing adaptability and enthusiasm in her teaching of both languages. Her students relished the variety of activities on offer in her classroom and her real skill in making language learning accessible to all. Her colleagues came to rely on her efficiency, good humour and wide knowledge in all that they undertook. Mrs Jarvis also supported a number of overseas trips and all participants in these trips benefited from her caring and thoughtful support and her keen eye for all that makes for a successful trip. Similarly she was an excellent form tutor who did much for all her students.



Mrs Jarvis left us so as she could devote more time to her family and we wish her every happiness in the future.

# Staff who Left in 2022

## **Mrs Emma Matthews:**

Mrs Matthews (then Mrs Ledwidge) joined CCHS in September 2019 as Deputy Head upon Mr Lawlor's promotion from that role to be Headteacher. Her time in the school therefore neatly coincided with the Covid pandemic and the considerable challenges which this posed to all aspects of life in a school. Mrs Matthews was energetic and enthusiastic in her work on a whole range of tasks, from curriculum enrichment to timetabling and also taught Computing and Philosophy for Children to younger students in the school. She also played a key role in the school's 'Change' initiative.

Mrs Matthews left CCHS to take up the headship of Westcliff High School for Girls.



## **Mr Yinka Badmus:**

Mr Badmus taught Mathematics at CCHS in the academic year 2021 to 2022. His classes much valued his clear explanations of complex material and his form group benefited from his careful and individual pastoral support. He also shared his passion for volleyball with older students, making excellent use of the new sports facilities to run a volleyball club. We wish Mr Badmus every success in the future.



## **Mrs Naushin Khan:**

Mrs Khan taught Computer Science from 2020 to 2022, pioneering the teaching of this subject at A level at CCHS. Her calm, careful and clear expositions helped all her students to grapple with the complexities of programming and coding and her knowledge and understanding were greatly appreciated by her students and her colleagues. We were sad to see Mrs Khan leave CCHS to pursue an opportunity overseas and we wish her every success.



## **Mr Peter Dollery:**

It is also important to record the great contribution made to CCHS in the past year by Mr Peter Dollery. Mr Dollery has assisted the school in a number of ways over the years and most recently stepped in to help us when Mr Moore was sadly no longer able to continue teaching Economics. Mr Dollery offered support, insight and wise counsel to Economics students in both Years 12 and 13 and the excellent Economics results which last year's Year 13 students achieved are clearly due in part to his support and encouragement. We are grateful to him for his cheerful and flexible willingness to support the school and its students in this way.





# Staff Joining CCHS in 2022

As a growing school, CCHS has been fortunate to recruit a number of new colleagues, both to add teaching capacity and to replace staff who have moved on to other roles. In 2022 we welcomed the following new members of teaching staff:

**Mr Rupert Thompson**, Subject Leader of History (Maternity Cover). Mr Thompson took over the leadership of the History Department on a permanent basis from September 2022.

**Mr Scott Coleman**, Subject Leader of Mathematics

**Mr Sebastian Sikora**, Fixed Term Teacher of English

**Dr Geetha Puri**, Teacher of Biology

**Mrs Hayley Barker**, Fixed Term Teacher of English

**Mrs Jane Dixon**, Subject Leader of Economics

**Mrs Jane O'Reilly**, Teacher of Economics

**Miss Kathryn Hunt**, Teacher of History

**Mr Ayotunde Edu**, Teacher of Mathematics

**Dr Andrew Woodward**, Teacher of Physics

**Miss Stephanie Hutton**, Teacher of Music

**Ms Jennifer Porter**, Subject Leader of Psychology & Global Citizenship Co-ordinator

**Mme Maud Lavastre**, Teacher of French

**Mr Luke Moller**, Teacher of Biology & Science



Readers of this newsletter and followers of the alumnae social media feeds will be glad to know that Mrs Rowan Carroll also returned to CCHS in 2022 to work as our new Alumnae Development Officer & Sixth Form Support colleague. Her contribution since 2016 to the development of the school's work with its former students has been marked and we are delighted that she will be continuing with this important work in her new role.

Please use these QR codes if you would like to follow us on our Alumnae Social Media:



Alumnae Facebook



Alumnae Twitter



Alumnae Instagram

# Flowerfest – Senior Prefect Charity Event 2022

The 2022 Senior Prefects chose 'Flower Power' as the theme for their year in office. Not only did this theme open the way to a 1960s themed afternoon of fun for the school last July, it also encouraged everyone in the school to think about how the ideas that are said to have animated so much in the late 1960s might be applicable to today's society. Peace and love are, the prefects argued, something we sorely need in so many aspects of our lives.

'FlowerFest' took place in July, and followed in the tradition of summer festivals started by the 2016 team of Senior Prefects. As well as stalls and performances we were treated to a competition to find the best 1960s outfit sported by a member of each year group and staff. Mrs Madle and Mr Bradford rose admirably to the challenge of finding the 60s fashion icons of CCHS in 2022. In a nod to the cancellation of so many primary school events and summer fetes over the past two years, Years 7 to 9 also took part in a series of 'primary school sports' events including sack races, egg and spoon races and suchlike. We were also delighted to see the return of the Spacehopper races which had last featured in Bluefest in 2017; the only casualties being one space hopper rather over enthusiastically inflated by the Head of Sixth Form.

The afternoon was another great sign of the return of events following the pandemic and the Senior Prefects were and are rightly proud of the total of £2600 which was raised for the British Red Cross.



*A small selection of photos from the day including 'Best Dressed Students and Staff' in the photo at top left and the organising committee of Senior Prefects at top right.*



# Mr John Moore

Many of the readers of the Alumnae Newsletter will already know that Mr Moore retired in December 2021, suffering from a very serious health condition. We are pleased to report that since then he has responded very well to the excellent treatment he has received and that he has been making the very best of his retirement. In this year's newsletter we pay tribute to his immense contribution to CCHS over so many years.

A graduate of the University of Warwick, Mr Moore joined CCHS in 1989, having previously taught at Shenfield High School. He 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 was an inspirational teacher who 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 is rightly proud of the consistently excellent results which his students achieved. He was 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 2019 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. 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.



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

*Below, Mr Moore with Year 13 Economists on the steps of his first hut. We think this photograph is from 1997 but hope that one or more readers may be able to confirm this!*





# Mr John Moore

Throughout his time at CCHS Mr Moore 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 International Baccalaureate Diploma students, supporting the IB students in these important activities.

Of course Mr Moore will also be remembered by a huge number of former 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 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. Such was his commitment to his own professional development and the experience of his students that he completed a Cambridge MED degree in 2005.

We celebrate Mr Moore's amazing commitment both to education and to CCHS. At the time of his retirement he was the longest serving member of the teaching staff. He 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 were remarkable to witness.

We are very glad that since his retirement Mr Moore has been able to spend a great deal of time with his family. We were delighted to see him at the CCHS Speech Day in April 2022 and are grateful to him for presenting the school with a new trophy to be awarded each year as the 'John Moore Prize for Economics'. We continue to send him our best wishes and to be grateful for all that he was able to do for so many students over so long.

*Mr Moore and Dr Huckvale, on '1907 Day' in 2007, celebrating the school's centenary (left), and below, Mr Moore dressed up for World Book Day!*



*Below, Mr Moore taking part in G House Tug of War, Autumn 2016. Poppy and Sophia (then Year 8 students) with Frankie (G House Captain 2016) and Miss Harrison.*



# Mr John Moore

Mr Lawlor heard from Mr Moore in early December, following their get together during Half Term.

Mr Lawlor was delighted with the news below!

*I hope all is well with you and that you are looking forward to the final days before the break.*

*I am OK at the moment and even managed to run in the 5K Santa fun run at Colchester Castle Park yesterday and it was lovely to see such a great fun, charitable, family event. I think the mobility scooters were faster than me on the down inclines but I did my bit and finished. If anyone at school would like to contribute to the Colchester Hospital fund I am fund raising for, that would be kind.*

*The contact is...*

*Just giving*

*John-MooreSANTA*

*And look for donate. I hope it works.*

*All the best, have a lovely Christmas.*

Mr Moore also sent us this wonderful photo which shows him, resplendent with medal, at the finish line of the 5K Santa Fun Run at Colchester Castle Park in December 2022.

If you would like to contribute to the Colchester Hospital Fund, please do visit the Just Giving page for which Mr Moore has provided details above.



# Meet our Senior Prefects for Alumnae Relations

Eniola and Mariella (right), our Senior Prefects responsible for Alumnae Development have worked really hard this year.

They were involved in some alumnae events during the course of the year, including the visit from Mary-Ann, and the event we hosted in the summer term for some former staff members and the two year groups who unfortunately missed out on their Senior Speech Days due to Covid restrictions.

Mariella was also instrumental in setting up the 1-1 careers advice initiative for Year 12 students. Those alumnae who are signed up to our database may remember receiving an email about this earlier in the school year. In addition to all this, they found time to meet and interview alumnae to find out about their time at CCHS. We hope you enjoyed these interviews earlier in the Newsletter.

We thank both Eniola and Mariella for their hard work this year.

*The full team of Senior Prefects 2022 (right). This was taken at the beginning of their year of office.*



Khalen and Fedora (pictured right) will take up their Senior Prefect responsibilities during January 2023 (along with the rest of the new team).

They will have specific responsibility for Alumnae Development and we look forward to working alongside them during the coming year and to finding out the ways in which they intend to try and develop the role.

*Remember to contact Mrs Carroll (details on the final page of this newsletter) if you would like to organise a reunion in school.*

2022

Eniola and Mariella



2023

Khalen and Fedora





# Training the Next Generation of Teachers at CCHS

If you are interested in pursuing teaching as a career, your former School can support and employ you. We have trained a number of strong graduates in the past, working with the TES Institute to secure their QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). For a suitable candidate, we would pay your training course fees, pay you a salary, provide you with a subject mentor and a professional studies programme.

Alternatively, you might want to pursue a more traditional route into teaching. We work closely with Essex School Direct to train graduates on a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) course.

If you would like to discuss routes into teaching and the opportunities that CCHS can provide you with, please do contact me via: [FThoburn@cchs.co.uk](mailto:FThoburn@cchs.co.uk).

Thank you.

**Stephen Lawlor**  
Headteacher



## Class of 2022 – final week

We were pleased that our most recent Year 13 leavers could enjoy the traditional 'dress-up' week activities and final assembly. As always, we enjoyed and were so impressed by the performances during their final assembly and all the efforts they made with their costumes through the week to represent their House letter, fictional character, 'what I wanted to be when I grow up' and of course their old school uniform! After restrictions in recent years it was particularly good to witness the students enjoying their final week of celebrations.



# How can former students help CCHS?

## Careers information:

Could you come back to School to inspire our Year 9 and Year 12 students with details of your career? Every year the School organises a Careers Evening where we invite volunteers to explain their careers to our students and help inform them for their future choices. More details of this event will be published in due course. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Dr Hiner (email [ahiner@cchs.co.uk](mailto:ahiner@cchs.co.uk)) for more details.

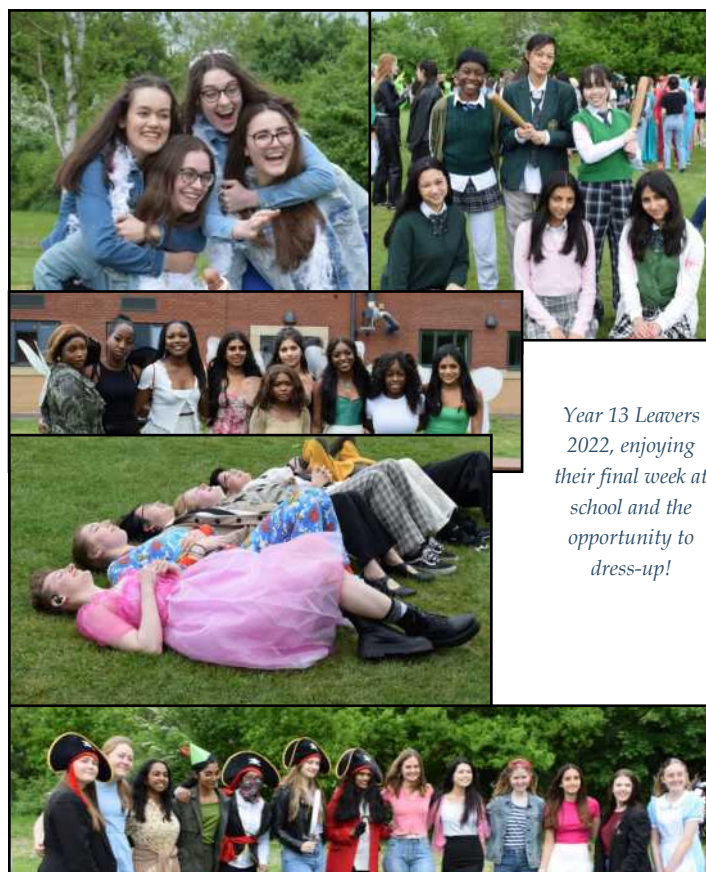
## Mock interviews:

Can you help provide interview practice for our Sixth Form students? This could be for University entrance or work opportunities. We are particularly interested in hearing from those with experience as dentists or in pure science. Please contact Mrs Carroll (email [rcarroll@cchs.co.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.co.uk)) if you are able to assist with this.

## Lunch-time talks:

We are keen to expand the number and range of these highly successful sessions which have run for many years. Their aim is to promote interests and debate that extend beyond the curriculum and to give students a sense of the different areas in which their successes at school can take them.

If you have a particular area of expertise and would like to engage in discussion with our students, please contact Mrs Carroll (email [rcarroll@cchs.co.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.co.uk)).



*Year 13 Leavers  
2022, enjoying  
their final week at  
school and the  
opportunity to  
dress-up!*

## Donate a book to the Library!

If you would like to donate a book to the library from our Amazon wishlist, please click [HERE](#).



We like to keep our stock refreshed and we would be grateful for any donations! Your name will be added into the book cover so that there is a record of your kind donation to the library.

Thank you,

Mrs Howell and Mrs Davis



Chelmsford County High School for  
Girls presents

# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Wednesday 1st February, Thursday 2nd February,  
and Friday 3rd February



# Keeping in touch....

## CCHS Alumnae on Social Media

We now have an Alumnae Instagram account which runs alongside our Alumnae Twitter and Alumnae Facebook accounts.

Do join us here too! Details are below left and QR codes are on page 42.

We post pictures and memories that we hope are of interest to our Alumnae ranging from the early 1900s when CCHS first opened its doors, right through to recent years. It's a great way to be reminded of events that took place during your time at CCHS, and to see some familiar faces in some of the photos!



Chelmsford County High  
School for Girls  
Broomfield Road  
Chelmsford  
Essex, CM1 1RW



Our Alumnae Facebook  
private group can be  
found at: [CCHS Alumnae](#)

You may also wish to  
follow the Alumnae  
Twitter page:  
[@CCHSAlumnae](#)



...and our new  
private Instagram account:  
[CCHS\\_Alumnae](#)



## Alumnae Reunions

We are pleased to be able to offer you the opportunity of organising a reunion in school with some of your peers. This is a brilliant opportunity to come back into school and see, not only the new buildings and site changes, but also the classrooms and corridors which may not have changed so very much since your time here. Alumnae who have visited school recently have really enjoyed looking around the school site and remembering classrooms where their favourite lessons were held, or where they used to spend their lunchtimes and so on, just as much as seeing what has changed and the new facilities that our current students enjoy.

If you are organising a reunion for your year group and would like to include a visit to the School, please contact Mrs Carroll ([rcarroll@cchs.co.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.co.uk)) who will be happy to help you plan this.

If you are trying to get in touch with former friends, you may be able to link up with them through our private CCHS Alumnae Facebook group (details above and left). However, it is also worth checking for contact details with the School via [rcarroll@cchs.co.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.co.uk). We cannot give out contact details to others, but we can contact them on your behalf to facilitate the link. Our electronic database of members means we can quickly find former students who have signed up to it by their leaving year, or by name.

If you are in touch with other former students, please encourage them to sign up to the database via our [website](#).