



Monday 27th February 2023 - Community Assembly

Citizenship



Friday gone, 24th February, marked the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The plight of children was rightly highlighted, including the disruption to their education.

On Friday coming, we will be wearing something red, a colour common to both the Turkish and Syrian flags, as we raise funds to support the people of these two countries recovering from shattering earthquakes. Again, news coverage has drawn attention to the impact of these natural disasters on the lives of children.

In the privileged West, we often hear stories of young people being disinterested in education, disliking subjects and being disenchanted with school. This must be strange to young people in the Global South, who often do not have such a straightforward access to schooling.

This brings us to the concept and practice of citizenship in our country, our communities and our own school. Citizenship bestows rights on us and requires responsibilities of us. Just as this is true out in society, so it is in our own school community. We recently published, as the Spring Term [change@cchs](#) update, the CCHS Citizenship Programme. This represents a culmination of thoughts and experiences inspired by the standards set and actions taken by both students and staff.

We have framed this with key United Nations documents and our own school heritage.

UN Context

Principles (1 and 4) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provide an international inspiration for work relating to young people:

Principle 1

"States parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's parents or legal guardian, race, colour, sex, language, religion...national, ethnic or social origin, poverty, disability, birth or other status."

Principle 4

"States parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the rights to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the view of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child."

CCHS Context

As part of our change@cchs initiative, we work to promote:

- *understanding*
- *co-operation*
- *respect*
- *civility*

*Developing the leaders of tomorrow (school vision) – **Citizenship**: inspiring students to think for themselves and to act for others.*

*Contributing to the community (school aim 3) – **Duty**: ensuring students always conduct themselves with civility and compassion, supporting each other and looking beyond themselves.*

We have identified several objectives to direct the work of our community.

Our Objectives

Through everyday behaviour, we are determined to make face-to-face interactions a force for:

- *respectful exchanges of ideas*
- *broadening horizons*
- *forging lasting friendships*

Through online behaviour, we are determined to make social media interactions a force for:

- *positive engagement*
- *supporting one another*
- *celebrating successes*

We have set a number of commitments to drive the work of our community.

Our Commitments

How are our students able to have their voices heard?

- *Form discussions*
- *change@cchs initiative*
- *Student Voice*
- *Sixth Form Council*

How can our students appreciate the variety of cultures and heritages in our school?

- *Engagement in lessons*
- *Assemblies*
- *Music Concerts, School Productions and Dance Shows*

How can our students share their ideas with confidence and dignity?

- *'Stand Up, Speak Out!'*
- *Assemblies*
- *House Debating*
- *Public speaking competitions and the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' project*

How can students listen to and understand different points of view?

- *'Listen and learn' mindset*
- *The art of disagreement*

How can students take responsibility for the consequences of their actions?

- *Celebrating role models by understanding their qualities*
- *A zero-tolerance approach to all forms of discrimination*

Ultimately, we wish for our students to think for themselves and to act for others. The ability to demonstrate agency and the capacity to show compassion are qualities to prize to address fake news, cancel culture and the many challenges, both human-made and naturally occurring, which we face.

As we move forward, together, through the remainder of the Spring Term and on to the Summer Term, let us be mindful of looking after ourselves, looking out for each other and looking beyond the immediate to those who need help out in the world.

Mr Lawlor