



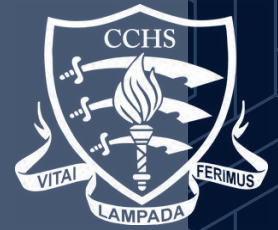
COMMUNITAS



AUTUMN TERM
2023

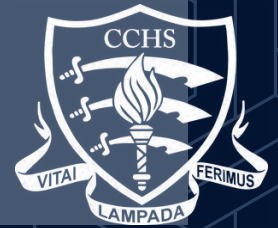
WWW.CCHS.CO.UK

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Message from the Headteacher



Dear CCHS Community

In 2015 our school began a process to increase the student population from four forms of entry to five forms of entry. Given the very high number of girls taking our entrance test, and the volume of enquiries we received from families about places at the school, from 2020 we started another expansion to increase to six forms of entry. We are now blessed to have six forms in Year 7-10. When we start the 2024-25 academic year, we will have six forms across all the main school year groups, marking a completion of this school expansion. Added to this we have seen an increase in the number of students in our Sixth Form year groups. This year we have 315 students across Years 12 and 13, the highest number in the school's history.

Our campus development which has enabled us to complete this important and ambitious work – including the Chapman Sports Centre, the Bancroft Teaching Block and the John Moore Library – has provided our students and staff with new facilities and additional opportunities. As a progressive school community, we are always looking for ways to develop and strengthen our practice, provision and premises. Indeed, we have launched an important campaign to raise monies which would allow us to modernise the school swimming pool.

The CCHS swimming pool was built in the 1960s, partly from funds raised by CCHS families. Dedicated upgrading and maintenance work over the years has ensured that the pool has served generations of students and young people across the Chelmsford community.

At the moment, our pool supports the PE curriculum for our 1,184 students, as well as nearly 200 pupils from five local primary schools, and nearly 600 young people from the wider community, who use our pool with their swimming clubs.

Our swimming pool is truly a community pool. Now is the time to modernise this important community resource to preserve it for future generations of students and young people.

We have asked for your support, just as the CCHS community rallied in the 1960s to ensure a pool was built, to help us achieve this goal. We estimate that the pool will require up to £250,000 over the next two years to support swimming in our community for the foreseeable future. Our immediate need is to replace our aged boiler and gas pipework, which will cost approximately £35,000. We are most grateful to all members of the school, present and past, and the community more widely, who have helped us so far. If you would like to support us, please visit our dedicated webpage for more details – [Fundraising Campaign | Chelmsford County High School \(cchs.co.uk\)](https://www.cchs.co.uk/fundraising).

I think projects such as this speak to our strength as a school community, as we progress a collective effort to benefit students and children. The rest of the academic year will, as ever, be full of promise, opportunity and ambition. By always putting the wellbeing and welfare of students and staff front and centre, our community is able to achieve extraordinary things together.

For now, I pass on my very best wishes to CCHS families for the holiday period. Thank you for all that is done by staff, governors, the PA, the Alumnae, students and their families, to support and encourage our work with our wonderful students – your amazing daughters.

Mr Lawlor

This term we say farewell to:

Miss Neale Education Support Officer

Miss Lewis Teacher of PE

Mr Aluyefa IT Technician

We have welcomed the following members of staff:

Mrs Reilly Teacher of Mathematics

Mrs Ralph Teacher of Chemistry

Miss Guy Teacher of Chemistry and Geography

Mrs Cullum Teacher of PE

Miss Day Subject Leader of Drama & Theatre Studies

Miss Spence Finance Officer

Miss Silva Education Support Officer

Mrs Styles Assistant Examinations Officer

We congratulate the following members of staff on their internal promotions and appointments:

Mrs Millar

Mrs Brown

Curriculum News

Mrs Cross, Deputy Headteacher, Academic



One of the great joys of working at CCHS is the way our students embrace all aspects of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). This important area is thriving in our curriculum and is celebrated from Year 7 to Year 13, both in classrooms and in our additional STEAM provision.

As well as the curriculum content STEM education focusses on the application of knowledge and growing problem-solving, observational and exploratory skills. The addition of Art and Creativity to STEM in 2006 illustrates the importance of creativity in these subjects. Art and Design have always played an important role; for STEM lessons to flourish, they naturally involve art (for example, product design), language arts (communication, and social studies and history (setting the context for engineering challenges). As a school we support this addition, with Mr Harvey's School Development Leader role championing creativity across the curriculum. For more information on this work, and our achievement of the prestigious Gold Artsmark Award please visit our website: [The Arts - Chelmsford County High School for Girls \(cchs.co.uk\)](http://The Arts - Chelmsford County High School for Girls (cchs.co.uk)).

It has never been more exciting nor important to champion women in STEM. In the ever-evolving landscape of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the underrepresentation of women has been a persistent challenge. However, as society recognises the importance of diversity and inclusivity, we are pleased to note that concerted efforts are now being made to encourage and empower women in STEM fields.

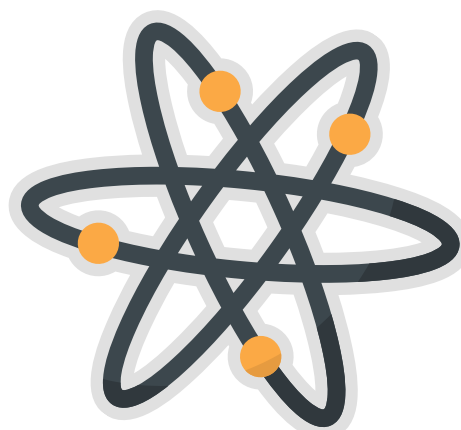
Historically, STEM disciplines have been dominated by men, with women often facing barriers in education, employment, and advancement. Despite significant strides in recent decades, a gender gap continues to persist. Challenges for women being successful in STEM disciplines can include societal stereotypes, bias and lack of female role models.

The number one way to challenge this gender gap is Education and STEM programmes that engage and encourage more young women to pursue STEM education. This is why we are immensely proud of our young women in STEM who, in large numbers, choose to take our STEM subjects through to success at A Level (Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science, Biology, Physics and Chemistry) and beyond into Higher Education.

We also celebrate the numerous STEM activities which complement our STEM provision. Our STEM room is a continual hub of design, electronic, engineering, soldering and so much more! Mrs Kurian (Subject Leader for Physics and STEM Lead) leads this important work and is supported by Mr Nicholls (STEM Tutor) and Dr Cannon (Subject Teacher of Physics and STEM support).

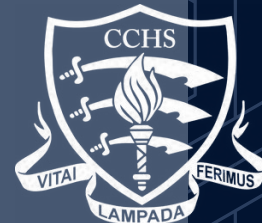
Thank you to Mrs Kurian, Mr Nicholls, Dr Cannon and our STEM Prefects for the support they give this important are of school life, and to Mrs Madle who runs our introduction to sewing club.

On page 32, you will find STEM highlights from the Autumn Term, for more information please visit our website: [STEM & STEAM - Chelmsford County High School for Girls \(cchs.co.uk\)](http://STEM & STEAM - Chelmsford County High School for Girls (cchs.co.uk)).



Enrichment

Dr Palmer, Assistant Headteacher; Community, Enrichment & Opportunity



This term has again seen a wonderful variety of enrichment activities on offer to all students at CCHS and we are grateful to the many staff and students who have found time to lead activities which have helped so many to develop skills and knowledge beyond the curriculum.

At the time of writing we are approaching the submission deadline for our first CCHS Essay Competition and looking forward to reading the entries on topics as diverse as emojis to global warming and seeing how our students have approached some challenging questions beyond their normal curriculum. We are also approaching the finale of the 2023 inter-House competition and waiting on the results of House Basketball and House Decorated Classroom to determine who will lift the trophies on the last day of term.

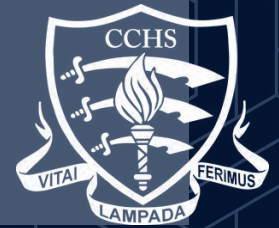
We were delighted to welcome three guest lecturers to CCHS this term as part of our CCHS Institute initiative. In September the Mary Kenyon Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr Cally Hammond from Gonville and Caius College in the University of Cambridge. In October we welcomed Mr Martin Bracken for a lecture organised by the Institute of Physics and the Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society and in December we welcomed Dr Georgia Winnett of the Faculty of Medicine in Anglia Ruskin University.

We thank all our lecturers for their time preparing and delivering lectures which were both well attended and fascinating. We are now looking forward to our next CCHS Lecture which will be in March 2024 and will be delivered by Dr Emma Duchini of the University of Essex. Dr Duchini's speciality is Labour Economics.

Our October Enrichment Day was a tremendous success, with Years 7 to 11 and visiting primary school children involved in a great range of activities, many of them ably supported by Year 12 students. We look forward to another successful Enrichment Day next term. Similarly we are eagerly anticipating our school play, A Midsummer Night's Dream as well as the continued round of weekly clubs and societies, many of which will next term be led by our new Year 12 prefects.

Dr Palmer and Mr Selby will be focusing next term on developing the academic enrichment that is on offer to our KS3 and KS4 students, linking our work in school more closely with our commitment to the NACE, (National Association for Able Children in Education), Challenge Scheme. We are looking forward to working with many of our students to give them further opportunities to think differently about the curriculum and their subject studies.





Digital Learning in the World of Artificial Intelligence

In the dynamic and everchanging landscape of education, we find ourselves at the intersection of tradition and innovation. As we navigate the ever-evolving realms of knowledge and technology, it becomes increasingly evident that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology more generally, are not just buzzwords, but are powerful catalysts reshaping the educational landscape.

Artificial Intelligence (or AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, understanding natural language, speech recognition, and visual perception. AI systems are designed to mimic certain aspects of human intelligence and decision-making processes.

At the centre of our commitment to academic excellence, we must, as a school and wider society, embrace the potential of AI to enhance the learning experience for our students. AI in the classroom is not about replacing teachers; rather, it is about strengthening their abilities and providing personalised, adaptive learning experiences for individual students. With AI, educators can tailor lessons to cater to individual learning styles, pace, and strengths.

Much has been discussed in relation to the possibilities AI has in assisting teachers, in relation to planning resources, giving feedback, and supporting with workload. But much less has been discussed in relation to the benefits this could have for students. A key area of AI that is often overlooked is the fact that key platforms can act as a twenty-four-hour learning support tutor. AI-powered virtual tutors or chatbots can offer round-the-clock assistance to students, providing additional support outside regular classroom hours.

This accessibility enhances students' ability to seek help and clarification whenever needed. Moreover, AI has the power to create and provide creative and engaging learning experiences for students. AI applications, such as virtual reality (VR) and gamified learning platforms, can create immersive and interactive learning experiences.

I myself continue to be impressed by the level of feedback students can receive from AI platforms. AI systems can provide instant feedback on assignments and assessments. This timely feedback helps students understand their mistakes, learn from them, and make improvements in real-time, enabling them to make progress on a much quicker scale.

I have written in previous newsletters about the ever-changing educational landscape, and a need for students and teachers to adapt with this. I shared with students in my assembly this term that 65% of young people, in society, are preparing for jobs that do not currently exist. In a world where technological advancements are reshaping industries at an unprecedented pace, it is crucial for our students to be equipped with the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for the future. By integrating AI and technology into our curriculum, we are not only keeping pace with the evolving job market but also nurturing the innovators, problem solvers, and critical thinkers of tomorrow.

The ability to navigate and leverage technology is a key twenty-first century skill. Our commitment to students ensures that our students are not just consumers of technology but creators and contributors to its evolution. As we prepare them for an ever-changing world, we are aware, as a school, of our need to develop students' confidence to adapt, learn, and thrive in an increasingly digital society.

Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral & Designated Safeguarding Lead



What a fabulous start to the year for the Pastoral Team. We have some new colleagues as Mrs Clements and Mrs Barker are now looking after Year 8. They are doing a great job getting to know everyone in their Year Leader role. As ever, our doors have been open—we are always here for your daughters whether it is to celebrate successes or to be their parachutes when they need support. You are always more than welcome to contact us should your daughter need support and they are not able to reach out. I managed to speak to quite a lot of parents at various Meet the Tutor Evenings and the New Parents' Welcome Evening. I highlighted how to contact the Pastoral Team and who to contact. This compliments the Pastoral Cards that all Main School students carry to access help should they need it. I also highlighted ways to support with online safety. You will have also seen our recent School Post which included '7 tips to help stop the scrolling'. We believe in wrap around care—we want to support both our students and parents. So, I just want to wish you all a restful break. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Attendance

Please remember the expectation is that your daughter's attendance is 100%. One day out of the classroom equals 5 missed lessons—one week out of the classroom equals 25 missed lessons. The impact of lost learning is huge. It is essential that if your daughter is not attending school due to illness you inform our absence team before school—please see details on absence on our website: [Absence and Medical - Chelmsford County High School for Girls \(cchs.co.uk\)](https://www.cchs.co.uk)

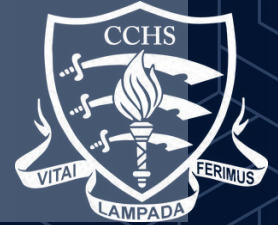


Leadership Conference

Once again we were lucky enough to be able to run our Year 11 Leadership Conference. Under the expert guidance of Miss Burnham, the Chapman Sports Centre was transformed into a hive of activity. This year's theme was 'A World of Opportunity'. We were lucky to have four speakers: Mitra Janes, Verity Wilde, Heather Melville OBE, and Laurie Hooper. The speeches empowered as always and our students then enjoy interactive workshops which complimented their speeches. This year we also had additional workshops. Hetty Smith came in to talk about the Oxbridge experience, Thomas Emmett and Elloise Day spoke about their working worlds. Furthermore, Fahmida Begum led an interactive workshop on maxillofacial surgery—she even had the students putting scrubs on which they thoroughly enjoyed. The corridors rang with music at lunchtime—as the Year 11 students showcased their musical talent. The afternoon's student led workshops also went down a storm. We were lucky to be joined by students from St John Payne again, who thoroughly enjoyed their day at the conference.

Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Meet The Tutor Evenings

The New Parents Welcome Meeting and the Meet the Tutor evenings were well attended. It was wonderful to have parents in school and working with us. Parents received various messages throughout the meetings, but one thing I spoke about was the Pastoral Systems and the ways we can support parents/students. All parents were given timely advice on the use of social media and the dangers of various social media platforms. This information was also shared with students via assembly—it is key everyone hears the same message so we can work together.

Road Safety

Can I ask for your support when dropping your child at school. Please avoid dropping your child off on the main road – some students just open the car door and jump out—not remembering there is a busy bicycle lane. We would also be grateful if you could reinforce the rules about crossing the road safely at home. Whilst it may seem unnecessary, we still find that there are students who persist in taking risks with their own safety and that of others. We are on a busy main road and students need to remember that they should only attempt to cross the surrounding roads at a marked pedestrian crossing and whilst wholly abiding by the signals. We are grateful for your support in these matters. Often younger students will follow the older ones and so there is a communal duty and expectation that we all stick to the rules.

The Pastoral Hub

Our Pastoral Hub is thriving! It is a room where students can have a ‘time out’ if they need to take a minute out of their day to support their wellbeing. This Hub is also being used for Art Therapy sessions led by Miss Stevens. It’s a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their thoughts and feelings through creativity.



Counselling

Our counselling provision is now 20 hours a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment and referral) We also run a Mental Health First Aid Drop-in on Friday Lunchtimes from 1pm in The Pastoral Hub. Each week the room is supervised by a trained Mental Health First Aider, so please encourage your child to pop in if they need to speak to someone.

Young Carers

We have just been awarded the Young Carers Silver Award thanks to Mrs Hiett’s vision and determination. If you feel your child is a Young Carer, then Mrs Hiett runs a Young Carer drop in at 12.40pm on Friday Lunchtimes. If you feel that your child needs any support then do not hesitate to get in contact with any member of the Pastoral Team.

Pastoral News

Miss Harrison, Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Free School Meals

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **the guaranteed element of Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- **Universal Credit** - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

[Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Please be assured that we always deal discreetly and sensitively with any students in receipt of free school meals. #



Useful Websites and Numbers

• Childline

0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk



• Samaritans

116 123
www.samaritans.org



• Papyrus

HOPELineUK
0800 0684141

www.papyrus.org.uk



• Kooth

www.kooth.com



• The Big White Wall

www.bigwhitewall.com (16+)



• YoungMinds

www.youngminds.org.uk



• Beat

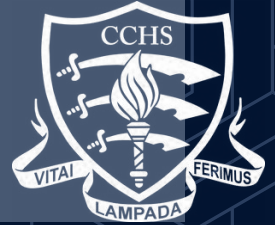
www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

080 801 0677



Year 7 News

Mrs Lewis; Year Leader for Year 7



In September 2023 we opened the doors to our new intake of 180 students. The first day for Year 7 is one of mixed emotions; often a combination of lots of nerves and excitement. They hit the ground running and have coped extremely well with the new demands of secondary school life and do so with huge smiles on their faces. New friendships are forming, and the year group is full of positive energy. Choc & Chat took place every Monday morning during the first half term and was extremely well attended with lots of hot chocolate being consumed and wonderful chats taking place. Due to popular demand, it will be making an appearance again sometime in the new year....!

The Autumn term has been packed full of events. The Elevate programme took part at the beginning of September. This provided transition support with a focus on organisation and study skills which have proved essential as our youngest students manage a variety of new subjects and adapt to new ways of working. The Halloween disco was a big hit with some fantastic characters appearing, from Hot Dog Holly to Phantom Imogen. The Winter Fayre was very well attended too with the Year 7s doing a great job of promoting their stalls.

Extra-curricular clubs for Year 7 have been in full swing with lots of students getting involved in sports; a big shout out must go to our fantastic Year 7 netballers! Student-led clubs have been popping up with Mystery Club proving to be very popular, as well as teacher-led clubs such as electronics and sewing.



Year 7 are really finding their voices during form time, from presenting during WOW Wednesday to the weekly battle to be crowned winners of Friday Frenzy. Form group assemblies have been extremely well organised and delivered, along with form roles being assigned and extra responsibilities being carried out.

House events have been a highlight for everyone including staff. The Year 7 House events are extremely competitive, but mostly they are full of laughter, excitement and create huge amounts of noise as the Year 7s cheer each other on. House Karaoke and decorated classroom were packed full of creativity and fun! The amount of energy on the stage during House Karaoke was incredible; the commitment and hard work from each tutor group was phenomenal. They really did themselves proud.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 7 on a brilliant first term and I look forward to seeing what is to come in the new year.

Wishing you all a very restful break,



Year 8 News

Mrs Barker & Mrs Clements; Year Leaders for Year 8



We are so proud of all the year eight's achievements of Year 8 students this year and have thoroughly enjoyed our first term as Year Leaders.

We have chosen the phrase, "Make it Happen," as our year group mantra (you may recognise it from the lyrics of Flashdance's "What a Feeling"! The words sum up our desire to encourage growing independence in the students as they enter their teenage years and we are already seeing this spirit prosper among the students. For instance, one group of girls have established their own new scrapbooking club and have a large and enthusiastic team of year sevens attending every week. Several other students are keen to set up their own clubs and are busily organising these for the new term.

The students spent their first few weeks of tutor time taking part in activities exploring their hobbies and personal goals. Three forms have already planned and delivered fantastic assemblies and the other forms are currently preparing for these.

We were absolutely delighted when many of our students entered an external poetry competition called 'This is Me.' Twenty entrants were so successful that their poems are to be published in an anthology. Congratulations to all of them – what a talented group of writers!

October saw the first enrichment day of the academic year and our students had a fantastic day taking part in creative art, dance and drama activities inspired by Disney's "The Lion King." We received nothing but positive feedback about the students' behaviour, attitude and artistic abilities.



As always, House Karaoke has been a prominent feature of the first half term where every form suddenly turned into professional choreographers or choirmasters! The final performances were exceptional, with smiles all round.

We also had a wonderful time watching so many pupils strutting their stuff in the dance show. We may be biased but we certainly thought the Year 8 dance was the one of the highlights of the whole evening!

The Christmas Concerts have yet again seen an impressive proportion of the year group performing or singing their hearts out in various ensembles such as orchestras, choirs, bands, recorder groups, Indian ensemble and so on. It has been a delight to see their excited preparation as well as their collaboration and interactions with the older girls and indeed setting a fabulous example to our younger performers. Beyond the concert performances themselves, it is wonderful to see them share the space and mix with the other year groups in the evenings before the concerts begin. There have been some impressive meal planning going on and some treats too! Well done to our fabulous year 8 performers who have impressed us with the maturity and dedication.

We wish all students a happy and relaxing break. We cannot wait to see what this fantastic group of students achieves in the new year!



Year 9 News

Mr Copper; Year Leader for Year 9



I am delighted to share with you a summary of the exciting academic and enriching activities that our Year 9 students have been engaged in during the Autumn Term of this academic year.

The term's Enrichment highlight for the year group was a vibrant 'Culture Fest' Enrichment Day, where students explored and celebrated their diverse and wide-ranging cultural backgrounds through workshops, performances, and interactive sessions. We even had some local celebrities in, courtesy of Mrs. Watt! This event aimed to foster cultural awareness and understanding among the students, providing them with a broader perspective on the world and each-other. It also intersected with a range of performances, as a part of both Culture Fest at large and our Black Excellence afternoon. Our Year 9 students have also showcased their athletic prowess in a variety of sports events: from thrilling inter-house competitions to competitive matches, the girls have displayed exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork. These events not only promote physical wellbeing but also encourage a sense of camaraderie and healthy competition among our students—a highlight, surely, of this school.

This competitive spirit reached new heights with House Events such as the hotly-contested House Karaoke, a little earlier than usual this year, and more recently with a wonderfully rowdy House Indoor Athletics alongside ongoing House Basketball heats—with a fabulous win for F the former. These events not only allowed the students to showcase their talents but also served as platforms for continuing to build strong bonds within their forms. The enthusiasm and energy displayed by the girls were truly commendable. This is all alongside a strong academic rigour to our usual proceedings, with a newly updated Registration timetable that spends considerable time on preparing students to organise and prepare their work as they advance toward their Options choices. And it goes without saying that student-run clubs continue as always, too, with some particularly vibrant Year 9 contributions to Astronomy Club and STEM Leaders.

At our school, the wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance. Our dedicated Form Tutors play a crucial role in providing pastoral care, ensuring that each student feels supported and valued. Regular check-ins, open communication channels, and a focus on mental health contribute to creating a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically and emotionally.



As we reflect on the accomplishments and experiences of Year 9 in this autumn term, we are proud to witness the growth, resilience, and unity of our students.

And finally: the Autumn term as always wraps up with a series of exciting and engaging events: House Decorated Classroom, the Cathedral Service—for which Year 9 were joyously present—and the Christmas Concerts. All these have been celebrated by this year group with their textbook joviality, contentment, and hard work. And this year we even had the Dance Show at a slightly earlier moment, with myriad Year 9 successes therein. We look forward to the continued success and well-being of these young individuals as they progress in their intellectual journeys over the Christmas break and into the rest of the academic year.



Year 10 News

Mrs Goksel & Miss Stevens; Year Leaders for Year 10



Finally in the upper school, Year 10 students have had a great start to the year! Having now begun their GCSE's they are well and truly settled into their chosen subjects. The jump from Year 9 to 10 has been a big change for the students, but they have tackled their increased workload and new challenges with maturity and hard work. Year 10 brings lots of excitement, new opportunities and the benefit of having some ownership of their curriculum.

Year 10 are focused on two key themes for the academic year. Firstly, our motto, 'Small Stones lead to Milestones'. The emphasis being to encourage students to have a positive mindset when approaching their GCSE's, it is a long journey with an end goal that they will take small steps of progress towards. The students started the term making positive affirmations and advice stepping stones to share with each other on our year group notice board.



Our second theme is simply 'Be Kind'. We had great fun in our 'toothpaste challenge' assembly – watching form captains attempt to put all the contents of a toothpaste tube back into it. The key message – think about the words we use, once out they cannot be taken back.



In form time, the students continue to take part in a varied form programme including, quizzes, mindfulness, time for them, colour chat chill and we have also been enjoying our walk and talk mornings on the astro – for some mindful starts to the day.

The House competitions, as always, have been a highlight of the term. House Football and Indoor Athletics were a great success, House Karaoke was an amazing way to spend lunchtime and we had great time watching the culture festival performances too. We cannot wait for House Decorated the Classrooms with Monopoly, Barbie, Britain and a Salon all in the mix.

Enrichment activities continue, including a trip to Epping Forest with the Geography Department. Some of our Year 10 students were also lucky enough to be involved in the Year 11 Leadership Conference in preparation for next year's conference. Additionally, the year group enjoyed their Jack Petchey 'Speak Out Challenge' and Careers Day. Finally, that leaves the Dance Show, which was amazing and our Christmas celebrations.

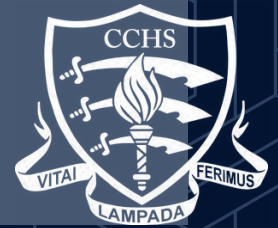
Year 10 have the exciting opportunity this term to apply for their prefect roles. They will find out their roles just before Christmas and have the chance to take on leadership roles throughout the school, acting as role models to the lower years.

The students are very much looking forward to their Christmas break after what has been a very busy and productive term. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2024!



Year 11 News

Miss Burnham; Year Leader for Year 11



Year 11 have just finished probably one of the busiest terms this year. In between the hard work they put in, for their mocks, they also been busying planned and organised the Leadership Conference.



This year our conference was titled 'a World of Opportunities'. The students wanted a focus on having a whole range of speakers from different industries. This year we had one ex student from a diversity role, another speaker with an OBE, one speaker from an entrepreneur side and lastly a speaker from the BBC. All incredibly interesting and coming from a whole range of industries. A special shout out must go to our brilliant public speakers and Neha, (11S), who put all of the art work together in the creative team.

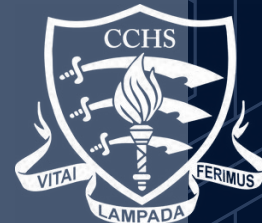
Aside from all of this they have been busy with all of their extra curricular; dance show, music and the concerts, drama and the upcoming production. Of course this is alongside so many different sporting activities. Enrichment did not stop there... following on from this they have had an English enrichment day, restart a heart week and many House events, including the one and only House Karaoke.

Year 11 have a busy few months ahead of them but, I have every confidence that they will take it in their stride to be the best they can be.



Year 12 News

Mrs Hiatt, Year Leader for Year 12



This term has been a busy one for our new cohort of Sixth Form students and I am sure that when they look back over the last few weeks and months it is very strange to think that only 4 months ago they were receiving their GCSE results. Year 12 students have made such a lot of progress in a very short space of time, so they all have much to be proud of.



The term started with lots of excitement as students settled into new form groups and classes, new routines, and of course for a number of them, an entirely new school. We are proud of the way that all our students, whether new to CCHS or returning from Year 11, have thrown themselves into their lessons and other opportunities, and have been so keen to make a good start.

Though many of our student-led societies are open to Year 10 and 11 students, Year 12 is when attending lunchtime meetings and delivering presentations really becomes a part of their regular routine. The full array of societies and other enrichment opportunities was on show in our Freshers' Fayre, held in September, and there was a great buzz in the Hall as students browsed the various stalls, signed up to mailing lists and talked to their Year 13 counterparts about how they might get involved in everything from MedSoc, to LitSoc, to SocSoc.

Later in the term the prefect application process began, and we now have our new Senior Prefect team, as well as newly appointed House Officials, Dance Officials, Sports Officials, and Global Citizenship Prefects. Congratulations to each of these students, but also a big well done to those other students who put themselves forward and participated in the application process. The full prefect team, in which all Year 12 students have a role, will be announced in January. The prefect system is an important part of our Sixth Form experience and all students will benefit from the opportunities for personal development and leadership experience that their role will bring. This is as true for our individual subject prefects as it is for the Senior Prefects, and all students should remember that it is what they bring to their role that counts.

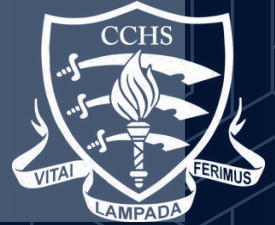
Another opportunity to work on their developing leadership skills came on our first enrichment day of the year in October, when Year 12 students were able to volunteer their support to activities happening in Years 7-10, as well as the primary outreach day led by the Science Departments. Many of the Year 12 students had a great day helping the younger students and getting involved in all sorts of fun.

In addition to various trips, academic lectures, house events, auditions and rehearsals, it has certainly been a busy term and I wish all Year 12 students and their families a restful break and Happy New Year.



Year 13 News

Mrs Connolly; Year Leader for Year 13



Since their return in September, Year 13 students have been extremely busy applying to university. Many students are “early entrants” which means that they have an earlier deadline of mid-October. These students include those applying to medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or to Cambridge and Oxford. This year we have had over 70 students apply early. These same students have then had to revise for entrance tests and many are now going through the interview process. The remainder of the year group are now sending applications off to universities. There is a huge variety of courses and universities being applied too,



I actually feel very envious of students starting this stage of their life! This application process has inevitably started to get them thinking about their next adventures in life with many choosing to have a gap year. I look forward to hearing about their adventures and hopefully receiving a postcard or two from their travels around the world.

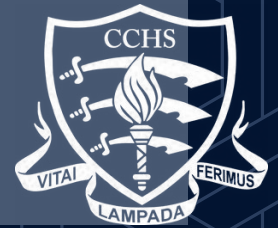


Aside from the university applications, life has been continuing as usual with students working hard both in and out of lessons. As we approach their mock examinations in January, the study areas are getting busier. Many subjects have had NEA deadlines for students to meet. House events have continued and House Karaoke was brilliant.

Within school, students continue to be offered opportunities to grow and develop, which I encourage all students to do if time allows. I know that students will spend much of their Christmas holidays preparing for mocks, but I hope that they take this opportunity to see family and rest. I look forward to the last few months with them all.



Senior Prefects 2024



We congratulate all eleven of the Year 12 students who have been recently appointed to be our Senior Prefects for 2024. We have given them the opportunity to introduce themselves to the CCHS community here.

Hibah, 12RTH

My name is Hibah, and I am delighted to introduce myself as a newly appointed Senior Prefect for 2024! I recently joined CCHS for sixth form and have already witnessed the brilliance of our school, in such a short period. During my spare time I enjoy baking and learning new languages, such as Mandarin and Arabic. As the student voice secretary, I look forward to working closely with the Year 7-11 students, to come up with new ideas for the improvement of our school.



Sophia, 12KRE

Hello, my name is Sophia, and I am thrilled to say that I am part of the senior prefect team of 2024. Something younger me would scarcely be able to believe!

I've always been deeply involved in school life throughout my time at CCHS, from taking on roles within my form such as form and games captain, to committing whole heartedly to house events. (You may have seen me doing the worm at Year 12 House Karaoke, slightly embarrassing I know, but I digress.) Within my role as Senior Prefect I aim to encourage all students to fully immerse themselves in everything CCHS has to offer, as looking back over the past 5 and a bit years, I realise some of the best memories I have made include scrambling together a last minute team relay for sports day, and then winning said relay, or spending lunchtimes rehearsing finesse by Bruno Mars for that ever coveted house karaoke win.

As a campus development prefect, I look forward to working with the CCHS community in doing my best to improve our school for its pupils, ensuring that as students, our learning is enriched.



Senior Prefects 2024



Nia, 12JBR

My name is Nia, and I thoroughly look forward to working with the senior prefect team for 2023-2024. Being part of the Senior Prefect team seemed like a faraway dream which was impossible to achieve when I was in year 7. Despite that, here I am, fulfilling one of my biggest ambitions in a way I never would have imagined in my early years at our school.

I'm sure many of you have seen me getting involved in a variety of music related extracurricular activities, whether it be performing in assemblies, taking part in the concerts or even being a music prefect and shushing everyone in the corridors. However, over the course of my years at the school, music isn't the only extracurricular that I felt I could take part in. I enjoyed playing with the teams for hockey, netball and badminton. I also joined sewing club in year 9- and as someone who can barely work with a needle, this was a fun challenge for me. After having tried all of these activities, I would hope that all students see clubs and activities that CCHS has to offer as opportunities to develop a skill, try something new, or even a chance to make new friends of all ages.

Additionally, I really enjoy all the events put on by the school during weekends, etc. and as a Parents' Association rep, I am thrilled to work with the PA team to create memorable events for the school next year.

Emily, 12FSE

Hi! I'm Emily. Having looked up in awe at the Senior Prefect Team since I was in Year 7, I am delighted to now have the opportunity to serve as a Senior Prefect during 2023-2024 alongside my lovely group of peers.

It's fair to say that throughout my time here I have had the full CCHS experience - from performing in charity band nights and being a considerably over-excited influence on the Pitbull-themed House Karaoke last year (bald caps and all!), to a serious dedication to team energy-boosting during the freezing conditions of House Winter Games each year - I can now whole-heartedly encourage every student to make the best of every opportunity they are given.

Above all, I define myself as an artistic person and I hope that through this role I can encourage creativity; I'm already overflowing with ideas for our Summer Festival!

As a Primary School Outreach Representative, I'm really looking forward to visiting nearby primary schools to talk about the wonderful experiences here at CCHS and encourage as many girls as possible to consider joining our school community.



Senior Prefects 2024



Catherine, 12 FSE

My name is Catherine, and I am truly honoured to serve as a Senior Prefect for 2023 – 2024. I have always aspired to have a leadership role within the school community and project a positive attitude in every situation. In my free time, I enjoy attending the fascinating societies and listen to the inciteful presentations that our school has to offer. Also, I am extremely passionate about volleyball – as I enjoy competing at national levels. I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Philosophy and Ethics and I am also completing a Diploma in Sporting Excellence – in the future, I aspire to study Medicine. As I take on the role as a Senior Prefect, I am enthusiastic to plan and think ahead and inspire students to grasp every opportunity available to them. Furthermore, as a Parents' Association Prefect, I cannot wait to work with the parents, carers, and the senior prefect team as we embark on this journey to develop the school in every aspect and go above and beyond.



Tiyas, 12JBR

Hello all, I am Tiyas, one of your brand-new Senior Prefects! I never thought my CCHS journey would lead me to where I am today, but this is just proof that no matter how unachievable something may seem, you should always give it a solid go. While I am well-aware that some of you in lower school are much, much taller than me, I really hope I can become someone that you see as a role model and can always rely on. As a campus development prefect, I aim to develop the campus to my best ability, ensuring that we create a CCHS that everyone loves and gets the most out of, whether that includes more events to sink your teeth into or making any ideas you have become more than just ideas! I would like to think I am well-versed in the community culture we have at CCHS, which reflects in my eagerness to get involved with House Karaoke and other house events, as well as flinging myself around on stage in the amazing Dance Show. I am also very fond of our Concerts, which I helped to run back when I was a Music Prefect, so never fear – I am no stranger to hard work! After all, diamonds are made under pressure. Although one of my dreams to become a triple-threat was unfortunately unrealised and I was unsuccessful in my audition for the School Production, there is always next year, and let this be a lesson to you all to Carpe Diem! Always make the most of every opportunity that you are given, just as I will try my hardest to be the best Senior Prefect I can be.



Senior Prefects 2024



Katelyn, 12 HBU

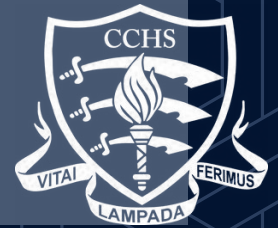
My name is Katelyn and I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed one of your new Senior Prefects for 2023-24. A few of you may have seen me around the school probably either with my head in a book or a Costa coffee in my hand, but I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself officially. I have been at CCHS since 2018 and I am currently studying English, Latin, History and government and politics. In terms of extracurricular activities in school I am a keen singer part of two separate choirs, I attend Classics Soc, Lit Soc and along with my fellow Senior Prefect Ciara, I run a poetry club called Dead Poets Society (which I highly recommend!). While my choice of A-levels and clubs may highlight that I am probably not the best person to come for help with that tricky maths problem, as a senior prefect I will always be here to support you with anything you need academic or otherwise. I am to be your new chair of Sixth Form Council, and I am extremely enthusiastic about hearing all of the ideas and opinions of the sixth form on how to ensure CCHS is the best place possible for everyone.

Amba, 12FSE

Hi! My name is Amba, and I am delighted to be a Senior Prefect this year. As someone studying humanities, I hope I can encourage people to understand and empathise with one another, so that all feel emotionally supported at CCHS. As part of my role as an Alumnae Prefect, I hope to pass on the knowledge and experiences of previous students to younger members of the school community. Throughout my time here, I have really enjoyed the musical aspects of life at CCHS and have had a lot of fun trying out various groups and ensembles over the years (though an attempt at orchestra in Year 7 taught me early on that percussion was not my strong suit!). Nevertheless, these events have shown me the importance of trying new things, and the joy that results from having shared experiences with others. During this year, I would like to ensure that all students feel comfortable, supported, and able to try anything that the school has to offer.



Senior Prefects 2024



Alexa, 12FSE

My name is Alexa, and I am delighted to be part of the Senior Prefect team for 2023–2024. I am sure year seven me would be most excited to know that 6 years later she would be part of the team she had looked up to since day one.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting involved in pretty much every part of school life for the past five years, although I would have to say some parts have been more successful than others (I'm not sure a football career is my thing after only touching the ball once in house football). From show choir and samba band to numerous sporting activities such as swimming, cross country, hockey and athletics, it's safe to say I have made the most of what the rich extracurricular opportunities at CCHS has to offer. As a senior prefect I would like to encourage all students to get involved with all that CCHS has to offer, even if it's something completely new!

As an alumnae prefect, I am excited for the opportunity to be involved with and further develop the CCHS alumnae community, where I will hopefully meet and work with some of the former CCHS students and find out what amazing things they have achieved since leaving the school.



Ciara, 12FSE

My name is Ciara, and I am super excited to be a part of the Senior Prefect Team for 2024! In school I study English Literature, Politics, Art and French, and so while I should definitely not be your first port of call in a medical emergency... I am very much looking forward to being the Chair of Student Voice over the next year, hopefully working to make the school a better, more productive and fun environment for the students, and gaining important insight into how the student body are feeling about their time in school. I also co-run the school's Dead Poets Society, trying to get the younger students involved with poetry in a fun and light-hearted manner (if we can get any of them to come), and am looking forward to helping set up a new politics society for some of the older students too!

In my personal time I love music, playing the piano and the saxophone, and looking after my 5 hives of bees, and my 5 cats... but I always make sure to build in time for mindfulness, regularly practicing yoga, and spending time crocheting as well. I can't wait to start next January and that as a team we can bring lots of ideas and enthusiasm to our roles and make a positive difference in the school.



Senior Prefects 2024



Davida, 12VCA

My name is Davida, and I am excited to assume the responsibilities of Senior Prefect for the academic year 2023-2024. Since I joined CCHS, I have always admired the Senior Prefects, and now, as a dedicated Sixth Form student, I eagerly look forward to contributing to the school's positive atmosphere and enhancing the experience for all students.

For my A-levels, I take maths, physics, economics, and computer science and while they keep me busy, I love to explore different extracurricular activities whether it's competing on the tennis court, participating in the Economics Club, or enthusiastically engaging in various house events, I firmly believe that a well-rounded school experience involves cherishing activities beyond academics. These pursuits not only bring joy but also contribute to a more enriching and holistic educational journey.

As Senior Prefect, I am committed to assisting students in maximizing their time at CCHS. I firmly believe that seizing opportunities can shape our lives in a positive manner and foster personal growth.

I am genuinely excited about the prospect of working alongside my fellow students and teachers and I look forward to meeting and working with each one of you.



Ella-Mae, 12MCT

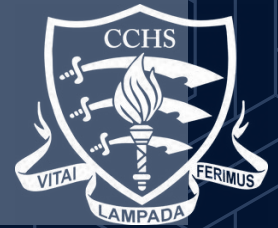
Hi, I'm Ella-Mae, and since first wandering the halls of CCHS feeling like a lost Year 7 in a sixteen-year old's body, I've aspired to be a part of the Senior Prefect team. It was something that captivated me as a person, from its team-like ethic to being able to take on leadership roles, and with much delight I can say I'm one of the senior prefects for 2023-2024.

I've tried to throw myself into every opportunity possible since joining this school: from running the obstacle course with my leggings falling down in house indoor athletics, to belting my heart out in karaoke, to attending some really engaging weekly presentations in our weekly MedSoc. Being a Senior Prefect, I'd like to inspire others and remind them that with confidence, and the hard work to turn those dreams into reality, you really can achieve anything and everything. This school has been the most welcoming place, and with my senior prefect role of secretary of sixth form council I'll aim to ensure others feel just as at home as I do here and that we as a community embrace all the new (and very scary) parts of life that come with entering Sixth Form.



Art Department News

Mr Harvey, Subject Leader of Art & School Development Leader.



Celebrating Diversity and Creativity at Our School

We are delighted to bring you updates on the exciting creative events and initiatives that have taken place at our school recently. From the vibrant celebration of Black History Month to the enriching Creative Day for Year 8 students and the poignant Remembrance Day installation, our school has been bustling with creativity, learning, and reflection.

Black History Month Exhibition: Honouring Diversity and Resilience

The Art Department put together a captivating Black History Month Exhibition, showcasing the significant contributions and achievements of Black people throughout history. Through thought-provoking artworks and enlightening narratives, our students have had the opportunity to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of Black culture and heritage. Students created a wide variety of pieces from colour pencil drawings to clay sculptures. This exhibition has served as a platform for fostering a deeper understanding of the struggles and triumphs of the Black community, promoting unity and inclusivity within our school.



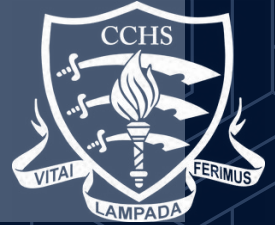
Remembrance Day Installation: Reflecting on Sacrifice and Gratitude

As Remembrance Day approached, the Year 7 Art club spent time preparing for our annual Remembrance Day installation. Their touching work aimed to honour and pay tribute to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. Through an evocative display of symbolic poppies being dropped from a Spitfire plane, the installation gave a poignant message of remembrance, our students have had the opportunity to reflect on the profound significance of this day. This installation serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of acknowledging and expressing gratitude for the sacrifices made by our veterans, ensuring that their legacy remains etched in our hearts and minds.



Art Department News

Mr Harvey, Subject Leader of Art & School Development Leader.



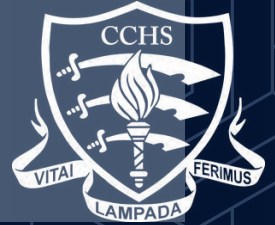
Christmas Decorations

Throughout November, students prepared for the school's annual Christmas decoration display. Years 7 and 8 students made the Christmas decorations which always gets the school in the festive spirit as we approach the Christmas holidays. This Years themes were 'Christmas Movies' for Year 7 and 'The CHRISTMAS Alphabet' in Year 8, where each form were given a different letter. As always, the decorations brought joy and festive magic to our school, giving students the opportunity to display their create talents.



Art Department News

Mr Harvey, Subject Leader of Art & School Development Leader.



Creative Enrichment Day for Year 8 Students: Igniting Imagination and Innovation

Our Year 8 students were treated to an exhilarating Creative Enrichment Day in October, where they were encouraged to explore their artistic potential and foster their creative skills. Through a series of hands-on workshops, interactive sessions, and inspiring dance lessons, our students were able to channel their imagination and discover new forms of expression inspired by the west end show The Lion King. This day not only sparked a passion for creativity but also emphasised the importance of nurturing artistic talents and fostering a culture of innovation within our school community.

We are immensely proud of the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our students in the showcase held at the end of the day, where students displayed costumes they had made on a catwalk, performed extracts from the show, performed a moving rendition of He Lives In Me and danced to the popular Just Can't Wait To Be King.

The day was a resounding success with one student stating it was her favourite day at CCHS ever!



Music Department News

Mr Lamberti, Director of Music



This term has seen numerous musical successes from our students.

At the start of the year we celebrated with students from last year's Year 11 cohort, who collectively achieved 100% 7-9 grades. Of the 30 students 15 achieved a 9, 12 an 8 and 3 a 7. We are so proud of them for their hard work and dedication. It is no surprise that we have a healthy number of students studying A level this year, which is bucking the national trend.

In October, we collaborated with the Britten Sinfonia, a professional orchestra. The event was organised and funded by Essex Music Hub. We hosted most of the event which was open to musicians of primary and secondary age. There were a series of workshops with brass, woodwind and percussion held at CCHS whilst the string players attended a workshop at a neighboring school. There was then an hour performance of the various pieces looked at during the workshops, in the CCHS hall. It was a delight to welcome parents and students of CCHS and other schools to this spectacular event.

This year's Christmas concert sold out in record time, (4 days), much is the anticipation for this event. Playing in front of two sold out audiences always gives our students an extra lift and they did not disappoint. As ever, we had a mixture of festive and other pieces ranging from Jazz and musical theatre to Vivaldi and Schubert. Our biggest new venture this time was to bring our 5 choirs together (Senior, Show, Cantatrici, Gospel and Staff) to sing a rendition of 'One More Light'. It was going to be a logistical challenge for 200 students and staff to sing together with live band, but it was really worth the planning. I have always said we are a singing school and this performance proved just this. A big thank you to Ms Millen for arranging the piece for everyone to sing.

It was an absolute thrill to return to the Chelmsford Cathedral for our Carol Service. December 2019 was the last time we were able to do this. Hearing Senior Choir, Cantatrici and the Flute Quintet in this venue was really special. The acoustics added that extra sparkle to their pieces. For me personally Christmas truly arrived after this event.

Our peripatetic staff continue to work tirelessly with over 250 students between them. First and foremost, they are developing students love for their chosen instrument/voice. Where agreed they also ensure students are prepared and are ready to sit a graded examination. It is lovely to hear students performing during the day in such an eclectic mix of musical genres. Our thanks go to Mrs Shepherd in the finance department for organising this significant part of our music provision here at CCHS.

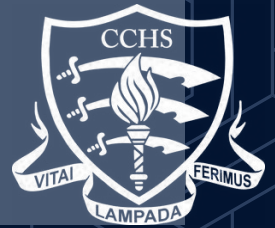
CCHS continues to be an examination centre for ABRSM grades. We have been fortunate to hold another sitting this term. A particular stand out achievement this term was Adi, (13JPO), receiving a distinction in her Grade 8 Tuba examination. Congratulations to all students who took an examination this term. Our thanks, as always, go to Mrs Gross and the finance department for all they do in the planning for these key days in school.

In October, our year 11 GCSE music students all recorded their solo performances (15% of their final grade). Ms Millen, Mrs Clements and I were very fortunate to listen to a set of truly fantastic performances. We now look forward to recording their ensemble performances in early March 2024.



German Department News

Frau Bennett, Frau Cannon & Frau Gilbert, Joint Subject Leaders of German



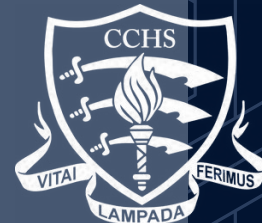
Year 9 Modenschau

Our students have been enjoying some catwalk action in their lessons this term with events at the Berliner Film festival and trips to the Kölner Karneval. They have put the language learnt in the clothing topic to great use and we were impressed by not only their German, but also their outfits!



German Department News

Frau Bennett, Frau Cannon & Frau Gilbert, Joint Subject Leaders of German



German Exchange Update

All students have now got their partner details and should be in contact with each other and getting to know a little bit about each other's families. A reminder that the Parent Information evening will be held on 15th February 2024 in V10.

British Film Institute Visit for the 6th Form, Wednesday 29th November

The BFI offer courses for 6th form linguists to develop their analysis of films, a key element of the A Level written paper. Please find the report of the day written by Alex from Year 12

On Wednesday 29th November, we had a trip to the BFI on London Southbank, and it was great. It really built our confidence in the language, because although the lectures were fully in German, we all commented on how we understood the lecturer almost entirely. Moreover, it was an excellent introduction to the analysis of German films, and we were given some highly useful terminology. But most importantly, we all had lots of fun, immersing ourselves in a language we have a keen passion for and meeting other people with a similar love. I felt that this trip was a brilliant success, and we all came away having learnt something new!



New GCSE first teaching September 2024

Many staff have been on training events for the new GCSE language examinations that will be taught at KS4 to our current Key Stage 3 students. The largest change is the corpus of 2000 words that the specification will draw from to create the tasks and examinations. We are very excited about this new GCSE for Modern Foreign Languages and there will be more detailed information available at the Year 9 Option evening in March.

Deutsch Pause

All students are members of the Deutsch Pause team and this is where we post opportunities for extra-curricular activities and competitions. Please ask your daughter to check it regularly. Some links to competitions also below.

[Engaging German Courses, Competitions & Events in the UK | Goethe-Institut UK](#)

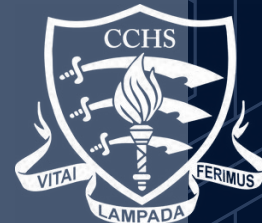
[Oxford German Network | Oxford German Olympiad 2024](#)

[Sustainable cooking competition in German - FitGreenMind X Goethe-Institut London - Goethe-Institut United Kingdom](#)



Drama Department News

Mrs Day, Subject Leader of Drama & Theatre Studies



It has been a busy start to the academic year in Drama, with a variety of in class and extra-curricular activities taking place. Our excellent Drama prefects have worked hard this term, Year 11 prefects have been running Year 7 drama club, planning activities for our Year 7's to develop their love of drama. Year 13 prefects have been busy supporting the drama staff at the Sixth Form Open evening as well as spending time with Year 11 during the options events to give students their unique experience of studying A Level Drama and Theatre studies.

Year 12 and 13 Theatre Trip



One Thursday 9th November we took our Year 12 and 13 Theatre Studies students to the Mercury Theatre, Colchester, to see a new adaptation of Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' created in collaboration between Frantic Assembly and Lemn Sissay OBE. The production aimed to "combine the fluidity and lyricism of Lemn Sissay's adaptation and Frantic's uncompromising physicality" promising "an unmissable retelling of Franz Kafka's shocking tale of cruelty and kindness; a visceral and vital depiction of humans struggling within a system that crushes them under its heel".

The production did not disappoint! Our students were presented with a multi-layered piece of live theatre which allowed them to analyse complex choreography combined with ambitious set, sound and lighting design which created an atmospheric and at times eerie effect.

Our students were lucky to attend a Q&A session with the performers and associate director following the show, allowing us a deeper insight into Frantic Assembly's creative process as well as the life of a working actor. This work added another production to our students Live Theatre catalogue and will stand as an inspiration for their future work.

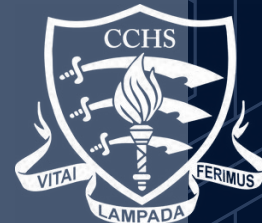


Going out with my friends and classmates to watch Metamorphosis made an enriching, fun, and exciting evening. The play was intriguing, clever, and enjoyable: using so many creative techniques for us to discuss, think about, and use both in our exam and to inspire our own work. I think this will remain another fun memory of drama, and I'm thankful that I got the chance to go.

Hannah, 12HBU

Drama Department News

Mrs Day, Subject Leader of Drama & Theatre Studies



Year 13 Creating Original Drama examination

In late October our Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students performed their devised work to an invited audience. They are required as part of the specification, to devise a performance inspired by a topic or theme of their choosing but the work must be influenced by the work of a Theatre Practitioner and should use the methodology of that practitioner during the creative process.

Our students chose to work in the style of Brecht and Artaud, two very contrasting practitioners, resulting in work which made us examine historical characters in new ways, made us think about fate and immersed us in nightmarish worlds in which the audience/actor boundaries were challenged.

Our students should be congratulated for their professional and ambitious performances, as a group they worked hard to generate work which was thought provoking and an assault on the senses and they showcased the wonderful theatre makers they have become,



School Production- A Midsummer Night's Dream

Our production rehearsals began in late September after a lengthy auditions process which saw a large number of students demonstrate a wealth of talent. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who auditioned for showing such support for the production and we look forward to working with you on our future shows and projects.

Our successful cast have been hard at work dedicating themselves to understanding the world of the play and to bringing the distinct groups of characters to life. Weekly rehearsals have seen our students develop their own interpretations of the roles and it has been a pleasure to see students from all year groups collaborating and building new relationships. We have a dedicated team of students working backstage to support the production side of the show and it has been a pleasure working with budding directors, make-up artists, costumiers and designers.

Our students leave for Christmas knowing that when we return show week will soon be upon us! We invite you all to join us on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd January when we look forward to welcoming you to our beautiful dream.

STEM News

Mrs Kurian, Subject Leader of Physics and STEM Lead



This term started with nine of our Year 12 and 13 students attending Quantum Coding Challenge Day at Institute of Physics Headquarters in London. The day featured coding challenges, talks from experts in quantum computing and discussion about various pathways and opportunities for further study and careers in physics and computer science with STEM professionals. In September, CCHS had the opportunity to host another early edition of the Institute of Physics public lecture on the topic 'Imaging the Universe'. The lecture delivered by Martin Bracken, a lifelong amateur astronomer, was well-attended by members of the CCHS community and neighbouring schools.

I am delighted to report that after a rigorous quality assurance process, Chelmsford County High School is now registered as a centre to deliver STEM Leaders Programme. 26 Year 10 students who completed their Level 1 Leadership Qualification in the last academic year have received their awards. The qualified Year 10 STEM Leaders are currently working hard to launch a lunch time club, STEM-Soc run by students for students!



The Secondary Engineering Leaders programme is also well underway, and we are looking forward to seeing their completed projects in the next term.



In October, our Year 7 & 8 students were taken on an amazing journey from the depths of the ocean to the far reaches of outer space through a series of interactive tasks which the students engaged in with a great deal of enthusiasm. The UK's longest running STEM Roadshow jointly delivered by BAE systems, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force was presented by Mark Greenop Associates. The topic explored various engineering challenges and solutions needed to communicate in hostile environments such as under the ocean or in deep space.



Last month, some of our Year 12 students attended lectures of speakers from both medical and engineering background at a STEM Conference organised by Drapers' Academy in collaboration with Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society (CSES) and Chelmsford Cathedral. Some of our Year 10 and 11 students were fortunate to attend the highly popular CSES -ARU Christmas Lecture by Tony Purnell, former Head of Technology at British Cycling about how engineering helped Great Britain top the cycling medal table at the Tokyo games.

Quantum Coding Challenge Day

Attending the quantum coding hackathon at IOP was a very enriching experience for us all. The day started with interesting talks from professionals in their fields ranging from quantum mechanics to computation, then a chance for everyone to take part in the intellectually stimulating hackathon (which some students from CCHS even won a prize for!), and finally ended with a career panel discussion. It was also a fantastic opportunity to network with so many other like-minded STEM students and overall, we all thoroughly enjoyed the day!

Arushi, (12 KRE)

Year 10 Engineering Club



Over the past term, a few Year 10 students were given the opportunity to take part in a lunchtime engineering club run by Mrs Kurian and Mr Bye. During these sessions we looked at a specific piece of equipment called a microbit. A microbit is a small pocket-sized computer with many different output features (such as an LED display) that you can program to perform different functions. It is a good example of how software and hardware work together to perform useful functions. We looked into different things we can code it to do and how these functions can be applied to real life problems. We focused on how small programs can be applied practically to everyday objects. For example, a simple count program can be adapted for a watch so it counts your steps when you move or a program that increases a variable up to a specific number can be used in your tv remote for the volume. We then took this a step further and thought about we can adapt the microbit to solve a problem of our own choice. We are starting to create our own projects based if this concept and I am looking forward to seeing how they turn out. Overall, it is really fun and I am learning a lot about how I can apply my knowledge to more practical situations outside the classroom.

Hannah, (10 C)



Arkwright Engineering Scholarship 2023

I began my application for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship in November 2022.

In January 2023, I submitted my application, in which I described my interests to do with Engineering and Physics. As part of my application process, I had to work on a project which demonstrated my ability to think logically and creatively - I chose to create a ChatBot therapist using Python. While this project did not go completely to plan, the process itself was valuable as I had gained programming skills which I did not have previously.

After I had cleared the application and exam, I then had to attend an interview in April, in which I gave a presentation about my interests and the project I'd worked on, along with my aspirations for the future, and I was also asked questions

about why I had applied for the scholarship. Albeit initially daunting, the interview went smoothly and was a great experience in terms of preparing myself for future interviews (and did not require as much anticipation as I gave it).

At the end of January, I sat an aptitude exam, which, ironically, was quite enjoyable - it was completely different to any exam I had sat previously. Although I only had to complete 2 questions, each question required a large amount of planning, creative thinking and application of knowledge on circuit systems, algorithmic thinking and general scientific thinking.

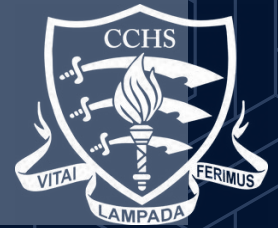
In September, I received news on whether I had been granted the scholarship, and I was very pleased to discover that I had received it. Receiving the scholarship has already opened up so many new avenues - listening to the achievements of others and talks given by alumni and an RAF Deputy Commandant at the London Awards Ceremony was particularly inspiring, and I was able to talk to others with similar interests to myself. Soon I will be receiving mentorship from a member of the RAF, which I am really looking forward to. The money from the scholarship will enable me to further explore my interests and take on larger and more challenging embedded programming projects. For me, this scholarship has enabled me to have more confidence in my abilities and has increased my motivation to keep challenging myself, even if I am unsure about the outcome.

Rucha , (12 JBR)



Public History Society

Miss Hunt; Teacher of Humanities



Public History Society for KS3 students started this academic year with a bang! We have been exploring the topic of exhibition curation with a particular focus on storytelling through objects. As you can see from the images, we enjoyed an exciting visit from the Chelmsford Museum staff at the start of term, including an object handling session with artefacts from Roman Chelmsford and a very engaging talk about how museums choose to display artefacts. Mr Lawlor and Mrs Cross even chose to visit and explore the topic!



Over the past term, club members have created 'shoebox exhibitions' full of recreations of artefacts and artworks- some from clay, some from cardboard, some even sewn! - to illustrate history that we don't often see in class. From the history of fashion-house Gucci, to what a museum of the future would look like; our students have worked hard to create exciting exhibitions and show off their historical and creative muscles. We have been very lucky to work with the Chelmsford Museum, who are getting their curators to judge their shoeboxes for both realism and creativity.



An exhibition on crime and punishment through the ages!



The 'museum of the future'

For our Spring Term project, we will be exploring what food can tell us about the past and working together to create a historical recipe book. Anyone in KS3 interested is welcome to attend- we meet Wednesday 1st Lunch in V7.

Library News

Mrs Howell & Mrs Davis, School Librarians



As ever, we have been busy in the library with new books galore! We are enormously grateful to those families who kindly sent us items from the Amazon wishlist. It is wonderful for us to be able to add books that are specifically requested by the students to our Oliver catalogue. To that end we would also like to say a very big thank you to the large numbers of students that come and help us during their lunchtimes! We are sure the highlight for them is using the library stamps to prepare the books for shelving, but we appreciate that they give their time so generously to help out.

We are now at the end of term, and therefore our thoughts have turned to the Spring Term. We are delighted to have in place an author visit for March as part of our World Book Day celebrations. This year we will be welcoming a local author, Sam Scott, who will be talking to Year 7 about her career and inspirations. Beginning next term look out for podcast recommendations from us! Every last Friday of the month the Bulletin will feature a short piece recommending episodes of podcasts that we hope the students will enjoy and will enrich their learning and reading.

The company behind the Oliver system has released an exciting update, which has created badges to reward readers for punctual returns, books reviews, and consistent borrowing.

Students will be able to see these under their account when they log into Oliver. We hope that the students are inspired by these badges to continue to borrow lots of books (and to return them on time!)



On Wednesday 13th December we held a charity lunchtime activity, where we had a book sale and students made Christmas trees or hedgehogs out of old books. As ever these activities proved to be extremely popular with over 100 students taking part

Mrs Davis has started the Year 7 book group again, and this year as well as discussing favourite books the students are taking part in the Juniper Book Awards, which are a celebration of reading in Key Stage 3. Students will read 6 shortlisted books and then vote on their favourite.

A Year 8 and 9 book group has also started, with the goal of taking part in the Carnegie Book Awards in 2024. We enjoy the discussions the students have around books and hearing their honest opinions about what they have been reading.

House News

Miss Holt, House Coordinator



First term of the academic year and the House Spirit is already off the charts. With the current House Officials near the end of their roles, we have just introduced our new upcoming officials who will take over in the following term, and we have prepared them to lead their houses into battle, more commonly known as house events.



Beyond the events, everyone is part of something when it comes to House Assemblies, which includes updates, pep talks and lots of Just Dance, giving the younger years a chance to get to know their officials.

Closing this calendar year, S House take the cake for the 5 House cup, especially thanks to their amazing performance in Sports Day, and A House end up on top in the 6 house shield, excelling in the Friday Frenzy. While each event is a competition for the top place, the wonderful sportsmanship of the students truly shines through in the way they cheer and support their peers in opposing Houses.

So far this term we've seen House Football, where H House took the win, and Indoor Athletics, that was tied between A and C. As the holidays get nearer, Year 13 and staff, House Decorated Classroom where each form will be given a room which they decorated.

As a House Official, it is inspiring to watch the effort and dedication students put into the events, and how these competitions positively influence them. I've watched confidence bloom, and leaders step up. And after getting to know our new officials, we feel very content with the people we are leaving F house with.

Starting with a new slate next term, we wait with excitement to see how the leaderboard will differ next year.



Jessica, 13AGO



It has been a very busy and highly successful Autumn Term in regard to the number of competitions and fixtures we have taken part in and how many training sessions have taken place during and after school. We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated PE staff and outside coaches, who give our students so many opportunities to improve their skills, team tactics and game play, as well as being able to proudly represent the school.

Swimming

Once again, we began the year with a fantastic start in the pool, with more record numbers signing up for the Year 7 swimming trials. I also hosted Year 8 trials again this year, which saw some new faces added to the swim squad.

Our first gala was against a strong Shenfield team. Meredith in Year 7 was awarded Coach's Swimmer of the competition due to her excellent swimming performance!

Last week, competed against Great Baddow; another really strong team. Year 7 finished in joint 1st place and the Year 8's and 9's both won their competitions with some extremely close races. Isabelle was awarded Coach's Swimmer of the competition, for managing to hold off Baddow in the freestyle relay to ensure her team won.

We look forward to competing in the final MESSA league galas in the new year as well as the annual MESSA District relays on 18th January 2024.



Cross Country

We have had a very successful cross-country season so far. We started the season with the first round of the English School's Cup competition. All three teams competed, Junior girls, Inter girls and for the very first time, the Senior girls (pictured on the left – Ginika, May, Esther and Lily-Anne). All three teams had fantastic runs; Frankie P took the win in the Junior girls race to ensure her team took home 1st place and qualified for the ESAA Regional finals. The Senior girls finished in a fine 3rd place, also qualifying for the Regionals. Lottie finished in 2nd place in her race, but sadly the Inter girls team did not qualify on this occasion.

The ESAA Regional finals took place at Southend High School for Boys on Saturday 11th November. We had high hopes to qualify for the National finals for the first time. The girls ran superbly, and we couldn't be more proud of the team, but sadly due to injury we were unable to qualify this year. But, we have our fingers crossed for next year! Results were: Frankie (4th), Lilly (7th), Esme (24th), Charlotte (43rd) and Sophie (57th).

Our next competition was the MESSA District competition, which gave some of our runners the opportunity to represent Mid-Essex if they finished in the top 6. As you can see from the photo, it was a very wet day – true cross-country weather! But that didn't stop us pulling out some fine performances. Izzy finished in 6th place and Frankie in 8th, both running a year young in their categories. In the Inter girls competition, Lottie finished in 5th, with Bethan in 8th – all gaining their Mid-Essex vests. There was also a brilliant run from our top swimmer, Alexa, finishing 7th in the Senior girls race. In the Year 7 race, Sophie finished in 14th place and Isobel in 21st – the team finishing in a fantastic 8th place in the District. Well done to all who competed!



SAC Cross Country Relays

Our most recent competition was the cross-country relays over at Melbourne Park. This was the first time this event had been held, and we couldn't wait to get involved! There was strong competition from Coopers, St Martins and Chelmer Valley, but once again, CCHS did us proud! Pictured on the right, we have the year 7 team, Alex, Isobel, Emily and Sophie, who ran their socks off finishing in 4th place. Just missing out on a medal!

The Year 8 team; pictured, right – proudly wearing their bronze medals competed against Year 9 students, and having run brilliantly, finished in a superb 3rd place (Frankie, Lilly, Esme and Charlotte).



Well done to all students that have been attending Running club, and have been competing for the school. The cross country team at CCHS has never been this strong, and I am so proud of each and every one of you – Well done!

Miss Sales

Badminton

The school's two badminton teams have been quite busy this term having been entered in two National Schools Competitions.

The U14 Team (Years 7,8 & 9)

The U14 team played Coopers' Coborn School in the 1st Round of the School Sport Magazine National Competition in October and won comfortably 6 – 0.

In the 2nd round of the competition, they had to play Walthamstow Hall School, Kent in October and though they played some excellent badminton they lost 0-6.

On behalf of Badminton England, Mr May agreed to organise and run the County Round of the National Schools Badminton Competition. Four schools came over to play on 7th December to compete in a round robin competition between 5 teams with both ourselves and Colchester CHSG beating all the other schools 5-0, but unfortunately in our match against Colchester we lost 0-5 in a much harder fought match than the final score suggests!

A very good effort all round!

The U14 team:

Srivarshini; Rithika; Joanna; Abigail; Kinjal; Avika

The U16 Team (Years 10 & 11)

Our U16 team also played Coopers' Coborn School in the 1st Round of the School Sport Magazine National Competition 1st Round in October and won 6 – 0.

On the 16th October, they went on to play Walthamstow Hall 'B' Team in the 2nd Round of the competition and won 6-0 once again. This meant they had to go away to play Walthamstow Hall 'A' in the 3rd round. So on 11th December Mr May and the U16 team set off on a long drive to Kent, knowing it was going to be a difficult match. Our girls really stepped their game up and played fantastically, resulting in a 4-2 win. We wish them luck in the next round of the competition.



Our U16 also played in the County Round of the National Schools Badminton Competition, which Mr May once again organised. Five schools from around Essex came to play in our fantastic sports hall on 23rd November. The team won their Pool and their Semi- Final by 5-0 margins but then came up against Colchester County High School's very strong team and lost 0-5 in the Final. Congratulations to all concerned!

The Team:

Sarah; Neha; Arya; Harriet; Laya; Sachee

Basketball

Mr May took two Year 8 teams to compete in the MESSA B team Basketball Rally held at Great Baddow School on the 17th October 2023. The teams tried really hard and played some great Basketball resulting in the A team winning the event and the B team coming 5th. Well done to all involved.

Players – Everly, Sibylla, Frankie, Athira, Elena, Felicity, Izzy, Jocelyn, Riona, Natasha, Ruiyang.

Hockey

County Round of National Schools

The U14 team attended the National Schools qualifier tournament in October at Chigwell School and played outstandingly. Beating some prestigious schools and well and truly putting CCHS hockey back on the map. The team sadly missed out on qualifying by just one goal, but I have every hope for their future hockey! Well done on a great start to the season.

Team

Charlotte, Lana, Chloe, Caitlin, Sophie, Mimi, Frankie, Shruti, Poppy, Diya, Gam, Lucy, Lily, Evie and Ophelia.



Essex Hockey Cup

The U16 team competed in the Essex Cup Hockey tournament against only three other schools (due to some late withdrawals) on November 1st hosted at CCHS. The tournament ran very smoothly and it was wonderful to see Hockey being played at such a high standard. CCHS played exceptionally well considering they were made up of Years 8-10 students who had not played together as a team. Each game the team grew more confident and produced some excellent hockey which resulted in them winning the competition. The whole day was an excellent example of sports(wo)manship too.

The team

Grace, Harriet, Sophie, Lily, Chloe, Sophie, Sarah, Gracie, Rosie, Lana, Charlotte, Caitlin, Sophia, Katherine and Nysa.

Tennis

LTA Youth Schools Cup - U18

Following on from a great summer of competition, our U18 team were entered into the LTA Youth Schools Tennis Cup. In the first round of the competition, our girls had to play both Brentwood & KEGS, both matches were held at CCHS and the team did tremendously well.

They played and won against Brentwood in a very tense championship tie break following some outstanding play by all especially Ginika & Davida who played the tie breaker and ensured we won!

The following week, KEGS came over to play and the team won; beating KEGS 12-0. They are now through to the next stage of the competition and we wish this phenomenal team all the luck.

The team

Davida, Niva, Ginika and Kaia



Netball

National Schools District Round

Early October both our U14 (Years 8&9) and U16 (Years 10&11) teams competed in the District round of the Nationals Schools competition hosted by Brentwood School and both teams qualified for the County round of the competition for the first time in several years. It was wonderful to see how well they all played together and a real confidence boost to know they have improved since last year.

National Schools County Round

On Sunday 19th November our U14 and U16 Netball Teams competed in the County Round of the National Schools Netball Competition. The day was fantastic, showcasing outstanding skills, teamwork, and tactical awareness from all our players.

Our U14's took to the court first where they played Southend High School for Girls (SHSG); feeling optimistic they stepped on with confidence ready to take on a very able opposition. This confidence grew with every game as they faced other schools in their pool, New Hall, St Mark's, Westcliff High, Mayflower and Saffron Walden.

As a team they demonstrated incredible resilience, team cohesion, through court linkage and effective movement on and off the ball. Even with players playing out of position for the entire tournament, their dedication to their team was incredible to witness. With them winning all of their games apart from 1, the team successfully made it through to the semi-finals, but unfortunately lost against Great Baddow (who went on to win the County round). The team then played for the third and fourth place against Fitzwimarc and were victorious as the final whistle blew finishing 3rd place overall.

The U16s, although unsuccessful in winning any of their games on this occasion, were successful in other areas such as team work, commitment and maintaining a positive team spirit for the entire day. In their pool they played against some tough opposition including, Brentwood, St Marks, Swayne Park, Colchester County High for Girls, Woodlands and Felsted. It was a huge achievement to make it to the County round of this competition as the standard is so incredibly high.

As a Department, we couldn't be prouder of the students who represented CCHS in both the U14 and U16 teams. We are now waiting to see if our U14s get a wild card into the Regional round as they came 3rd. Well done to all of the students involved.



MESSSA League

All of our teams compete in Division 1 of the MESSSA Leagues. They have all started this year's competition with great enthusiasm and fight in the hope to finish within the top three of the MESSSA. Year 7 have had a great start winning all their matches so far. Years 8, 9 & 10 have had a couple of wins and a loss so far. The senior squad who are made up of Years 11-13 had their first match on Monday 11th December and won easily. Overall a brilliant start from all the teams. Well done!



CCHS Sport

Miss Bellamy, Miss Sales, Miss Burnham, Mr May, Mrs Cullum, Miss Lewis



Year 7 squad – Amelia, Eni, Dara, Zoe, Eliza, Hannah, Sophie, Grace, Camilla, Luna, Elizabeth.



Essex Cup

This year we have entered three teams into the competition – Year 7, U14 & U16. The teams have had an excellent start with all teams being undefeated. Year 7 play in a league section first before qualifying for the knock-out stage, having won all their games and with only one match left in the league they are guaranteed to reach the next stage. The U14 have beaten Notley High and St Nicholas to reach the last 16 of the competition and U16 have also reached the last 16 after having a bye in the first round and beating Beauchamps in the second round.

In January, the U14 team will play Bancroft and the U16 team will play Sweyne Park school and we wish them every success.



U16 Squad – Ginika, Charlotte, Avni, Esther, Kaia, Lottie, Lily.



U14 Squad – Muna, Mimi, Nicole, Nandini, Lilly, Daisy, Matilda, Amy and Alexa.

Table Tennis

The Table Tennis club is thriving once again this year resulting in Dean, our amazing coach, having to get an additional coach, Keith, in to help and ensure all the students have the best coaching available. This also means our students have access to two robot machines which will allow them to improve their skills and playing ability even quicker.



Volleyball

We are very thankful and lucky to still have Andy to run our Volleyball club on Monday after school, ensuring the students have access to excellent coaching and the opportunity to further their playing experience through the club link to Boswells Volleyball Academy.

We also would like to wish Esther, all the luck with her England Volleyball trial on 16th December, such an amazing achievement considering she only started playing a couple of years ago.



Parentkind

Bringing together home & school

CCHS PA is a member of Parentkind, the largest body of PTA groups in the country. As part of our membership, we are delighted to be able to offer free access to Parentkind webinars for Spring term 2024, with topics as diverse as- helping your child achieve in school, building resilience, keeping you child safe online and many others. All webinars are completely free when booked using our membership number, 11880.