



Inspiring the leaders of tomorrow to think for themselves and act for others

MESSAGE FROM MR LAWLOR

Our CCHS Institute project provides a home and focus for our academic enrichment work. Linked to this work, we arrange and host a range of lectures for our school community. Examples of these are listed on our website [The CCHS Institute - Chelmsford County High School for Girls](#)

As part of this innovative work, Dr Palmer launched the CCHS Institute Essay Competition to all students during recent assemblies. This will give all interested students the opportunity to show their ability to think and write about topics of interest beyond the taught curriculum and will provide valuable experience and training for other essay competitions [CCHS Institute Essay Competition - Chelmsford County High School for Girls](#)

Indeed, our students successfully engage with a variety of prestigious essay competitions, including:

- September 2023: Mayumi (Year 13) won first prize in the 'Discovering Forgotten Writers' competition run by Pembroke College Oxford. Mayumi wrote about Al Robles and his poetry; Robles (1930 to 2009) was a poet and community activist of Filipino heritage who lived and worked in Manilatown in San Francisco. Mayumi conducted a huge amount of original research for this essay, including online interviews with people who had known Robles; her success was testimony to her hard work the confidence with which she pursued this original research.
- September 2023: Matilda (Year 13) was runner up in the essay competition run by the British Society for the History of Maths. Matilda wrote about the mathematics of fashion, particularly in terms of geometry and its application to design.
- June 2023: Emily (Year 12, now Year 13) was commended for her entry into the Economics Essay Competition run by Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Emily wrote about how the threat of climate change might or should lead to changes in the remit of the Bank of England.
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For students and parents looking for additional activities and ideas to further academic interests, we provide a wealth of resources on our website:

[Challenge - Chelmsford County High School for Girls \(cchs.co.uk\)](#)

[Curriculum Support Booklets - Chelmsford County High School for Girls \(cchs.co.uk\)](#)

[CCHS Aspire: University and Employment - Chelmsford County High School for Girls](#)



Our culture and provision of academic enrichment and extra-curricular activities fires ambition and inspires excellence. Indeed, The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2024 has been published today in relation to Summer 2023 GCSE and A level public examination results. Please see below some of the headlines for our school:

- 1st in East Anglia, state secondary girls' schools (1st last year)
- 3rd in East Anglia, all state secondary schools (3rd last year)
- 4th nationally, state secondary girls' schools (7th last year)
- 12th nationally, all state secondary schools (17th last year)

What a testament to the talent and industry of staff, the ability and hard work of our students and the support and encouragement of parents.

PARENT SURVEY, AUTUMN 2023

Thank you for all the feedback parents provided to us via the recent parent survey. We are most grateful to you for taking the time to share your thoughts. You have provided us with things to reflect on and build into our development work, which is so appreciated. 99.09% of parents agreed that their daughters are safe at school, with 97% agreeing that their daughters are happy at school. Please see the comments below for a flavour of the feedback for each year group - Mr Lawlor:

Year 7

- Fun and engaging lessons. Friendly and nice teachers.
- I am very impressed with the enrichment activities and events...and the number and variety of clubs available.
- A real strong sense of community and belonging. I like the homework logbooks; this really helps with responsibility. I think students are given adequate time to complete homework tasks.
- My daughter is enjoying her time at school; she has made friends and she feels at home when at school. She is enjoying new subjects and the hands-on experience of science topics. We are also pleased to see a range of different assignments. We very much appreciate the work that the PA does to support the school.
- The school makes it easy to keep in touch through the use of communication software.

Year 8

- Excellent school. Staff are always approachable and friendly. My child is happy, supported and doing well. Incredibly impressive onboarding before she started, which put her at ease. Excellent pastoral care. Headteacher and all teaching staff appear to be the ideal mix of firm yet friendly. I consider my child very lucky to be able to attend the school.
- I am impressed by the variety of clubs available and believe these are adding an important extra dimension to my daughter's education. I am also impressed by the dedication of the teachers and their willingness to help - I think this makes a significant difference to my daughter's progress.
- We love that CCHS is not just an academic hothouse, a possible danger for grammar schools, but embraces the whole child, valuing the extracurricular and pastoral side of things as much as the academic.
- The school community is lovely. They are developing amazing caring girls. The enrichment days and extra activities really add happiness to the children's day. The teachers are really enthusiastic and very knowledgeable in their subjects making the days fun. The school really cares about the girls' wellbeing. My child is very happy at this school.
- Empowerment of students and encouraging them to fulfil their potential.

Year 9

- Holistic approach...You recognise them as individuals with their own strengths and passions. I think the extra touches such as karaoke competitions, interform sports competitions, decorate your class, etc. are fantastic.
- Communication with individual teachers is positive and very helpful. Creative lesson planning by teachers motivates my daughter.
- Academic excellence, continuous communication and encouragement. Nice friendly environment for students to excel.
- Emphasis on both curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- CCHS's communication with parents is top notch and as a result we know how and where to support our children. CCHS PA is an asset.

Year 10

- Excellent pastoral support. Teachers are very proactive with this - respond and address emails promptly. Ambitious curriculum.
- The SEND department are the most amazing, well-informed, caring and compassionate people.
- Outward-looking approach, very good teaching methods, ambitious teaching and good behaviour expectations.
- Students gain in independence by being encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, organisation and admin and are encouraged to help others and trusted to take leadership roles where appropriate.
- My daughter particularly enjoys the House competitions, and the music and dance performances are outstanding!

Year 11

- Extremely dedicated members of staff who inspire and motivate students. Very high expectations set for behaviour and academic achievement...Expectations are in line with students' ability to achieve.
- My daughter is always encouraged by all the teachers...to excel in her academic performance. She is supported by the teachers to participate in different STEM activities, English creative-writing competitions, etc.
- My daughter feels challenged and engaged. I have always loved hearing about the interform competitions and the effort they all put in is brilliant.
- A caring environment. I am very happy my daughter attends CCHS. Also CCHS is always seeking to improve, and is very forward thinking.
- The school is very friendly and is a very positive environment in which to learn.

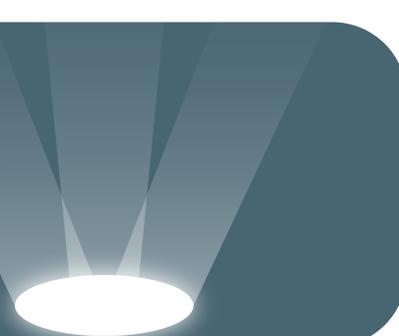
Year 12

- The teaching staff encourage the girls to achieve their personal best in academic and extra-curricular activities.
- Excellent academic success of students and staff who really care about their pupils.
- SEN and pastoral support are outstanding. Leadership is excellent and every member of staff is empowered, positive, and genuinely cares for each student.
- I particularly love the leadership opportunities offered across every school year.
- The enrichment and leadership opportunities are numerous and allow my daughter to develop academically and personally, sometimes in areas that she wouldn't ordinarily be drawn to. CCHS has such a broad offer and is not an academic production line. School leaders are willing to embrace change.

Year 13

- My daughter has been extremely happy since she joined the Sixth Form last year. Academically she is doing well and...I found her teachers and pastoral care to be excellent.
- The sense of community and mutual support amongst the girls.
- Clear and strong leadership and encouraging students to take part in activities.
- My daughter has been offered a wealth of enjoyable and challenging opportunities at CCHS - academic, extra-curricular and leadership. I have been delighted to watch her grow into a confident, independent adult.
- My daughter's time at CCHS has been happy and the school has worked hard to ensure she realises her potential. The school is a nurturing environment and we are all very grateful for the time she has spent with you and know it has given her a solid grounding for the rest of her life.

SPOTLIGHT

A graphic of a spotlight shining down onto a circular area on the right side of the page. The word 'SPOTLIGHT' is written in large, white, serif capital letters on the left side of the dark blue rounded rectangle.

We are fortunate to work with a range of colleagues who have recently engaged with, or continue to engage with, external agencies to support their professional development. This not only supports in developing their role in our school, or developing their work as classroom practitioners, but also enables us as a wider school community to engage with educational research to improve our whole school practices. This spotlight feature acts as a mechanism to showcase to our school community the ongoing professional development work undertaken by our talented staff.

I am proud to introduce a new series of spotlight features centred around professional development. Over the coming weeks and months, you will hear from colleagues who have undertaken a variety of professional development opportunities over recent years. I am privileged to work with driven and committed colleagues, across our school, who demonstrate a daily commitment to the advancement of girls' education and empowerment.

In 2018, I myself, was fortunate enough to study for a Masters in Teaching and Learning. This programme not only enabled me to develop my professional practice as a teacher, but also enabled me to develop important research skills, which enable me to drive forward our Teaching and Learning agenda in the present day. However, my interest in education began prior to my undergraduate study, which led me to explore this as a degree option, following this up with post-graduate qualification when I became a teacher. These experiences cemented an understanding in me that education is a topic that continues to evolve, and as such, we as teachers must continue to evolve with it.

In addition to my role as Assistant Headteacher, Teaching & Learning and Staff Development, I am lucky to be able to continue developing my academic knowledge and understanding, as a contributor to Mid-Essex ITT (a teacher training organisation based in Braintree) and as an assessor within their Post Graduate Certificate in Education team. Working so closely with a teacher training body enables us as a school to continually observe and be influenced by the most up-to-date educational research and practices; which positively impacts our professional development programme.

I hope you enjoy reading the experiences of a range of both teaching and support colleagues over the coming weeks.

Mr A. Selby
Assistant Headteacher



CCHS Students'

Achievements in the Media

The Department for Education (DfE) has recently released information about university admissions in relation to the 2019/20 academic year, which has received attention in the media, both last month and this month. Like the DfE information which showed the achievements of CCHS students being placed 8th nationally in relation to 2023 GCSE results, so this university data provides further evidence of the well-established excellence of CCHS students' successes, which speaks to the work and talent of staff, as well as the support and encouragement of parents.

- CCHS, 9th nationally, with 44%, for the proportion of Oxford and Cambridge applications receiving offers (source: The Telegraph, Saturday 14th October 2023).
- CCHS, “the best record for sending students to Oxford or Cambridge of any school or college in Essex”, with 17% of students going to one of the country’s top two universities, “which is a larger percentage than at any other state-funded secondary school or college in the region” (source: Essex Live, Saturday 11th November 2023).
- CCHS, 1st in Essex and 7th nationally in terms of “the best schools” for both Oxbridge (17%) and Russell Group (66%) admissions (source: The Telegraph, Saturday 25th November 2023).





Student Achievements

Have you got some news to share?
If so, please email Mrs Gross (jgross@cchs.co.uk) and attach a photo or logo, if applicable.

Claire, 7S, was awarded 3 trophies at the Eyott Sailing club prize-giving on Saturday. She crewed the winning boat in 2 races and was the highest scoring crew member in the late season race series.



Congratulations!



Last weekend, Sarah, (10A), played at the Hertfordshire U17 Bronze Badminton Tournament won 2 medals at the tournament. A Gold in womens singles and a Bronze in womens doubles. Her first U17 tournament.

Well done, Sarah!

Well done!

Our Athlete of the Week is Mimi, 9F, for her outstanding performance at National School's Netball County Round.

She played out of position for the entire tournament, only wanting her team to do well. Not only working hard but being so effective in the defending circle by reading the game expertly.



Please follow our CCHS PE Department Twitter account to keep up to date with our sporting news

@CCHS4GPE



Please follow our PE Instagram account for everything PE & Sport.

@pe_cchs





Student Achievements

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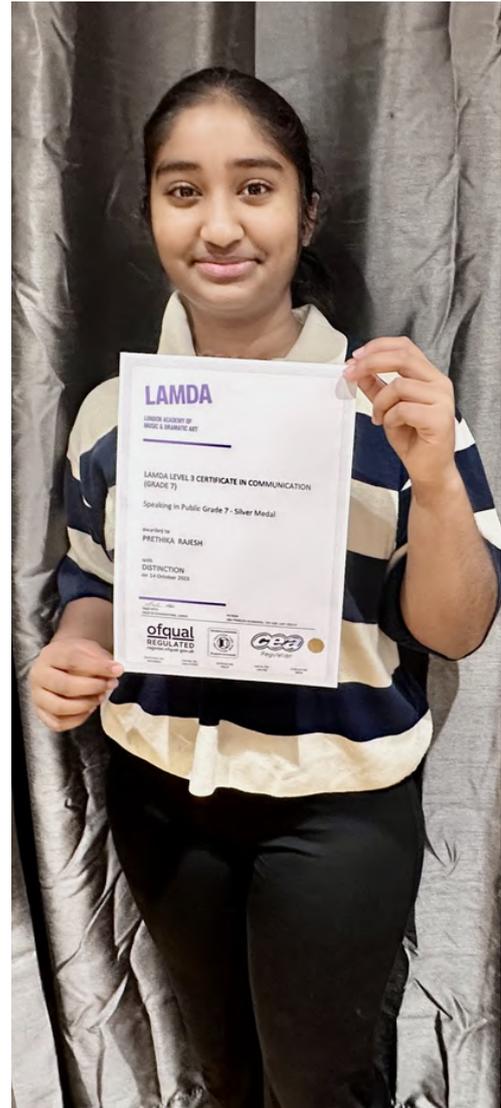
Prethika, (11C), has achieved the LAMDA Grade 7 public speaking exams with a high distinction score of 95%.

She had to do three speeches in various topics

- 1) Hate speech is not free speech (parliamentary debate style)
- 2) Can success be measured fairly? (TED talk style)
- 3) Your perception of freedom- (Impromptu/ Extempore style)

Examiner Mark Freeman's comments were so very positive !

"You are a delightful presenter who shows maturity, professionalism and commitment. You have a charming connection to an audience and speak with grace and poise. You use a steady pace and rhythm within presentation work and have a wonderfully articulated and well projected voice. You speak with a fantastic use of engagement with an audience, you are an eloquent and inspirational young presenter. You display a great balance of being well rehearsed and polished while at the same time showing naturalness and putting the audience at ease. Moving forward aim for even more confidence in your ability."



Many thanks to the CCHS team for encouraging her skills at all stages.

Special thanks to Mrs Watt, who helped Prethika with various opportunities from leading the junior debate club to participating in the ESU competition and Cambridge Union's debate forums. SMrs Watt has been a great motivator and supporter in honing the skills of students.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ARTIST OF THE WEEK- Daisy, in Year 9, for her digital drawing of a robin! How wonderful.



National
Language
Competition

Congratulations to all the Year 9 students who recently competed in the National Language Competition, run by GCHQ, completing puzzles based on a range of global or constructed languages.

Out of over 2000 teams across the country, three CCHS teams were placed in the top 100, with particular kudos to Mimi, Ooviya, Jaeda and Dia who placed 31st nationally.

Leave of Absence requests



A reminder to all parents, should you need to request a leave of absence for your child, please could you complete an updated Leave of Absence form which can be located [here](#)

Science and Engineering Saturday Club

Dear Parent,

I am writing to let you know about a fantastic opportunity that is open for all **Year 10 students** who are studying scientific subjects (biology, chemistry, physics, D&T, maths, computer science etc).

CSES and ARU have, for decades, offered lectures, workshops and hands-on activities to help enthuse school students to fulfil their potential in Science, Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM subjects). Our Saturday Science and Engineering club starts in **January 2024** and will run for **15 weeks**. The club, under the umbrella of the National Saturday Club (NSC), runs from 10.00am – 12.30pm on **Saturday mornings during term time** at Anglia Ruskin University's Chelmsford Campus. More information about the National Saturday Clubs can be found on their website at saturday-club.org. Further information about CSES and ARU can be found at cses.org.uk and aru.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges.

Club members will experience a range of different Science and Engineering topics using the **state-of-the-art Super Lab and workshop facilities** at ARU's Chelmsford Campus. Each session will explore the science and engineering behind real life activities and problems that can affect our daily lives. In addition to laboratory and workshop sessions there are also visits to science and technology-related organisations. The NSC also organise for us a **masterclass with leading industry professionals** and a Summer Show at Somerset House in June.

Amazingly, the programme is delivered **totally free of charge** to Club members and applications are open to all Year 10 students who are studying scientific subjects. ~~The only thing we are~~ looking for is a commitment to attend regularly, a passion for science and technology and a willingness to explore new subject areas.

If your child is interested in applying for a place, please visit saturday-club.org/join-a-club and fill out the form. We aim to start the Club on Saturday 27th January, but **places are limited**, so please ensure your child gets their application in as soon as possible if they would like to apply for a place. Please note, that this is not a drop-in Club. We have a **maximum of thirty places** and if your child is successful in securing a place, we expect them to attend every week during our 2023 programme.

All applications must go through the above link and whilst applications are open to all, we try to ensure we are offering a substantial number of places to widening participation students. If you have any questions, do drop me a line at david.humber@cses.org.uk.

All the best



David Humber
Emeritus Professor ARU
CSES Vice President for Education

Autumn Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

*Join us and Elevate Education for FREE
60-minute webinars designed to help you
support your child's studies at home.*

[Click here to Register](#)

**How To Help Your
Child Alleviate
Stress**

**12th December
@6:00pm**





icgs

International
Coalition of
Girls' Schools

In July 2022, CCHS became one of the founding UK schools of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS). ICGS is now the leading advocate for girls' schools globally.

The work of ICGS is to advance the mission of girls' schools. Girls' schools play a vital role in educating and empowering girls, which is essential to overcoming our world's greatest challenges, from climate change to human rights, from global health to sustainable human development. The purpose of ICGS is to nurture the girls who will become the indispensable women leaders of tomorrow. We, at CCHS, will continue our work and commitment to excellence in girls' education and empowerment. When it comes to girls' education, there is always more we can do, together.

The ICGS produce a variety of resources to support both teachers and parents in supporting the development of girls and young women. This week we share with you a podcast centred around Healthy Ways for Girls to Handle Everyday Pressure. In this short ten minute podcast, it explores how we support our young women to handle the pressures of the world. Link: [On Educating Girls Podcast Short: Healthy Ways for Girls to Handle Everyday Pressure – ICGS \(girlsschools.org\)](#) You can also find this podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts.

This week in PSHE . . .

Year 7 – How to use TA app – (7F fire safety talk)

Year 8 – Extremism and Hate crime.

Year 9 – Internet scams – (9H self-defence)

Year 10 – Using UNIFROG – careers information.

Year 11 – Visiting the Sixth Form Fayre.

Year 12 – Sexual readiness.

Year 13 – Running the Sixth Form Fayre.

Save the date

Year 9 Options
Evening will be
held on
Thursday 7th
March 2024

CCHS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

SEEKS A NEW CHAIRPERSON



DUTIES INCLUDE:

- CHAIR MEETINGS (CURRENTLY HELD VIRTUALLY, FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH HALF TERM)
- CHAIR AGM (HELD ANNUALLY IN OCTOBER)
- WRITE ANNUAL REPORT FOR AGM
- LIAISE WITH SCHOOL STAFF TO ORGANISE FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- LIAISE WITH PA AND THE EXECUTIVE ABOUT PA MATTERS
- HOLD TRUSTEE ROLE WITHIN THE ORGANISATION
- OVERSEE THAT THE CHARITY IS RUN IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION
- PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE AMONG FELLOW TRUSTEES

CCHS PA HAS NO PAID STAFF, ROLES ARE ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY

2022/23 TURNOVER £40K

**CCHS PA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY, UK CHARITY NUMBER
#287962**

IF YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP, CONTACT US AT:

PA@CCHS.ESSEX.SCH.UK

OR VIA THE SCHOOL PHONE  01245 352592

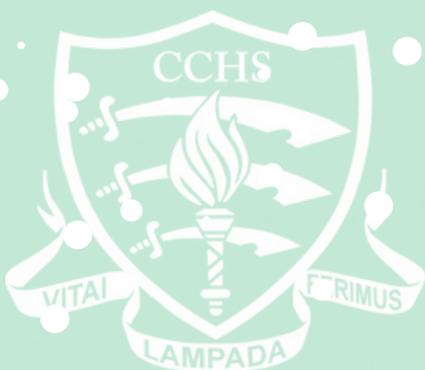
CCHS PA

2023
Winter Fayre

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Winter Fayre raised over £5000 for CCHS.

Our sincere thanks to parents, staff and students who came to the Fayre, donated goods, assisted with stalls, or gave of their time and energy to volunteer.

All proceeds benefit our students.







Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Keep on swimming!

Context

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 1,162 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 clubs.

Our swimming pool is truly a community pool.

Goal

Now is the time to modernise this important community resource to preserve it for future generations of students, pupils and young people. We are asking for your support now, just as the CCHS community rallied in the 1960s to ensure a pool was built, to help us achieve this important goal.

Fundraising

We estimate that the pool will require up to £250,000 over the next two years to bring it back to a suitable condition 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 will be organising some sponsored events and other fundraising activities, however if you are able to support us with any amount, we have a fundraising page available at <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/Keep-CCHS-Swimming>

