



change@cchs

Spring Term 2025 Update

Marking and celebrating International Women's Day 2025

"This year's international theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind."

CCHS Senior Prefects - 'Your Voice: Your Power'

As the 2025 Senior Prefects, we decided to use our year in office to focus the school community's thoughts on the power of women's voices to bring about change. Our school assembly in February introduced fellow students to our theme of 'Your Voice: Your Power' and looked at the ways in which female voices have in the past and can in the future be used to bring about great change. The assembly included video messages recorded for CCHS from Marie Goldman, MP for Chelmsford, and Dorothy Byrne, President of Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge. We are grateful to these two busy people for the time they took to support our assembly and for their thoughts on how young women can use their voices most effectively.

On Friday 7th March, we had the fantastic opportunity of celebrating International Women's Day, which took place on Saturday 8th March. Given the current state of world politics, and the arising tensions across the globe, we felt that it was incredibly important to celebrate International Women's Day as a school and remind each and every student of the impact that their voice can have.

Our event began at lunchtime, when, under the bright sunshine, students came together to create a mural that symbolises the strength and sisterhood within our school community. During the hour, students across the school came to dip their hands in different shades of purple paint, placing them onto a large board surrounding the words “*Your Voice, Your Power*” (our slogan for the year). The overlapping handprints represent the diversity, unity and collective strength of our voices as young women. The piece stands as a powerful reminder that every individual contributes to the wider movement for equality, and together, we can create something truly impactful.

The afternoon then continued with our Year 7 students having the opportunity to engage in a carousel of International Women’s Day themed activities. In the escape-room challenge, the girls had to work quickly in teams to crack codes and solve puzzles, whilst learning about binary code and inspirational women. The vision board making session gave students the chance to reflect on their own ambitions and aspirations, reminding them that their future is limitless. In the debate workshop, students were able to develop their articulation, confidence and critical thinking skills – learning that their opinions matter and deserve to be heard.

Throughout the day, the energy was infectious, with students embracing the opportunity to celebrate and feel empowered. The mural, now a lasting symbol of our collective strength, stands to show the power of our voices when we come together. This year’s International Women’s Day was the first marked through our change@cchs initiative, and will now become a new tradition at our school. It was a day filled with comradery and friendships, reminding everyone of the impact they can have when they use their voices with confidence and courage. We are now looking forward to continuing to develop our theme throughout the remainder of our time as Senior Prefects.

CCHS Senior Prefects for 2025: Holly, Laura, Leyla, Twisha, Joely, Prethika, Mell, Ginika, Maria, Nynesha, Annie and Olivia.