

PRESS RELEASE

22nd September 2025



Chelmsford County High School for Girls awarded The PTI Subject Mark for outstanding teaching in English, Mathematics and German.

Chelmsford County High School for Girls has been awarded The PTI Department Development Programme Subject Mark for outstanding teaching in **English, Mathematics and German Departments**.

The PTI launched the Department Development Programme in 2007 to recognise and reward school departments that develop inspirational ideas and activities which enhance the teaching of Art, D&T, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, PE and Science, regardless of their students' backgrounds or abilities.

Stephen Lawlor, Headteacher at Chelmsford County High School for Girls, said: "Many congratulations to all the colleagues whose outstanding practice has been recognised and rewarded with the prestigious Prince's Teaching Institute Subject Mark. We are proud to continue our innovative work with The Prince's Teaching Institute as part of our commitment to excellence in girls' education and empowerment."

The PTI's Department Development Programme is open to all state secondary schools in England. To become members, school departments must demonstrate their commitment to increasing teachers' subject knowledge, and to furthering their students' understanding of and enthusiasm for the subject, regardless of their background or ability.

To achieve The PTI Subject Mark, departments have to demonstrate that they have increased the challenge within their subject curriculum, developed their staff's specialist subject knowledge, developed subject-based links outside school and enthused their pupils through subject-based activities beyond the curriculum.

After three years of Department Development Programme membership, departments may choose to conduct a Department Development Project by devising an advanced multi-year programme in one of these areas.

To find out more about the Department Development Programme, visit www.ptieducation.org.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

The PTI

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The Department Development Programme recognises and facilitates the achievement of excellence in schools and is an expansion of the annual Subject Enrichment Residentials run by The PTI.

In order to become members of the Department Development Programme, schools must consider particular criteria for excellence within subject specialist provision:

- Clear commitment to the subject specialism
- Evidence of a high level of pupil engagement and attainment in the subject
- Pupils' access to a range of extra-curricular activities related to the subject, both within school and off-site
- Subject-based links and partnerships with other schools and areas of the community
- Breadth and depth of study, ensured through coherent planning and monitoring
- Coherence and challenge, identified and developed in curriculum planning and delivery
- Departmental commitment to subject-based continuing professional development
- Effective and inspiring teaching.

The school's Head of Department decides how their departmental plan for the forthcoming year can be enriched through ideas gained from participation at a PTI Department Development Programme Day or Subject Enrichment Residential.

A written application form is reviewed by teachers from other schools who work with The PTI, and the objectives for the department are mutually agreed. The PTI Mark is given at the end of the year for departments that achieve their objectives.

More than 2,500 teachers have attended PTI Subject Enrichment Residentials since the first Prince of Wales Education Summer School was held in 2002. Alumni of the Subject Enrichment Residentials who have chosen to join the Department Development Programme meet annually at PTI Department Development Programme Day.

In addition, PTI regional events are organised across the country, bringing together local teachers, academics and eminent speakers and writers.

The PTI also organises an annual conference for Headteachers and in 2011/12 launched a School Leadership Programme for Heads and their senior leadership teams. In 2014 The PTI hosted its first annual conference for Primary Headteachers.

The PTI was constituted in 2006 as a registered charity (1116224) to provide more systematic support for teachers. It works in strategic partnership with the University of Cambridge.

See www.ptieducation.org