







## Press Release

13th October 2025

# Innovative *Leaders of Tomorrow* work at Chelmsford County High School for Girls noted in The Sunday Times

A multitude of families in England and Northern Ireland are keen to send their children to a state grammar school, as demonstrated by the high number of children who take the entrance tests at these schools each year. We see the same reality here at Chelmsford County High School for Girls (CCHS), with hundreds of girls taking our Entrance Test for a place in Year 7, and hundreds of girls applying to join our Sixth Form each year.

Three years ago, we made a strategic decision as a community to be an actively socially inclusive school. We were not satisfied that so few girls from what the Department for Education (DfE) refers to as a disadvantaged background, i.e. eligible for free school meals, were sitting our Entrance Test and securing a place at the school. This was something we chose to address as a moral imperative, given our mission as a progressive grammar school community. So, in February 2023 we joined Reading School and Colyton Grammar School to pioneer an innovative entrance test with the Future Stories Community Enterprise. This is our *Leaders of Tomorrow* programme, which is led by Miss Harrison (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Maslin (Admissions Officer) and Mrs Lewis (Senior Pastoral Leader). As part of this work, we make it clear that:

- we are a government-funded, non-denominational state school
- no fees are required to be paid to enter this school
- our students come from all social backgrounds and cultural traditions
- our school was opened in 1907
- we work exclusively with girls
- we are committed to excellence in girls' education and empowerment
- we are a grammar school, so we work with able girls and their families

An important article appeared in the most recent edition of The Sunday Times (12<sup>th</sup> October 2025), drawing attention to the various strands of social mobility work taking place in many grammar schools. Our work is noted, with nearly double the percentage of disadvantaged students now in the school compared to 2020-21. We are only two years into our *Leaders of Tomorrow* initiative and our ambition in this regard is strong. Indeed, later in the Autumn Term Miss Harrison and Mrs Maslin will be speaking at a conference in Birmingham about this significant work, sharing our vision and experiences to support other grammar schools across the country.

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For more information or images, contact Mrs Rachel Packer on 01245 245729 / <a href="mailto:rpacker@cchs.co.uk">rpacker@cchs.co.uk</a>

#### Notes to editor:

### About Chelmsford County High School for Girls (CCHS)

Chelmsford County High School for Girls (CCHS) is a proud girls' school community. CCHS was formally opened on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1907, with 76 inspiring students on roll, to provide girls with an academic education. By 2025, there are 1,276 extraordinary girls and young women, representing cultures and traditions from the world over, who are part of our ambitious grammar school community, committed to excellence in girls' education and empowerment.

Home - Chelmsford County High School for Girls