



Chelmsford County High School for Girls Student Leadership Conference Friday 21st October 2022

Keynote Speakers

Dr Heather Melville, OBE, CCMI, JP

Director and Head of Client Experience of PricewaterhouseCoopers

Alison Jackson-Carter

Head of Corporate Communications

Mitra Janes

Diversity & Inclusion Lead for GBM and CMB at HSBC

Ella Jerman

Social Media Manager

Consultant at Ten Toes Media

Verity Wilde

Assistant Editor at BBC Minute

Event Leader: Charlotte Burnham, Year 11 Leader



BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr Heather Melville, OBE, CCMi
Senior Managing Director**

Heather Melville is a Senior Managing Director with Teneo's People Advisory team in London and leads the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Practice.

With a career spanning over 40 years, Heather brings a wealth of experience across corporate and international banking, technology, and most recently in professional services, which positions her to advise leaders on both the challenges and opportunities in building commercially strong and inclusive businesses. She has a proven track record of helping companies to attract, develop and retain the very best talent whilst ensuring they create inclusive cultures that nurture innovation.

In 2017, Heather was awarded an OBE for her work, as well as an Honorary Doctorate from Portsmouth University, recognising her influence and impact on diversity in business. In 2021 Heather received the prestigious President's Medal for leadership from the British Academy of Management. She holds a number of trustee positions, is Chair of CMI Women, NED, Enfield Enterprise. Patron of Women in Banking and Finance and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC), a global network of C-Suite leaders.



Alison Jackson-Carter

**Head of Corporate Communications
for a Global Law Firm**

Alison Jackson-Carter is an ex CCHS student who is currently the Head of Corporate Communications for a global law firm specialising in social justice and human rights cases.

She is a trained journalist and has worked in local and national news, and on TV for Sky News and This Morning. In her 20s she became a magistrate and spent a lot of time carrying out this role at the Chelmsford court. In the last two years she has set up Enlighten PR, a business supporting entrepreneurs by training them in PR and publicity.

She's become a trained public speaking coach, a trustee of a school's trust, and also created a podcast about the law which has had more than 100,000 downloads.



Mitra Janes

Diversity & Inclusion Lead for GBM and CMB at HSBC

Mitra Janes (née Ebrahimi) was a pupil at CCHS from 1989 until 1996 and she was a Senior Prefect during this time. Following A-levels in English, Biology, History and General Studies, Mitra went on to receive a BSc (Hons) in Psychology from the University of Surrey - a subject chosen due to her interest in human behaviour and wanting to understand what 'makes people tick'.

Mitra spent the first seventeen years of her career at Ford Motor Company, undertaking a variety of roles within Human Resources, including business partnering, employee relations and training consultancy. Her final role at Ford was Diversity and Inclusion Manager for Ford of Britain, and it was in this role that she discovered her true passion.

Mitra then spent nearly five years at global law firm DLA Piper as their Head of Diversity and Inclusion and was Group Head of Diversity and Inclusion at RSA Insurance from 2019 until summer 2021. Since August 2021, Mitra has been D&I lead at HSBC for their investment banking, markets and securities, and commercial banking divisions globally.

Mitra has been featured on the Global Diversity List's top 20 diversity champions worldwide and was named as one of the top 50 diversity professionals in industry in 2016 and 2018.

Mitra has been part of the Advisory Board of the Government's Taskforce to boost socio-economic diversity at senior levels in Financial and Professional services. Mitra has a genuine passion and enthusiasm for diversity and inclusion, and ensuring everyone is able to contribute.



Ella Jerman

**Social Media Manager
Consultant at Ten Toes Media**

Ella is a trilingual trained journalist with five years of experience working for digital sports media agencies.

After studying French and German at Durham University, she trained as a sports reporter and has had work published in national newspapers such as the Independent and the i.

Ella now advises a range of sports clients on their digital strategies, including the FA and FIFA.

A huge advocate of women's sport, Ella has worked on numerous events around the world including the 2019 Netball World Cup, the 2020 T20 Women's Cricket World Cup in Australia and she is flying out to Qatar next month to work on the FIFA Men's World Cup.



Verity Wilde

Assistant Editor at BBC Minute

Verity started out in student radio at University Radio York as an undergraduate and fell in love with journalism.

Since completing her post graduate qualification, Verity has held a wide range of roles - in the commercial sector as well as in public broadcasting. Happier behind the microphone and behind the scenes rather than in front of camera, she has been a reporter, newsreader and breakfast show side kick in local radio and was the first female voiceover to appear on UEFA.com when she worked for them at EURO2012 in Poland.

Since joining the BBC, she has worked her way through the newsroom to her current role as Assistant Editor at BBC Minute, where her team make a 60 second news update every half hour 24/7 that goes out on radio stations around the world.

In previous jobs she has edited videos for the BBC News website and social media channels, written and produced TV news bulletins for BBC3 and worked on election specials for UK, European parliament and US elections.