



Chelmsford County High School for Girls Student Leadership Conference Friday 20th October 2023

Keynote Speakers

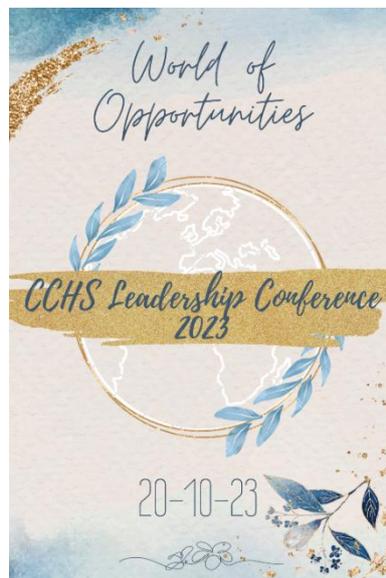
Dr Heather Melville, OBE CMgr, CCMi CEO
OBE CMgr CCMi CEO & Founder, Clarke Smith Advisory Senior
Advisor of Teneo
Chancellor of York University

Laurie Hooper
Founder at The Natural Deodrant Co.

Mitra Janes
Diversity & Inclusion Lead for GBM and CMB at HSBC

Verity Wilde
Assistant Editor at BBC Minute

Event Leader: Charlotte Burnham, Year 11 Leader



BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr Heather Melville, OBE CMgr,
CCMI**
OBE CMgr CCMi CEO & Founder,
Clarke Smith Advisory Senior
Advisor of Teneo
Chancellor of York University

Heather's career spans over 40 years across financial, professional & technology services, with a specific focus on international trade, entrepreneurship and corporate banking. Heather is a business thought-leader and an innovator with a notable track record of building high performing diverse teams.

Heather has acted in an advisory capacity to FTSE CEOs across a multitude of industries and sectors. She is a highly respected and sought after public speaker, having addressed C-Suite leaders, senates, royalty, and global business audiences worldwide.

Heather has won many accolades, including being listed on the Black Powerlist, as one of the 100 most influential black people in the UK. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC), whose purpose is to open channels of opportunity for black executives to positively impact business and communities, and the CFO's Diversity Forum for Business in the Community (FTSE100).

Heather has worked in partnership with HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh as part of her role as the Chair CMI Women. Heather also provided special advisory assistance to Queen Maximus of the Netherlands for her women in entrepreneurship programme.

Heather received her OBE for services to business in 2017 and has recently been appointed as the Chancellor of the University of York. Heather is also the Patron of Women in Banking and Finance.

Heather is a Senior Advisor to Teneo, a Global Consultancy, as well as a Trustee on the Board of Enfield Enterprise and until recently (following a 7-year tenure) was a Trustee on the Board for the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). She now sits on the committee for Companions and has recently been elected to join the Everyone Economy Committee



Laurie Hooper
Founder at The Natural Deodorant Co.

Laurie Dawson is a marketing director, content creator and brand owner in the sustainable beauty industry.

She launched The Natural Deodorant Co. in 2015 with the desire to bring a truly effective natural deodorant to the market and they have been growing from strength-to-strength ever since.

Laurie became a small business owner with no business experience or financial backing and learned everything on the journey.

Today she wants to encourage others to believe in their own abilities, recover from setbacks and develop resilience in business and beyond.



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. She joined HSBC in August 2021 to lead D&I for their investment banking, markets and commercial banking divisions.

Mitra was featured on the Global Diversity List's top 20 diversity champions in 2020 and was named as one of the top 50 diversity professionals in industry in 2018 and 2016. She was a member of the Advisory Board of the UK 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 feels valued and is able to contribute.



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.