



change@cchs

Spring Term 2026 Update

CCHS@Chelmsford 120 years - CCHS@University 110 years

Our Commemoration celebrations this year linked directly to our change@cchs project, with 2026 marking the 120th anniversary of the first girls to begin their studies at CCHS and the 110th anniversary of the first CCHS alumna to complete her university studies - Winifred Picking, Girton College, Cambridge, in 1916. These anniversaries were highlighted by the Senior Prefect team in their whole-school assemblies in February, linking them to broader national and global developments relating to girls' education, women's achievements and International Women's Day.

In this anniversary year, it is fitting to draw attention to Winifred Picking, given her significant place in the history of CCHS and more widely. Winifred was the eldest daughter of Emily and Harry Picking, who both led a village school. Winifred's time at CCHS was distinguished by academic success and being appointed school captain, all of which led her to Cambridge. Her name appears several times on two of the Honour Boards we still have up in the original school building. After Cambridge, Winifred dedicated her professional life to public service. She was a city alderman, chair of the former Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Education Committee and served on the United Cambridge Hospitals Committee for 20 years.

Winifred was a county councillor between 1937 and 1974, and served as a governor at Addenbrookes Hospital when the board was formed in 1948. Indeed, she became the hospital board chair in 1966, after a ten-year term as vice-chair. She was also national chair of the British and Foreign School Society - now known as the Educational Opportunity Foundation. And, she also had a rich family life, with her husband and three daughters.

Winifred's public service in Cambridgeshire was recognised with the award of a CBE in 1974.

What an inspiring life, full of achievement, service and recognition; a testament to the power of a girls' school education.

Mrs Cross,
(Deputy Headteacher, Academic).

Miss Harrison,
(Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral).