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Summer Term 2026 Update

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South Asian Heritage Month 2026: A Garden of Unity in Diversity

Mrs Watt has kindly provided our Summer Term update, for which we thank her.

The theme of July's South Asian Heritage Month 2026 is "Unity in Diversity," an ideal which many in CCHS hold dear. SAHM now falls in July to make it more accessible for schools to participate. It is a UK-based initiative with an ambitious vision: to explore, celebrate and deepen understanding of South Asian Heritage in the UK currently, but eventually, around the world as the diaspora is truly international.

The theme recognises the enormous diversity within South Asia that encompasses more than 200 different languages and many unique traditions, cultures, and histories that make each nation distinctive. This year's artwork captures this spirit through a vibrant garden of the national flowers of all eight South Asian countries and includes the dandelion to represent Britain. It illustrates how different identities can flourish together in harmony, like the many plants and flowers in a garden. Here at CCHS, we nurture the celebratory spirit of unity in diversity through a series of events run by Change Prefects supported by Mrs Cross, Miss Harrison, Mr Hughes, Mr Rowell, Mr French, Mrs Muhammad and me.

The first South Asian Heritage Month celebration occurred last year to a packed audience in Drama Studio; this year, we are taking it outside to allow more involvement from students. It promises to be a fun spectacle with singing, dancing and poetry that celebrates various Classical and contemporary South Asian traditions and our rich shared heritage.

National flowers are powerful symbols. They represent more than natural beauty, reflecting a country's history, values and beliefs, as well as its relationship with the land. Afghanistan's wild tulip has inspired generations through poetry and folklore, symbolising hope, remembrance, and perseverance. Bangladesh's white water lily reflects the country's deep connection with its waterways and its enduring strength, while Bhutan's rare blue poppy, growing high in the Himalayas, embodies peace, resilience, and spiritual aspiration. India's lotus is one of the most recognisable symbols - an emblem of purity, wisdom, and the ability to rise above adversity. In the Maldives, the elegant pink rose represents beauty, devotion, and community. Nepal's brilliant red rhododendron signals the arrival of spring across the Himalayan landscape and celebrates the country's rich biodiversity and cultural identity. Pakistan's fragrant jasmine is closely associated with grace, unity, and celebration, remaining an important part of family life and national heritage. Completing the collection is Sri Lanka's blue water lily, a symbol of serenity, truth, and spiritual harmony that has inspired art and religious tradition for centuries. Finally, Britain is represented by the dandelion clock in the child's hand, in a homage to Banksy - one of our best known artists. While many in Britain consider this a weed, it is prized in other parts of the world for its significant medicinal and nutritional value. It is also a powerful symbol of both the sun - with its startlingly brilliant yellow flower - and the moon, with its white seeding orb. Alone, this humble flower embodies unity and diversity, underlining Britain's potential to be at the vanguard of bringing people together create harmony and peace both within our shores and around the wider world.

As we celebrate South Asian Heritage Month 2026 at CCHS and the idea of "Unity in Diversity," we hope that for the wider school, it reminds us to nurture each other, so we can all flourish like a beautiful garden. This, we hope, creates the ideal conditions for each student to blossom in their own unique way, while also adding hugely to the wider community.

Mrs Cross,

(Deputy Headteacher, Academic).

Miss Harrison,

(Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral).
