

Enrichment and Student Development.

Report for SSMC March 2024.

Enrichment Days.

After our first Enrichment Day which was held last October we are now finalising arrangements for Enrichment Day 2 which is to be held on Tuesday 19th March.

Activities are as below:

- Visiting primary schools – Languages Day run by Mr Lodge.
- Year 7 – STEM Discovery Day run by Mrs Kurian and Bae Systems visitors.
- Year 8 – English and Drama Day run by Mr Carter.
- Year 9 – Peer Led Sex Education Day run by Mrs Buckley and Year 12 students.
- Year 10 – Eco Conference run by Ms Porter and the Global Citizenship Officials.
- Year 11 – Maths Masterclass run by Mr Coleman.
- Year 12 – Assisting with the above.
- Year 13 – Chemistry and French masterclasses run by Dr Noble and Mme Caffier.

Our third Enrichment Day of the year will take place in early July.

Year 10 and 12 Prefects:

Our new Year 12 prefects took over their roles in January as the Year 13 students stepped down in order to concentrate on their A level studies. The Year 12 prefects have made an excellent and proactive start to their duties and we look forward to seeing their work bear fruit over the next few months.

Similarly, new Year 10 prefects were appointed in January and they have also made a great start to their duties.

House Events:

Owing to the change over in the teams of officials the spring terms is a slightly quieter period for house events. However the 2024 inter house competition got off to a colourful start with House Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (13th February) and has then continued with House Swimming, Basketball and Badminton overseen by the PE Department. The English prefects have also assisted the House Officials in running House Debating and we are looking forward to the ever popular House Cakes in early May.

Our new House Officials presented excellent assemblies to their Houses in February and Miss Holt is much looking forward to working with her new team over the next months. Our thanks as always go to Miss Holt for her energy and organisation which are so important to the continued success of the House System.

CCHS Institute Lectures:

Thus far this year we have run a number of academic lectures under the banner of the CCHS Institute:

- Dr Cally Hammond (Caius College, Cambridge) on 'Why study Classics and RS?'
- Dr Georgia Winnett (ARU and Basildon Hospital) on 'Current Research in Renal Medicine'.
- Mr Martin Bracken (Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society) on 'Imaging the universe from light polluted skies'.
- Dr David Ward (University of Cambridge) on 'Seeing with Atoms.'

On Monday 25th March we will be welcoming Dr Emma Duchini from the University of Essex. Dr Duchini will be speaking on labour economics. We are grateful to Mrs Kurian and Mrs Dixon for their help in organising these lectures.

CCHS Institute Essay Competition:

In the autumn of 2023 we launched the CCHS Institute Essay Competition, with a choice of titles aimed at students in each of the key stages. A healthy number of entries were received; these were read and judged in January and the winners were announced in school assembly in February. The winners were:

- Key Stage 3 – Abisola Busari (Year 9) for her essay on whether the proper use of emojis should be taught in school.
- Key Stage 4 – Devanshi Sinha (Year 11) for her essay on whether 'girl power' succeeded.
- Key Stage 5 – Vaishnavi Revelli (Year 13) for her essay on whether we should have borders.

We look forward to next year's competition and are grateful to the CCHS Parents' Association for agreeing to fund the prizes for future competitions.

Academic Enrichment Development:

SLT and Extended SLT are currently working on a series of proposals for further academic enrichment to be offered to students in the academic year 2024 to 2025. These will be designed to stretch and challenge our most able students and to develop further the provision we offer students aspiring to admission to the most highly competitive courses.

Careers and UCAS:

A very successful Careers Evening was held in February. A wide range of visitors were on hand to speak to students about different career options and we have exciting plans to increase further this range in future years. Year 11 students have throughout this term been attending personal careers advice appointments with Jane Cure, our Directions Adviser and they have found these sessions to be most valuable as they prepare to submit their A level choices.

We have also developed our work with the Greater Essex Careers Hub – a new initiative designed to support schools in their work to meet the Gatsby benchmarks.

Mrs Hopkins, our Higher Education Adviser, has recently returned from the UCAS Teachers Conference with a range of insights on current developments in the world of admissions to higher education. These she will begin to use as she launches the UCAS process with our current Year 12 students.

The admissions cycle for current Year 13 students continues. We were glad to learn in January that eleven students were successful in receiving offers to study in Oxford and Cambridge and many other students have received or are receiving offers at excellent universities for their courses of choice. As always, a full higher education report will be made to the Governing Body in the autumn.

Trips and Visits:

This term has seen a good number of trips and visits facilitated for students and many more exciting opportunities are being planned for next term and for next year.

This term's trips:

- A range of PE fixtures for all years.
- A number of debating fixtures organised by the English Department.
- Mock Magistrates Competition, again our entry is organised by the English Department.
- Spanish Theatre Trip for Year 12 students of Spanish.
- MathsFest – a series of lectures in London for Year 12 students.
- Maths Inspiration – a local event for a small number of Y11 students.
- The British leg of the German Exchange – Year 10 and Year 12 CCHS students involved.
- Cambridge Modern Languages Open Day – 10 Year 12 students.
- Victoria and Albert Museum – 'V and A Innovate Design Awards Day' – to be attended by Mr Harvey, Miss Stevens and 4 Year 9 students who have been invited to this finals day on the basis of their project thus far.
- 'Feel Me' at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester, Year 10 and Year 12 Drama students.
- Latin Spelling Bee for 5 Year 8 students.

Residential Trips for next term and thereafter:

- Ypres Salient for current Year 9 – May 2024.
- German leg of the German Exchange – June 2024.
- Nice Study Trip for Year 12 students of French – June 2024.
- Normandy Study Trip for Year 10 students of French – July 2024
- Snowdonia Geography Trip for Year 11 (2024 to 2025) students of Geography – September 2024.
- Ypres Salient for Year 9 (2024 to 2025) – October 2024.
- Mexico Biology Expedition - currently proposed for July 2025 with planning ongoing at the time of writing.