

Enrichment and Student Development

Report for SSMC November 2024.

Enrichment Days.

We held our first Enrichment Day of the academic year on the 17th October.

Activities were as follows:

- Visiting Primary Schools – Science activity led by Mr Rowell
- Year 7 – Languages Day led by Mme Untereiner.
- Year 8 – Creative Day led by Mr Harvey.
- Year 9 – Two day trip to Ypres led by Mr Thompson.
- Year 10 – Careers Day with visiting alumnae speakers led by Dr Hiner.
- Year 11 – English Masterclass led by Mr Carter.
- Year 12 – Support for primary, Year 7 and Year 8. Also hospitality for visiting alumnae speakers.
- Year 13 – Mathematics and Physics subject support.

Our next Enrichment Day will be in March. Continued thanks are due to Mrs Angela Brown (Office Manager) for her excellent work on coordinating these days and liaising with the primary schools. Thanks also to the staff who led and supported these events.

Year 10/11 and 12/13 Prefects:

Our Year 11 and 13 prefects are now coming towards the end of their time in these roles, allowing them to focus on their academic work in preparation for next summer's examinations. Much has been achieved by many groups of prefects; the Senior Prefects ran a successful summer festival despite the rain which necessitated moving a number of events inside and the House system has continued to be well served by the officials under the excellent leadership of Miss Holt.

At the time of writing we are in the midst of the process of appointing our current Year 10 and Year 12 students to the prefect roles which they will take up in January. A good deal of time is invested in making sure that all students are given opportunities to apply and letters of application and (for some roles) interviews are used to ensure that the process is watertight.

House Events:

The cycle of House Events has continued this term with two sporting competitions - Indoor Athletics and Football, and also House Clothes Recycling (a collection organised by the Parents' Association). We are now gearing up for the ever popular House Karaoke and House Decorated Classroom competitions which will provide a 'big finish' to the annual House Shield competition which runs each year from January to December.

CCHS Institute Lectures.

We were fortunate to be visited in November by Dr Natalie Ring who is a Senior Clinical Researcher at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in the University of Edinburgh. Natalie works at the cutting edge of research, using nanopore technology to facilitate DNA sequencing and then using the results of this sequencing to facilitate treatments of common conditions in animals. She spoke to Year 12 students both about her research and about her career path.

In January we will be welcoming Professor Lisa McNeill. Professor McNeill is another former student of CCHS who is currently Professor of Tectonics in the University of Southampton.

Development of Academic Enrichment.

Mr Carter (School Development Leader) has taken on the leadership of our work on developing the support, stretch and challenge which we offer to our most able students. At the time of writing he is about to launch with students three different initiatives aimed at KS3, KS4 and KS5. Each of these initiatives will offer students appropriate space for reflection and research and the opportunity to produce a presentation which takes them and their audience beyond the confines of the curriculum.

Careers and UCAS.

Our inaugural 'Experience of the World of Work' day in June was successful. All Year 10 students were involved in finding out more about careers of interest to them, making use both of in person and online opportunities. The day gave students an excellent opportunity to learn more about the world of work and allowed us more effectively to demonstrate that we are fulfilling Gatsby Benchmarks 5 and 6 ('Encounters with Employers and Employees' and 'Experiences of Workplaces'). These visits were distinctly different from traditional work experience placements and the feedback from students was positive. We plan to run this event again in June 2025 and hope that allowing a longer preparation time will enable an even higher number of students to access in person opportunities.

As noted above we had a very successful Enrichment Day for Year 10 in October and much enjoyed the support of 16 former students who spoke about the wide variety of the careers they are now following. Currently we are working on plans for the Year 9/12 Careers Evening in February and have recently sent out our initial letters asking for indications of support.

We also await with interest the provision of further information on the plans for the future of careers education which the new government is said to be developing

In terms of UCAS, 69 CCHS students have chosen to apply for 'early deadline' courses (Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine) and these applications were sent well in advance of the October deadline. Current work

focuses on finalising and sending the applications of the 'non-early' students and on supporting the interview preparations of those who are likely to be called to interview in December. We are grateful to staff and to friends of the school who will support with practice academic interviews. We are also grateful to Mr Dharma and Mr Bogar for their support in organising the practice interviews offered to all Year 13 students by parents of current students.

Trips and Visits:

The summer term is always a busy time for trips and visits, especially for foreign residential trips.

This term's trips:

- Ypres Salient for current Year 9 – May 2024.
- Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh – May 2024.
- Theatre Trip – *Nye*, May 2024.
- STEM visit to Leonardo – June 2024 and a number of other local STEM visits.
- Year 10 and 12 visit to the Saatchi Gallery – June 2024.
- Year 12 Geography visit to Stratford – June 2024.
- Year 10 History Trip to Globe Theatre and Golden Hinde – June 2024.
- Year 10 and 12 trip to ARU Health Care Expo – June 2024.
- Industrial Cadets Prizegiving – June 2024.
- German leg of the German Exchange – June 2024.
- Nice Study Trip for Year 12 students of French – June 2024.
- Wimbledon Tennis – July 2024.
- Physics trip to Adventure Island – July 2024.
- Year 12 Geography trip to Yorkshire – July 2024.
- Gospel Choir visit to National Festival of Music for Youth – July 2024
- Year 10 (small group) visit to Emmanuel College Cambridge – July 2024.
- Normandy Study Trip for Year 10 students of French – July 2024
- Stubbers Activity Day for Year 7 – July 2024.

Residential Trips for next term and thereafter:

- Year 11 Geography trip to North Wales – September 2024.
- Year 9 History trip to the Ypres Salient – October 2024
- German Exchange 2025 – March and June 2025.
- Year 10 French trip to Normandy – June 2025.
- Year 12 Geography trip to Yorkshire – June 2025.
- Mexico Biology Trip – July 2025.