CCHSG E-Newsletter

21 May 2026

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Executive Principal's Notes

This term, the whole school community has been working to support our students who are sitting their GCSE and A-level examinations. I would like to praise all the candidates for their mature conduct, resilience, focus, and hard work during this demanding period.

Recent weeks have provided welcome opportunities to commemorate the significant milestones of our Year 13 cohort. I was pleased to speak at the formal Leavers' Assembly, where students gathered alongside staff and the Senior Leadership Team to reflect on their journey at CCHSG. We extend our sincere gratitude to Liz White, representing the Old Girls' Association, and to Mr and Mrs Bullen from the Catherine Bullen Foundation, for their meaningful contributions to this final celebration. The end of formal lessons was also marked by the traditional Dress Up Day, which highlighted the vibrant community spirit of our Sixth Form.

It was also a pleasure to attend the Year 11 celebration tea party. This event allowed students, Form Tutors, and teaching staff to gather and share fond memories of the experiences that have defined their time at the school so far.

Sixth Form

We have always taken great pride in the exceptional academic standards, outstanding extracurricular opportunities, and wonderfully supportive community culture of our grammar school Sixth Form. This is a particularly exciting period of development, as our new building project has provided further dedicated areas for Sixth Form use. In direct consultation with our current students, particularly those in Years 10 and 11, we are exploring innovative ideas to redevelop both the Sixth Form common room and the refectory area. From September, these upgrades will deliver an even more effective, modern working and social environment for our Sixth Form students.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have always recognised the powerful link between consistent school attendance and high academic attainment. Punctuality is equally vital, serving as both a strong predictor of long-term achievement and an essential skill for later life.

Indeed, national data highlights that variations in attendance rates represent the primary factor behind the attainment gap observed between different groups of students. Following my communication this time last year detailing our plans to give even greater focus to this area, I am delighted to share recognition of the positive impact. The UK-based educational charity, the Fischer Family Trust (FFT), has presented CCHSG with the FFT National Attendance Award. This places us in the top 10% of all FFT secondary schools nationally for our attendance figures during the spring term 2026. We extend our sincere thanks to all our students, families, and staff for their shared commitment.

As a school, we offer our full backing and best wishes to all those students completing examinations. I encourage all students, and particularly those in Year 11 and Year 13, to never give up. While challenges will inevitably arise along the way, it is strength of character, determination, and perseverance that will enable success. I urge students not to be discouraged by setbacks, nor to allow others to define the limits of their potential. Their future is shaped by their own ambition, effort, and belief in themselves. Students should set their aspirations high and approach their goals with dedication and purpose, remaining focused, working diligently, and taking pride in their efforts.

It is equally important that students conduct themselves with confidence and integrity. They are encouraged to be assertive in standing up for what they believe, while avoiding aggression and always showing respect and kindness towards others. As a school community, we have a continued commitment to rejecting the notion that there are fixed boundaries on what can be achieved. Instead, the school seeks to support and inspire all students to aim high, grow in confidence, and realise their full potential.

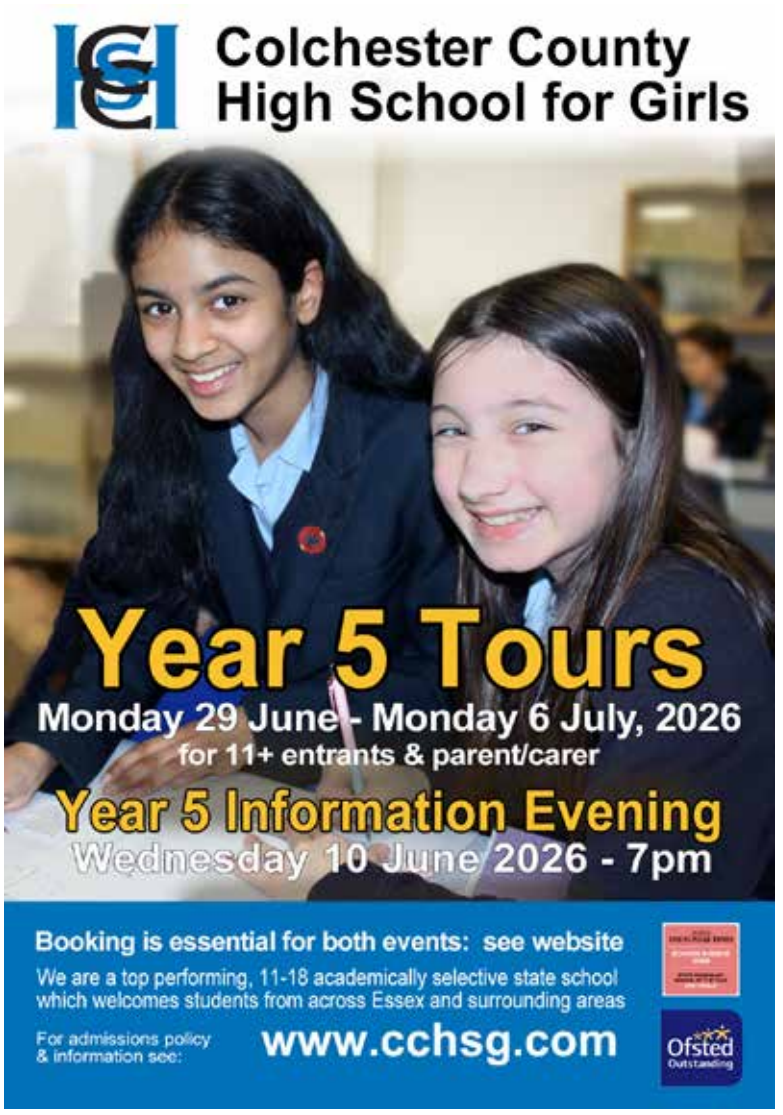
As always, I am hugely grateful to all our staff and governors who work tirelessly to provide students with the very best educational opportunities, and to our parents and carers for their unstinting support.

"To me, everything is possible. You just have to have the confidence to try and the resilience to keep going when it gets tough."

Frances Arnold (Female chemical engineer awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2018).



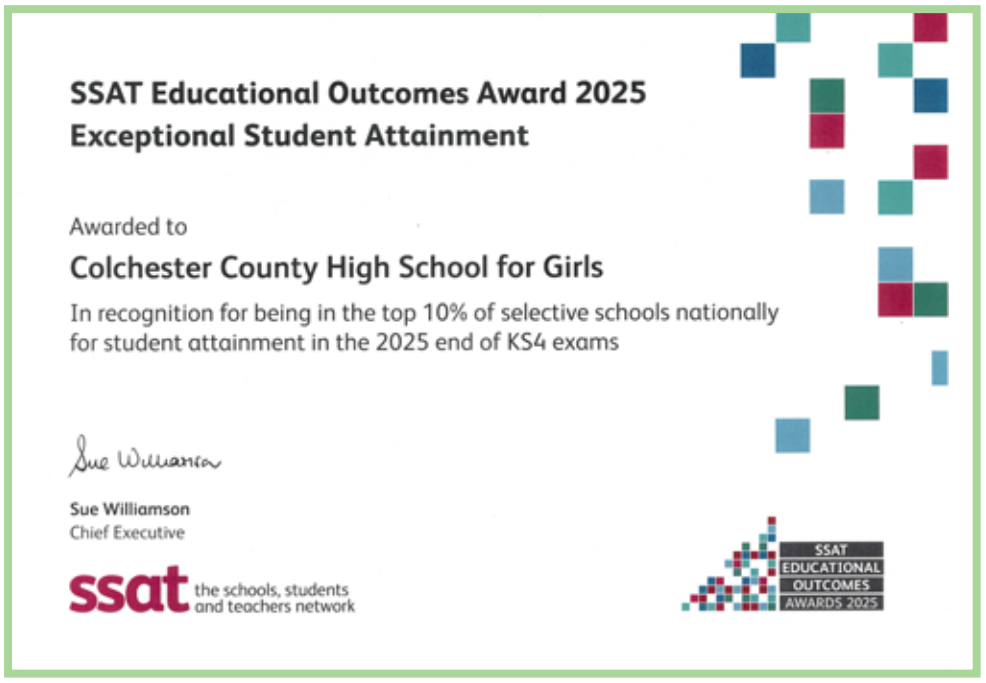
Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO





For regular news updates follow CCHSG on Facebook @colchestergirls or X @CCHSG

CCHSG Gains SSAT Award



CCHSG has been recognised by the Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) for exceptional educational outcomes in the 2025 exam series.

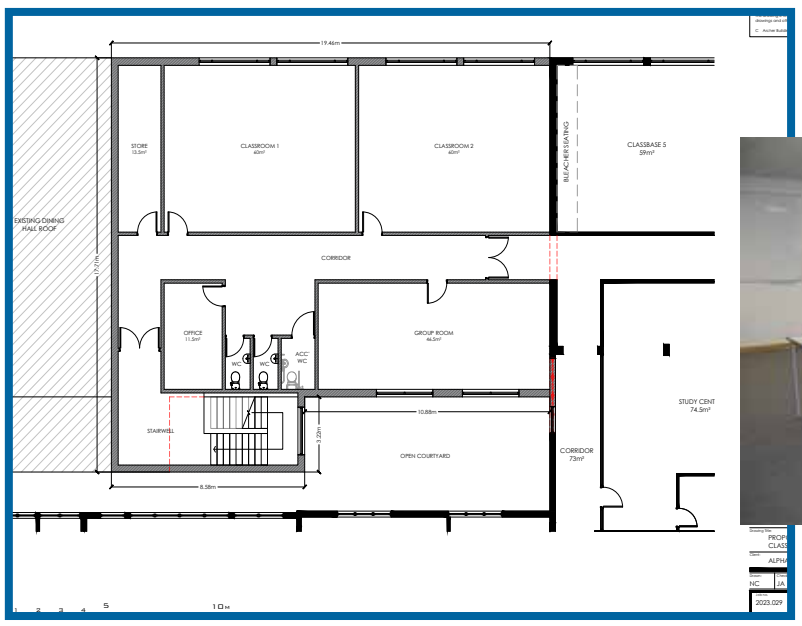
CCHSG was found to be among the best performing selective secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in the top 10% for attainment at GCSE. The awards are based on 2025 data provided by the Department for Education and Ofsted, analysed by SSAT.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England. To be recognised with an Educational Outcomes Award is a significant achievement and a testament to the work of the whole school community. This is a tribute to the professionalism, commitment and hard work of our teachers and students and the support of their families. A big thank you and well done to all.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, said: "Congratulations to CCHSG on winning an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award. This success is down to the superb teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school."

SSAT EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES AWARDS 2025

New Build



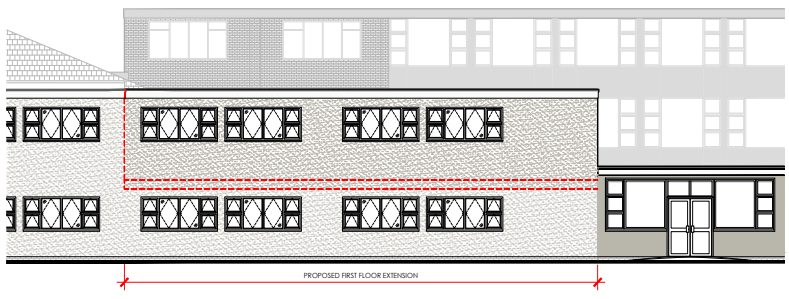
Our new upper floor, over the extension, is now fully in use. This provides three excellent classrooms, offices and additional toilet facilities.





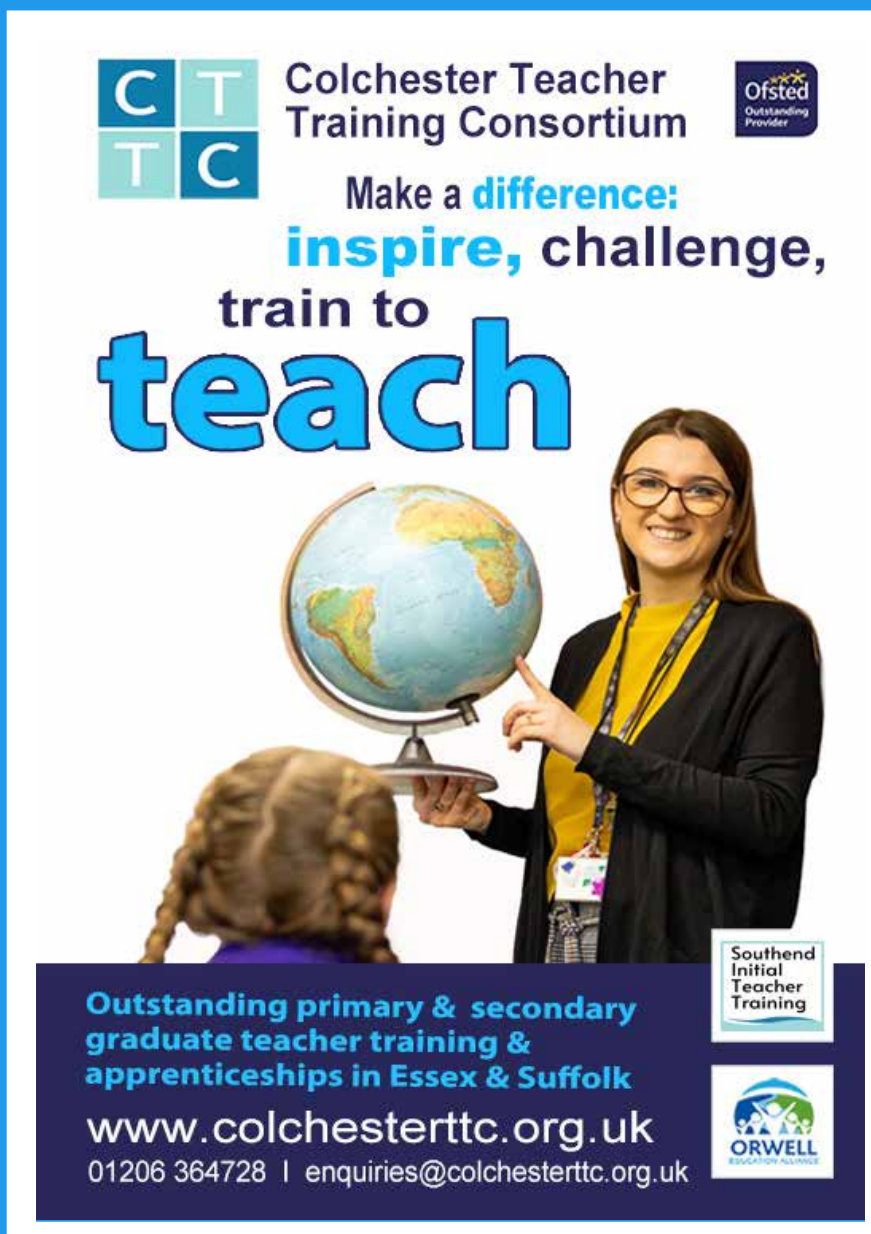






Colchester Teacher Training Consortium

Do you know anyone interested in training to teach Primary or Secondary with a local, Ofsted Outstanding provider? Graduates can qualify with a year's training and bursaries are available for some subject areas.



CTTC is a partnership, which now extends to over 100 schools across Essex and Suffolk. The consortium has been successfully providing teacher training for the past 18 years and now annually trains around 100 Primary and Secondary teachers from its base at CCHSG.

"Trainees benefit from the highest quality training and support" (Ofsted 2024).

The school centred programme allows trainees to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through a combination of taught sessions and practical on the job training in managing classes and planning lessons alongside colleagues in local schools.

"*Trainees value immensely the first class experience they receive, preparing them exceptionally well to take on their first teaching role"* (Ofsted 2024).

www.colchesterttc.org.uk
Email enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk

Routes into Teaching

Do you have a Degree?
You can apply if you are currently studying towards a Degree.
Do you hold GCSE English Language and Maths at Grade 4/C or above?
Do you hold GCSE Science Grade 4/C or above? (for Primary teaching, 3-7 and 5-11)
GCSE equivalency tests are accepted.

Yes

Apply online via DfE 'Apply'.
https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training
We offer four routes.

Would you like to gain some teaching experience?

Yes

Please contact us to arrange a school work experience in a consortium primary or secondary school

Tuition Fee

The tuition route fees are £9,200. Student Finance England offer loans and grants to help fund this. Bursaries and scholarships may also be available in certain shortage subjects.

On this route you will teach alongside a class teacher, four days per week and spend one day participating in our core programme, undertaking training and subject studies.

The course leads to QTS and a PGCE with Master's credits

Salaried & Apprenticeship

If you have relevant school experience or are already working as an unqualified teacher, you may be eligible for our Salaried route or apprenticeship.

Salary received will be at least the minimum of the unqualified teacher pay scale.

On this route you will teach a 50-80% timetable and spend one day per week participating in our core programme, undertaking training and subject studies.
The course leads to QTS with the option of a PGCE.

Assessment Only

If you are employed by a school and have been planning, teaching and assessing students for at least two years, you may be eligible for our Assessment Only route.

You must have taught in two different schools and be proficient in Maths and English.

Now recruiting trainees for September 2026

Apprenticeship Route into Teaching with CTTC

Trainees will be paid to train to teach Primary or Secondary by following the Apprenticeship route, whilst still following CTTC's highly rated training programme and having access to the fantastic support and opportunities CTTC provides.

Destinations of trainees graduating in July 2025:

Primary trainees – 100% of trainees secured employment for September 2025, with 62% of trainees securing posts at CTTC partnership schools. Destinations included special schools, coastal schools and rural schools across Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Secondary trainees – 94% of trainees secured posts for September. Over the past 5 years, 60% of trainees have secured posts at partnership schools. Destinations include schools in Essex and Suffolk, with a variety of types of school, including urban, 11-16 and 11-18, as well as Sixth Form colleges.

National Psychology Olympiad



On Fridays after school since February, a self-selected group of Psychology students, supported by Mrs Bridge, have been working hard to prepare for the Minds Underground Psychology Olympiad. The Psychology Olympiad is for secondary students in Years 9 to 12. The challenge aims to provide a platform for students to engage in high-level psychology discussions, develop research and critical thinking abilities, and showcase their research and writing skills.

The competition took place in three separate rounds. With over 1000 participants from top-performing schools, the competition was incredibly fierce. Students had to first pass a multiple-choice round with 20 questions that were quite challenging. 32 students from Years 9 to 12 originally entered and from that 20 students progressed to the next round. The second round was a short essay writing competition in timed conditions with fixed titles. Students found this very challenging - however, 13 students deserve particular congratulations for getting through to the final round:

Of the 13 students who got through to the third and final round:
4 students gained Silver Award = top 30% of entries,
5 students gained Bronze Award = top 60%
1 student gained Gold Award = top 10% - one of only 45 students.

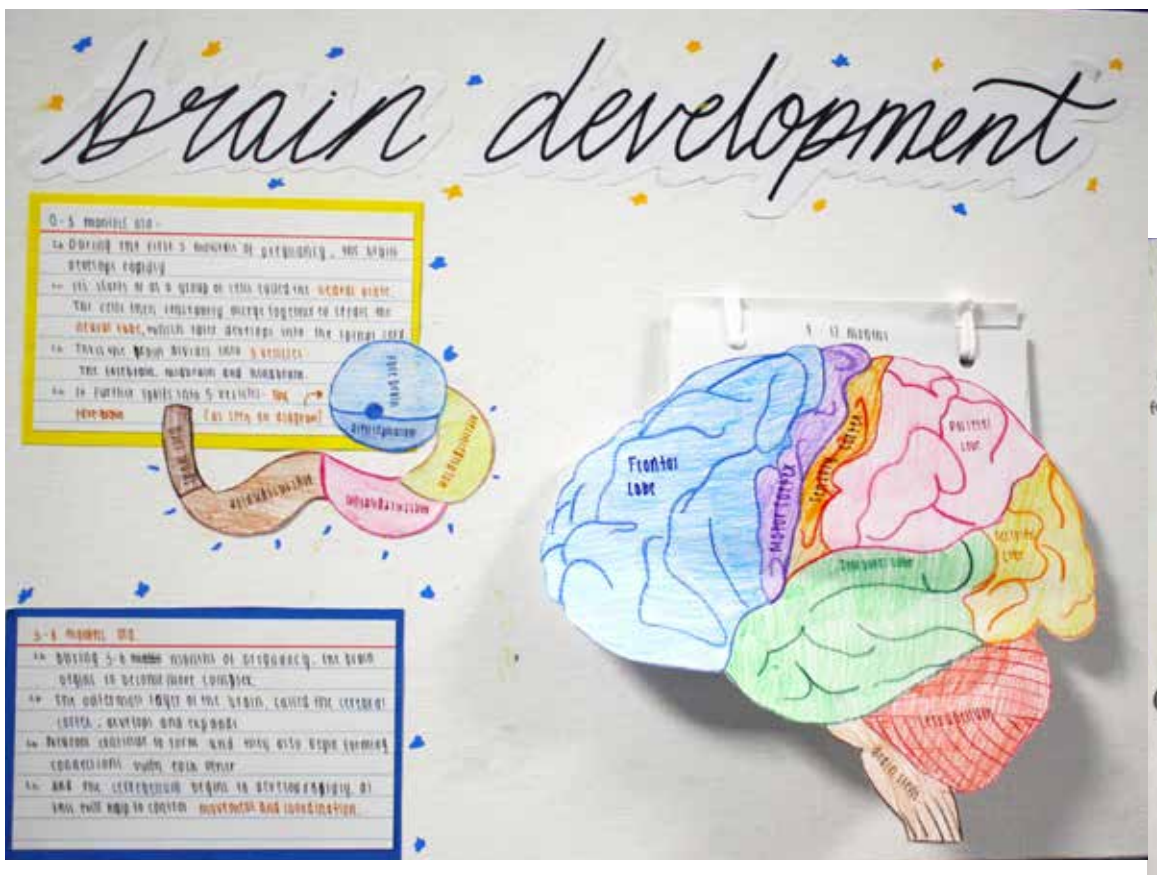
Organisers of the competition commented “What great participation and results!” The Olympiad does not stop here. Next year we will be continuing our Olympiad study with opportunities from September for students to come to classes after school and additionally enter an exclusive essay writing competition. The first round is in February and any student in Years 9 to 12 is welcome to enter.
Mrs Bridge

https://www.mindsunderground.com/psychology-competition

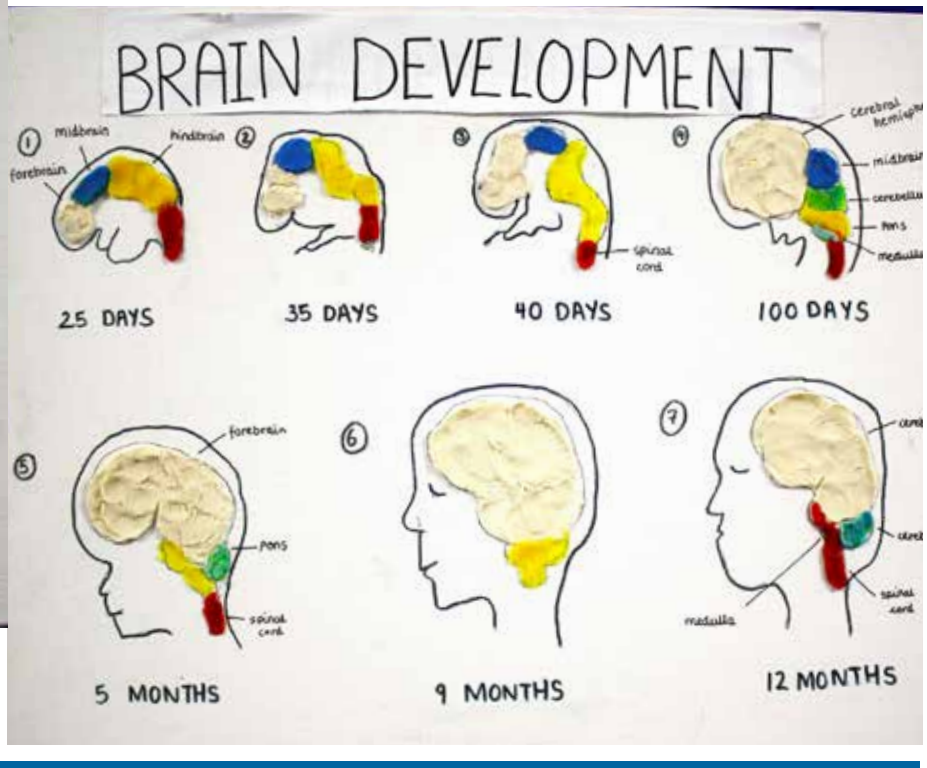


Year 9 Psychology Project - Early Brain Development

GCSE Psychology students have been studying early brain development and they produced display posters to illustrate their learning.



Development begins long before birth, when the neural tube forms and develops into the brain and spinal cord. During pregnancy, billions of neurons are created and begin to organise into basic structures. From birth to 12 months, the brain grows rapidly. Neural connections (synapses) form at an extremely fast rate as babies experience the world through sight, sound, touch, and interaction. By the end of the first year, the brain has already reached about two-thirds of its adult size.



Year 13 Leavers' Assembly and Awards

OGA Leaver's Award



The Old Girls'/Alumnae Association (OGA) annually recognises a student nominated by the school who has demonstrated qualities of merit outside their academic studies by presenting them with an award. This year the school have recommended Sophie Cliff in acknowledgement of her sustained contribution to the school community. We are very grateful to Mrs Liz White, who attended the assembly on behalf of the OGA to speak to students and present the award.

Harvard Book Award



The Harvard Book Award is awarded by Harvard University to nearly 2,000 selected schools globally. It is awarded to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, strong character, and meaningful contributions to their school or community. The award this year was given to Tanya Parackal.



Address by Sophie Hanslow - Head Student

Hello Year 13, I have loved this school so much, and I really hope you all have enjoyed it just as much as I have whether you have been here for 2 years or 7.

At the moment we are all thinking A levels are the be-all or end-all, but there are so many things we could do that we may not have even considered yet. I know there's no set path in life, and it is entirely possible that we will end up on different, unexpected paths, but to be honest, this is what we should be looking forward to. Whether you go to university, travel abroad or stay at home in September, we're all going on a new journey, which I hope will be just as enjoyable as our time here. Planned or unplanned, everything works out in the end.

Recently, rather than thinking about my studies – questionable decision I know – I have been thinking about the future, and the uncertainties. What am I going to do? Where am I going to go? What will the people I meet be like? But I think this is something really special and exciting about this time in our life. When will we have this many uncertainties again? But seriously, leaving this environment to go wherever you have chosen, is so exciting. Just as we have all reached for the opportunities here, I hope we continue to do this in the future, even if it means we leave a place which, for me, is so comfortable and stable. Now is the time to go, try and achieve what we want. Even if our lives do not go precisely to plan, there are always options, and opportunities waiting for us.

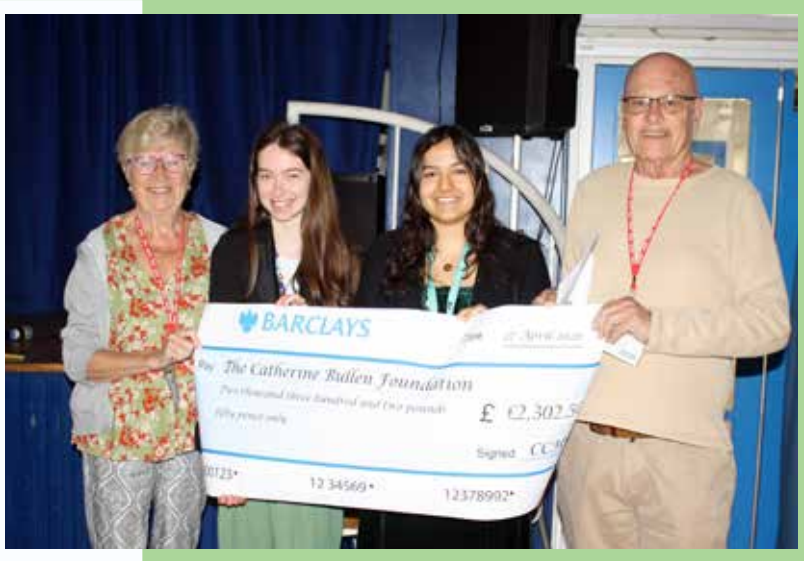
I wish everyone the very best in A levels, I can't believe they're actually upon us, this always felt like a distant event which we would never reach. But we can get through it, like we've got through so many other things as a Year Group. I'll end with a quote:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."



The Bullen Foundation

We are grateful to Mr Roger Bullen and Mrs Linda Bullen, who annually present the Catherine Bullen Memorial Prize to a Year 13 student who is progressing to a medical career. This year the award went to Matilda Smith. Matilda has been involved with a range of school activities including assisting with stage lighting for school productions and helping to run sports events and activities, such as sports day and a wellbeing day for students in Year 9. She has also made a valuable contribution as part of the Head Student Team. In addition, Matilda took part in the RSC Chemistry Challenge as well as the Chemistry and Biology Olympiads.



Set up in memory of past CCHSG student Catherine Bullen and run by Mr and Mrs Bullen, the Foundation funds charitable projects supporting a school and medical services in north-eastern Namibia in the Omaheke region. Mr and Mrs Bullen visit the area regularly to volunteer at the clinic funded by the Foundation, where Mrs Bullen volunteers as a nurse. This academic year students have again been fundraising for the Foundation. We were delighted to be able to present Mr and Mrs Bullen with a cheque for £2,302.50 to support their work.



This year CCHSG students are fundraising for

The Catherine Bullen Foundation

Catherine was a CCHSG alumni who passed away suddenly in 2002 during her fifth year of medical training, in Namibia

The Foundation raises funds in her memory to support projects in rural Namibia which enhance health and education facilities

www.namibia-aid.org.uk

How We Can Help:

- Donating via ParentPay for the non-uniform days this year
- Donating using the Catherine Bullen Foundation JustGiving page - see QR code or www.justgiving.com/catherinebullenfdn





We visited the premature baby unit at Gobabis Hospital and donated knitted items provided by the ladies from Mersea Island.

The Catherine Bullen Foundation



Linda with the 'grab and go' jump bag and a resuscitation board for the ambulance attending an emergency.

Items funded by the Foundation.

The Catherine Bullen Foundation



https://www.namibia-aid.org.uk/

CCHSG received the following letter from Mr and Mrs Bullen, on behalf of the Foundation Trustees:

It is with grateful thanks that the Catherine Bullen Foundation has pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the school's donation of £2,302.50 for our projects in Namibia. The Foundation has just purchased uniforms for the San children at Eiseb Primary School whose parents cannot afford them. At Otjimanangombe Primary Healthcare clinic we have provided a specialised maternity bed for the Delivery Room. We are also supporting a soup kitchen at Eiseb which is feeding children from 6 months to 6 years and pregnant mothers. This helps to address malnutrition in the area.

We are returning to Namibia in September to identify further projects and the school's donation will help fund these.

Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Roger and Linda Bullen MBE

Year 13 Dress Up Day

Year 13 marked the end of formal lessons in the traditional CCHSG way, with the "Dress Up Day", a parade, a delicious buffet lunch and their own student-led final assembly. After best wishes from Mrs Hughes, the Sixth Form team and teaching staff, the Head Student Team came up with their own list of award winners!

Awards included the person who is most likely to:

- **Become Prime Minister...**
- **Win a Nobel Prize…**
- **Go viral for something silly…**
- **Compete in the Olympics...**
- **Become Headteacher of CCHSG...**
- **Become a CEO…**
- **Perform in the West End…**

We are grateful to Mrs Harrington, Mr Maulkerson and Mrs Hughes for organising the day and to Mr Martin and the catering team for the delicious buffet lunch. We wish Year 13 every success over the coming exam weeks.



















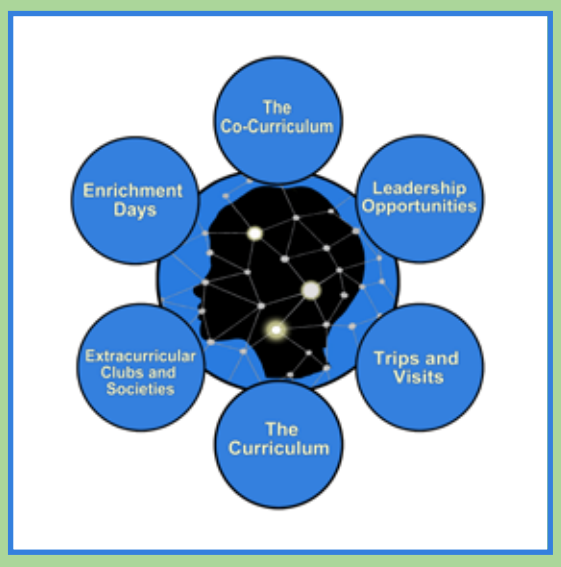








Year 9 Enterprise Matrix Day



The CCHSG Matrix consists of a flexible and balanced curriculum, the co-curriculum, STEM opportunities, trips and visits, optional instrument lessons and a programme of enrichment days.

The Matrix provides opportunities for students to access subject areas they may not be formally studying as part of their timetabled curriculum.

Recently, all 192 Year 9 students took part in an Enterprise Matrix Day, aimed at introducing them to Economics in a practical and engaging way. The day included a range of activities designed to help students understand how economic systems work, while also building teamwork and decision-making skills.



One of the main highlights was the “Boom and Bust” trading game. Students worked in teams to buy and sell commodities, with prices changing throughout the day in response to real-life events. As new information was introduced, teams had to quickly adjust their decisions, decide when to take risks and work together under pressure. The fast-moving nature of the game made it exciting and competitive, and students were able to see how quickly markets can change. Many found it interesting to experience both success and setbacks as prices rose and fell.



Students also had the opportunity to hear from a guest speaker, Lisa Warnock, Education Producer at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. Trained at Trinity Laban, Lisa is a qualified teacher who collaborates with schools, arts professionals, and community groups to develop theatrical and educational experiences for young people. She spoke about her own career journey and the different opportunities available. Her talk encouraged students to think about their future options and to stay open to new experiences. Lisa highlighted the importance of resilience, explaining that setbacks are a normal part of life and that learning from them is key. She encouraged students to make the most of opportunities and to be confident in trying new things.



The day proved to be both enjoyable and highly valuable, enabling students to develop a clearer understanding of how Economics operates in the real world. It was particularly encouraging to see so many students participating with enthusiasm and collaborating effectively as teams. Overall, the Enterprise Matrix Day was a very positive experience. It left students more aware of the practical applications of Economics and more confident in their ability to engage with it in the future.

Mr Borley

UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge

Our Sixth Form students achieved outstanding results in this year's UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge. The Challenge is a nationwide competition designed to test mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and logical thinking. It features multiple-choice questions of increasing difficulty, encouraging creativity and perseverance, with top performers qualifying for further rounds such as the British Mathematical Olympiad and beyond.

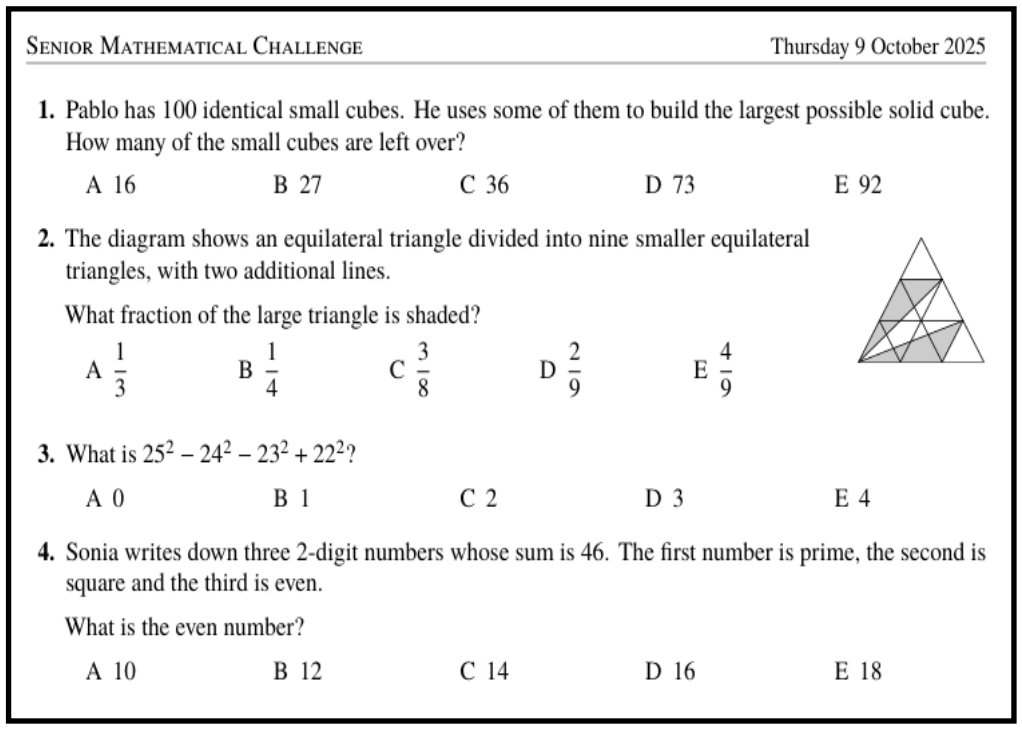
The top-scoring participants in the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge are awarded Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificates in a ratio of 1:2:3.

Special congratulations to Erin Lancelott and Lauren Wong, who achieved Gold awards, with the title of Best in Year, and qualified for the Senior Maths Kangaroo and British Maths Olympiad, the follow-on rounds.

We would also like to congratulate the 14 Silver Certificate holders and 24 Bronze Certificate holders on their achievement.

Well done to all students who participated and embraced the challenge.

The Mathematics Department



SENIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE — Thursday 9 October 2025

1. Pablo has 100 identical small cubes. He uses some of them to build the largest possible solid cube. How many of the small cubes are left over?

A 16 B 27 C 36 D 73 E 92

2. The diagram shows an equilateral triangle divided into nine smaller equilateral triangles, with two additional lines.

What fraction of the large triangle is shaded?

A $\frac{1}{3}$ B $\frac{1}{4}$ C $\frac{3}{8}$ D $\frac{2}{9}$ E $\frac{4}{9}$

3. What is $25^2 - 24^2 - 23^2 + 22^2$?

A 0 B 1 C 2 D 3 E 4

4. Sonia writes down three 2-digit numbers whose sum is 46. The first number is prime, the second is square and the third is even.

What is the even number?

A 10 B 12 C 14 D 16 E 18

https://ukmt.org.uk/team-challenges/senior-team-mathematical-challenge

The UK Maths Trust is the leading British charity that advances the education of young people in mathematics. Each year, over 700,000 young people take part in UKMT Challenges, Kangaroos and Olympiads.

UK Maths Trust

Year 7 Accelerated Reader Winners

Renaissance Accelerated Reader is a software system designed to motivate, monitor, and support student's independent reading practice. After finishing a book, the student takes a short online quiz (usually 5 to 20 multiple-choice questions). The quiz verifies that they fully understood what they read. Congratulations to 7S who are winners of the Accelerated Reader Year 7 Competition for the second term in a row. As a Form Group they have read more books than any other Form. They received the traditional congratulation cookies.

CCHSG Entrepreneurship Award Day

This term saw the return of the CCHSG Entrepreneurship Award, giving students the opportunity to develop their own business ideas with a focus on sustainability and social impact. The competition encouraged pupils to think carefully about how businesses can be both successful and responsible, creating products that meet customer needs while also benefiting the wider community or environment.

Students worked individually or in small groups to design their ideas, considering key elements such as their target market, pricing, and how their product would reduce environmental impact or support a particular cause. Several students also produced prototypes, showing creativity, effort and a real commitment to developing their ideas beyond the initial concept. The final stage of the competition saw students present their social enterprise ideas to a panel of external judges, Gemma Cuff from Gemstone Mortgages and Priyangshu Kar, Director of Strategic Transformations at ACO Technologies plc. Students explained their products, marketing strategies and the positive impact of their businesses.

The overall standard was extremely high, with students presenting confidently and demonstrating clear thought and strong planning. The judges commented on how challenging it was to select winners from such a strong group.

1st Place – £100

Inner Light

Mahitha Revat, Mahathi Revat, Navya Soni

A wellbeing-focused social enterprise offering scented candles, bath bombs, comfort pouches and worry stones, designed to help people relax and support mental health.





2nd Place – £75

Wild Minds

Prinaka Srinath, Rosemary Paine, Risansa Ranasinghe Arachchinge

A social enterprise providing beginner-friendly seed ball kits, encouraging people to grow wildflowers and support local biodiversity.



With huge thanks to our judges:

Gemma Cuff – Founder and Company Director (Gemstone Mortgages)

Priyangshu Kar - Director of Strategic Transformations (ACO Technologies plc)

3rd Place – £50

Seaside Serenity

Matilda Gittins, Iman Alam, Evelyn Smith and Annabelle Watson

A coastal-themed social enterprise selling tote bags and ornamental seashells, combining practical items with a nature-inspired design.



Best Presentation - £25

Inspire Works

Isha Sapre

A clear, confident and engaging presentation for environmentally friendly stationery, with a strong focus on sustainability and customer appeal.



The Entrepreneurship Award continues to provide a valuable experience for students, helping them develop skills in teamwork, communication and problem-solving, while applying what they learn in a real-world context.

Mr Borley, who organised the competition, said:
"*It was brilliant to see students thinking about how businesses can make a positive difference, as well as meet customer needs. The ideas this year were creative, thoughtful and well-developed.*"

Well done to all students who took part. The effort and originality on display was excellent, and we look forward to seeing what next year brings.



CCHSG Connect

Upcoming Reunion Events

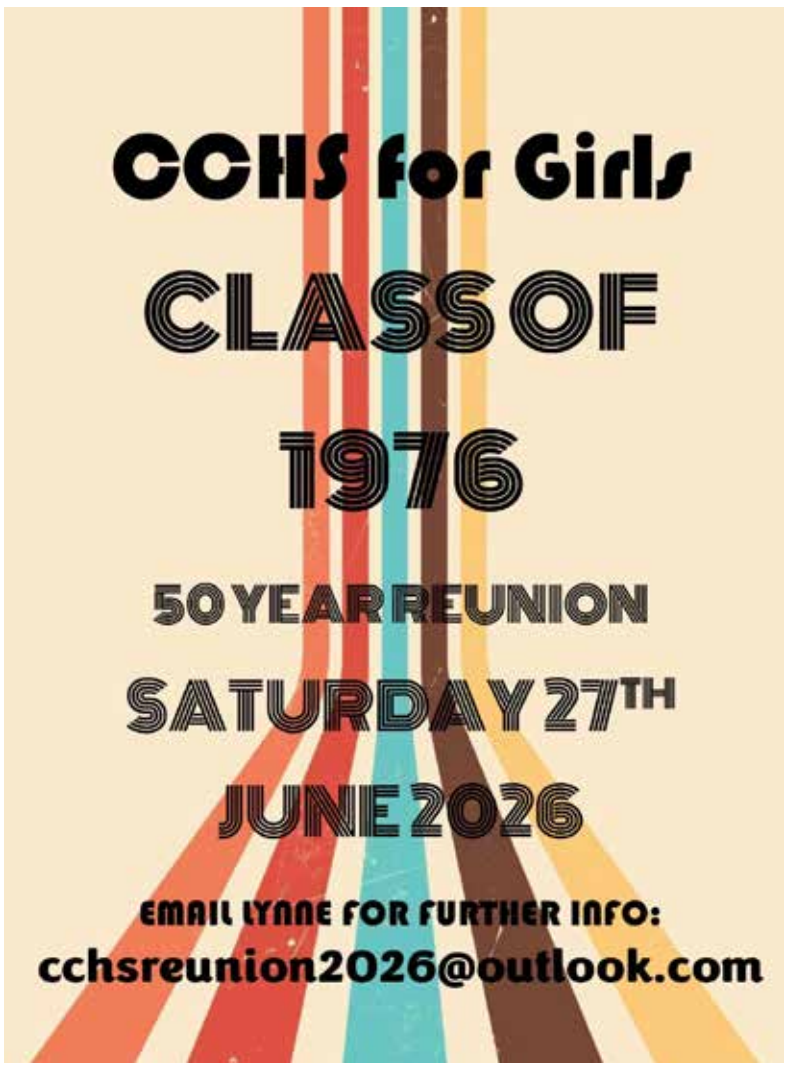
Two celebratory reunion events are scheduled to mark 50 year anniversaries this year.

Saturday 27 June:
Students who left CCHSG in 1976.

Contact:
cchsreunion2026@outlook.com

Saturday 12 September:
Students who started at CCHSG in 1976.

Contact:
karen@mosaicpublicity.co.uk





Calling CCHSG Alumni

Would you like to be part of our "progression wall" of Alumni Profile Posters?

We have now installed the first phase of our progression posters in the main ground floor corridor. We are aiming to capture the stories of our CCHSG alumni, whose diverse pathways will interest and inspire current students.

See alumni stories on our website here

Past students can provide their details for a poster via the link below. We would love to hear from you!

https://forms.office.com/e/mgpBciiYFv

Please contact Kate Stubbs, at kstubbs@cchsg.com with any alumni related questions or ideas.



Alumni Newsletter

Our Alumni Newsletter now publishes quarterly. Join our mailing list by contacting Kate Stubbs via kstubbs@cchsg.com or complete the online registration form at:

https://forms.office.com/e/jzfYqJ7dhj

CCHSG Archive - School Magazines 1945-59

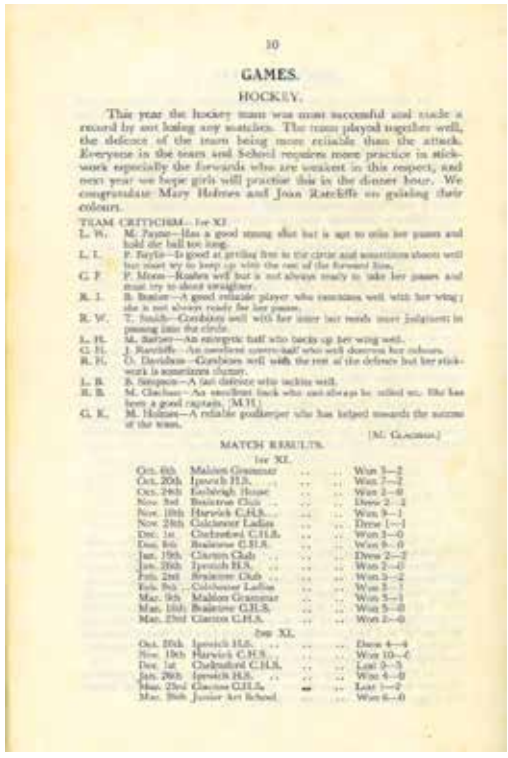
The 1944–45 school magazine marked a return to pre-war formats, while reflecting the profound impact of World War II. Headteacher Miss King acknowledged that any account of the war years was necessarily incomplete. At the outbreak of war in 1939, staff assisted with incoming evacuees, and the school later hosted pupils from Harwich and Clacton. Schooling was disrupted: some girls were evacuated elsewhere, and lessons could not begin until air raid shelters (“trenches”) were completed. These were frequently used, as bombing, including an incident in Castle Park that damaged Grey Friars, posed real danger. In 1940, the school closed entirely during borough-wide evacuation, with groups relocating to Kettering and Burton-on-Trent. Wartime experiences strongly influenced student writing, with themes such as VE Day, destruction, rationing, and hopes for the future. Notable pieces included reflections on post-war food, urban ruins, and technological advances such as plastics.

The Youth Service Group, founded during the war, coordinated extensive support for the war effort. Its Salvage Department collected a wide range of materials, while other activities included gardening, knitting, and correspondence with international pen-friends. The school also “adopted” HMS Greenfly, sending supplies and raising funds for the crew. Some initiatives continued after the war, including charitable collections and overseas aid.

International links flourished. Dutch, French, and German exchanges brought cultural contact despite recent conflict, with visits, shared lessons, and reciprocal hospitality. Students commented humorously on unfamiliar customs, especially food. These exchanges reflected a growing emphasis on international understanding.

School life gradually normalised, with the return of sports, concerts, trips, and societies. Highlights included visits to London theatres and galleries, guest lectures on diverse topics, and appearances by figures such as poet Walter de la Mare. Music and drama flourished, with orchestras, choirs, and productions. Academic enrichment included geography fieldwork and inter-school debating groups. The school maintained strong charitable work through the Barnardo Helpers’ League and preserved links with former students via the Old Girls’ Association, whose membership expanded globally. Many alumnae served in wartime roles.

By the early 1950s, change accelerated: new societies formed and GCE examinations replaced earlier qualifications. Leadership transitioned following Miss Ruth King’s retirement after 24 years in post, in 1952. Her successor was Miss Katherine Vashon Baker. A new House system was introduced in 1953, marking the end of this period and the transition towards a new era of school life.


10

GAMES.

HOCKEY.

This year the hockey team was most successful and made a record by not losing any matches. The team played together well, the defence of the team being more reliable than the attack. Everyone in the team and School requires more practice in stick-work especially the forwards who are weakest in this respect, and next year we hope girls will practise this in the dinner hour. We congratulate Mary Holmes and Joan Ratcliffe on gaining their colours.

TEAM CRITICISM.—1st XI.

L. W. M. Payne—Has a good strong shot but is apt to miss her passes and hold the ball too long.

L. I. P. Tayle—Is good at getting free in the circle and sometimes shoots well but must try to keep up with the rest of the forward line.

G. F. P. Moss—Rushes well but is not always ready to take her passes and must try to shoot straighter.

R. I. B. Baxter—A good reliable player who sometimes well with her wing; she is not always ready for her passes.

R. W. T. Smith—Combines well with her inner but needs more judgment in passing into the circle.

L. H. M. Barker—An energetic half who backs up her wing well.

C. H. J. Ratcliffe—An excellent centre-half who will deserve her colours.

R. H. O. Davidson—Combines well with the rest of the defence but her stick-work is sometimes clumsy.

L. B. B. Simpson—A fair defence who tackles well.

R. B. M. Clacton—An excellent back who can always be relied on. She has been a good captain. (M.H.)

G. K. M. Holmes—A reliable goalkeeper who has helped towards the success of the team.

(M. Glacton.)

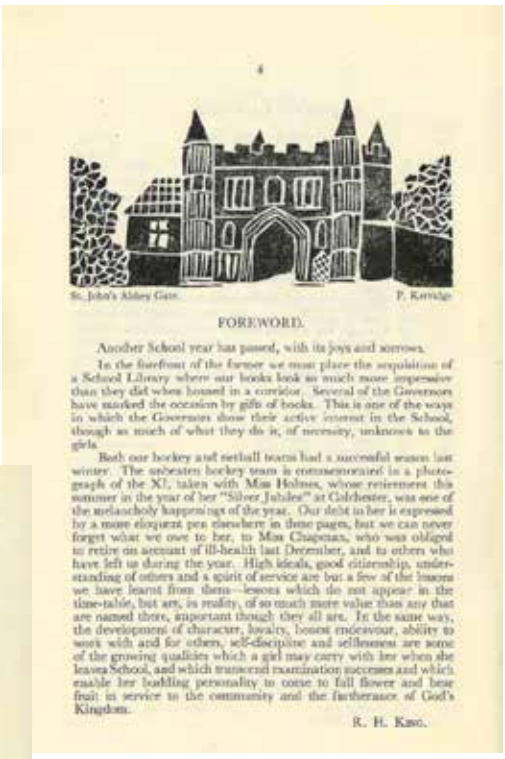
MATCH RESULTS.

1st XI.

Oct. 6th.	Malvern Grammar	.. ..	Won 3—2
Oct. 20th.	Ipswich H.S.	.. ..	Won 7—2
Oct. 24th.	Ealsleigh House	.. ..	Won 2—0
Nov. 3rd.	Braintree Club	.. ..	Drew 2—2
Nov. 10th.	Harwich C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 9—1
Nov. 24th.	Colchester Ladies	.. ..	Drew 1—1
Dec. 1st.	Chelmsford C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 3—0
Dec. 8th.	Braintree C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 9—0
Jan. 19th.	Clacton Club	.. ..	Drew 2—2
Jan. 26th.	Ipswich H.S.	.. ..	Won 2—0
Feb. 2nd.	Braintree Club	.. ..	Won 3—2
Feb. 9th.	Colchester Ladies	.. ..	Won 5—1
Mar. 9th.	Malvern Grammar	.. ..	Won 3—1
Mar. 16th.	Braintree C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 5—0
Mar. 23rd.	Clacton C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 2—0

2nd XI.

Oct. 20th.	Ipswich H.S.	.. ..	Drew 4—4
Nov. 10th.	Harwich C.H.S.	.. ..	Won 10—0
Dec. 1st.	Chelmsford C.H.S.	.. ..	Lost 2—3
Jan. 26th.	Ipswich H.S.	.. ..	Won 4—0
Mar. 23rd.	Clacton C.H.S.	.. ..	Lost 1—2
Mar. 30th.	Junior Art School	.. ..	Won 6—0



FOREWORD.

Another School year has passed, with its joys and sorrows.

In the forefront of the former we must place the acquisition of a School Library where our books look so much more impressive than they did when housed in a corridor. Several of the Governors have marked the occasion by gifts of books. This is one of the ways in which the Governors show their active interest in the School, though as much of what they do is, of necessity, unknown to the girls.

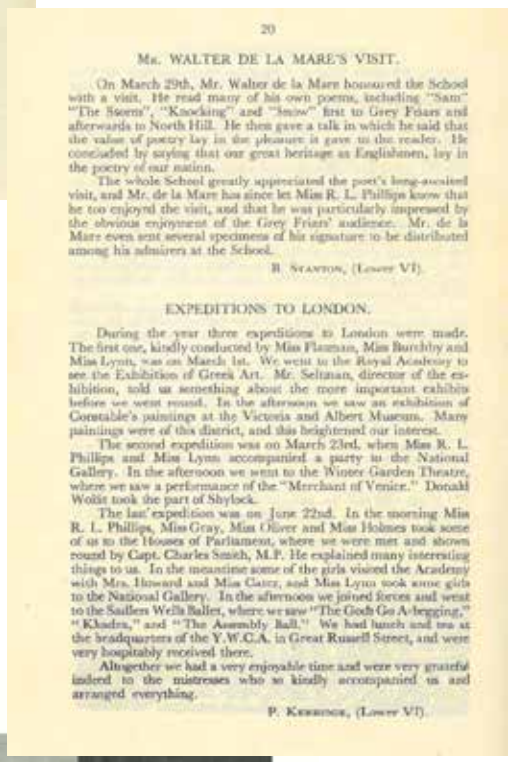
Both our hockey and netball teams had a successful season last winter. The unbeaten hockey team is commemorated in a photograph of the XI, taken with Miss Holmes, whose retirement this summer in the year of her "Silver Jubilee" at Colchester, was one of the melancholy happenings of the year. Our debt to her is expressed by a more eloquent pen elsewhere in these pages, but we can never forget what we owe to her, to Miss Chapman, who was obliged to retire on account of ill-health last December, and to others who have left us during the year. High ideals, good citizenship, understanding of others and a spirit of service are but a few of the lessons we have learnt from them—lessons which do not appear in the time-table, but are, in reality, of so much more value than any that are named there, important though they all are. In the same way, the development of character, loyalty, honest endeavour, ability to work with and for others, self-discipline and selflessness are some of the growing qualities which a girl may carry with her when she leaves School, and which transcend examination successes and which enable her budding personality to come to full flower and bear fruit in service to the community and the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

R. H. Kaye.


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MR. WALTER DE LA MARE'S VISIT.

On March 29th, Mr. Walter de la Mare honoured the School with a visit. He read many of his own poems, including "Sam" "The Storm", "Knocking" and "Snow" first to Grey Friars and afterwards to North Hill. He then gave a talk in which he said that the value of poetry lay in the pleasure it gave to the reader. He concluded by saying that our great heritage as Englishmen, lay in the poetry of our nation.

The whole School greatly appreciated the poet's long-awaited visit, and Mr. de la Mare has since let Miss R. L. Phillips know that he too enjoyed the visit, and that he was particularly impressed by the obvious enjoyment of the Grey Friars' audience. Mr. de la Mare even sent several specimens of his signature to be distributed among his admirers at the School.

B. Stanton, (Lower VI).

EXPEDITIONS TO LONDON.

During the year three expeditions to London were made. The first one, kindly conducted by Miss Flatman, Miss Burchby and Miss Lyon, was on March 1st. We went to the Royal Academy to see the Exhibition of Greek Art. Mr. Seltman, director of the exhibition, told us something about the more important exhibits before we went round. In the afternoon we saw an exhibition of Constable's paintings at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Many paintings were of this district, and this heightened our interest.

The second expedition was on March 23rd, when Miss R. L. Phillips and Miss Lyon accompanied a party to the National Gallery. In the afternoon we went to the Winter Garden Theatre, where we saw a performance of the "Merchant of Venice." Donald Wolfit took the part of Shylock.

The last expedition was on June 22nd. In the morning Miss R. L. Phillips, Miss Gray, Miss Oliver and Miss Holmes took some of us to the Houses of Parliament, where we were met and shown round by Capt. Charles Smith, M.P. He explained many interesting things to us. In the meantime some of the girls visited the Academy with Mrs. Howard and Miss Gaitz, and Miss Lyon took some girls to the National Gallery. In the afternoon we joined forces and went to the Sadlers Wells Ballet, where we saw "The Gods Go A-begging," "Khadra," and "The Assembly Ball." We had lunch and tea at the headquarters of the Y.W.C.A. in Great Russell Street, and were very hospitably received there.

Altogether we had a very enjoyable time and were very grateful indeed to the mistresses who so kindly accompanied us and arranged everything.

P. Kerridge, (Lower VI).



HOCKEY TEAM — 1st XI.

Digital copies of School Magazines from 1909 to 1999 can be found on the school website: https://www.cchsg.com/about-cchsg/history-of-cchsg/

Spelling Bee Regional Winners

After having won the school stage of the competition, Amelia K., Olivia S., and Amara T. represented the school for German, Spanish, and French in the Regional Final of the Spelling Bee, which took place at North Cambridge Academy on 23 April. Our students were among the top 49 out of 3706 that took part in the competition. They all agree that taking part has helped them improve not only their knowledge of one of the languages they are studying, but also their confidence in public speaking and their ability to manage stress in a competitive atmosphere.

Taking part in the Regional Final also allowed the students to meet students from other schools who are as passionate as them about Languages. The next phase of the competition will take Amelia and Olivia to the University of Cambridge on Tuesday 23 June, to compete in the National Final. As a languages department, we are immensely proud of their efforts and what they have achieved so far.



The students with Sarah Schechter (the Director of Routes Into Languages), and Mrs Picciau.

Shambhavi's Triathlon Achievement



Congratulations to Shambhavi Madhusudhanan who successfully completed the Crystal Palace Triathlon on Sunday, 10 May. The Crystal Palace Triathlon is a flagship South London race held annually within Crystal Palace Park. Organized by the Crystal Palace Triathletes club since 2005, it is known for its fast, technical, and hilly closed-road course.

The triathlon consists of three main disciplines, each with its own designated area:

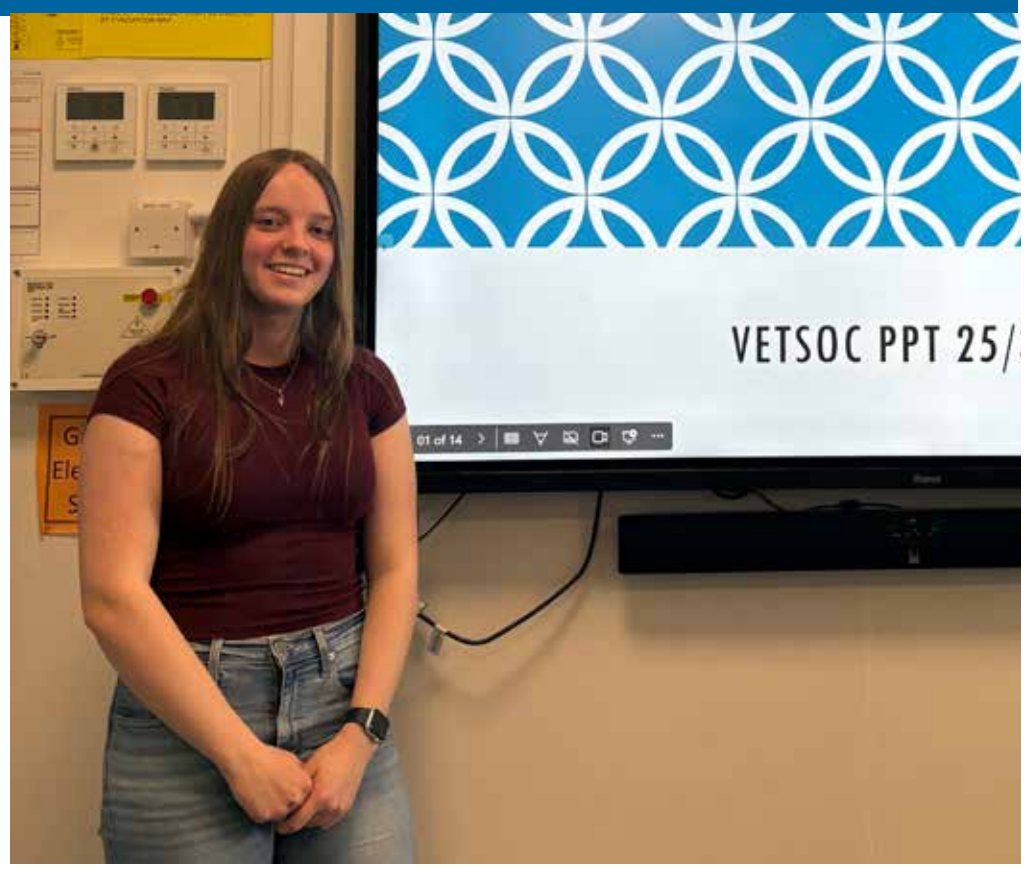
- Swim: Held in the National Sports Centre 25m or 50m pools.
- Bike: Laps on a closed-road circuit in the park, including the historic motor racing circuit.
- Run: A route through the park that finishes on the athletics stadium track.

Shambhavi swam 150 metres, cycled 6 km, and ran 2 km, finishing in a time of 35:04. She placed 11th in her age category out of 70 participants.
Well done!

CRYSTAL PALACE TRIATHLON

Alumna Visit - Alexia Wilson

VetSoc were delighted to welcome Alexia Wilson to their lunchtime meeting to talk about her journey. Alexia was a student at CCHSG from Year 7 until Year 13 and left in 2025. She studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A level.



Alexia is currently studying Veterinary Science at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. The Veterinary Science course has been designed to train students to identify, medically and surgically treat, and prevent diseases in animals, including household pets, farm animals, zoo animals and horses. Alexia's talk covered everything from how to gain work experience and what sort of work experience to undertake, to the subjects she studied at A level, as well as interview preparation. She also described the content of her veterinary course. She was honest about how much hard work it was to gain a place, but that it was worth it and that she is really enjoying the course.

Students asked lots of questions about the application process. We are very grateful to Alexia for sharing her valuable experience with our current students.

Mrs Clayton



PTFA Fundraising



CCHSG PTFA earns up to 30% commission on all sales of these multipurpose name labels for all school items. Stikins are an easy self-adhesive solution with no sewing needed. CCHSG PTFA have been allocated a unique code 35809 for parents to use.

Visit www.stikins.co.uk to order online.

Year 11 - Celebration Tea

Year 11 marked the start of the examination period with fun reflections on their time at CCHSG since Year 7. An afternoon celebration allowed the Year Group to share memories of Form and Year Group activities with their Tutors and Teaching Staff. Mrs Marshall, Mrs Frost, and Dr Parrott joined with all the Form Tutors and wider staff in wishing the Year Group well and celebrating their time at CCHSG. We wish Year 11 all the best in their examinations. We look forward to celebrating at the evening event after the examinations and to seeing many of them in the Sixth Form in September.





Dear Year 11,

When many of you joined the school, I was your Headteacher. Today, I serve as CEO of our Trust. While my role has evolved, what has not changed is my belief in young people, and my belief in you.

Stories we grow up with, like those from Disney, remind us that believing in yourself is often the first step to bravery. Psychology tells us that belief matters. What you tell yourself repeatedly becomes powerful. Confidence is not the absence of fear; it is learning to act despite it. The most successful people are not those who never fail, but those who see setbacks as a source of information.

Life is a journey of growth, roles change, paths develop, and we continue learning at every stage. You are just beginning that journey.

Science adds another layer. Growth happens through adaptation. Every challenge you have faced here has helped your brain build new pathways, strengthening your ability to problem-solve, to cope, to think critically. You are far more capable than you realise.

History shows us that success is not about never failing, but about continuing when things are difficult. Maya Angelou put it perfectly when she said:

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it."

Mrs Marshall



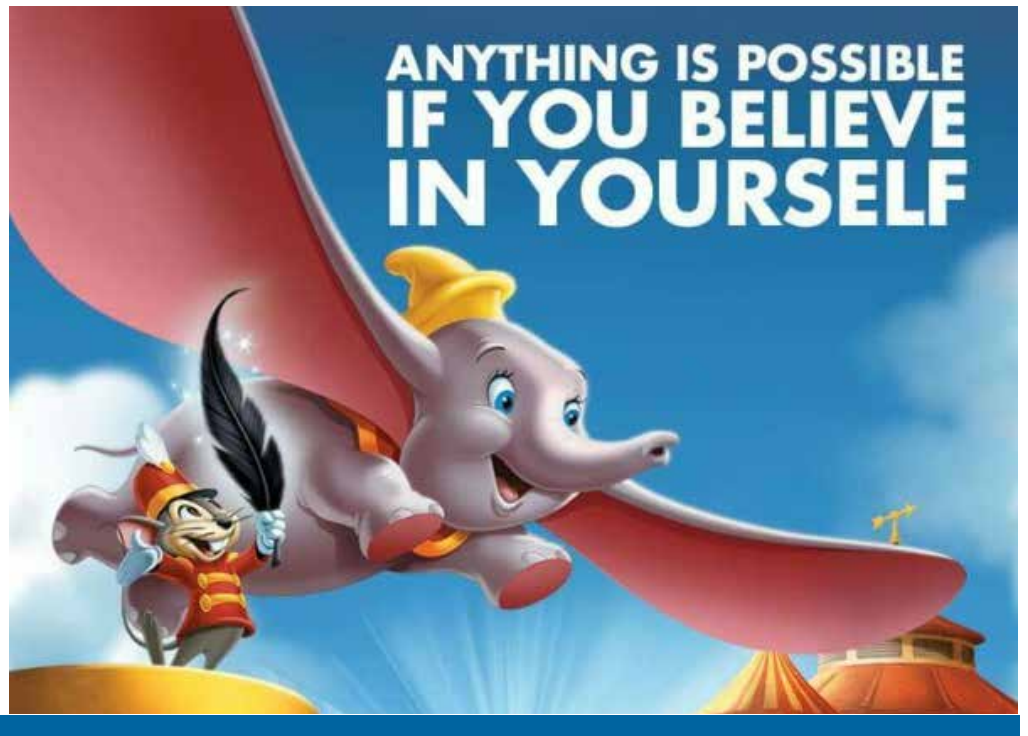


To Year 11,

You have brought energy to classrooms, kindness to friendships, and commitment to all that you set out to do. Be proud of the work you have put in, believe in yourselves, and I wish you the very best of luck with your examinations.

"*Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.*" Robert Collier

Best wishes, Dr Parrott





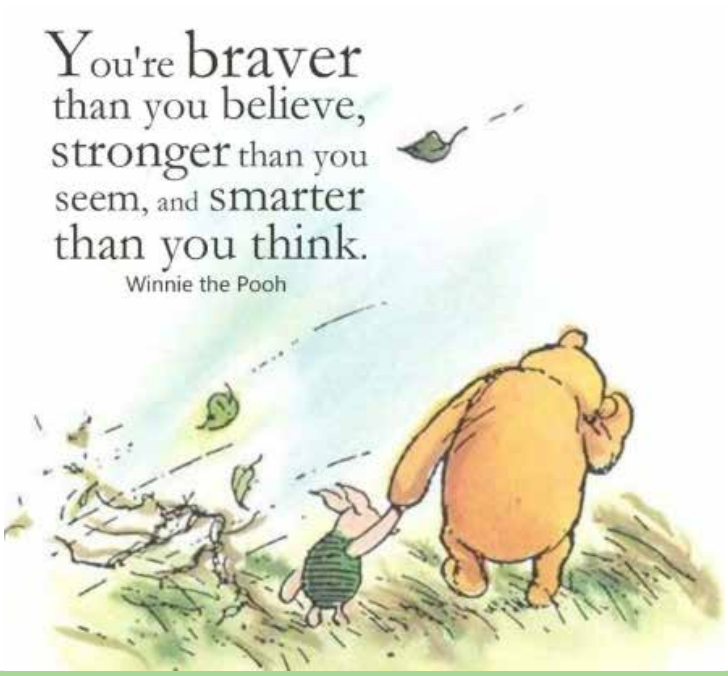
Dear Year 11,

As you begin your GCSE examinations, I would like to wish you every success.

You have worked hard to reach this point, and these examinations are an opportunity to show what you know and what I know you can do. GCSE's are all about the effort and the work you do to prepare ahead of your exams. Students who achieve the results they want recognise this is down to effort, not luck; hard work leads to success. Trust your preparation, stay focused, and remember to look after yourselves during the weeks ahead.

This is not the end of your journey with us. I look forward to our wonderful celebration at the end of the examination season and welcoming you back next academic year as you take the next steps in your education. I am really proud of you!

Mrs Frost





Year 11, You have truly been a joy to teach and get to know. You all have an innate ability to bring such positivity and excitement to all you do and have contributed to so many excellent memories for me. I will fondly remember the school ski trip (and an iconic moo-off), an incredibly fun Thorpe Park trip (and competing to go on the most rides) and a wonderful sleepover in the school hall (and the most amount of pizza anyone has ever seen) - you have made this year very easy to enjoy & I am grateful for my time with you all. I wish you all the best in your next steps.

Mrs Ashworth



Dear Year 11,

As we reach this important moment in your journey, I wanted to take a moment to tell you just how special you all are to me. I still remember my early days teaching you music back in Year 7 and your enthusiasm, your energy, and your willingness to give everything a try. Since then, through to our lovely Core PE lessons this year, you have continued to be a joy to teach. You are such a special and unique year group, kind, thoughtful, and wonderfully supportive of one another. The way you look out for each other and carry yourselves with such maturity and compassion makes you stand out. It has been a privilege to watch you grow not only as students, but as people.

As you head into your GCSE exams, I want you to remember this: you are absolutely capable of achieving incredible things. I have complete confidence in every single one of you. You've worked hard, and you've already proven time and time again what you can accomplish. Now it's just about showing the examiners what I've had the pleasure of seeing for years.

I wish you all the very best of luck, though truthfully, I know you won't need it. Go in with confidence, do your best, and trust yourselves. I cannot wait to celebrate with you on results day. You've got this, Year 11. I'm so proud of you.

Mrs Daniels



"Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine."
Roy T. Bennett

Those of you who may have visited me from time to time during the last few years will know this is something I say – a lot! You are all amazing and will be successful in whatever you choose to do.

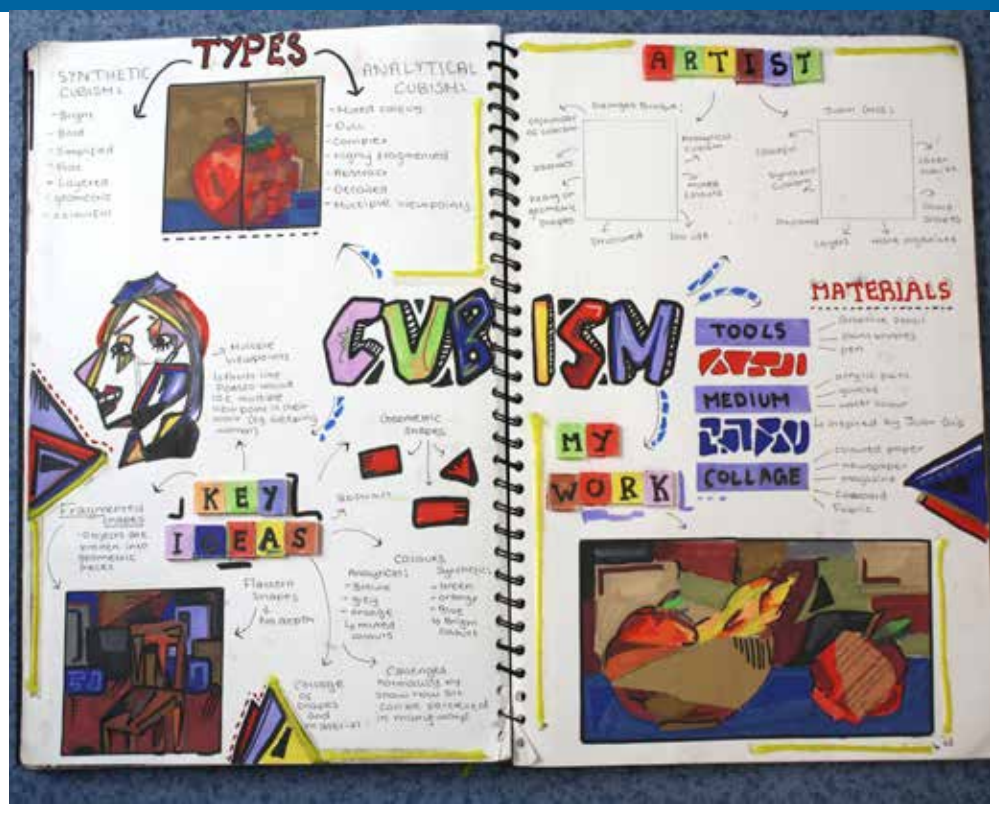
Sending you best wishes for the future wherever that may take you, and I look forward to seeing many of you again soon!

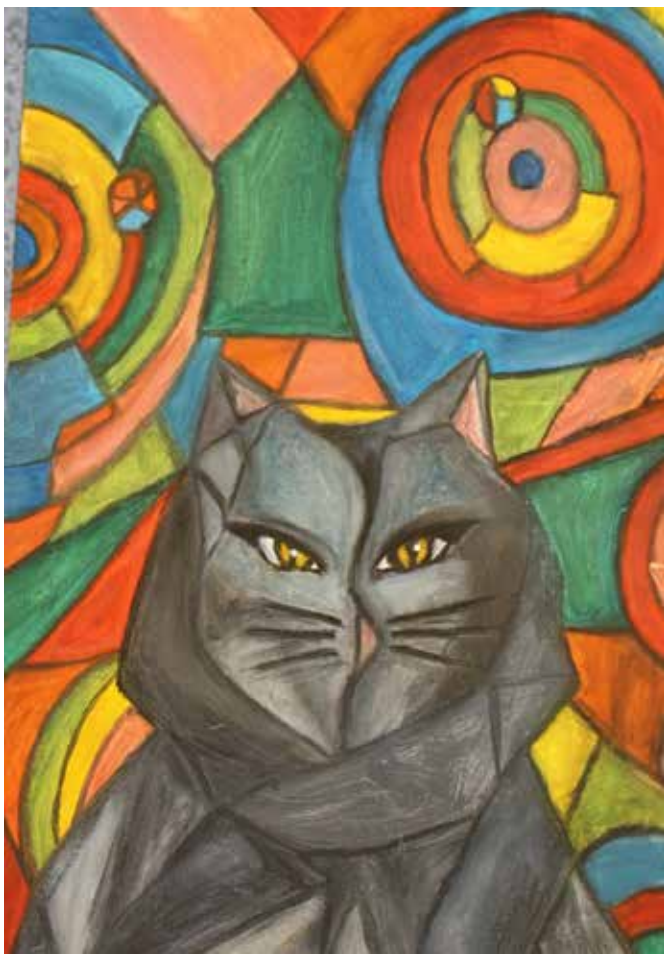
Mrs Ward

Year 9 GCSE Art - Cubism Project

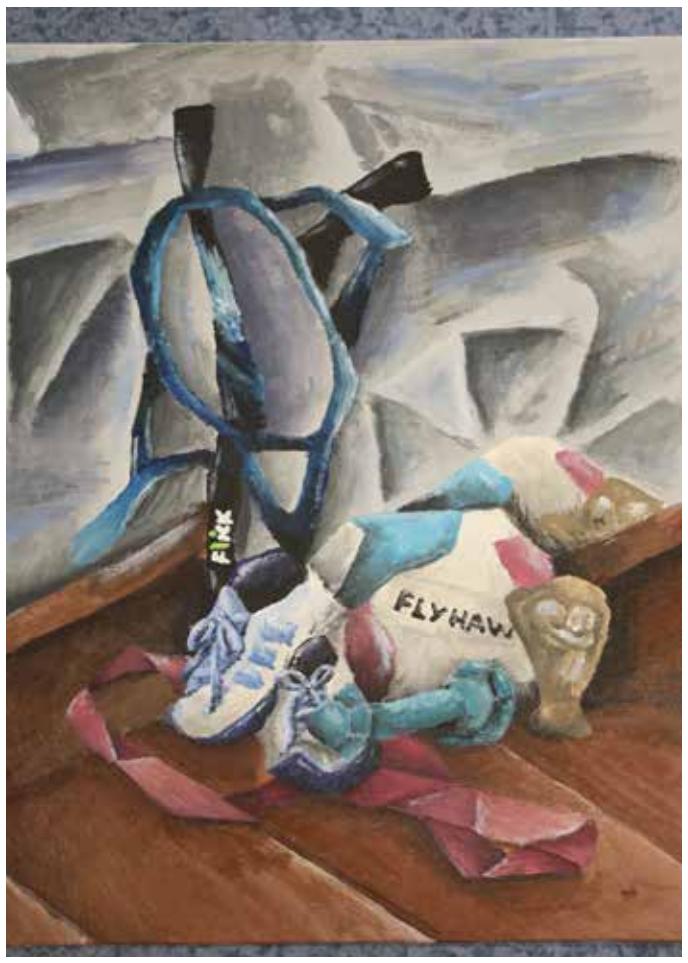
This term, our GCSE Art students have been exploring Cubism, an influential movement pioneered by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. Through this project, students have been challenged to break away from traditional use of linear perspective, experimenting instead with fragmenting forms, layering viewpoints, and reimagining familiar subjects in abstract and dynamic ways.

The results have been both imaginative and thought-provoking, showcasing not only technical skill but also a growing confidence in creative risk-taking.















CCHSG Rewards and Awards

Award categories Year 7 – Year 13	AWARDs required in academic year	Students awarded with:
Bronze	50	Certificate & badge
Silver	100	Certificate & badge
Gold	150	Certificate & badge (enter prize draw)
Platinum	200	Certificate & badge (enter prize draw)

Teachers will be awarding your merit points throughout the whole academic year. You will be acknowledged for your outstanding achievements in each end of term assembly.



Merits to be awarded for the following categories:

Academic achievement
Wider school or extracurricular activities
Attendance at clubs and societies
Role Model – for doing the right thing
Determination – for effort
Social – for helping others

Student Voice was involved in a review of the Rewards and Awards system. Students requested that more merits are awarded for doing the right thing and for involvement in school life. This has resulted in the current system of AWARDS:

- All merits are to be awarded on SIMS and staff are encouraged to award two or three merits per lesson
- Students will receive these awards through their whole school journey, Year 7 to Year 13 to ensure continuity and clear expectations
- Students will be acknowledged for their merits at the end of term and the end of year assembly
- The total number of AWARDS merits each student achieves will also be included in progress checks and signposted in end of year Tutor Reports

Students who achieve Gold or Platinum will be entered in a special draw at the end of the year for a 'big prize'.



AWARDS Merits
Latest Totals – May 2026

Year 7 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
7O	7C	7L

Year 8 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
8E	8H	8S

Year 9 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
9E	9H	9O

Year 10 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
10O	10L	10H

Year 11 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
11E	11S	11L

Year 12 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
12C	12T	12E

Year 13 Merit Totals		
2	1	3
13L	13S	13T

Sixth Form

PE Department News

What an incredible start to the term it has been for sport and extracurricular activities! From the very first week, our students have shown outstanding enthusiasm, commitment and teamwork, making it a truly memorable and successful period. Our summer extracurricular clubs are now well underway, and it has been wonderful to see such a huge turnout at athletics, rounders, tennis and cricket sessions. The energy and dedication shown by students across all Year Groups has been fantastic.

The term got off to an exciting start with the Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 basketball semi-finals. Huge congratulations go to our Year 11 basketball team, who progressed to the finals and proudly retained their title as District Champions—an outstanding achievement. The Year 9 team also put in a superb performance, narrowly missing out on a place in the final by just three baskets in a closely contested match. Basketball success continued with the Year 8 team, who competed in the district final on Thursday 30 April and finished as District Runners-Up. The Year 10 team battled until the last second, narrowly losing to St Benedict's School and finishing as District Runners-Up.

Our Sports Leaders have also been busy, enjoying a rewarding visit to Thurstable School, where they led activities for Year 3 and 4 pupils. They represented our school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent leadership and enthusiasm while encouraging younger students to get involved and stay active.

Football has brought even more success this term. The Under-14 and Under-16 teams competed in their district finals against St Benedict's School and Thomas Lord Audley, and both teams emerged victorious. These fantastic wins mean we are District Champions in both age groups. The Year 7 football team also had a very successful trip to St Helena School for the district tournament, impressing all with their determination and teamwork.

On Saturday 25 April, 15 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the London Mini Marathon. The students had an amazing experience, thoroughly enjoying the challenge and atmosphere of the event, and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Another major highlight was the Under-13 table tennis team, who travelled to Wolverhampton on Sunday 26 April to compete in the National Finals. Facing the best teams from across the country, they displayed incredible skill, determination and sportsmanship, finishing an impressive fifth in the nation—truly an outstanding achievement.

The athletics season began in style on Thursday 7 May at the district athletics event at the Garrison Track, where our students competed with grit, passion and determination, achieving excellent results. Our Year 7 and 9 teams came second, while our Year 8 and 10/11 teams came first in



Mini Marathon 2026



U16 Football District Champions



Year 10 Basketball - District Runners-Up



Year 9 Athletics

the district. Standout performances included Rosemary's 100m first place, Ella's 800m first place, the Year 9 relay team's first place, Shindara's first places in both shot and high jump, Megan's long jump first place, and strong performances across all Year 9 track events, which finished second. Further successes included Poppy's 1500m first place, Georgia's 200m first place, the Year 10/11 relay team's first place, and Adanna's shot first place.

This was followed by another exciting trip on Thursday 14 May to Chelmsford Athletics Centre for the first round of the National Schools Track and Field Cup. Students competed in both track and field events, delivering some excellent performances. Our GCSE PE Year 9 and 10 students also visited the Garrison Track to practise skills and competitive elements as part of their non-exam assessment work, showing great focus and commitment to their development.

Looking ahead, we are excited for upcoming rounders and cricket competitions and look forward to seeing students put their skills into action. This half term's Inter-Form competition will be rounders, with Forms competing within their Year Groups to be crowned champions. We are also eagerly anticipating Sports Day and the Sports Presentation Evening next half term, both fantastic opportunities to celebrate participation, effort and achievement.

We are immensely proud of the commitment and dedication shown by all our students. Their regular attendance and enthusiasm in PE lessons and extracurricular clubs continue to drive outstanding progress and success.
Miss Freeman



Year 11 Basketball District Champions

Please follow the PE Instagram account for regular updates from the PE department: @CCHSGPE

Athlete in the Spotlight

Every half term the PE Department selects athletes to be in our "Athlete Spotlight". Athletes are invited to share their sporting success in and outside school as well as their training schedule, long-term goals and more! This half term's Athlete in The Spotlight…

Shindara Ayo-Adeyemo



CLUB: Chelmsford Athletics Club

INSPIRATION: Tara Davis-Woodhall - American track and field athlete. She won a gold medal in women's long jump at the 2024 Summer Olympics and also a silver medal at the 2023 World Championships.

TRAINING SCHEDULE: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: Coming 2nd in both shotput and pentathlon at Nationals, Essex and Eastern Indoor Champion for shotput, South of England Indoor Champion for shot and Essex Champion for 300h.

LONG TERM GOAL: To represent Great Britain in the World Championships and Olympics

PRE-COMP MEAL: Oats or chocolate granola.

PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464

Diary Dates

PTFA Meeting
The next PTFA meeting will be held online via Microsoft Teams on Monday 8 June from 19.00-21.00. A link to join this meeting will be available in the Weekly Parent Bulletin after half term.

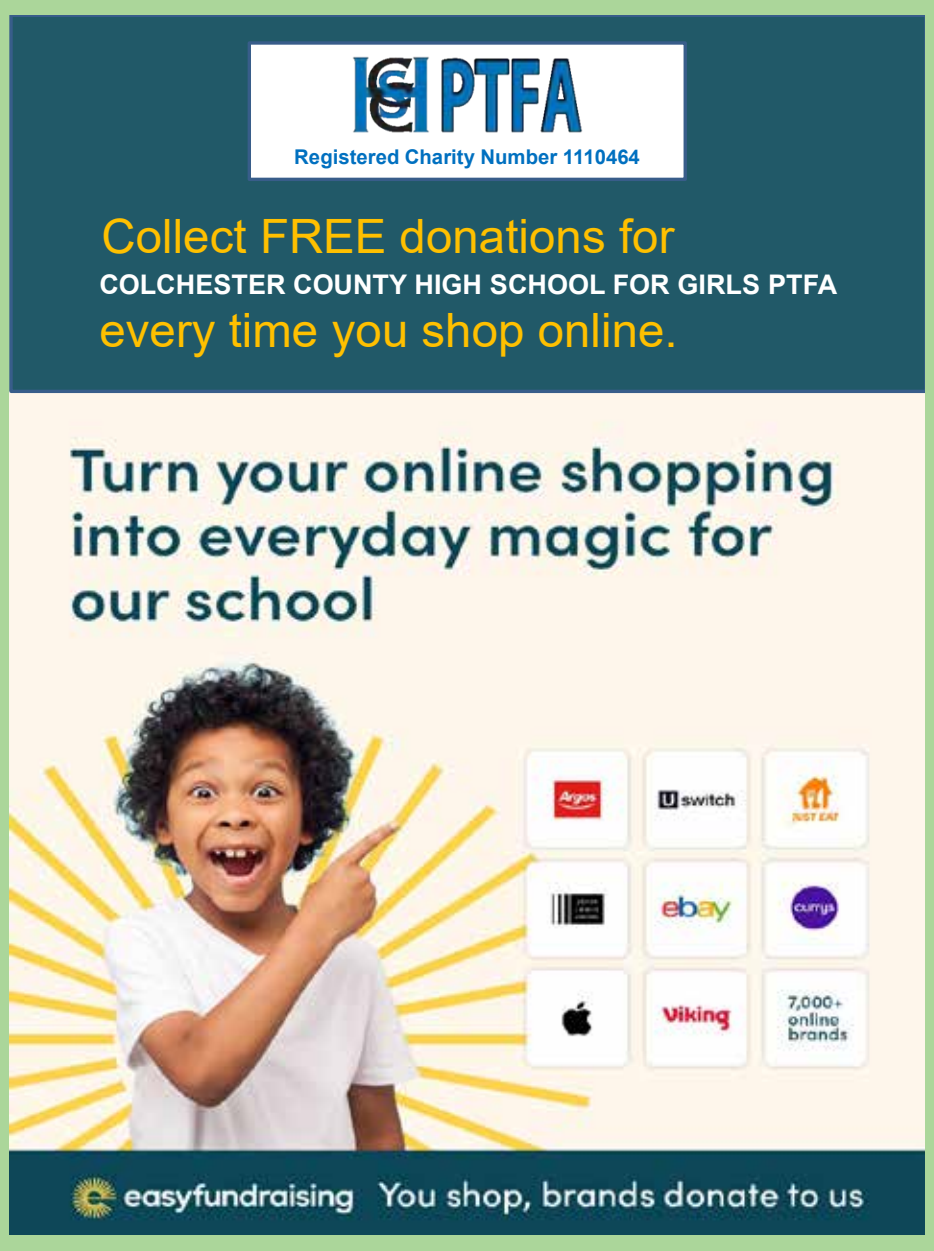
Summer Show - 13 & 14 July
The PTFA will be providing the refreshments on the evenings of the Summer Show. As always, we are grateful for volunteers to support with this. Further details will be provided in the PTFA section of the Weekly Parent Bulletin.

Nearly New Uniform and Revision Books Sales

We are grateful to all those who support us by making donations of clothing and revision books or by making purchases at the sales. We have made a total of £2,780.40 from sales so far this academic year.

The next sale will take place on Saturday 4 July (depending on availability of stock). We are pleased to receive donations, via the wheelie bins at the front of school, at any time of the year. We are currently understaffed on our uniform team, so we would kindly ask that items are washed, and if possible ironed, prior to donation.

PTFA Easyfundraising





https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colchestercountygirlspta/