Inspiring Education

since 1909







Colchester County High School for Girls

2027

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THE SUNDAY TIMES SCHOOLS GUIDE 2026
STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR EAST ANGLIA

Inspiring Education

Inspiring **Leadership**

Creativity

Inspiring **Curiosity**

Understanding

Inspiring

Ambition

Personal Development

Inspiring

Discovery



Executive Principal's *Welcome*



As Executive Principal of Colchester County High School for Girls, it is a pleasure to welcome you to our community.

CCHSG is a thriving and ambitious grammar school, proud of its culture of excellence. Students are supported to achieve highly in all areas of school life, academically, creatively and through sport. They are also encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available, including Drama, Music, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, sporting competitions, and educational visits both within the UK and abroad.

Courtesy, kindness and respect are central to our ethos, and our strong pastoral system ensures that students feel supported, confident and ready to embrace new challenges.
Our sustained academic success and rich community life reflect the dedication and enthusiasm of both students and staff. Teachers at CCHSG are passionate subject specialists who are committed to providing exceptional learning experiences. They willingly give their time to support students beyond the classroom.
Our challenging, personalised curriculum is designed to develop the critical, creative and ethical thinking skills necessary for students to navigate a rapidly changing global landscape. We encourage our students to engage confidently with new technologies, questioning their application and viewing innovation as a powerful catalyst for solving real-world problems. While our environment is structured and disciplined, we believe that deep learning happens when students are encouraged to step beyond their comfort zone and we set very high expectations.

As part of our school mission, we are committed to educating our students to become the leaders of tomorrow. At CCHSG, leadership is defined not only by academic excellence, ambition and resilience, but also by ethical judgement, compassion, teamwork and strong communication skills. These qualities are nurtured throughout each student's time with us, both in and beyond the classroom.
Our most recent Ofsted inspection judged the school to be outstanding in every category, with inspectors describing CCHSG as "exquisite" and "exceptional". While we are proud of this recognition, we remain firmly focused on continual improvement. Through ongoing reflection and rigorous self-evaluation, we ensure that our provision evolves with the aim of offering the very best educational opportunities for every student.

CCHSG is a community where students are empowered to be themselves, defined by a collective energy, warmth, and commitment to excellence. It is a pleasure to teach and learn at this truly inspirational and innovative school.

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc, NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO





Admissions

Entry into Year 7 is by academic selection. In Essex, ten selective schools, including CCHSG, use the common entrance test organised by the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE). This allows students applying to more than one selective school to sit a single test. Full details of the process can be found on the CSSE website: www.csse.org.uk.

Applications for the 11+ are usually submitted in May and June of Year 5, with testing taking place in September of Year 6. Tours of the school are available by appointment during the summer term. CCHSG is committed to ensuring fair access for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We also welcome new students into our co-educational Sixth Form from a wide range of schools. Each year, a number of students join us in Year 12. A Sixth Form Open Evening is held in the autumn term, offering the opportunity to meet staff and current students and to explore the courses available. Visits during a normal school day can also be arranged.

The full Admissions Policy for both Year 7 and Year 12 is available on our website: www.cchsg.com.

Message from the Chair of Governors



Our governors are dedicated to working in close partnership with staff, parents and the wider school community. They especially value the contribution made by the school's excellent PTFA. Over the years this collaboration has created an environment which consistently delivers academic success and an excellent all-round education. Our governors have a broad range of skills and experience. They enjoy helping to ensure that the school's curriculum equips our students to meet the demands and challenges of today's ever-changing world.

We are committed to the ethos of the school which is to support every student, foster individual talent and encourage team effort. By promoting co-curricular and extracurricular activities, as well as academic success, CCHSG provides a positive and encouraging environment where our innovative, bright and enthusiastic students can develop, and emerge as confident young adults.

The most recent Ofsted report found that Trustees and governors are well trained and actively support the school in ensuring that the wellbeing and workload of staff are effectively addressed. The school was also praised for its excellent provision for SEND students.

The Governors are delighted that the school has been recognised as Outstanding and we are committed to continuing to build on this success.

Laurence Jones
Chair of Governors

"The quality of education provided by the school is outstanding As a result, the outcomes for pupils are some of the highest in the country" Ofsted

Equal Oppportunities

The school is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities, diversity and inclusion in the curriculum and in our school community. We endeavour to ensure that all activities in the school are accessible by every student irrespective of ethnic origin, race, nationality, religion, disability, social class or economic background.

Provision for Students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

CCHSG is an inclusive school, dedicated to ensuring that every student receives the individual support and care required to achieve their social and educational best. The staff and governors are strongly committed to both inclusion and equal opportunities and will always look at what reasonable adjustments can be made in order to facilitate access for students with special educational needs.

The school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENCO) is responsible for the provision and monitoring of SEND support. Students with special needs resulting from disabilities, sensory impairment or emotional and behavioural difficulties will be given full access to the curriculum so far as it is practicable and desirable. All staff are regularly trained and updated on SEND issues and are fully involved in the identification and support of students with special educational needs or disabilities.

We consult with parents and carers and liaise with teachers to ensure that teaching practices are appropriate. Our full SEND policy is available on the website www.cchsg.com.

"Provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is ambitious"

"Pupils with SEND make excellent progress"

Ofsted



Transition

We place great importance on ensuring a smooth and positive transition from primary to secondary school, recognising that this can be an anxious time for both students and their families. Each year we welcome students from almost 100 different primary schools, creating a diverse and friendly community in which new friendships are quickly formed.

We work closely with feeder primary schools to gather relevant information that enables us to support students effectively from the outset. Towards the end of the Summer Term, induction events are held for new students and their parents. A group of Year 7 students act as the 'Transition Team'. They are involved at all stages and will respond to emails seeking help or advice.

The first weeks at CCHSG are carefully planned to help students settle confidently into new routines. Arrangements such as an early lunch, escorted movement between lessons, and assistance with travel home ensure students feel safe and supported during this important period.

The PTFA organises a Year 7 Welcome Party to encourage Form Group bonding and to offer parents and carers an opportunity to meet informally. Parents are also invited to join Classlist, a secure, PTFA-moderated communication platform. In addition, Year 7 students have the opportunity to take part in a residential Bushcraft adventure experience in the summer term

Inspiring Understanding

Our students are truly active learners. They have the freedom to explore knowledge and gain understanding, to question, challenge and discover. They think independently and creatively, finding new solutions to problems, and apply their learning to the real world. We actively encourage debate and discussion so that our students think critically and are able to communicate their ideas and defend their arguments with confidence and clarity. Our classrooms are energetic, innovative places full of activity and interaction; generating excitement about learning.

Students enjoy working together in a spirit of friendly competition and mutual support, encouraged and inspired by their peers and teachers. They develop self-awareness, self-discipline and self-esteem.

Students at CCHSG are always ready to contribute to the life of the school and the wider community. They have a keen sense of responsibility and are caring towards others. This is a community in which we celebrate diversity and are respectful of different faiths, cultures and beliefs.

The CCHSG curriculum also promotes a love of learning through subject mastery, with social, spiritual, moral and cultural opportunities supporting both the mental and physical development of each student.



Student Progress

We are delighted that for a number of years the school has been recognised as one of the top performing schools in the county not only for attainment but also for student progress. This is particularly significant as our students join us already achieving at a high level.

Effective learning opportunities and wide ranging co-curricular and extracurricular activities, together with appropriate feedback and individual support are key to ensuring that students build on their achievements and fulfil their potential.



"There is a culture of
determination to succeed
not only academically but also to be
good people
who will
make a difference
both in school and in the wider world."
Ofsted

Inspiring Discovery

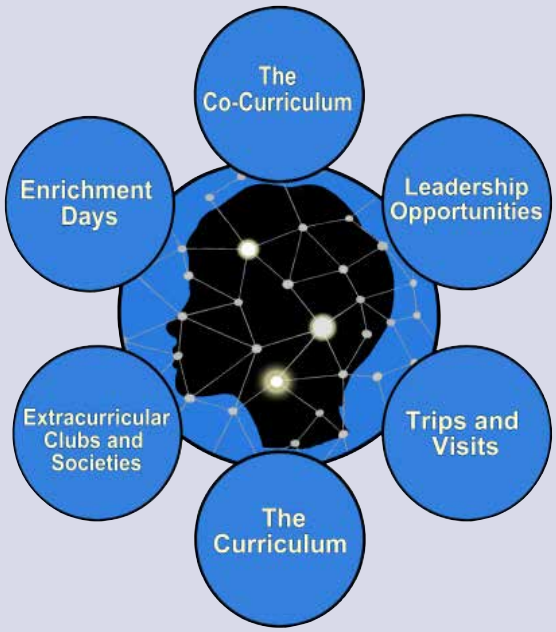
The school's curriculum exceeds the requirements of the National Curriculum and is designed to:

- develop depth of knowledge
- have richness of experience
- develop strength of character

Dynamic teaching inspires students to become independent, resilient and successful learners. We are committed to empowering the students in our classrooms and always endeavour to deliver innovative, varied and emotionally intelligent lessons. Through a challenging and globally-minded curriculum, we inspire our students to think critically about the world around them. Our goal is to ensure every student is prepared to thrive in a sustainable global economy while becoming a compassionate leader who contributes positively to society. Our learning environment is constantly growing and adapting, embracing new technology and endeavouring to offer the best possible educational opportunities. CCHSG believes in stretching and challenging students' thinking and reasoning skills across all curriculum areas. Subject Mastery and oracy are just two of the key teaching and learning areas which have been developed and integrated across the school. Creative and critical thinking is embedded throughout the curriculum.

We aim to prepare our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Students are supported to develop the knowledge and skills to become life-long learners, successful future leaders and to enjoy life.





The CCHSG Matrix

Students complete an accelerated two year programme in Years 7 and 8, which provides a broad base of knowledge on which to build. In Years 9, 10 and 11 the curriculum allows students time to develop subject mastery, to commit knowledge to long term memory and to develop connections to new knowledge in order to use knowledge fluently.

The Matrix has been designed as a flexible and balanced curriculum which combines taught lessons with co-curricular activities, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) opportunities, trips and visits, optional music lessons and a programme of enrichment days. This enables students to engage with subject areas they may no longer be formally studying as part of their GCSE preferences. The enrichment days focus on Computing, Creative Arts, History, Geography, the environment, Religion and Worldviews, wellbeing and enterprise education.

The many extracurricular activities, clubs and societies also provide students with opportunities to develop their interpersonal, organisational and leadership skills. Confidence in public speaking and presentation skills are promoted through activities such as debating and participation in assemblies. Senior students often run, or support staff in running, clubs for younger students.

"Pupils are exceptionally knowledgeable about their subjects"

"The skills they demonstrate are remarkable"

Ofsted



The Curriculum

In Years 7-8 students study the following subjects:

Information about the subjects on offer is based on current planning and may be subject to alteration in response to internal need or external legislation.

Art	History
Biology	Latin (Year 8)
Chemistry	Mathematics
GCSE Citizenship	Music
Computing	Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (including Careers Education)
Drama (Year 7)	Physical Education
English	Physics
French*	Religion and Worldviews
Geography	Spanish*
German*	Year 8 also study Chinese Language
Healthy Living	

*Year 7 students choose two out of three language options: French, Spanish and German

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students follow a curriculum containing core and optional elements:

Core GCSE courses

Biology	Humanities subject (History or Geography)
Chemistry	Mathematics
GCSE Citizenship (Year 9 only)	Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish, German or Latin)
English Language	Physics
English Literature	

Optional GCSE courses

Art & Design: Fine Art	Music
Art & Design: Graphic Communications	Physical Education
Computer Science	Psychology
Drama	Religious Studies

Non-examination courses:

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (including Careers Education)
Health-Related Fitness and Physical Education are taken by students in core Physical Education
Religion and Worldviews, Citizenship and Computing are delivered as cross-curricular elements
Year 9 Most Able students have the opportunity to take the AQA Level 2 Extended Project Qualification

Years 12 and 13 (Sixth Form):

Details of the Sixth Form Curriculum are outlined in full in the separate Sixth Form prospectus, available via the website.

Examination Results
GCSE Attainment

We are very proud of the effort and commitment of our students which has resulted in excellent academic achievement. Figures from the Department for Education for the August 2025 GCSE results gave CCHSG a Progress 8 figure of +1.37 and an Attainment 8 figure of 80.38. Progress 8 is a measure of the progress that students make from arrival in Year 7 until GCSE results, based on the students' best 8 GCSE grades, including English and Maths. If a student makes the progress expected, the school's Progress 8 score is 0.0. Our Progress 8 score of +1.37 means that students on average achieved over a GCSE grade higher than they would have been expected to achieve. This is particularly pleasing given that students join us already achieving at a high level and provides strong evidence of the value added by the school to the overall academic progress of our students.

The Schools, Students and Teachers Network (SSAT) presented CCHSG with an Education Outcomes Award for being in the top 10% of selective schools nationally for student attainment, in the 2025 GCSE exams.



Summary of 2025 Key Stage 4 Results Against Accountability Measures:

Attainment across same 8 qualifications (Attainment 8)	80.38
Percentage of students achieving the English Baccalaureate	91%
Percentage of 9-7 grades	85%
Percentage of students achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths	100%
Percentage of students achieving 5 GCSEs (grades 5-9)	100%

"Leaders at all levels have maintained an exceptional level of education for the pupils" **Ofsted**

Student Destinations

Each year a significant number of Year 13 students secure places on highly competitive courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry at Oxford, Cambridge and other top ranked UK universities.

On average:

- 95% of students progress on to Higher Education
- Over 60% of students gain places at Russell Group Universities
- 100% of students progress on to university, a work experience gap year, apprenticeship or employment in a field of their choice

CCHSG provides individualised support for student progression to ensure that students have the opportunity to pursue a variety of pathways, according to their interests and abilities. Recent student destinations have included:

- University of Florence to read Fashion Design
- RADA to study Technical Theatre
- University of London to read Journalism
- Art Foundation Courses
- Apprenticeship in Chartered Accounting with Deloitte
- Internship at Bank of England
- Music Conservatoire
- Apprenticeship as Data Analyst with Disney Corporation
- Apprenticeship with energy supplier E.ON



We are proud of the excellent teaching, wide-ranging extracurricular opportunities and supportive personal and academic environment which our Sixth Form students enjoy. Further information and course outlines are available in the Sixth Form area of the website.



Inspiring Leadership

Student Voice and Student Leadership

Our students demonstrate a strong sense of pride and ownership in their school community, which is reflected in their exemplary behaviour and consideration for others. Through a rich and varied curriculum, students develop independence, confidence and resilience, complemented by opportunities to organise and lead events such as charitable fundraising initiatives. Our pastoral programme encourages students to reflect on their personal strengths while developing essential skills including teamwork, leadership and effective public speaking. As students progress through the school, they are increasingly encouraged to take on positions of responsibility, including roles such as Subject Mentors and Form Prefects. All students are actively encouraged and supported to contribute to leadership across the wider school community. Students in Year 12 have the opportunity to apply to be members of the Head Student Team.

Student Voice elections are held each September for representatives of all Year Groups. Student Voice meets weekly with a Senior Leader to discuss student matters and work on projects within the school. Members of Student Voice have represented the school at local Student Voice Conferences and have been elected onto the Essex Young Assembly.

Wider Leadership Opportunities

Within each Form Group leadership roles such as Form Captain, Charities Representative and Sports Captain are rotated among members of the Form.

Extracurricular activities also provide students with further opportunities to develop their skills in organisation and leadership. Students can choose to become Literacy, Language, Numeracy, Sports or Subject Ambassadors, promoting these areas of the curriculum through assemblies and other activities. Senior students often run or support with clubs for younger students. Extracurricular activities also provide a forum for students to be supported in representing the school in a range of local and national competitions such as the Maths Challenge Competition and Modern Foreign Languages Spelling Bees.

"There are remarkable range of leadership opportunities for pupils"

Ofsted



Inspiring Creativity

Our school community has a wonderful atmosphere of creativity. Invention, experimentation, imagination and originality are encouraged not only in our thriving Creative Arts subjects but throughout the curriculum. We pride ourselves in being an innovative and forward-looking school and aim to encourage our students to flourish as individuals. Students agree that being involved in one of the many theatre productions or a music concert can offer some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of school life. All Year 7 take part in productions as we present firstly Dickens, and then Shakespeare as part of the English and Drama curriculum.

Creativity with a commercial slant is demanded in the annual CCHSG Entrepreneurship Competition. Students create a proposal for a business venture, which they present to a panel of invited judges.



Drama and Theatre

As well as a weekly Drama Club, our vibrant and professional Drama Department stages two productions annually. In recent years the spring productions have included “The Sound of Music”, “Les Miserables”, “Oliver” and “The Boy Friend”. The summer show generally has a cast of over 120 and there are many opportunities for students to get involved as performers, musicians or supporting as stage crew.

Art

The Art Department is housed in a purpose built block with two spacious studios and a separate Sixth Form studio. Students are involved in both practical and theoretical investigations and the use of a broad range of media is encouraged including: painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture and digital media. There are a range of extracurricular opportunities, with lunchtime clubs in the department and activities run by the Art Ambassadors.



Music

Our flourishing Music Department organises a range of ensembles and choirs who showcase their exceptional range of musical talent during the annual programme of concerts, Year 7 and 8 Choral Competitions and the annual whole school production. Most activities welcome all those wanting to develop their skills and enjoy music with others. Extracurricular music groups currently include The Bluebirds Choir, The Nightingales Choir, *Bella Voces*, Advanced String Group, Intermediate String Group, Clarinet Group, Flute Group and Concert Orchestra. We also offer a wide range of peripatetic instrumental and vocal tuition through Essex Music Services.

Inspiring Curiosity



Extracurricular Activities

Confidence and self-esteem are the cornerstones of happiness, wellbeing and effective learning. Our aim is to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which challenges students academically, whilst embedding a love of learning and allowing students to develop and pursue their own independent interests.

A diverse range of lunchtime and after-school clubs offer our students every opportunity to extend their experience and build interests beyond the curriculum, as well as to explore subjects in greater depth. The termly programme of activities is published on our website. Many subjects offer activities based on areas of the curriculum, such as languages spelling bees, inviting guest speakers into lessons or organising day trips and workshops. Visits to museums and places of national, cultural and historic interest bring learning alive.

There are annual immersive language experiences and the school employs Language Assistants in French, Spanish, Chinese and German, who provide additional curriculum support and extracurricular activities for students. As part of the extracurricular programme students also have the opportunity to try new skills based activities such as computer programming or table tennis.

Other extracurricular activities encourage development of skills such as debating and public speaking. Our teams perform well annually in the European Youth Parliament, the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition and in the English Speaking Union public speaking competitions. Involvement with Young Enterprise, for older students, provides an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills in devising and running a small business.

We are proud to say that over 90% of students take part in some form of extracurricular activity each week

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The school has a very well established DofE programme and is officially accredited to run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, with over 150 students from Years 9 to 12 taking part each year. The participants volunteer with many local and national charities, undertake a range of physical activities, gain new experiences and master a new skill or hone their abilities in an existing one. At each level they also undertake overnight camping expeditions, which get progressively more challenging as they move from Bronze to Gold.

"Pupils have access to a rich and diverse range of activities both within and outside the curriculum to enable them to develop their character" Ofsted

Physical Education

Every student at CCHSG is encouraged to participate in Physical Education and games in a spirit of fun, teamwork and personal achievement. We offer a wide variety of sports with expert teaching and supervision, allowing our students to discover and pursue their favourite activities.

The Physical Education Department offers an exceptional range of extracurricular activities, often on a 'seasonal' basis, with different activities on offer before school and every lunchtime. Sports clubs currently on offer for various terms throughout the year include: athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, fitness, cross country, gymnastics, football, netball, running, rounders, swimming, table tennis and tennis. There is a busy programme of fixtures and competitions.

Many of our students have had considerable success at local, county and national level. Some sports have an additional team practice such as netball, football and rounders, but most clubs are open to all students who wish to participate for fun or exercise, helping to promote physical health and mental wellbeing. In KS3, the students are also offered an opportunity to complete the Barclays "Game On – GO Lead" programme, which empowers young women to become "Football Activators" who lead and deliver inclusive football sessions for their peers.

In Year 10 students have the opportunity to take the Sports Leaders Award, a nationally recognised qualification which supports the development of leadership skills.

Our new fitness suite is used by students in Year 9 and above in lessons and also as an extracurricular activity. Students also benefit from access to our indoor swimming pool as part of their curriculum from Year 7.







Inspiring AMBITION



Careers Education

Information, Advice and Guidance across the Curriculum

Careers education and advice on progression is embedded throughout the curriculum and provided as a discrete part of our pastoral programme. Comprehensive, fully up-to-date information alerts students to the wide range of future progression opportunities, and supports them with their research and decision-making. Careers education is offered to students as part of the PSHCE programme from Year 7 upwards, covering a range of appropriate topics for each Year Group. In Year 8 students receive individual guidance on their GCSE subject choices to ensure that they have the widest possible progression options. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 consider future post 16, higher education, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Specific guidance is given on areas such as preparing CVs and interview techniques. Our careers resource area offers a wide range of resources. As well as the support of our pastoral team, students benefit from access to an independent careers advisor who visits the school on a weekly basis.

Work experience

Work experience boosts confidence, builds skills, and connects learning to life. From Year 7, students are given opportunities to expand their horizons and learn about the ever-changing workplace. Students hear from visiting speakers, engage with employers and have meaningful encounters with the world of work, as they learn about different career and employment options. Activities aim to develop leadership skills and to build on implicit and explicit skills to prepare students for the workplace. In Year 10 students have the opportunity for a bespoke and meaningful weeklong workplace experience. The Business Education Partnership (UK) Ltd, known as BEP Group, who have been supporting student Work Experience placements since 1995, work closely with families to ensure that the best possible opportunity is given to each student. These experiences help students understand their strengths and support them in making well informed progression choices. An additional opportunity for work experience is offered to students in Year 12.

Implicit Skills and Learning

We also promote key employability skills across the curriculum. Opportunities are provided for students to develop a range of interpersonal, communication and teamworking skills and other competencies which will enable them to thrive in higher education, employment and throughout their lives.

Our careers education seeks to raise aspirations, foster self-esteem and motivate students to achieve their full potential. We promote equality, diversity, social mobility and challenge stereotypes. We aim to empower students to plan, access and manage their career choices and transitions.

Progression Post 18

The process of progression to higher education, apprenticeships and other routes is supported by a comprehensive programme for Year 12 and 13 students, outlined in full in the Sixth Form Prospectus. We have close links with Admissions Tutors from a variety of universities including Oxford and Cambridge which means that our advice is constantly updated. The school has an excellent record of students obtaining places on highly selective university courses and apprenticeship programmes.

The provision for careers education at CCHSG has been accredited a national quality award, The Quality in Careers Standard.

Inspiring *Personal Development*

Whilst truly academic, the school is firmly committed to supporting students in developing interpersonal skills such as emotional intelligence, self-regulation and resilience necessary for happiness and success in adult life. An inclusive pastoral curriculum includes work on cognitive behaviour and a reflective aspect which encourages students to build a positive and realistic view of their needs and capabilities. The environment provides students with a high level of confidence and security.

"Colchester County High School for Girls is an exceptional school"

Ofsted

Wellbeing & Pastoral Care

CCHSG is a community of friendship and support, and the wellbeing of our students is our absolute priority. Our students have high expectations of themselves and work incredibly hard to achieve their goals. The school values each student as an individual and aims to provide the support and care that they need to reach the highest possible levels of personal, academic and social achievement.

Students benefit from our strong pastoral system, with support provided by Tutors, Year Leaders and Pastoral Assistants. Students are also encouraged to take an active role in the promotion of health and wellbeing throughout the school, through





involvement in groups such as Student Voice, or as part of our team of Wellbeing Ambassadors. The school currently has a Mental Health Support Team (MHST) from North East London Foundation NHS Trust (NELFT) working onsite five days a week, providing counselling and mental health support to students. Counsellors from the Youth Enquiry Service (YES) are also onsite at CCHSG. YES is an award-winning youth charity organisation which delivers counselling, guidance and advice to young people in the North East Essex region.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

PSHCE permeates the whole ethos of the school, encouraging students to become independent, confident and responsible citizens in preparation for their future role as active participants and leaders in society. The course is delivered through separate timetabled lessons by Form Tutors, specialist teams and outside speakers. Aspects of PSHCE are also delivered through other subjects and curriculum areas, through co-curricular activities and projects and also through involvement in the life of the school and wider community. GCSE Citizenship is also studied as a discrete subject, with students sitting the examination in Year 9.

Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education is delivered as part of the PSHCE and Science programmes of study. Religious Education lessons also provide a forum to explore moral and emotional aspects; allowing students to develop an understanding of personal growth and development as well as human relationships within the context of personal and family life.

Technology Strategy

The pace of change in technology is irrevocably transforming the way we work. It is forecast that within the next 20 years ninety percent of jobs will have a digital element. At CCHSG we believe in preparing our students to become lifelong learners and strive to equip them with the skills to compete in the workplace of today and the workplace of the future. We are continuously evaluating and developing our curriculum and enhancing our resources and facilities. We aim to provide students with an innovative and forward-looking learning environment which makes effective use of technology in all its forms.



Computing is taught to all students in Years 7 and 8, with a GCSE option in Year 9 and A level in Year 12. Computing is delivered to all students in KS4, in addition to the GCSE option, via two off-timetable days in Year 9 and another two in Year 10, where students are given the opportunity to gain a programming certificate. In Year 11 and beyond they can continue to develop their skills and gain further programming and computing experience using a self-study programme.

In addition to the teaching of computing as part of the curriculum, there are several extracurricular opportunities for students to develop their digital, enterprise and design skills. We have launched the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Awards (iDEA) to the whole school. These international awards are similar to other award schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh but the badges earned are all related to digital or enterprise skills. The aim is to help students develop their confidence, knowledge-base and skill set in preparation for a career in a digital future. Students also compete in a variety of national and international computing competitions such as the UK Bebras and Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC), The British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) and the CyberFirst Girls Competition.

CCHSG places great emphasis on ensuring ethical, safe and responsible use of AI. Our AI policy establishes strong governance, safeguarding and communication around AI use. We ensure that staff follow strict guidelines to protect student data and privacy and are alert to bias, misinformation and inappropriate content. As we build AI fluency for staff, leaders and students, there must always be a clear distinction between AI generated material and student work and transparency about when and why AI tools are used.





Assessment and Reporting

Assessment, both formative and summative, is key to effective teaching and learning and an integral part of ensuring that all students achieve to their full potential. To be effective assessment needs to draw on a wide range of evidence about students' learning, so students will receive regular informal and formal assessments across all their subject areas. We strive to ensure that all students make appropriate progress and have the knowledge and skills to equip them for success and happiness in later life. Assessment provides us with the basis for effective feedback to students, parents and teachers. We provide information about student progress and attainment on a regular basis. Challenging targets are set and progress towards these targets is carefully monitored, as is attendance and punctuality. Assessment and reporting calendars vary across the Year Groups and are shared with students and parents at Parent Information Evenings.

A key part of good teaching and developing the potential of our students is ensuring that we recognise their efforts and achievements by giving encouragement and praise. We appreciate the thought and effort our students put into their work and the excellent standards they achieve. Many of our students also make positive contributions to the school community in other ways. Staff are encouraged to actively seek opportunities to praise students both within and beyond lessons. The school firmly believes in the rewarding and praising of outstanding effort as well as the achievement of excellence and that every student should always endeavour to be the best they can be.

Awards and Rewards

Our system of rewards allows us to celebrate outstanding effort, excellent achievement and also to recognise student contribution in all aspects of school life.

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

All merits are recorded on SIMS and staff are encouraged to award two or three merits per lesson. AWARDS merits are given for achievement in the following categories:

- **A**cademic achievement
- **W**ider school or extracurricular activities
- **A**ttendance at clubs and societies
- **R**ole Model – for doing the right thing
- **D**etermination – for effort
- **S**ocial – for helping others

Students receive AWARDS throughout their whole school journey from Year 7 to Year 13 to ensure continuity and clear expectations. Students achieving a significant number of AWARDS merits will be acknowledged at the end of term and in the end of year assemblies. The total number of AWARDS merits each student achieves are also included in Progress Checks and signposted in end of year Tutor Reports. Students who achieve Gold (150 merits) or Platinum (200 merits) will be entered in a special draw at the end of the year for a 'big prize'.

Our reward system also includes:

- 100% attendance certificates for each term and the whole year
- Form Tutor nomination of 'Students deserving of praise' to receive a letter home in recognition of the non-academic contributions many of our students make, e.g. organising charity fundraising, helping other students, presenting assemblies etc.
- Commendation letters are sent home to those who have made the most progress and those who have shown a consistently outstanding attitude to learning across their subjects
- We also participate in the Jack Petchey Award Scheme which allows us to formally recognise students who make an outstanding contribution to the school or wider community

Provision for Most Able Students

The majority of students at CCHSG could potentially be classified as what has historically been called 'Gifted and Talented' – defined as "young people with an ability to develop to a level significantly ahead of their Year Group". It is our duty to assess our students thoroughly, know them as individuals and support them to achieve to the very best of their abilities. To this end we have a Lead Teacher with responsibility for Most Able students across the whole school and our teaching is planned to provide challenging lessons which employ a range of strategies to engage and interest our students. We also ensure that we have a curriculum adapted to meet the needs of all students, including the most able. Within the taught curriculum, for example, student progress is encouraged by:

- Varied groupings for activities
- Development of higher order questioning and thinking skills
- Constantly reviewing and adapting our learning environment to embrace new technology
- Enrichment tasks and extension materials
- Encouragement of students taking responsibility for their own learning, including independent research
- Self and peer evaluation of work
- The teaching of GCSE Citizenship as a discrete subject in Years 7-9.

Subject knowledge and engagement is also promoted beyond the classroom for example:

- National competitions (for example Maths Challenge, Languages Spelling Bee, Biology Olympiad, English Speaking Union debating competition and European Youth Parliament)
- AQA Level 2 Projects for Year 9 and Extended Project Qualification for Year 12
- Alerting students and parents to external opportunities such as university-run summer schools and residential courses
- Workshops with external experts on topics such as enterprise education and digital marketing



Behaviour and Safeguarding

All students are expected to follow the school code of conduct, to treat each other and all members of the school community with respect and to behave sensibly and with consideration, both in lessons and around the school. Students should not behave in any way which impedes their own learning or that of others in the class. On the rare occasions where it is necessary, a range of sanctions may be imposed including after-school detentions and suspension from school.

Bullying, although rare, does occasionally happen. The school takes incidents of bullying very seriously and will always investigate and seek resolution to such incidents. All students and parents are expected to sign the ICT Acceptable Use Policy and are informed of the dangers and issues surrounding e-safety and cyber-bullying. Safeguarding our students is of paramount importance to us. If any student has a worry or concern, or wishes to report an incident, they can speak to their Form Tutor, Year Leader or any member of the Pastoral Team as well as the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Students also have the facility to make an anonymous report via the school website. **Copies of all school policies are available in full on the website www.cchsg.com.**

"Pupils are part of a respectful, kind and hardworking community" Ofsted

Homework

Homework is an integral part of learning at all levels in the school. The forms it can take are many. We define 'homework' as work which is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum, but not necessarily at home; which contains an element of independent study not supervised or directly controlled by a teacher and which represents an extension of the learning activities within the timetabled curriculum.

General objectives of homework:

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study, perseverance and self-discipline
- To allow practice and reinforcement of skills learnt in the classroom
- To allow students to take responsibility for organising their own learning
- To permit more curriculum content to be covered and more rapid progress to be made
- To open up areas of study, and to make possible the use of materials, resources and sources of information not accessible in the classroom
- To involve parents (and other adults) in students' work
- To encourage creativity and initiative

Duration

In Year 7, approximately 20-25 minutes of work is set per subject on either a fortnightly or weekly basis. In Year 8 this increases to 30-40 minutes per subject. By Years 9, 10 and 11 it is expected that students will be spending around two hours per evening on school related tasks. Years 12 and 13 organise their own timetable for homework to meet the deadlines set by their teachers.

All timings should be seen as guidelines and are not prescriptive, as students work at very different rates. Teaching staff will always clarify the requirements in terms of the scope of the task and the deadline for completion, with the class, when the work is set.

A student planner is provided for recording homework tasks. This is checked and signed regularly by parents and Form Tutors in Years 7 to 11.

Keeping Parents Informed

Communication with Parents and Carers

At CCHSG, we welcome the involvement of parents and carers in promoting the education and wellbeing of our students.

A Weekly Bulletin

Parents and students receive a weekly update via email with reminders and details of forthcoming events.

Parental Voice

Meetings are held several times a year to provide an opportunity to explore current educational issues and enable an exchange of ideas. Dates of upcoming meetings are advertised in the Parent Weekly Bulletin.

The E-Newsletter

This is published on the website at the end of each half term. The e-newsletter records and celebrates school activities and the achievements of our student community.

Parent Governors

Parents and carers elect representatives for the school's Governing Board. These governors are able to represent the parental perspective throughout the decision making process of the school.

Requesting Further Information

Parents are encouraged to visit the school website www.cchsg.com for further information and copies of school policies.



The School Day

Times subject to confirmation

Bell at 08.43

08.45	Registration and Form Time or Assembly
09.05	*Movement Time*
09.10	Period 1

10.10 Break
Bell at 10.27

10.30	Period 2
11.30	*Movement Time*
11.35	Period 3

12.35 Lunch
Bell at 13.23

13.30	Period 4 (including PM registration)
14.30	*Movement Time*
14.35	Period 5

Bell at 15.35

Start of the Day

We look forward to welcoming students into the main building from 08:35 each morning. Should students wish to arrive earlier to enjoy a nutritious breakfast, the Dining Hall is open for the purchase of breakfast items from 08.00.

End of the Day

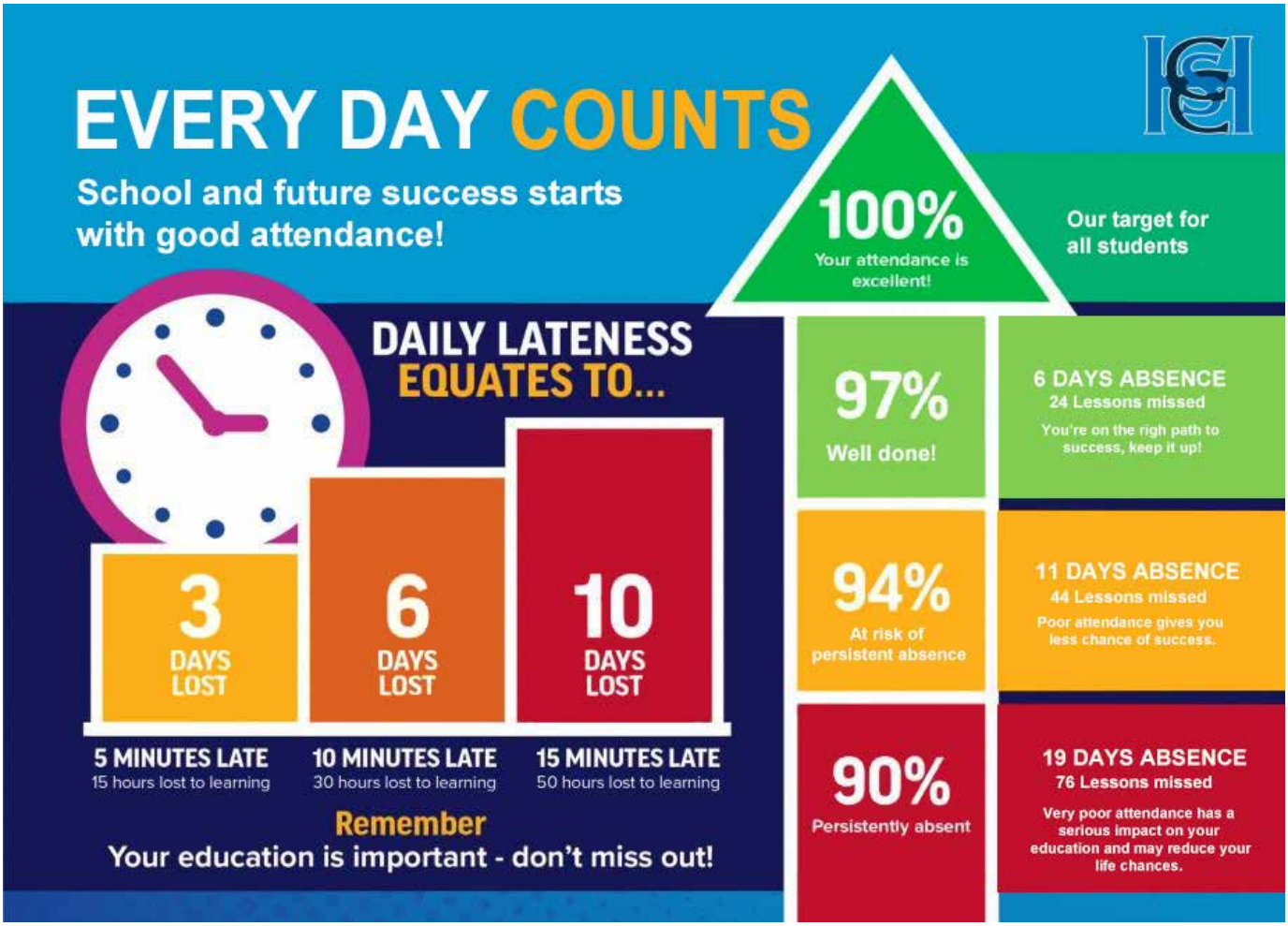
The school day concludes at 16:00, at which time students in Years 7 to 11 should leave the site unless they are signed in to a supervised after school club or activity.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is the cornerstone of academic success, and we are proud that the majority of our students maintain an attendance record of 97% or above. We ask that students only miss school in the event of personal illness. In such cases, parents and carers are asked to follow our standard absence procedures to keep us informed. For the safety and wellbeing of our school community, students must remain on-site throughout the school day unless prior permission has been granted.

Punctuality

Developing good habits of punctuality is essential for future success. Students must make every effort to arrive in good time for the start of the school day at 8.45 and to be on time for all lessons and scheduled activities.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What catering and lunches does the school provide?

A breakfast service operates in the Dining Hall from 08.00 where students can purchase breakfast items. At breaktime a range of hot and cold snacks are available for purchase. School lunches are very popular with both students and staff, and far more varied than traditional "school dinners." All the food is prepared and cooked on site and the weekly menus are publicised in advance via the Student and Parent Bulletins and on the school website. The wide ranging options include paninis, curries, stir fries, pasta dishes, pizza, a salad bar, baked potatoes, roast lunches and the occasional chip! Prices are competitive and represent good value. Students also have the option to bring a packed lunch from home if they wish.

Can we take family holidays during term time?

There is no legal entitlement for parents to take their children on holiday during term time. Permission for family holidays during term time will not be authorised by the school and fines may be issued by the Local Education Authority.

Where can I find the term dates?

Term dates are published in the Weekly Bulletin and can also be found, along with the school calendar, on the website.

Where can I purchase school uniform?

School uniform including a blazer is worn by students in Years 7 to 11, and students in Years 12 and 13 have a smart dress code. The only supplier of certain items of uniform is Coes of Ipswich (www.coes.co.uk). However, other uniform items can be bought on the high street. Please check the school website for specified items. The PTFA hold very popular Nearly New Uniform sales on a termly basis. The dates of these are advertised via the PTFA section of the weekly Parent Bulletin, on our social media and on Classlist.

Do students pay fees to attend CCHSG?

CCHSG is a state school and places are applied for through the Local Education Authority and allocated to students based on performance in the 11+ selection test. We do not charge fees. The school is committed to fair access for disadvantaged students. The full Admissions Policy for both Year 7 and Year 12 is available on the school website www.cchsg.com



What is the School Fund?

The School is a Registered Charity and the additional contributions made by parents and friends of the school to our School Fund enable us to improve and enhance the provision that we can make for our students' education.

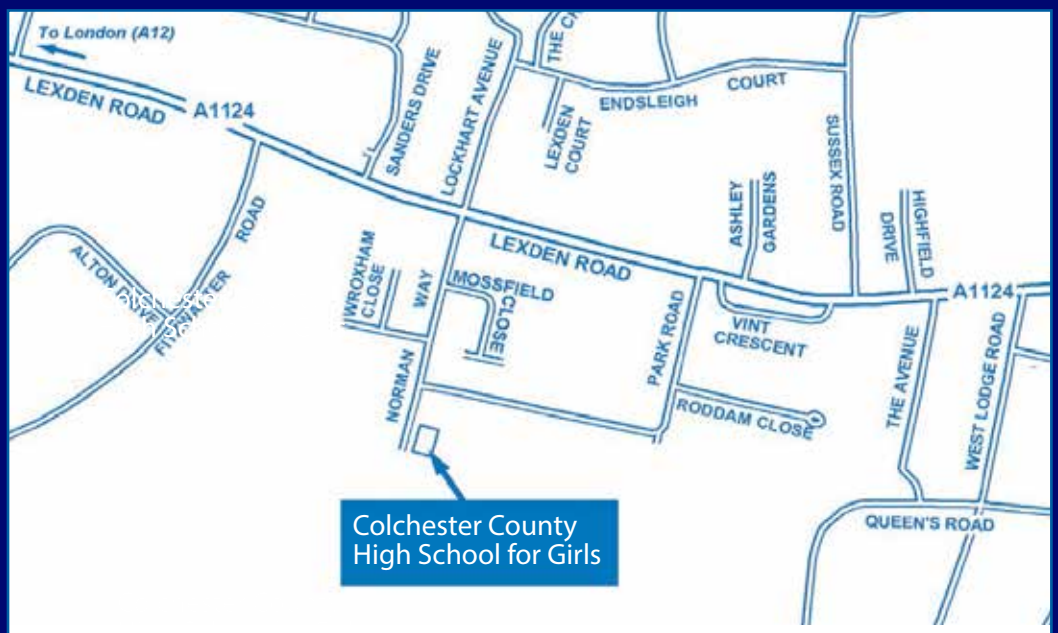
Is there a Parent Teacher Association that I can join?

The thriving Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) organises fundraising and social activities for parents, carers, staff, students and the wider community. All parents and carers are automatically members of the PTFA and the association would like to encourage parents and carers to participate as fully as possible. Further information about the PTFA is available via the PTFA Hub under the parents' section of the school website. Enquiries related to the PTFA can be emailed to cchsgptfa@gmail.com.

How can I view the school site and facilities?

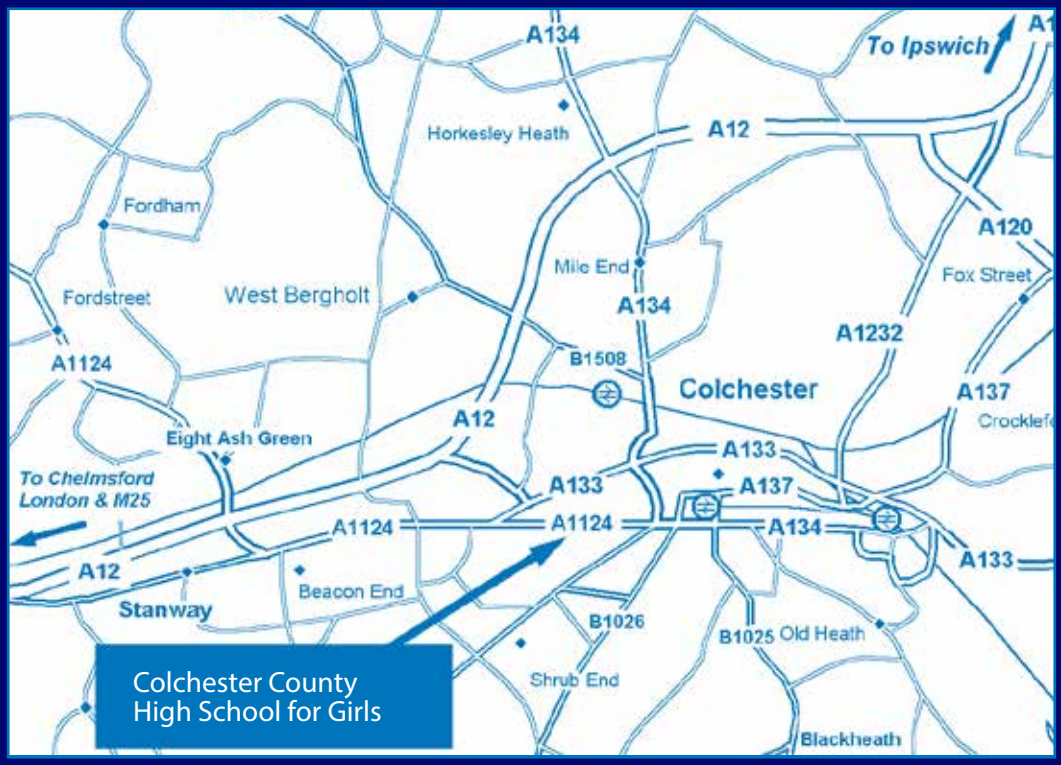
The drone video, available on the home page of our website, provides a tour of the school buildings and the main facilities on the school site. Tours of the school can be booked during our Open Week in the summer term.

An academy within the
Alpha Trust Group of Schools



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Note: Please be aware that if using satellite navigation, entering just our postcode can result in a destination which does not allow access to the school, **the full address should be entered.**



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COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
WISDOM GIVETH LIFE
CCHSG