CCHSG E-Newsletter

18 October 2022

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Executive Principal's Notes

The excellent GCSE and A level results achieved by our students this year, which were the best in the history of the school, could only have been achieved with the hard work and commitment of staff and students and the support of their families. I am delighted to confirm that CCHSG appears at 13 on the Sunday Times Parent Power list of national state schools, which includes both A level and GCSE. While this is an excellent achievement, we continue to encourage our students to aim for their individual personal best in all aspects of their lives.

There was further positive news this term with the recent confirmation that funding has been secured for the Trust (CCHSG and Home Farm). This will be used to build and improve classrooms at CCHSG and to fund changing rooms at Home Farm. Our dynamic, forward-looking, and successful Trust was originally formed by Headteachers who all share the same personal values and educational ambitions for their young people. We aim to provide an outstanding education for our students, giving them every opportunity to achieve excellent individual outcomes, both academic and personal. We also place importance on retaining each school's unique qualities and strengths and promoting its local context and community.

As educators, we have a duty, and indeed a desire, to share best practice with other, like-minded schools, and in turn to learn from them. Working as a multi-academy trust (MAT) brings further shared resources and more opportunities for staff to collaborate and widen their knowledge and teaching pedagogy.

The benefits of working together as a school community in its widest sense, are illustrated by some of the items in our newsletter this half term. Our wider community of alumni form a network of support for current students, visiting school to share their experiences and pass on valuable advice. This half term we were delighted that former CCHSG student and Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist, Laura Stephens was able to visit us, present an assembly and meet with students studying PE GCSE and A Level. She provided some fascinating insights into life as a professional athlete.



As detailed later in the newsletter, the OGA/Alumnae Association continue their links with the school through the annual awarding of a prize to a student for their contribution to extracurricular activities. A further aspect of the CCHSG community is our invaluable PTFA, providing social opportunities and raising funds to support our students with additional resources and equipment. At the PTFA AGM this year Mrs Agness O'Brien, who has been an incredibly committed and innovative Chair of the PTFA since March 2018, stepped down. We send our sincere thanks to her for the tremendous contribution that she has made to the school, and wish the new Chair of the PTFA, Mrs Anni Cullen, every success.

This term we have also seen our commitment to the arts; drama, music, dance and visual arts, which involves staff from across the school, recognised through the awarding of Arts Mark Gold Award. Further details about this can be found later in the e-newsletter. Thanks go to Mrs Saunders for co-ordinating our application.

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet so many families at the recent Year Group Information Evenings. Whilst wishing to be innovative and efficient we recognise that as a community, face to face interaction is extremely important. Currently we will be providing a blended approach to events, with some taking place online, and others in person. We will keep this under review and seek parental feedback later in the year.

All our Year 11 students and their families are warmly invited to the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 3 November, where Sixth Form students and staff will be available to discuss courses and give tours of the Sixth Form facilities.

We wish you all a pleasant and relaxing half term break.

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO





Sixth Form at CCHSG

Student Leadership



Congratulations to our Student Leadership Team for 2022/23

There are many leadership opportunities available for our Sixth Form students such as Subject Prefect and Form Prefect roles and organising clubs and activities for younger students.

Destinations

Oxbridge & Russell Group Progression

Each year over 95% of students apply to university. Many submit successful applications to Oxbridge and others are offered places at the UKs top ranked universities on highly competitive courses. A large number of students apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as a range of other courses, depending on their interests and academic ability.

CCHSG provides individualised support for student progression to ensure that students have the opportunity to pursue a variety of pathways.

On average:

95% of our students progress on to Higher Education

Over 60% gained places at Russell Group Universities

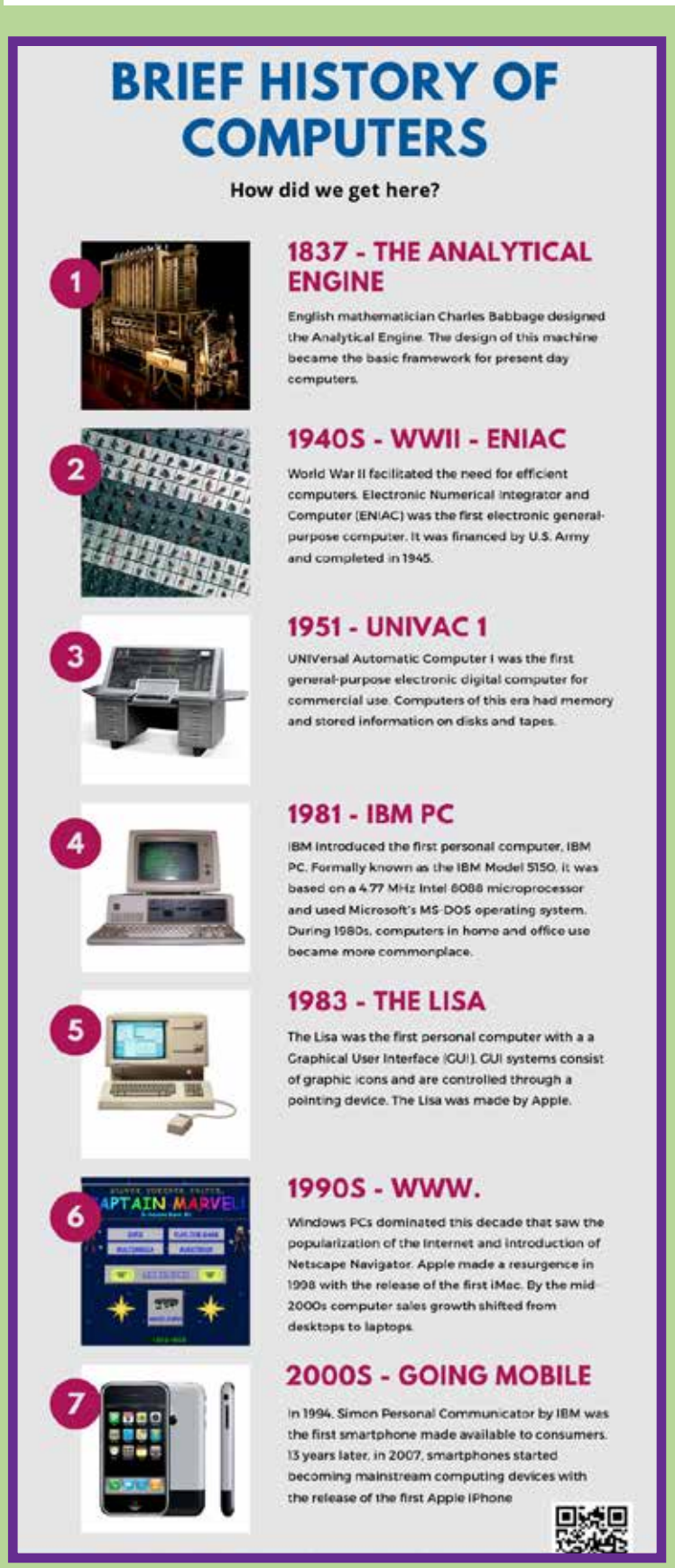
100% progress on to university, a work experience gap year, apprenticeship or employment in a field of their choice, for example:

- RADA to study Technical Theatre
- Art Foundation Courses
- Internship at Bank of England
- University for the Creative Arts to read Fashion Design
- Music Conservatoire
- University of East Anglia to read Nursing

Year 11 Visit Centre for Computing History

Year 11 computer scientists enjoyed a visit to the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. This centre is a hands-on interactive display of computers and game consoles that date back to the early sixties. From Pong to Pokémon, students can experience game play evolving. They learnt about the important developments in computing history, programmed one of the iconic BBC Micro computers and supplemented their GCSE course by learning about the Fetch Decode Execute cycle on the world biggest processor. They also enjoyed some retro gaming! The display includes the huge computers of the sixties, the home computers of the 80's and much more. The centre collects and preserves historical computing related artefacts and has undertaken a project to preserve the data from the BBC Domesday Project and make it available online. Other important artefacts in the centre's collection include a prototype ZX Spectrum, Professor Steve Furber's Computer Group prototype and a NeXT computer signed by Sir Tim Berners-Lee. Thanks to Mr Nachman for organising the trip.

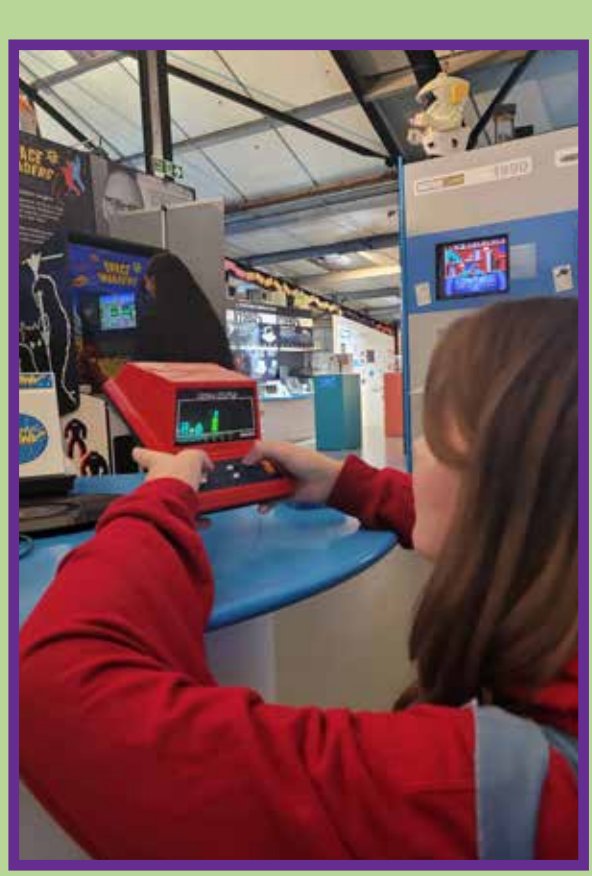












History Book Club

On the last day of the summer term, historical book club reunited in person, for the first time post-covid! A French themed meeting took place, where we discussed the novel 'The Court of Miracles' written by Kester Grant, alongside a few French pastries (which I can confirm were a huge success with everyone).

The historical fiction transported us back to the streets of Paris in the nineteenth century, in an alternative world, where the French Revolution had failed. The novel puts a twist on the renown 'Les Misérables' as our main heroine Eponine, Nina, undergoes a series of action-filled quests. We are introduced to a young Nina, a cat burglar, who has just been torn away from her sister. Left with no further choices, Nina is forced to join the Court of Miracles (an underground criminal guild). The novel explores themes of both corruption and justice, as we join Nina on her life-long battle.

Although not everyone had fully completed the novel, we immersed ourselves into a deep discussion, on both the book's ups and downs. Everyone, from both the lower and upper parts of the school, had the opportunity to share their views on the novel and express the parts they enjoyed and what they thought could have been improved. We dove into some of the deeper meanings behind some of the book's passages, where we shared all our different inputs.

Historical Book Club reads and discusses one book every term and is the perfect environment for both history and literature lovers. I highly recommend that all students explore something new this academic year, hopefully that means joining the club! Students can email Mr Paz (IPaz@cchsg.com) to be added to the Team's page and keep an eye out for any announcements.



Enjoy History? Or love reading? Join...

History Book Club!

- When did Africans first come to Britain?
- Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings?
- Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution?

These and many other questions are answered in this essential introduction to 1800 years of the Black British history: from the Roman Africans who guarded Hadrian's Wall right up to the present day.

This children's version of the bestseller *Black and British: A Forgotten History* is Illustrated with maps, photos and portraits.

Macmillan Children's Books will donate 50p from every copy sold to The Black Curriculum.



A short, essential introduction to Black British history for readers of 12+ by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga.

On appointing him as a professor in 2019, the University of Manchester described him as an expert on military history, empire, race and slavery, and "one of the UK's foremost historians". In response to the global Black Lives Matter movement with protests after the murder of George Floyd,Olusoga's *Black and British: A Forgotten History* was re-broadcast along with *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*, also fronted by him.

You can purchase the book from the local bookshop, The Red Lion Books. Price is £6.00

Those that take part in a discussion of the book in December (with a viewing of the documentary that went with the book) will get their history scholarship card stamped and ALSO entered into a **raffle** for a **food** prize.



https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04flzl2

Oxbridge Advice from Former CCHSG Students

Two former CCHSG students, Asmaani Shukla and Hen Dorussen gave a presentation to current students about Oxbridge. It was very popular, with over 30 Year 12 students attending. Students found the talk very informative, with some useful advice on preparing to apply for an Oxbridge course and on choosing a college.



Open Days

Cambridge: https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-open-days

Oxford: https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/open-days-and-visits



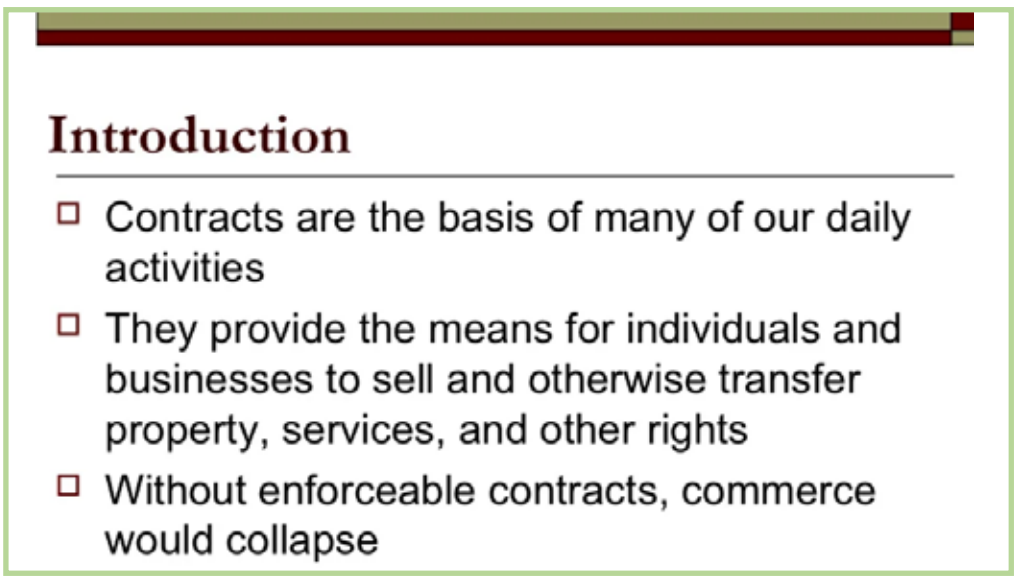


Law Talk

On Monday 26 September, about 40 students from Years 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 were invited to attend a talk on Law at lunchtime by University of Essex lecturer Godswill Agbaitoro. The lecture covered the basics of contract law, a fundamental part of the A level law course at CCHSG. The students contributed well throughout and asked some excellent questions. Mr Agbaitoro afterwards commented that this was the most interactive session he has done with secondary schools – well done to our students!

Godswill is a lecturer in law and currently completing his PhD at the University of Essex. He has also been a visiting researcher at the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC), Houston, Texas, USA. His research interests lie in international energy law and policy, energy justice, international environmental law and corporate social responsibility in the energy sector. He currently teaches foundations of public law, international environmental law and corporate responsibility and business law at Essex Law School.







Laura Stephens visits CCHSG

Laura Stephens, former CCHSG student and Commonwealth Silver Medallist (200m butterfly) 2022, visited CCHSG and spent a morning with students.



Following an inspirational presentation to Year 11, students from GCSE and A level PE groups had the opportunity to meet Laura for a Q & A session. Laura provided them with an enthralling account of her journey to become a medallist. She was quite frank about the funding challenges faced by even the elite swimmers and the constant pressure to retain a top 10 ranking: "I'd have helicoptered in if I was a footballer..."

She also talked about the role of psychology in sport, her own work with a sport psychologist to build her confidence and the techniques that she uses to help her to "handle the arena" at venues with large crowds.



Following her Commonwealth Games success Laura is now working towards the Paris Olympics in 2024. She combines her training regime with study, as she is also completing a Master's degree at Plymouth University. Having started swimming at the age of 8, she has been aiming for the Olympics since the age of 14. Rebecca Adlington was one of her early role models.

Laura emphasised that that enjoyment of your sport is crucial and that some athletes continue to compete for longer than they really want because they have few other avenues. She plans to continue with her academic qualifications so that there are other options at the end of her sporting career.

PE exam students then had an amazing chance for a session in the pool, directed by Laura.



Mrs Marshall thanked Laura and said "We are always very pleased to hear from former students and to welcome them back as visitors. The resilience and determination demonstrated by Laura's amazing sporting achievements are an inspiration for current students, no matter which future pathway they choose. We will be following her career closely and wish her continued success."



Old Girl's/Alumnae Association Garden Party

Year 13 students from the Head Student Team, Poppy Sugden, Viv Ghiglino, Alice Mainwood and Tomi Oladapo-Akinruli joined some of the members of the OGA for an enjoyable afternoon at their Garden Party in September. They were interested to hear about the original school at Grey Friar's and some of the activities that past students had been involved in. There were also lots of lovely cakes!







The Old Girls'/Alumnae Association Award

As part of the continuing links between the OGA and the current students at CCHSG, CCHSG is very grateful that the 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. Poppy Sudgen was chosen to be this year's recipient in acknowledgement of her many contributions to the school community, such as her frequent starring roles in the annual school productions, her role in the organisation of Form Prefects, her active participation in the Head Student Team and her role, via Student Voice, in anti-bullying week. Poppy was also commended for her unwavering positivity in supporting those around her.



We were delighted that Mrs Liz White was able to present the award on behalf of the OGA at the Year 13 final assembly last term. Poppy has now started at Cambridge, studying Modern Languages.

Poppy wrote the following letter to the OGA in thanks:

Dear CCHSG Old Girls' Association,

I was very touched to receive the Old Girls' Award at the end of my time at CCHSG and would like to thank you so much for the lovely card and generous cheque. I feel honoured to have been chosen for such an award and have put the money towards my fairly extensive university reading list.

Finishing school this term was very bittersweet. I absolutely loved my seven years there; staying for A-levels was an easy decision. I feel very fortunate not only to have had such a brilliant education, but also to have completed it somewhere I felt so comfortable and happy. I realise I am lucky to be able to look back so fondly on my secondary school experience.

In the Autumn I am hoping to start at Cambridge to study Modern Languages. This in itself is something I certainly could not have achieved without the support I received at school; my teachers' encouragement and guidance were exceptional, and I benefited in particular from the 1-1 support of our languages assistants.

In preparation for my degree I am planning to spend some time in both France and Spain this Summer, and I also look forward to climbing Snowdon at the end of July with a school friend.

It was lovely to hear about the Old Girls' Association at our leavers' assembly, and I know I speak for many of my peers when I say how keen we are to become active members of the Association.

With very best regards,

Poppy Sugden

Past Old Girls'/Alumnae Association Award Winners

In 2021, due to COVID restrictions the usual Leaver's Assembly did not take place. Mia Urwin was presented with the award in acknowledgement of her many contributions to the school community, particularly her sustained contributions to the annual school productions, her running





of Medsoc; her active participation in Student Voice in Year 12; her contribution to "Time for Tolerance"; her role as a Wellbeing Ambassador; tutoring students and supporting those around her. Mia progressed on to Oxford to study Medicine and is making the most of the opportunities on offer there.



In 2020 Sophie Carling received the OGA Award in recognition of her promotion of Music and Drama within the school. She had prominent roles in a number of school productions and also edited the school's student magazine, "The Kilt". Sophie also represented the views of students in Student Voice and was part of the Head Student Team. She progressed on to Cambridge to study English Literature.

In 2019 the award went jointly to two students: Alex Webster-Hirst and Daisy Thomas. Alex was recognised to contribution to Music within the school, running the recorder ensemble and doing her own arrangements of music for the group. She also contributed as a musician to many other extracurricular music clubs and participated in a variety of concerts and performances. Alex studied Chemistry at York, and is now doing her Masters at Tohoku University in Japan, having started to teach herself to speak Japanese in Year 10.



From Left:
Daisy Thomas, Liz White & Alex Webster-Hirst



Daisy Thomas was Editor of "The Kilt" and took the publication from strength to strength, organising her team of Year 13 editors admirably and encouraging more students to get involved. She represented the English department in assemblies on the importance of journalism, mentored other students and took a prominent role in Shakespeare Club and 'Oxbridge English'. She also represented the school in the European Youth Parliament and took a prominent role in school productions. Daisy progressed to Robinson College, Cambridge, to study English.

During her time at Cambridge she was Chair of the Ethical Affairs committee and a prominent member of a number of activist groups such as the "Living Wage Campaign" and "Climate Justice Group".

https://uk.linkedin.com/company/colchester-county-high-school-for-girls

CCHSG Connect is a Linkedin network for Colchester County High School for Girls staff and students, past and present.

The Old Girl's/Alumnae Association

Association membership is open to anyone who has been a student or staff member at Colchester County High School for Girls. New school leavers are automatically registered as members if they agree to share their details.

https://www.facebook.com/CchsAlumnae/

Email: CCHS_OGA@yahoo.com

Web: CCHS Old Girls' Association/Alumnae

Yr 10 Careers Visit to Colchester Zoo

As part of their careers education and work experience, students had the opportunity to explore Colchester Zoo. They completed activities which gave them a better understanding of the running of a large business and that are transferable to other organisations. Students gained an overview of Colchester Zoo as a visitor attraction, covering things like running costs, competition, staffing and job roles, customers, customer service, market research, products, marketing strategies, and advertising.

Students also had the opportunity to meet zoo employees from a variety of areas and were able to ask questions about their roles and experiences.

As part of the visit there was also the opportunity to complete a task relating to either human resource management, enclosure design, or the work of scientists in the wild. Thank you to Mr Gosling for organising such an interesting and enjoyable trip.







Zoo Work Experience Trip

Going to the zoo was a wonderful experience as we were able to see the amount of time and money that is put into creating a safe environment for both the animals and the visitors. During our visit, we had the opportunity to learn about the different roles that can be held at the zoo, varying from animal care to marketing and catering. Part of Colchester Zoo's mission statement is to, “further understanding and respect for animals”. One way that Colchester Zoo fulfils this is through enclosure design, which we learnt about during an informative, interactive session with an employee at the Zoo. During this session, we designed our own enclosures, allowing us to see all the different aspects considered during the process of making one, including animal needs such as physical and mental stimulation, and human safety. As well as this, we looked at the business and financial side of things, learning that it costs over £40,000 a day to run the zoo!

Afterwards, we were able to explore the zoo for a few hours with friends, this was very enjoyable for everyone since we could see the animals up close in the safe environment provided for them by the zoo, and learnt a lot about their individual needs and behaviours.
Overall, it was a great day out through which we gained valuable information about the different types of jobs and the amount of care put into maintaining the safe and educational the zoo, which is an experience that we are all grateful for. **Rishika Kartha 10L**





Year 13 Foodbank Collection

Thank you to Year 13 who coordinated our annual foodbank appeal. We are very grateful for all the donations kindly given by staff and students. These were transported to the Trussell Trust Food Bank at Tollgate. Donations of food or financial contributions can be made directly to the foodbank at any time. See https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/









Katie Shine - Rock Band performance

As part of the Essex Year of Reading, children's author Michael Rosen led two special poetry performances for hundreds of Basildon pupils at the Towngate Theatre on Wednesday October 12. The author explained why live events are so engaging for children. He said: "When a writer appears in front of children it makes books come alive. Connecting words with the person and performance, it really lifts the words off the page and makes the children go hunt for the book and even more books."

We congratulate Katie Shine who was drummer in a Colchester Rock Bank which performed at the event alongside a choir from Basildon Academy. Michael Rosen congratulated Katie on her performance.



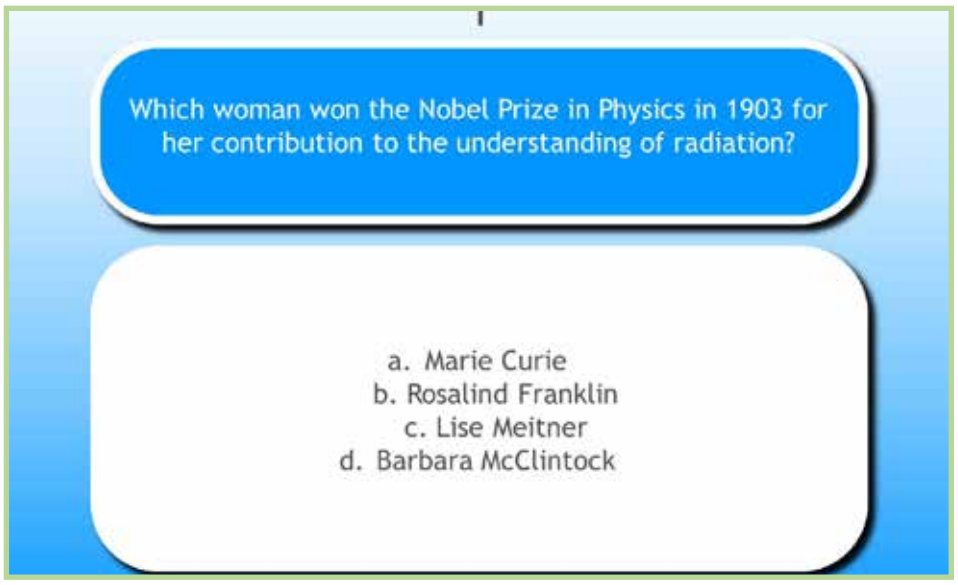
Ada Lovelace Day - Women in STEM Quiz

Ada Lovelace Day (ALD), is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It aims to increase the profile of women in STEM and, in doing so, create new role models who will encourage more girls into STEM careers and support women already working in STEM. https://www.facebook.com/AdaLovelaceDay/

Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (née Byron; 10 December 1815 – 27 November 1852) was an English mathematician and writer, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine. She was the first to recognise that the machine had applications beyond pure calculation, and to have published the first algorithm intended to be carried out by such a machine. As a result, she is often regarded as the first computer programmer.

Mr Nachman marked the occasion with a hugely popular Women in STEM Careers quiz at lunchtime.









Update From Former Student – Maddie Spence

I left CCHSG in Summer 2014 and the time has gone so quickly! I went straight from school to King's College London to study Medicine. I did a five-year course and graduated in 2019 - very luckily managing a beautiful in person graduation ceremony which lots of people subsequently missed out on ...

My first two "foundation years" working as a doctor were made somewhat unique due to Covid-19. The first year I worked in Tunbridge Wells, and then in Brighton. This year, I've had a sort of late gap year; I moved back to Colchester to save some money working in A&E and interspersed this with several long trips abroad. I am soon starting a new job - 'Clinical Teaching Fellow', delivering bedside teaching to undergraduate students. My ultimate goal is to become a GP; I like community care, getting to know whole families and the social and psychological aspects of medicine. I want to maintain my interest in Medical Education, and be a "portfolio GP", which essentially means lots of different bits and pieces! My advice would be to take each stage at a time – you learn so much about yourself and what you enjoy as you go along, and there is no rush to reach a particular stage by a particular time.



Arts Mark Gold Award

Artsmark Gold Award Awarded by Arts Council England

We are delighted that Arts Council England, following an appraisal process, has recognised the commitment of the school to visual arts, drama, dance and music. Thanks go to Mrs Saunders for coordinating the application. The following feedback was given by the assessor, based on our Statement of Commitment and Statement of Impact:



“Colchester County High School for Girls has established a very rich set of arts practices and enrichment offers that enhance the learning experiences of pupils and provide the rounded, broad and balanced development the school aims for. You have a great strength in performing arts and stage a number of shows through the year which sound vibrant and garner high levels of parental engagement.



It is clear that you see the Arts not only as an end in themselves and routes to possible creative careers (which you signpost well) but also as providing more general skills around positive mindset and engaging with opportunities with energy and dynamism. Many of your additional responsibilities offered in school have an arts/cultural connection. For example, you have 27 Art Ambassadors from year 10-13; 28 English & Literacy peer mentors; 67 Digital Leaders and 3 Music Prefects. Curriculum engagement is also good. Arts subjects have seen an increase of 59% (Art, Music and Drama) over the 2018-2021 period. The arts subjects have also been consistently above whole school average point scores and achieved 100 % 7+ at GCSE 2018-2021.



You have begun to reach out to other schools to offer expertise and guidance on some aspects of arts provision - most recently printmaking. Now that you have a dedicated and purpose-built art block it seems likely that acting as a focal point for training for other settings will only increase and it is great to see that is already part of your future ambitions. Most exciting is your ongoing consultation with staff to see elements and principles of learning which tend to thrive in and through the arts transfer to all learning in all subjects.



You are developing a teaching and learning approach to incorporating Creativity, Agility, Deeper Knowledge, Collaboration & Communication and Measuring Progress across all subjects and in what is expected to be seen consistently in lessons. To see the outcomes of this over future years will be fascinating.”

Year 13 Biology Field Trip to Dorset

72 Year 13 biologists headed off to Dorset on 30 August for the annual A level biology fieldtrip. The days are long studying ecology, with analysis of data every night until 9pm. The biology teachers think it was the best field trip ever: blessed with sun, warmth, brilliant students who enjoyed the work and great PGL ecology staff.



This is what the students thought of the fieldtrip:
After a 5 hour bus journey and torrential rain it is safe to say that when we finally reached Dorset nobody was ready to do anything other than lay down in bed. On reaching the centre we had a short orientation talk with a PGL ambassador, settled into our rooms after taking a tour. After supper we had a study session on sampling and then went to the hall to let off some steam. We were then instructed to get into groups of 10 and after some rapid scrambling we settled down, seated in lines, to see what was in store. First was the beanbag race, preceding the shoe throw. The PGL staff, full of an unimaginable level of energy, started throwing shoes all across the room. The amount of people with Air Forces did not make getting your shoe back any easier. Despite our tiredness sprinting across the PGL hall, making shoe towers and dancing to the Macarena was the most fun we've had. When everyone left chatter was louder and a surprising amount of smiles could be seen. This set the tone for the rest of our stay, no matter how tired we were.



We went at Studland on the second day of the trip (the Saturday), and after a brief coach journey, we arrived at the surprisingly sunny sand dunes, considering it was October. The morning was spent doing transect sampling over the sand dunes which allowed us to look at the stages of succession using a quadrat: we had two poles connected by a 10m long rope, and placed one next to the starting point, and the second one 10m in front of it in a straight line. From here we placed the quadrat directly in front of the start pole and collected our data from it, including counting squares of the quadrat containing specific organisms, measuring light intensity, temperature, soil pH, wind speed and measuring the soil infiltration rate. We also had to measure the incline of the poles as we moved up the sand dunes. We continued this about 14 times as we moved up the sand dunes and into the heath, keeping a standardised procedure; poles remaining 10m apart, placing the quadrat at the same angle each time in relation to the first pole and taking our soil samples for pH testing, temperature, and light intensity measures from the same square of the quadrat to increase the validity. After a picnic lunch courtesy of PGL, we began our random sampling. Here we placed two 10m measuring tapes at 90° angles and used a random number generator to find co-ordinates and place our quadrat down, then we counted each individual species of plant we could see inside the quadrat using an identification guide to help us (my personal favourite moment occurred when we were counting tiny little plants called pixie cups,







and someone counted up to 70 something and lost count and they had to restart which was infuriating for her, but quite funny none the less!). Altogether, the day was tiring but definitely worth it, and it was a very satisfying feeling looking at all the self-collected data on our spreadsheet, my only regret of that day is that I forgot to take my sunglasses!

On Sunday morning, we went to the river Wey to sample at different points along the river. Our sampling meant that we were measuring several factors that made up the ecosystem of the river, both abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living) factors. We measured the width and depth of the river, the time taken for fluorescent dye and a rubber duck to pass a certain point (this measures speed of flow), and the smoothness and length of stones found in the river. Our rubber ducks had some very inventive names: Quack Efron, Quackira, James Pond and Michael Quackson, just to name a few. To count and identify the different numbers of species in the river, we carried out kick sampling. This involved one person kicking the riverbed and another person holding a net downstream to catch anything that becomes dislodged from the riverbed. The best catches from the river were an eel and a fish!

On the Sunday afternoon, we trekked down to the beach to look at marine zonation and try rock pooling. We did a transect from the cliffs towards the sea, spotting and recording as many different organisms as we could. Who knew there were so many species of seaweed! Our aim was to analyse the organisms present in the different areas of the rock pools. Afterwards, we had some time to explore the rock pools, equipped with nets and identification guides and some us of were even brave enough to hold the crabs. We saw crabs, limpets, anemones and fish to name just a few, although the fish especially proved very tricky to catch. There were varying degrees of success with welly boots: some remained dry the whole day, some became slightly damp, and some practically had another rock pool inside them! The primary goal in the rock pools was to stay upright while trying to navigate the slippery rock and seaweed, although it helped to have friends nearby so we could catch each other as we nearly fell in. With the sun appearing, it was a lovely way to end a day being marine ecologists.

On the Monday morning of the last day of the trip, we went fossil hunting. The PGL staff took us along the beach to a clay deposit that was rich in fossils, the most common being ammonites, belemnites, and devil's toenails (gryphaea). After an hour of digging, most people found at least one small fossil to keep and take home, as well as lots of mini pockets of pyrite, which is a shiny yellow mineral more commonly known as fool's gold. The last day was a fun, relaxing and well worth the wait.

On the way home most students were fast asleep, sign of a good time and lots of fresh air in Dorset!

Thanks to Sofija Strode, Sanika Khopkar, Rachelle Swampilli, Annabel Brookes and Grade Puckey for the report.











PTFA Annual General Meeting

CCHSG PTFA is an important bridge between the school, parents and community. PTFA volunteers generate much appreciated income for the purchase of additional resources and equipment for students across the school, with an incredible £25,580 being raised in the last academic year alone. The PTFA also support the school by providing the refreshments at school events such as concerts and productions, as well as planning and staffing a number of popular social events, such as the Year 7 Welcome Party, Quiz Nights and the annual Christmas Market, which help build connections and friendships. The nearly new uniform sales, run entirely by the PTFA, provide a very valuable service to our parents. At the PTFA AGM, Mrs Agness O'Brien, who has been an incredibly dedicated, innovative and successful Chair of the PTFA, since March 2018, stepped down. Her role will be taken by Mrs Anni Cullen, who I am sure you will continue to give every support in ensuring that the PTFA continues to go from strength to strength. We also thank Mr Rouzbeh Elahi for all his support as the PTFA Treasurer for the past 3 years. A presentation was made at the AGM and we would like to thank Agness on behalf of all the staff and students at CCHSG for all that she has done to build a thriving and proactive PTFA.

PTFA

FUNDRAISING IN 2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

NO.	EVENT/SOURCE OF INCOME	AMOUNT RAISED (£)
1	Curry Puffs Sale for Minibus funds	6,800.00
2	Nearly New Uniform & Books Sales	9,370.17
3	Grand Raffle Draws (Winter & Summer)	2,180.25
4	Cash Donations	2,092.52
5	Everest Base Camp Trek	1879.79
6	Quiz & Curry Night	845.38
7	Year 7 Welcome Party	760.14
8	Summer Productions Refreshments	562.27
9	Easyfundraising	421.21
10	Amazon Europe	152.32
11	Scratch Cards Fundraiser	370.00
11	Scratch Cards Templates Sale	56.24
11	Christmas Market Stall Bookings	50.00

Chair's Annual Report
Mrs Agness O'Brien

Total raised: £25,580.29

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY	AMOUNT (£)
Balance as at last 31 August 2021	**£17,028.72**
Fundraising Total *(1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022)*	£25,580.29
Total balance brought forward & new funds raised	**£42,609.01**
Payouts total *(1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022)*	£25,547.12
Account balance as at 31 August 2022	**£17,061.89**



PTFA

TREASURER'S REPORT

NO.	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT RAISED
1	BALANCE OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021	£17,028.72
2	TOTAL FUNDS RAISED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 – 31 AUGUST 2022	£25,580.29
3	REMITTANCE	

TOTAL REMITTANCE £25,547.12

PTFA

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2021/2022)	
POSITION	**NAME**
Chair	Mrs Agness O'Brien (Trustee)
Vice Chair 1	Mrs Anni Cullen
Vice Chair 2	Mrs Sushma Manish
Secretary	Mrs Caroline Westgarth
Treasurer	Rouzbeh N. Elahi (Trustee)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2022/2023)	
POSITION	**NAME**
Chair	Mrs Anni Cullen
Vice Chair 1	Mrs Emma Arnold
Vice Chair 2	
Secretary	Mrs Caroline Westgarth
Treasurer	Mrs Tracey Siggers

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2021/2022)	
POSITION	**NAME**
Communications	Mrs Kate Stubbs
Recruitment	Mrs Tolu Alalade
Events	Mrs Comfort Zedomi
Second Hand Uniform	Mrs Udhyalakshmi Arun Mrs Debrah Abram

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2022/2023)	
POSITION	**NAME**
Communications	Mrs Kate Stubbs
Recruitment	
Events	
Second Hand Uniform Team	A team of volunteers under the guidance of Mrs Anni Cullen

Message from the Outgoing Chair of PTFA



Dear Parents, Carers and CCHSG Staff,

As I reflect on my time as Chair of the PTFA at CCHSG from March 2018 to September 2022, I am filled with gratitude for so many things…our amazing volunteers, our great sense of community and the strong connections our children are making to each other and our families. I am deeply grateful for the amazing teachers and staff who ensure there is a safe and positive learning environment for our children every single day.

On a personal note, being part of the PTFA has blessed me with some beautiful friendships and so many memories that I will treasure. It has been my absolute privilege to have worked with some incredibly hardworking members of CCHSG PTFA throughout my tenure as Chair. I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time, expertise and enthusiasm during that time. I am so grateful to our volunteers who always went the extra mile to help us put on amazing and entertaining events that raise funds for the school, no matter what madness was asked of them; I could not have done it without their support.
I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Rouzbeh N. Elahi, who stepped down from his role as PTFA Treasurer after 3 years.

At the start of the pandemic, which was such a time of adversity, some successful new ideas were generated, most of which are now here to stay. These include, the Nearly New Uniform sales at weekends once a term and the sale of second-hand revision books. The team of volunteers for this very successful team has grown over the past 2 years and their dedication and service is highly commendable.

I can confirm that 2021/2022 academic year has been the most successful year in the history of CCHSG PTFA with over £25,580 raised through various PTFA initiatives.

There's always room for new ideas,…a new beginning. With that, I would like to welcome Anni Cullen, your newly elected Chair of PTFA. Anni was Vice Chair of PTFA since September 2021. She has 2 children in CCHSG; one in Year 9 and another in Year 7. Anni has been a fantastic Vice Chair and I am sure she will lead the PTFA from strength to strength going forward.
I would also like to thank Emma Arnold (Vice Chair) and Tracey Siggers (Treasurer) for accepting their new Committee roles. Caroline Westgarth remains as Secretary and I thank Ms Kate Stubbs, Marketing & Communications Manager at CCHSG for her continued support in everything we do.

Please continue to support both the PTFA and it's worthy initiatives to help those attending the school.

All best wishes, Agness O'Brien

Why Not Support PTFA Fundraising?

Raise FREE donations for CCHSG PTFA via Easyfundraising & AmazonSmile

CCHSG PTFA is registered with easyfundraising and AmazonSmile so you can help us raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping! We've already raised over £5,200 with 194 supporters since April 2016. Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you!'

It's completely free to join. Use the link below or scan the QR-code.



AmazonSmile is a way for customers to support their favourite charity every time they shop with Amazon. Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice.

Signing up is easy - here's how!

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Select Colchester County High School for Girls PTFA as your charitable organisation to receive donations & start shopping!
5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile

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

ACS & SAS Cultural Day

Students from the Afro Caribbean Society and the South Asian Society organised a lunchtime party in celebration of our non uniform day - on 14 October. 11C organised the day and chose to support the charity Pakistan Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC).



WOMEN FOR AFGHAN WOMEN

In the Sixth Form the Head Student Team chose to support Women for Afghan Women (WAW). Students contributed £1 to wear casual clothes for the day. The theme for day was 'culture'.
















Welcome to SAS x
ACS Cultural Party!!


HONOURS
NEW YORK
DENVER

PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464

Autumn Dates for Your Diary

- **PTFA Meeting:**
  Monday 7 November 19.00 – 20.30
- **Annual Christmas Market:**
  Saturday 26 November, 12.00 – 15.00
- **Winter Concert (Refreshments):**
  Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 December



Annual Christmas Market 2022 – Invitation to Stallholders: Saturday 26 November, 12.00 – 15.00

Bookings are being taken for stalls at this very popular annual event until Tuesday 1 November or until we reach capacity. Stalls cost: Single stall £25, Double stalls £40. For further details and a copy of the booking form please email cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Appeal for donations of items for the PTFA Stalls at the Christmas Market

Preparation for the Christmas Market is well underway. There are many ways that you can get involved to make this event one of our best yet. We are looking for donations for some of our PTFA run stalls including the following:

- Sweets for Sweets Jar Tombola
- Chocolates for Chocolate Tombola
- Items for Bottle Tombola
- Books for the Book Stall: Revision or good quality special interest books are most welcome
- Home-baked cakes, cookies, curries, etc. for sale in the café

If you would like to donate any of these items (except for books, which can be left in the wheelie bin outside school reception), please contact cchsgptfa@gmail.com to make arrangements for delivery. Please ensure items donated are within date for consumption beyond December 2022.

Volunteer Sign-Up: There are many ways that you can support us with the upcoming Christmas Market including offering to donate of any of the items requested for PTFA stalls. Please sign-up via this link: https://volunteersignup.org/9P7R8



We would like to thank all those Year 9 parents and students who attended the social evening on Friday 14 October. It was a fun evening for all. Our thanks go to all the staff and Sixth Form students who helped to make the event a huge success. As well as having an enjoyable social evening, £329.75 was raised for the school.