CCHSG E-Newsletter

18 December 2023

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Executive Principal’s Notes

The half term began very positively with our Sixth Form Open Evening on 2 November. Our Sixth Form students enjoyed meeting the many visitors, talking to them about our A level subjects and discussing all the additional activities available in the Sixth Form. I was particularly pleased to be able to welcome many Year 11 students and their parents from Manningtree High School and The Gilberd School, our partners in Alpha Trust.

The final weeks of the Autumn Term are always filled with excitement and activity in school as we approach the Christmas break. The Music Department’s Winter Concert, with its theme of “colour”, was an excellent showcase for our GCSE and A level Music students and for the many extracurricular music clubs, several of which are ably led by our Sixth Form students. The excellent musical performances were enhanced by our new stage lighting system, the purchase of which was kindly funded by the PTFA. In the same week our fantastic PTFA, led by Chair Anni Cullen and her team, with over 70 volunteer helpers, ran our largest and most popular Christmas Market to date. I personally very much enjoyed the event which had something for all ages and the food was wonderful as always. It was lovely to see students, their families, staff and friends of the school, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance, supporting this PTFA event. I would like to thank everyone involved in planning and running this vibrant festive celebration and to encourage parents and carers to consider joining the PTFA Committee or supporting in some other way. Many of the Committee meetings are now held online, to make attendance easier.

In the midst of all our usual activities, on 27 November we received a telephone call, giving us the standard 24 hour notice of our Ofsted inspection. CCHSG was last inspected in 2009 and from 2012, schools that had been judged outstanding were legally exempt from further regular inspection. The exemption was lifted in 2020 with schools judged to be outstanding now reinspected under the more challenging framework, within 4 years. The call was not unexpected and we had been planning for an inspection visit for some time. I would very much like to thank



teaching and support staff across the whole school who handled the sudden additional demands placed on them very positively and were hugely supportive of the Senior Team. Enormous thanks are also owed to our students, many of whom spoke with the inspectors and who, as always, were our best possible ambassadors, embodying the aims and ethos of the school. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their belief in the value of the exceptional educational opportunities that CCHSG provides and for their unremitting support. This has always been key to the success of the school. Finally, I must mention the leadership team who continually demonstrate dedication and determination.

As we go to print with this newsletter, we are not yet permitted to share the findings of the inspection but we will publicise the report as soon as we receive it. Ofsted will also write to parents and governors directly summarising the outcomes.

As the end of term draws near we have been enjoying Christmas lunches and there are cinema visits, celebration assemblies and parties planned for the students. We also say farewell to a couple of colleagues who are leaving us. We thank Mr Batcher-Clark for his contribution to the Science Department over the past year. We also thank Miss Wilson who joined us in 2020, working in the Religious Studies Department and as leader of Year 7 and Year 8. She also supported the development of our Fair Access Programme. We thank them both and wish them well.

I would also like to formally thank Mrs Brown for her longstanding, and continuing dedication to CCHSG. We are very grateful for the enormous contribution that she has made to the school administration, over the past 25 years. Mrs Brown is not leaving but we wish to recognise her loyalty and long service.

Last week, I was very pleased to have the opportunity to see many of our Class of 2023, who were invited for a celebration tea and the presentation of their examination certificates. We were delighted to have Rhiannon Chaplin, who progressed from CCHSG in 2020 to study History at Newnham College, Cambridge, as our guest speaker at the event. Rhiannon spoke very engagingly about her experience since leaving CCHSG and her current work as a Researcher for BBC Education.

I wish all our staff, students and their families an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. I thank them wholeheartedly for their support and for the contribution that they make, in so many different ways, to the very special community that is CCHSG.

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO

CCHSG Alumni – CCHSG Connect

Over this academic year we will be working with the education charity Future First to help us build an even more thriving professional and social network among our alumni community. We would very much like to get back in touch with past students and enable them to benefit from links to our wider alumni network. In addition, our former students have wide ranging experience and expertise which could be hugely beneficial in informing and inspiring our current students. Please help us reach out to our former students using your own networks. Past students can sign up at:

https://www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/cchsgconnect



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

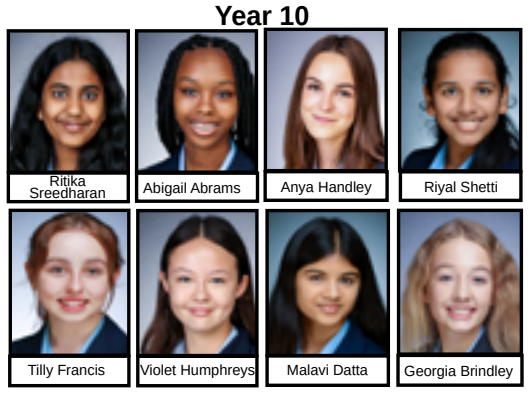
Welbeing Ambassadors at CCHSG

Wellbeing Ambassadors 2023/24

Year 9



Year 10



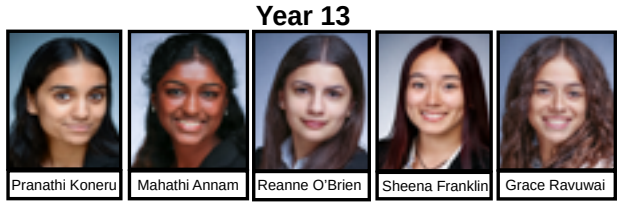
Year 11



Year 12



Year 13



Wellbeing ambassadors support, lead and implement wellness activities in our school. This can involve Form Time activities such as a fun quiz or a whole day focusing on wellbeing not just mentally but also physically.

Our mental health is very important in everyday life. It effects how we think, feel and act. Wellbeing ambassadors help to bring to light the importance of good mental health and that support is available for anyone who may need it. Having students as wellbeing ambassadors can allow for a more casual conversation between people of a similar age. This could provide a more comfortable environment for some students to talk about any difficulties.

As wellbeing ambassadors, we also help to direct people to members of staff such as the Pastoral Team who can provide more reassurance and guidance and address any worries. At our school, wellbeing ambassadors provide a safe and judgment free environment where mental health is taken seriously. We emphasise that no one is alone, there are always people willing to help and it is not weak to ask for support.

The Wellbeing Ambassador Team

Colchester Teacher Training Consortium

Are you looking for new opportunities and the chance to develop new skills while pursuing a professional career pathway? Do you want to join a profession where you can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people? If you already have a degree, or are currently studying for a degree, now is the time to explore the opportunities to train to teach in Primary or Secondary education with CTTC based at CCHSG.

Established in 2003, CTTC works in partnership with over 60 schools and colleges across North Essex and Suffolk. The training hubs are located in both Colchester, on the CCHSG site, and Ipswich, to serve the local schools. Our schools offer a wide range of educational experiences including grammar school, Sixth Form colleges and specialist SEND placements. The school centred programme allows trainees to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through a combination of taught sessions, academic reading and research and guided school based teaching.

Local schools are keen to employ trainees from the partnership and many Early Career Teachers and former trainees move quickly into leadership and management roles.



Contact us now via:

01206 364728
(Mon - Fri, 8am - 4pm)
enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk
www.colchesterttc.org.uk

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Festival of Learning - “Making Tech Relevant”



Colchester County High School for Girls is the lead school for Alpha Teaching School Hub which provides training and professional development for teachers, from Initial Teacher Training to Early Career Teachers through to Headship.

Alpha Teaching School Hub partnered with Eastern Education Group and BT to present the ‘Festival of Learning’ at BT Adastral Park on 30 October. Staff from 110 schools attended to network and learn more about technology in education and Artificial Intelligence as well as hearing about the Alpha Teaching School Hub training offers. The theme of the one day event was “Making Tech Relevant”, focusing on support for teachers in integrating technology and Artificial Intelligence purposefully in the classroom.

The day opened with the keynote speaker - University of Roehampton’s Professor of Computing Education, Dr Miles Berry. Dr Berry’s talk was entitled “The Truth about AI”. He asked “how do we best prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their later lives? It can’t just be about passing on the best that has been thought and said already” and went on to address some of the opportunities and challenges for Business and Education.

CCHSG Sixth Form students proudly represented CCHSG as a student panel to discuss ChatGTP, social media and safeguarding, diversity and mental health. The panel were asked questions by CEOs, Headteachers and teachers from across the four Local Authority Districts that Alpha Teaching School Hub area serves.

Sixth Form students, Christa Ugorgi, Gabrielle Ngah-Ateba, Zubiya Jafri and Tayo Aduroja were highly commended by delegates at their session commenting on their exposition and articulation of the topics discussed.

We would like to thank the Sixth Form students for taking part in the event.







Alpha Teaching School hub embodied their strap line ‘Where Excellence Connects’ in their offers in collaboration with local expert Panels and Workshops. Activities aimed to explore how technology can improve learning and the ways in which we can link the technology industry more closely with education:-

- Advantaging the Disadvantaged – a course that supports middle leaders in schools to design an inclusive curriculum. Using local experts (Audrey Pantelis from Evolution coaching, Tick Hub, Nick Farrow Deputy Head at Manningtree High School, Charlotte Goldbergh at Manningtree High School, Sarah Morris at St Albans High School in Ipswich.

- What Makes Happy Teachers? – a partnership with Michelle Auton at St Lawrence Primary School and Alpha Teaching School Hub Appropriate Body Service.

- The Power of Onside Mentoring – delivered with Alpha teaching school hub partner Best Practice Network an ‘Ofsted Outstanding’ provider, delivered by Emma Breckenbridge.

- Alpha Teaching School Hub SEND lead, Marie Saunders (who is also Assistant Principal at Lexden Springs) presented ‘SEND Solutions’.

Materials from the event can be found on the legacy website: https://festivaloflearning.edlink.uk/

Miss Sam Torr, ATSH Director, Vice Principal CCHSG



Sixth Form Open Evening 2023

Despite the really poor weather, Sixth Form Open Evening 2023 proved to be one of our most popular ever. It was great to see Year 11 students from many of our local schools, especially those from Manningtree High School and The Gilberd School who work with us as part of the Alpha Trust. Departments across the school had created lively displays and demonstrations. Students were keen to talk about the experience of studying each subject and to give the student perspective. Mrs Hughes, Head of Sixth Form, was keen to commend the Sixth Form students "As always the Sixth Form students themselves are our best ambassadors and they are very positive in promoting the many opportunities that the Sixth Form here at CCHSG has to offer".













In the Common Room students had created stands to advertise some of the many clubs and societies that they are involved with. Sixth Formers also run clubs for younger students and help with mentoring within departments.







Activities

An exceptional range of extracurricular and co-curricular activities are available in the Sixth Form. Students are also encouraged to organise their own clubs to reflect their particular interests and to run clubs for younger students:

English Oxbridge Reading Club
Engineering Society
MedSoc
VetSoc
Debating Society
Psychology Society
Young Enterprise
BioSoc
Creative Writing Club
Eco-Committee
Afro-Caribbean Society
Drama Club and productions
DofE
Charity Fundraising
Feminist Society
History Society
European Youth Parliament
South Asian Society

Music

Concert Orchestra
The Nightingales (Year 9 and above Choir)
Kazoo Group
Boomwhacker Group
Recorder Group

Sports

Football
Netball
Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Swimming
Running Club
Basketball



> "Whether you are highly competitive or just want some fun and relaxation, sport here caters for all"
>
> Maddie



UK Young Enterprise at CCHSG

Young Enterprise is a national education charity that encourages young people to get involved in business from an early age. The programme allows 15-19 year olds to set up and run their own company for a year, create and market their product, and gain invaluable experience of the business world, while competing in the Young Enterprise competition. The scheme is run for Year 12 students at CCHSG and we have had a great deal of success in the Young Enterprise competition to date, including runners up in Europe and reaching National Finals.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The school has a very well established DofE programme and is officially accredited to run the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, with over 120 students taking part each year. Completion rates are excellent, with an average 95% completion of the Bronze Award. 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.

European Youth Parliament Regional & National Finalists

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) supports the development of young people into politically aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding. The EYP encourages independent thinking and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. A team of nine students is chosen each year to participate in the East Anglia Regional Forum at the University of Cambridge. CCHSG have often been selected to represent the region at the National Session and previous teams have also represented the UK at the International Forum.



Extended Project Qualification

We also offer the opportunity for students to undertake the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This course is equivalent to about half an A Level study programme. It involves an independent research project, which enables students to demonstrate their capacity to study beyond the confines of the A Level syllabus. *See the subject outlines section of the prospectus for a full description of the course.*



Activities

See our new Sixth Form introductory video on the website:

https://www.cchsg.com/sixth-form/sixth-form-admissions/sixth-form-virtual-open-evening/

Year 8 Remembrance Day Artwork

This years display will focus on women's efforts during the war

- Women were not allowed to fight as soldiers in World War One, so they found other ways to help on the front line.
- Conditions were dangerous for women travelling to the war zones, and they were at near constant risk from enemy fire.
- After working long hours, they slept on uncomfortable camp beds and had to be up early for duty.
- Women worked bravely in many roles on the front line. For many, this was the first time they had ever been away from Britain.





At the start of the First World War many people harboured the view that war was 'man's business'. Front-line roles had traditionally always been undertaken by men.

Between 1914 and 1918 opinion changed when women stepped out from their traditional roles and placed themselves at the heart of the action.

Taking on key medical roles, they emerged from the conflict with newfound respect and observers heralded the war as 'a revelation of woman'.

Trained nurses had been part of the military establishment since the 19th century. Thousands of untrained women now stepped forward to help support the care of the wounded.









Women cooked for soldiers in camps and hospitals

Meals included savoury rice, sea pie, duff pudding, plus food which is more familiar to us today such as stew and even curry! The food was often better quality than men had back home.





Women worked with mechanics to repair broken down motor vehicles

They worked with mechanics to identify problems and learnt how to fix them. They repaired trucks on the roadside and built new ones in factories.

Our recently departed Queen also served in this way during WW2. When the then Princess Elizabeth turned 18 in 1944, she insisted upon joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, training as a mechanic.







Women provided medicine and First aid

They cared for the wounded and sick in 'rest stations', where soldiers had a few days to recover.





Lady Dorothie Feilding became an ambulance driver in 1914

Lady Dorothie Mary Evelyn Feilding-Moore, was a British heiress who shunned her aristocratic background to become a highly decorated volunteer nurse and ambulance driver on the Western Front during World War I.

She was the first woman ever to be awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. She also received the 1914 Star, the Croix de Guerre from the French and the Order of Leopold II from the Belgians for services to their wounded.







Marie Curie

Perhaps the most famous woman to work on the front line was Polish chemist and physicist Marie Curie, who, by the time world war one broke out was already a double Nobel Peace Prize winner. Curie was shocked to see soldiers being transported great distances for examination, so set about bringing x-ray diagnostic technology to the battlefield. She outfitted 20 mobile x-ray units and trained and technical personnel. Through her efforts, over one million wounded soldiers were examined and potentially saved from a lifetime of injury and infirmity.









Rewards and Awards

Merits to be awarded for the following categories:

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

Last year Student Voice was involved in the review of the Rewards and Awards system that took place last year. The students requested that more merits are awarded for doing the right thing and for involvement in school life. This has resulted in the new system of AWARDS.

All merits are to be recorded on the Student Information Management System (SIMS) and staff are encouraged to award two or three merits per lesson.

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

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



Rewards and Awards

Latest Totals 2023/24

Year 7	Total Merits
7C	228
7O	230
7L	209
7H	353
7E	311
7S	225
Year Group Total	1556

Year 8	Total Merits
8C	324
8O	210
8L	259
8H	302
8E	359
8S	106
Year Group Total	1560

Year 9	Total Merits
9C	209
9O	300
9L	190
9H	223
9E	235
9S	273
Year Group Total	1430

Year 10	Total Merits
10C	167
10O	187
10L	210
10H	185
10E	208
10S	176
Year Group Total	1133

Year 11	Total Merits
11C	94
11O	134
11L	121
11H	127
11E	158
Year Group Total	634

Students will receive these AWARDS through their whole school journey, Year 7 to Year 13 to ensure continuity and clear expectations. Students will be acknowledged for their merits at the end of term and the end of year assembly. The total number of AWARDS merits each student achieves will also be included in progress checks and signposted in end of year tutor reports.

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

English Speaking Union - MACE

The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales. Involving around 300 schools each year, it offers students from Key Stages 3 to 5 the opportunity to discuss and debate a wide array of controversial subjects and current affairs. Over several heats of topical, passionate dialogue, students develop their knowledge of the world, as well as their reasoning and presentation skills, in a fun, enriching and competitive environment. Speakers are judged on their Reasoning and Evidence, Organisation and Prioritisation, Listening and Response and Expression and Delivery.

CCHSG entered the first round of the MACE competition in November. It involves teams of three to five, who are given a motion a few weeks before the competition which they have to argue. Each team receives a different motion, which they must argue either for or against. For example, the motion we received was 'This House believes that environmental campaigning should focus on changing government policies rather than individual behaviours', which we had to argue for. During the competition, only three people from each team take part – the first two must prepare a five minute speech that contains the key arguments and evidence of their team, and the third speaker must come up with a five minute speech during the debate, where they summarise the key points of their side, respond to questions from the audience, and summarise any counter arguments to points made by their opposition.

During the first two speeches, members of the team arguing the other side of the motion can introduce Points of Information – for example, a brief piece of evidence which challenges the argument being made, and the speaker has to respond to this using the evidence they prepared before the competition. Judges mark each speaker based on body language, arguments, evidence, and their ability to respond to the opposition on the spot.

We found the competition an enjoyable way to test our ability to research a topic we may not usually have the chance to explore, and strengthen our public speaking skills. Although we unfortunately did not go through to the next round of this competition, we are extremely thankful for having had this opportunity, and overall we found it to be a great way to challenge ourselves outside class.
Elizabeth Poulson

For the Love of Classics



COLCHESTER CLASSICS

IN JAN-FEB 2022, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION OF ESSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL ON LEXDEN ROAD UNCOVERED SEVERAL ROMAN FINDS. THESE INCLUDE A ROMAN CHARIOT RACE DAY CUP, ANCIENT REMAINS OF A POSSIBLE TOWER. PREVIOUSLY, ROMAN KILNS AND A SPHINX SCULPTURE FROM AN ELABORATE TOMB HAVE BEEN FOUND ON THE SITE OF THE HOSPITAL WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE THE LOCATION OF A ROMAN CEMETERY.

HISTORICAL FACT

ROMANS USED FLUSH TOILETS. THEY ALSO HAD PUBLIC RESTROOMS CONSISTING OF A ROOM WITH BENCHES WITH HOLES IN THEM, OPENING INTO THE SEWERS. TO CLEAN THEMSELVES THEY USED SPONGES ATTACHED TO THE END OF A STICK WHICH WOULD BE CLEANED BETWEEN USES USING A SMALL GUTTER WITH RUNNING WATER!

LATIN PHRASE OF THE MONTH

"DUM VITA EST, SPES EST" - WHILE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS HOPE.

LINGUISTIC LEARNING

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT TUMBLING ORANGE LEAVES ARE ONE OF THE MOST MESMERISING SYMBOLS OF AUTUMN, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT 2000 YEARS AGO THE ROMANS WERE USING THE VERY WORD THAT WOULD INSPIRE OUR NAME FOR THE TREES THAT DO THIS? DECIDUOUS TREES - THE KIND WHOSE LEAVES TURN ORANGE AND FALL OFF - ARE NAMED AFTER THE LATIN WORD "DECIDUUS", WHICH MEANS FALLING DOWN! SO, NEXT TIME YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR PUMPKIN SPICED LATTE WITH LEAVES FALLING AROUND YOU, REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE THE ROMANS TO THANK FOR NAMING IT!

AIMEE BATCHELOR AND CASEY O'LEARY

PTFA Christmas Market 2023



Huge thanks to the PTFA Committee and Chair Anni Cullen for all their work in organising our largest and most popular PTFA Christmas Market to date. There were over 40 stalls and many PTFA run games and fun activities for our younger visitors. There were the popular old favourites like Soft Toy Tombola, Deal Or No Deal Bingo, and Wheel of Fortune and some new additions such as Hook A Duck For Christmas, and Mrs. Claus' Magical Glitter Tattoo and Nail Bar! With demand for stalls being high, the market was staged for the first time in the larger space provided by the sports hall. We thank all the stallholders and the 70+ volunteer parents, students and friends of the school who helped on the day.

Our thanks to Mr Snow and his little helpers in the enormously popular Santa's Grotto and to "Schools Out" inflatables who provided thrills for the more energetic visitors in the gym.

Particular mention is due to Agness O'Brien for leading the catering team. As always the food was incredible, with a menu featuring dishes such as Beef Rendang, Thai Green Chicken Curry, and Butter Chicken. There were also some delicious options at the café and cake stall, not to mention the latest addition to the Christmas Market line-up: the Candy Floss, Popcorn and Pick n Mix stall!

An enormous amount of forward planning goes into an event like this and we would like to thank Mr Kalisz and the Site Team for all their support.




















School's out WIPEOUT
School's out WIPEOUT









Winter Concert 2023

Our Winter Concert on the theme of “colour” was a perfect start to the festive season. Directed by Mrs Jefferies, the event provided an excellent opportunity to showcase some of our extracurricular music groups. Many of these are led by Sixth Form students. Our thanks to: Flutissimo led by Eveline Gaydon, The Bluebirds Choir, conducted by Maria Chennattu, The Nightingales Choir, conducted by Caitlin Feakes, The Concert Orchestra, conducted by Maisy Brookes and the Kazoo Group, led by Safia Chowhan.

There were also many staff and students involved in supporting with the concert and we thank the production team of: Mrs K Sharp, Tilly Sharp and Laura Moreira (Lighting and Sound), Mrs M Cudmore-Rice (Stage Manager), Ms K Stubbs & Mr J Townsend-Lang (Programme & Publicity), Mrs S Aves (Ticket Sales), Mr T Adamson, Mrs P Styan, Miss K Mather-Hutchinson and Miss S Williams (Backstage and Front of House). Special thanks to Mr J Kalisz, Mr A Cunningham, Mr M Fernandez and Mr M Hipperson.











Juliana Meyer - “Woman in Innovation” Award

CCHSG Alumni receives Government “Woman in Innovation” Award

InnovateUK (the government’s national innovation agency, supporting outstanding innovation) have awarded former CCHSG student Juliana Meyer with their Women in Innovation Award. This prestigious award highlights women excelling in groundbreaking new areas across STEM. CCHSG was delighted to invite Juliana, who left CCHSG in 2001, to visit the school for the formal presentation of the award and the unveiling of a plaque in the Sixth Form entrance.



Julian who has over twenty year’s experience in the music, technology and entertainment industries, is currently CEO and Founder of SupaPass, a technological innovation which allows Content Creators to instantly launch their own website and apps. As she explains:

“ I founded SupaPass to enable entrepreneurs like myself to have the tools they need to earn a living from their craft. The transformative technology my team has built gives entrepreneurs ‘a home online’, where they can get paid and share their content via world-class technology, to an audience that’s truly their own… I really wanted to create a way for entrepreneurs, no matter how small or bootstrapped, to be able to access the type of technology that Netflix or Spotify have to run their business. Content creators shouldn’t have to give up a share of their revenue, or the direct control of their customer relationship in order to deliver content on the world-class technology that their customers have come to expect.”



Presenting the award on behalf of InnovateUK, Julie Pauley said that she was delighted to visit the school. “Presenting the winners as role models to girls and young women is an important aspect of the award, to inspire others to join these important areas of innovation for their careers.” Juliana completed A levels in Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Mechanics at CCHSG and was also very active in the Music department. After the presentation she talked with Sixth Form students to share her story. “I owe a lot to CCHSG for my own journey, through an Engineering Education Scheme opportunity that CCHSG enabled for me in Sixth Form, and other opportunities at the school which enabled me to go on to read Engineering Science at St Johns College Oxford University. Hopefully my success will inspire confidence in others to follow similar paths”.



MP George Freeman, Minister of State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said “Juliana stands out as a leading Entrepreneur. Juliana’s dedication to innovation, inclusion and community makes her a natural and inspiring leader. The innovative technology SupaPass has created has a high impact on businesses. Juliana brings energy and fortitude to challenges, with innovative solutions and actionable ideas that make her leadership a real asset to our region.”

Mrs Gillian Marshall, CEO and Executive Principal of CCHSG, who attended the presentation, said: “It is always a great pleasure to share in the achievements of CCHSG alumni. Juliana has certainly demonstrated all the qualities of leadership, enterprise and creativity that we aim to inspire in our students. I hugely congratulate her and am delighted that she has been recognised as a leading innovator within the tech industry.”

https://www.ukri.org/councils/innovate-uk/

Culture Day

This was a Non-Uniform Day with a difference as students celebrated “Culture Day”. Devised and organised by students in the South Asian and African Caribbean Societies, the annual Culture Day is an opportunity for students to embrace their individual cultural heritage. Students are encouraged to participate by wearing clothes that fit with this theme. Non-uniform day is traditionally used as a charity fundraiser, and the Sixth Form chose to support the Sickle Cell Society. As part of the activities, students staged a fabulous fashion show and talent showcase, viewed by an enthusiastic audience in the school hall during lunchtime. We thank Mrs Hughes for all her work in supporting the organisation of the event to Mr Kidby and Mr Snow for ably compering the show.

The Sickle Cell Society is the only national charity in the UK that supports and represents people affected by a sickle cell disorder to improve their overall quality of life. First set up as a registered charity in 1979, the Sickle Cell Society has been working alongside health care professionals, parents, and people living with sickle cell to raise awareness of the disorder. To find out more visit www.sicklecellsociety.org or on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram: @SickleCellUK.



At CCHSG, we recognise the importance of preserving and cherishing the cultural diversity that strengthens our community. It is in light of this that we hosted a Culture Day; the celebration of individual and cultural differences is one of many opportunities to maintain an environment of acceptance and inclusivity.

On Friday 17 November 2023, students wore cultural dress from all around the world including a saree dress, Iro and Buba, kimono, and football shirts. Every student embraced the opportunity to honour the traditions and customs of their ancestors. Our culture day highlighted the cultural significance of traditional clothing and cultural dance. At lunchtime, the African-Caribbean Society (ACS) and South Asian Society (SAS) organised an outstanding event consisting of a fashion show and dance performances. In the former, students proudly walked the catwalk dressed in clothing which represented the flag they were triumphantly waving.



Cultural dance is an incredible way of representing tradition and norms, as the movements and sequence of each dance tells a story. Over 40 students performed two-minute pieces that had been excellently choreographed and rehearsed. The performances have been commended by staff and students as “electric, impressive, and enthralling.”

Thank you to all the staff and students who put their effort, time, and dedication into planning and coordinating the wonderful Culture Day at our school. On behalf of everyone watching, the event was educational as we learned and embraced the beauty of different traditions. But beyond the event being educational, it was also incredibly fun. It was such an outstanding event that brought our diverse community together to celebrate and appreciate different cultures. Everything was executed with such precision and enthusiasm so that the rich tapestry of cultures within our school could be highlighted to the highest degree.

We look forward to celebrating Culture Day 2024!
Gabrielle NgahAteba, 130



Emily Rice - Visiting Author & CCHSG Alumni

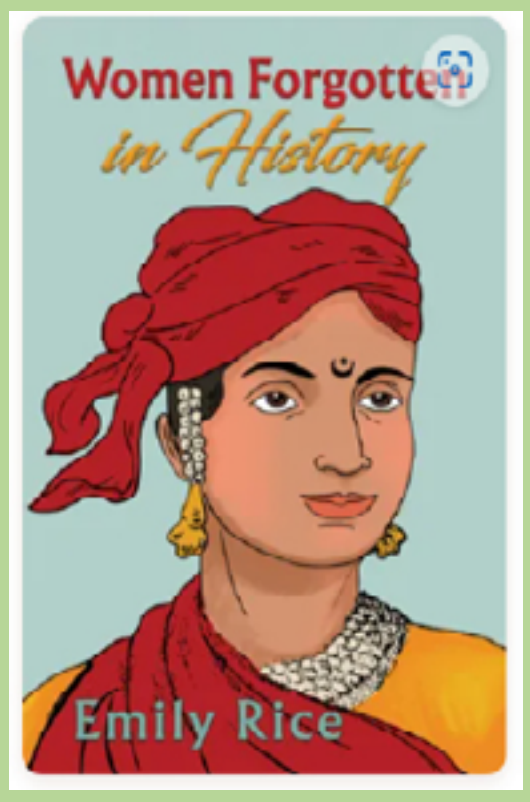
Past CCHSG student Emily Rice has had her first book published this year ‘Women Forgotten in History’. We were delighted to have Emily visit school to talk to interested students about how and why she wrote the book. She talked about being inspired by her history lessons in school, by reading historical fiction and by finding out about a significant but largely forgotten female historical figure who lived in her home village. Emily is currently in the process of writing not one but two more books. She recommended finding a topic that you are passionate about and practising by reading and writing as much as possible. Students asked for her tips of getting published.

- Make sure your book is as good as it can be
- Consider self-publishing or getting a literary agent
- Do your research
- Be persistent
- Learn to cope with rejection
- The work doesn’t stop there!





“Women Forgotten in History” unveils the captivating narratives of extraordinary women whose stories have been marginalized and obscured throughout time. As we reflect on history, it becomes apparent that the majority of names we encounter are those of men. But does this imply that women have contributed little or led uneventful lives? Or is it rather an indication that their achievements and stories have been obscured and overshadowed throughout the ages? Within the pages of this enlightening book, a tapestry of forgotten stories comes to life. From ancient Egyptian pharaohs to courageous teenagers who defied Nazi occupation, a diverse tapestry of women emerges from the shadows, these women reclaim their rightful place in history's narrative. Some forged inspiring paths as activists for noble causes, while others left a more morally complex legacy, their stories often veiled in mystery and legend. Despite their contrasting backgrounds and experiences, these women share a common thread: their captivating stories and the tragic reality that their lives and accomplishments have been forgotten or deliberately obscured with the passage of time. However, within their tales lie profound inspiration waiting to be rediscovered.







Year 12 Visit Curwen Print Study Centre

On Friday 24 November 2023, the CCHSG Art Department visited Curwen Print Study Centre to learn about methods of printmaking and try out some techniques associated with them.

We completed an in-depth tutorial about drypoint etching (intaglio print technique using acetate as a printing plate), learning new printmaking vocabulary such as “ghost print” (the second print of the inked plate) and “counter-print” (print from excess ink on previous paper). As well as using techniques of texturization like layering tapes on the plate and swirling sandpaper to create circular etchings, we used equipment that is traditionally used in the process of these methods. We learnt how to use scrims and brayers, alongside working with large modern and Victorian print presses which helped in applying pressure to transfer the inks.



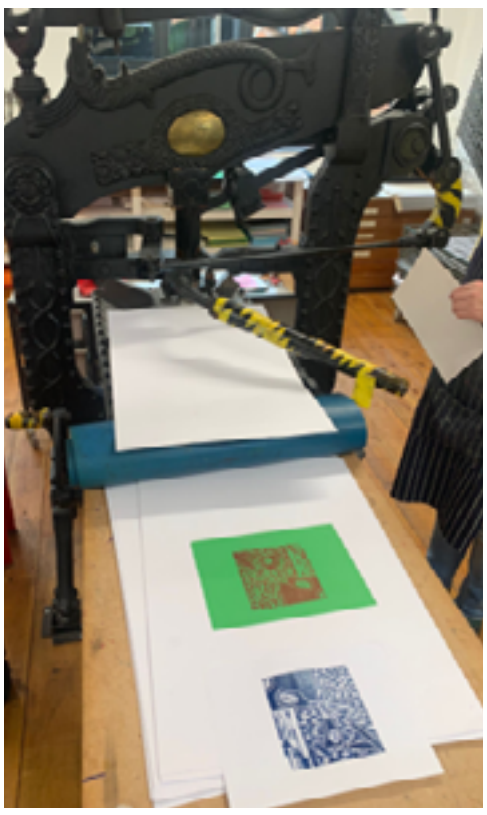
A lino printing workshop (relief print method using linoleum blocks for plates) was also delivered to us at the centre, where we learnt techniques of mark-making using specialist carving tools and how to layer the thick oil-based inks on one print through re-printing as well as stencil methods. The experience was an exciting investigation into printmaking methods which exposed us, not only as students, but as artists to different methods of expressing our ideas in an interesting and collaborative way. Thank you to the art department for this informative opportunity!

Asmi Bhatia

About Curwen Print Study Centre

The Curwen Print Study Centre was established as an educational Fine Art Printmaking charity in the late 1990s by Master Printer Stanley Jones MBE and local entrepreneur and art lover Sam Alper OBE. Since its formation, the Curwen Print Study Centre has established a reputation for excellence in its field. The adult course programme offers something for everyone, from those who are new to printmaking to those who have previous experience and are looking for Masterclass tuition. Open access is available to artists who have successfully completed the relevant course. The aim of The Study Centre is to preserve and develop the essential experience and skills that underpin the concept of the artist’s original print.

https://www.curwenprintstudy.co.uk/









Computer Science Competitions

Year 8 CyberFirst Girls Competition 2023/24

From Monday 20 November to Wednesday 29 November, our Year 8 students had the opportunity to compete in the CyberFirst Girls Competition. The competition is organised by the UK Government's National Cyber Security Centre and sees the students completing a wide variety of problem-solving challenges to test and develop their cyber security knowledge and skills. The competition is a team event. Each team – consisting of up to four girls in Year 8 tackle challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions.

There was a real buzz around this year's competition with many teams engaged throughout all 10 days. A special mention goes to Teams 3, 25, 33, and 49 who each achieved over 3000 points – a total that would have been enough for first place in some previous years!
The top three teams this year were:

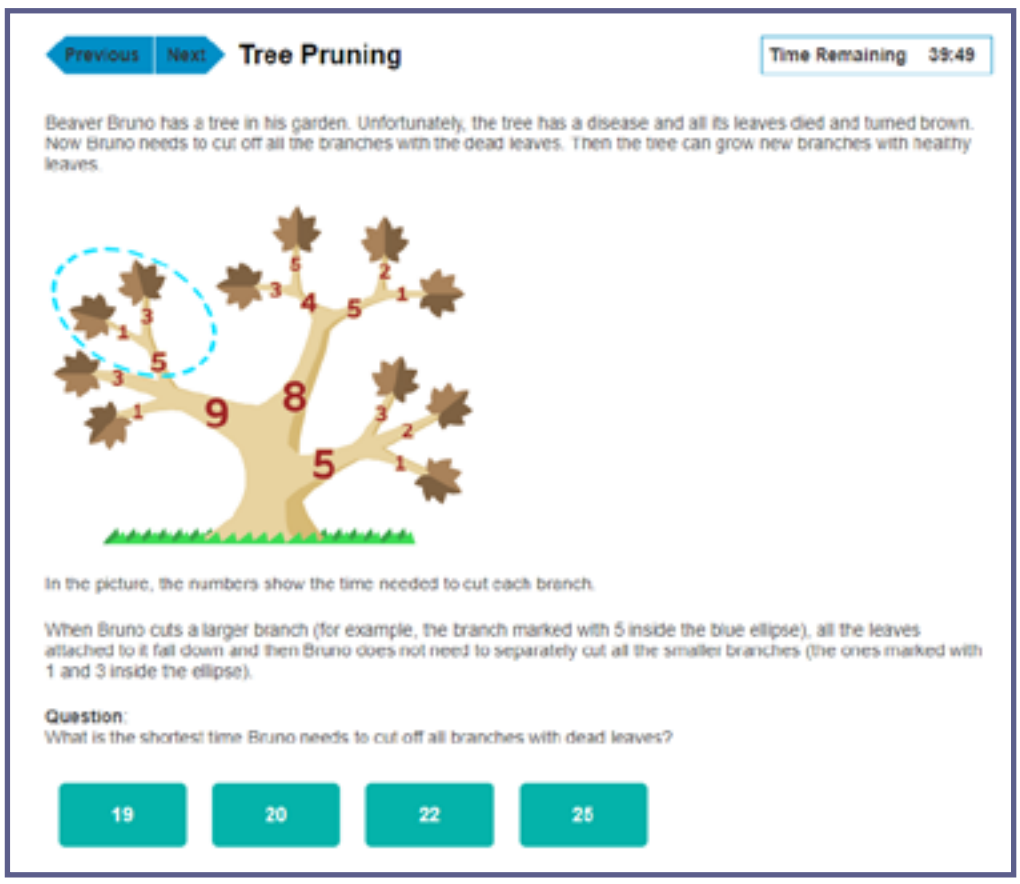
Team	Total Points	Team members
Team 1	5651	Catherine Bruce (8S), Aarna Dwivedi (8S), Ekaterina Gruzdeva (8H), Rebecca Sholoye (8S)
Team 14	4773	Rose Jafar Zadeh (8C), Sri Parnika Mandala (8C), Chibika Mohanathan (8C), Fatimah Patel (8C)
Team 4	4583	Reina Fowles (8C), Edie Gunton (8O), Navya Maheshwari (8C)

CyberFirst is designed to identify and nurture a diverse range of talented young people into a cyber security career. CyberFirst activities are intended to inspire and encourage students from all backgrounds to consider a career in cyber security and apply for a CyberFirst bursary. See: https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/overview



Mr Nachman and Mr Guille would also like to thank the previous competitors who were on hand to assist throughout the period: Jessica Biggin (12H), Emily Wong (12O), Iman Nofal (10C), Manisha Bhattacharjee (9O), Karishma Datta (9O), Saba Dehghan Nayyeri (9O), and Lauren Wong (9O).

All Years Bebras Computing Competition 2023/24



The previous year's challenges are available to try without registering or logging in. Simply click on the Challenges tab on the UKBabras website, select your age group and try out some questions.

https://www.bebras.uk/index.php?action=welcome

The Bebras Computing Challenge focuses on computational and logical thinking skills. Organized in over 60 countries, it is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing, with the top 10% qualifying for the Oxford University Computing Competition in January 2024.

Last November, over 365,000 students took part in the UK, and over 3 million worldwide. Included in this were all of our Key Stage 3 students and Computer Science and other selected students at GCSE and A level. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking.

Of the 543 students that entered, 119 qualified for the Oxford University Computing Challenge which starts in January 2024.The top students from each age group were as follows:

Juniors (Year 7)	Mia Lyons (7O)
Inters (Years 8 & 9)	Amelia Suen (9S)
Seniors (Years 10 & 11)	Emma Wright (11E)
Elite (Years 12 & 13)	Jessica Biggin (12H)

Iceland Visit

The trip to Iceland was packed with visits to some of the most beautiful natural landforms any of us had ever seen. Each and every day introduced new experiences, and created memories that will last a lifetime!

Day 1

On the first day everyone met at the airport feeling very excited after looking forward to the trip for over a year. We boarded our flight and departed that morning, leaving rainy England behind as we entered Icelandic skies and landed in Keflavik, where we were provided with our first taste or Icelandic cuisine – Liquorice chocolate, it definitely divided opinion! Our first activity was visiting the Reykjanes Peninsula, a UNESCO Global Geopark – otherwise known as the 'Bridge Between Continents' – which was such a surreal experience as we were to be able to stand on the rift between two continents and walk from one tectonic plate to another in less than a minute and experience Gunnahver, one of Iceland's famous 'geothermal hotspots', where steam erupts from the grounds turning everything a sulphurous yellow. That evening, we toured Reykjavik City, taking in the famous Concert House, Cathedral and Viking Ship sculpture, and settled into our hotel for the first night taking the opportunity to visit the local supermarket to stock up on Icelandic snacks for the next day. After this a group of us went on a walk to the beach and arrived at Höfði Lighthouse, an iconic lighthouse in the capital city famous for its bright yellow colour, before heading back to our rooms, ready for our first full day.



Day 2

Day 2 was a rollercoaster from start to finish. We began the day with visiting a geothermal power station (which provides hot water and electricity to the whole of Reykavik!), which even the non-geography students were completely fascinated by. Hearing about the efforts that Iceland made to be carbon neutral (and an explanation of why the country smells of rotten eggs!) was really interesting, with incredible interactive displays. Then we continued onto the glacier, something that we had all been looking forward to the whole trip, although we didn't realise that one of us would end up in a hole(?!) and we would all sample some fresh Icelandic glacial ice (it was refreshing, honestly). We took some amazing photos as we were lucky enough to see a rainbow as we back climbed down the glacier and were all informed about how far the glacier had moved back since Mr King had last been there. Then from slipping and sliding on ice to the beach, the black sand beach to be specific. After posing for numerous insta' worthy photos amongst the influencers and basaltic columns, we got to appreciate the natural beauty and the most amazing chips we ever had - I think I can speak for everybody when I say that. We then went to our next hostel, a place with incredible views overlooking the coasts, with volcanic mountains behind us. After an eventful night playing stars or clouds in an unsuccessful bid to see the northern lights, we had some lovely meatballs and watched England lose in the rugby. It was an incredible trip and would recommend for everyone!!



Day 3

We started off the day by visiting the Lava Centre, followed by the 8WD Monster Truck Tour, off the beaten path, fording rivers and scrambling over a boulder strewn landscape. Although it was a rough ride, it was worth it because we were able to climb up to the crater of Eyjafjallajokull and see Gigjokull, walking through freshwater streams and jumping from rock to rock we were awestruck by the power of nature. Mr King was once again speechless seeing the impact of the changing climate since his last visit. We then ventured further up the Thorsmork Canyon to explore "Godswood", a sacred site for Icelanders, where they visit in midsummer to celebrate. On the way back down, the eagle eyed Mr Kennedy spotted an Arctic Fox in its natural habitat and the driver was able to slow down and stop so we could watch it makes its way down the river bank. We then spent the rest of the day visited some of the iconic waterfalls of Iceland - Seljalandsfoss and Glufrabai - which were more powerful than you could imagine (good thing we wore waterproofs!).

Day 4

It was an early wake up call to leave our hostel as we made our way to our first stop, Kerid crater, where we could walk around the volcanoes crater and even go into it. This was a surreal experience to see the crater at sunrise. We then hopped back on the coach and headed to Iceland's largest tomato geothermal greenhouse, where we had the chance to taste their signature tomato drink, which we all found refreshing, and buy souvenirs for our family and friends back home. We had a chance to become tourist for the day by visiting the golden circle which included Gullfoss. Geysir where we witnessed Strokkur erupt and sampled Icelandic fast food. It was a long drive to Thingvellir, the site of one of the world's oldest parliament! Our guide was able to trace his ancestry all the way back to the first Loremaster of Iceland!. It was an out of body experience to stand in the national park (which is a Rift Valley) as, in millions of years, the plain will be at the bottom of the seabed as the continents continue to rift further apart. We finished the day with the much-anticipated blue lagoon! It was a much-welcomed break from the walking and exploring we had been completing in the previous days. We had the opportunity to reflect on the activities we completed, and the sights we had seen on the trip with a group dinner at a restaurant in Grindavik, which has since been evacuated! In a last-ditch attempt to see the northern lights we look a longer route back to our hotel across the Reykjavik peninsula where we went star gazing due to the absence of northern lights.









Day 5

We woke up bright and early for our flight home. After getting rid of our remaining krona at duty free, we boarded the plane back to Stansted.

The knowledge we gained from the trip is so useful for wider context in Geography, particularly A level "Hazards". It was an incredible trip, and we would really recommend a visit to Iceland to anyone! Thank you Mr King, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Hughes and Miss Wright for making this amazing trip possible!

Written by Olivia Gravatt (Year 13)

Updates from the PE Department

Netball



It has been a busy netball season this year with multiple fixtures every week from Year 7 to the U19 Squad.

The season got off to a great start with both the U14s and U16s winning their district tournaments and qualifying for the East Essex Netball tournament held at Beaulieu Park school on Sunday 19 November. Despite the freezing cold conditions, both teams put on an outstanding display of skill and teamwork, with the U14s finishing 5th and U16s 4th. An excellent result, with both teams narrowly missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals on the day.

The Year 7 and 8 teams have been competing in this year's Central Venue competitions, with both age groups winning all their games so far, putting them into an excellent position as the competition progresses.

The U19s have made an excellent start to their season so far. This year is the first time that we have been able to enter a second team into the league which shows the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our athletes.



Football



This season has seen our first journey into the world of Essex Cup Football with both an U16 and U14 team entered in the league.

The teams have been training hard throughout this term and with the arrival of some new football kit last year, the team were also looking the part too. The U16s kicked off the campaign with their first 11-a-side game against Mayflower High School, it was an intense game with passion, teamwork, and skill on display throughout both halves.

The game ended in a 4-0 loss, with the team knocked out of the competition. However, this has not dampened the team's spirits and they are back to training, determined to come back stronger next season!

The U14s have yet to play their opening game in the competition, however training and preparations are underway to ensure their skill and love for football shine through on the pitch.

Cross Country



This term has seen students from Years 7-13 take part in various cross-country competitions. The season kicked off with the English Schools Cup local round, held at Mayflower High School. A junior and Inter Girls team entered the competition with both teams placing highly on the day. The Inter Girls team finished with a combined total of 47 points leading them to qualify for the County Round of the tournament and final step before the National Finals.

This year's County round took place on Saturday 11 November at Southend County High School for Boys. The team gave it their best effort and with some fantastic individual performances, we placed 8th overall in Essex! Unfortunately, this meant that we did not qualify for nationals, however it is still an outstanding achievement against very strong competition.



National Schools Equestrian Association

The riders have been busy over the last few weeks. Jemima Rutland attended a show on 1 November and picked up a 2nd and 3rd place qualifying for Championships in August. On 25 November, Jemima and Robyn Heap went show jumping and bought home a haul of rosettes. Robyn had two ponies at the show and won three classes and two 3rd places. Jemima had a 2nd and 5th place and overall they had two Team wins. This has qualified them both as a team and individually for the Championships in August in everything they entered.

Antonia Gorbitz, Isobel Hind and Sophie Feeney took part in Arena eventing on 2 December. They picked up a Team 5th place. Antonia, Robyn, Jemima and Lara Thompson have all entered an online dressage competition which they filmed themselves in November. We are currently waiting for the results to be published.

Lee Valley Indoor Athletics

We have kicked off another successful indoor athletics season, with the Year 10 and 11 combined team proving their athletic prowess, winning this year's competition for their age group. There were some incredible performances from all athletes on the team with both Tilly Hewitt (Shot Putt) and Lyla Belshaw (800m) setting new Lee Valley records in their respective events. The Year 8 and 9 combined team also displayed some outstanding talent, qualifying for the semi-finals of their competition, but unfortunately narrowly missing out on qualifying for the finals.

CCHSG PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464





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



The PTFA's annual Christmas Market started the festive season off with a bang. With over 40 stalls, there was plenty of shopping to be had, and a variety of fun games to play. A huge thank you goes out to all the stallholders, volunteers, parents, students and staff, who came out to support the PTFA and run all the PTFA's various stalls.

The catering team were, as always, amazing, and deserve much gratitude and credit for all their hard work. Special thanks go to Mrs Agness O'Brien, for leading the team.

Thanks also to Mr Snow, who as Santa together with his elves, helped launch our first Christmas Market Santa's Grotto to resounding success.

Altogether, £5,400 was raised!

PTFA Quiz Night

Our hugely popular annual PTFA Quiz Night will be held on Friday 26 April, 2024 - save the date! Details to follow in January.

CCHSG PTFA thanks all the CCHSG staff, students and parents for their support in 2023. We wish you an enjoyable holiday break and a happy and successful 2024!

