CCHSG E-Newsletter

21 October 2024

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Executive Principal’s Notes

Schools Aerospace Careers Roadshow

The importance of collaboration and community was highlighted in our cross-trust activities this half term. I was delighted that we were able to invite students from Manningtree High School, The Gilberd, Trinity School and Colchester High School to join our students for the Schools Aerospace Careers Roadshow, led by Dr Michael Smith. Students participated in a fascinating range of talks and workshops, which are outlined in the later newsletter article. The activities aimed to provide students with an insight into the future of STEM, aerospace and space industries.

As we move through what is described as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is clear that AI will gradually permeate many aspects of daily life. It is amazing to think that an iPhone has over 100,000 times the processing power of the computer that landed the first human on the moon 50 years ago. While AI may well transform many aspects of daily work, the roadshow presenters were keen to emphasise that rather than replacing human skills, “soft skills” and personal attributes such as communication skills, critical thinking, emotional empathy, teamwork and leadership traits, will be of even greater importance. Another hugely beneficial skill for students to develop is the ability to network, to connect effectively with others and collaborate. The roadshow also provided informal opportunities for students from across the Trust to share experience and work together.

Of the more than 18,000 people who work for NASA there are many who are not scientists or engineers. Students heard from Ben Pinsett who is currently on a graduate programme with global engineering company Babcock International. He is a Humanities graduate, and he was keen to explain that opportunities in the industry are wide ranging and suited to those with strengths in many different disciplines. This is also a career area in which, historically, women have been significantly underrepresented. We thank all the staff who supported the ACP day.

Pastoral System



We work to promote a positive and supportive school community and our strong pastoral system was praised in our January Ofsted report. Over the years, in response to the growth of the school, our

pastoral structure has significantly extended. Support for students is provided by Tutors, Year Leaders, Pastoral Assistants, the onsite Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and a School Counsellor. The current Pastoral Team and Safeguarding Leads are detailed in the diagram below. Students are also encouraged to take an active role in the promotion of health and wellbeing throughout the school, through involvement in groups such as Student Voice, or as part of our team of Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Sixth Form Open Evening

There is a buzz of energy around the school this week as staff and Sixth Form students are busy preparing for the Sixth Form Open Evening, on 23 October, to which all our Year 11 students and their parent/carers have been warmly invited. We are very proud of the excellent academic and extracurricular provision in the Sixth Form and the staff and students are keen to showcase everything that is on offer.

We very much look forward to seeing Year 11 and their parents on 23 October.

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO







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

Sixth Form at CCHSG



All Year 11 students and their parents/carers are warmly invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening.

Message from the Head Student Team:

We look forward to showing you around the excellent facilities in the Sixth Form block and answering your questions about Sixth Form life. This is also a great opportunity to meet A level teachers and find out more about subjects that you are interested in. As part of the evening, we are holding a Sixth Form clubs and societies fair so that you can find out about all the extracurricular activities and events that we run.

We can't wait for you to join us!

A vibrant, creative and diverse community

Our Sixth Form is a strong and supportive community. There is a warm welcome for the new students who join us in Year 12 from a wide range of secondary schools.

Ofsted outstanding

CCHSG is a high performing school for both student achievement and student progress. When Ofsted inspectors visited CCHSG, the Sixth Form was found to be outstanding along with all other areas of the school.

An exceptional range of enrichment and leadership opportunities

We provide many additional opportunities for students to develop the communication, organisational and leadership skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. Sixth Form students also participate in our wide range of extracurricular opportunities; concerts and productions, as well as in team and individual sports, DofE and Young Enterprise.

Dedicated Sixth Form centre

Our purpose built Sixth Form centre includes a range of study spaces, refectory area with kitchen facilities, an IT suite, 300 seat lecture theatre and teaching spaces.

Excellent support for progression

Our Sixth Form students are ambitious in their choice of universities, with around 60% of our Year 13 successful in securing places at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge each year. We have an excellent record of supporting students whatever their chosen route, with staff trained to support in the preparation for admissions tests and strong links with a wide range of national and international medical, dental and veterinary schools, lawyers, bankers and commercial organisations.

Find out more at our Open Evening on Wednesday 23 October, 6-8.30pm.

The Sixth Form will be open for tours, and staff and students will be available in Departments to discuss the content and structure of the various A Level courses. There will also be an optional presentation at 6.30pm in the hall by Mrs Marshall, Executive Principal, Dr Parrott, Associate Principal, Head Students and Mrs Hughes, Head of Sixth Form.







CTTC

What Our Trainees Say:

"Thank you for everything this year. I am amazed at how much I have developed as a teacher, and this would not have been possible without the fantastic training! I would recommend CTTC to anyone."
Sara Rookyard





"Thank you to everyone at CTTC for making my teacher training journey so enjoyable. I have learned so much this year and I feel confident about teaching a class on my own. This is down to the organisation, dedication, passion, and knowledge of everyone involved at CTTC and I will be forever grateful."
Glen Brunsden

"I'd like to say the biggest thank you to my mentor for being the most amazing lead mentor. Every step of the way, she has supported me, holding me up, giving me the greatest advice and most importantly making me feel like I could do anything. I couldn't have asked for anyone better and I definitely couldn't have done it without her."
Tilly Sherman



CTTC is a partnership, which now extends to over 100 schools across Essex and Suffolk, who have been providing teacher training for the past 18 years. The consortium annually trains around 70 Primary and Secondary teachers from its base at CCHSG. "Trainees benefit from the highest quality training and support" (Ofsted 2024). The school centred programme allows trainees to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through a combination of taught sessions and practical on the job training in managing classes and planning lessons alongside colleagues in local schools. "Trainees value immensely the first class experience they receive, preparing them exceptionally well to take on their first teaching role" (Ofsted 2024).

Routes into Teaching

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

Yes

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

Would you like to gain some teaching experience?

Yes

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

Tuition Fee

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

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

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

Salaried & Apprenticeship

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

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

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

Assessment Only

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

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

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship Route into Teaching with CTTC

Trainees will be paid to train to teach Primary or Secondary by following the Apprenticeship route, whilst still following CTTC's highly rated training programme and having access to the fantastic support and opportunities CTTC provides. Email enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk for more information.

Colchester Teacher Training Consortium
Outstanding primary & secondary teacher training

Train to teach here

Now recruiting trainees

01206 364728 www.colchesterttc.org.uk



Inspirational Women - Canteen Wall Art

Students and staff were invited to put forward suggestions for women whose lives they considered inspiring. The following people were included in our wall art:

Emma Watson - Film & media
Rosa Parks - Civil rights
Malala Yousafzai - Civil rights
Ada Lovelace - Computing
Marie Tharp - Geography
Emmeline Pankhurst - Women's suffrage
Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett GBE - Women's suffrage
Professor Sarah Gilbert - Science & vaccinology
Mary Seacole - Nursing & enterprise
Frida Kahlo - Visual art, gender equality & disability rights
Mary Earps - Women's sport
Dr Asha de Vos - Ecology & marine conservation
Michelle Obama - Women's rights
Rose Ayling Ellis - Acting & disability awareness
Maya Angelou - Literature & civil rights
Jane Austen - Literature
Amika George MBE - Women's rights & period poverty
Hannah Cockroft OBE - Para-sport
Dame Carol Ann Duffy - Literature & gender equality
Alexandra Wilson - Law & equal rights
Aretha Franklin - Music, civil rights & women's rights.
Helen Sharman - Science & space exploration
Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman - Science, HIV & AIDS research







Sometimes, success looks like collecting trophies, sometimes it's just waking up and putting one step in front of the other. There is only one of you in the world and that's more than good enough. Be, unapologetically, yourself.

Mary Earps MBE (born 1993) professional footballer

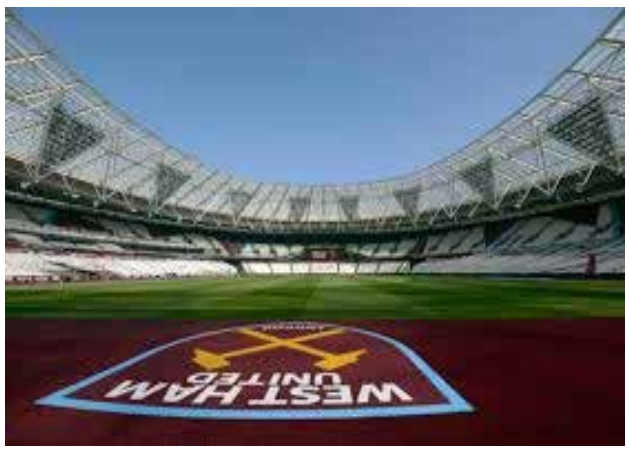


Emilia Bennett - Junior Supporters Board

Emilia Bennett in Year 8 has just been elected onto the Junior Supporters Board of Directors at West Ham United. Only ten young people get to have this pivotal role for the year. She will have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the junior fan experience, meet fellow fans, and to find out more about the day-to-day operation of West Ham United.

JSB members meet with Club representatives to provide feedback around the matchday experience for junior supporters, content across Club channels for young Hammers, the official West Ham United website, and input ideas for new activities and initiatives.





Hi, I'm Emilia in 8L and during the summer holidays I applied to join the Junior Supporters Board for West Ham United FC. Each year ten young people, who are 11-16 years old are elected to play a vital role in enhancing the match day experience for young supporters at the London Stadium - by attending board meetings to share our thoughts. I was incredibly lucky to be chosen as one of these ten and I am very proud to represent the football club I have supported since a young age. I am extremely excited to be able to meet some of the first team players! I relish the challenge to be a voice for young female football supporters, and I look forward to discussing lots of helpful ideas. Come on you irons!

Adhuna Das - Table Tennis Champion

Adhuna Das in Year 7 has been playing table tennis in both the Colchester and Chelmsford Leagues for two years and trains regularly at both Rowhedge Table Tennis Club and Britannia Table Tennis Club in Ipswich. Not only has she had outstanding results during this time, but she has also been praised for her dedication and resilience, and for being very supportive of her fellow players and team mates.

Adhuna represented Essex in the County Championships in 2024 and has also represented the Eastern Region in the Regional Tournament. She will be participating in the Junior British League to be held in Derby this year. Adhuna represented Colchester in the National Cadet Leagues in season 2022-23 and 2023-24 (runners up).

She has a successful record in Jack Petchey and National School Tournaments, representing her primary school in the National Schools Tournament in Wolverhampton in 2024. She represented her primary school in the Jack Petchey Individual School Tournaments for 3 successive years in the Under 11 girls Category with excellent results: 3rd in 2022, 3rd in 2023 and winner in 2024. She has also had great results in local leagues and tournaments.

Congratulations to Adhuna! We look forward to her representing CCHSG in future tournaments.





Sankave Ahillan - Bharathantym Arangetram

An Arangetram literally translates to “ascending the stage”. This is the first time a performer takes to the stage for an extended period of time, showcasing what they have learnt to an audience. This opportunity is presented to a student when their guru believes they are ready and can cope with the demands. My Bharathantym Arangetram was held on 14 September 2024, at the Beck Theatre in London and was an immense privilege for me. Dance has never ceased to bring me enjoyment. I value being able to express emotion in my movement and am glad to be participating in such a culturally rich and motivating dance form.

The preparation period consisted of intensive rehearsals, including a week of doing the entire repertoire each day with the renowned musicians who accompanied me. Evidently, this for me was the hardest part of the preparations, considering the show was a four hour solo performance. The duration of the pieces ranged from ten minutes to over half an hour! The physical toll that such an invigorating dance form took on me was extreme, but I was incredibly lucky to have so much support.

Starting at the age of five, I have been dancing for ten years. I have been fortunate enough to have had my guru Smt. Usha Raghavan, who is an internationally acclaimed choreographer, since I started dance. She came to me two years ago asking if an arangetram would be something I am interested in doing as she believed I would be ready, considering the majority of people cannot find time to make such a commitment.

My guru is someone who has an complete devotion to the art form and her students. She has always treated me with such patience and one thing I genuinely admire is her pure



will to renew the passion of dance and spread it around the world. She is constantly pushing me and gives me so much knowledge in lessons. She has always been my greatest inspiration and I was overjoyed to know I made her proud on the evening.

Dancing on stage has always been so exciting for me; anytime my guru asked for me to perform at an event I was always so eager due to the liveliness you would feel on stage. Being able to dance for yourself and yourself only on a stage is such a great feeling, and after such a big accomplishment, I was very proud of myself. Wearing the stunning costumes that were specially made for me and the jewellery and makeup that made me feel so beautiful was amazing. I had five costume changes over the nine pieces, that would have been so difficult to do without the help of the backstage crew.



I was fortunate enough to have a full house of 600 at the theatre, of family and friends and CCHSG staff who all came to support me on the evening.



The best part of dance for me was always the characters I got to portray and stories I was told. The choreography of my guru has always been so intricate and magical to perform. I have learnt so many life lessons such as morals, discipline and mind-body relations, which I still use to this day. Another highlight of the evening was the fact I was able to perform a dance with my two older sisters, who did their arangetram in 2018, at the same theatre. Our guru had specially choreographed a piece for us based on a temple in my family’s home town in Nallur, Sri Lanka. It was truly amazing being able to dance with my sisters again, especially on a theme so close to our hearts and that was enjoyable to perform.

Now that I have completed my arangetram, I still dance and will continue to for many more years. Since I’ve been a child my arangetram has been a day I have been dreaming of; it finally came true. **Sankave Ahillan**



Schools Aerospace Careers Roadshow

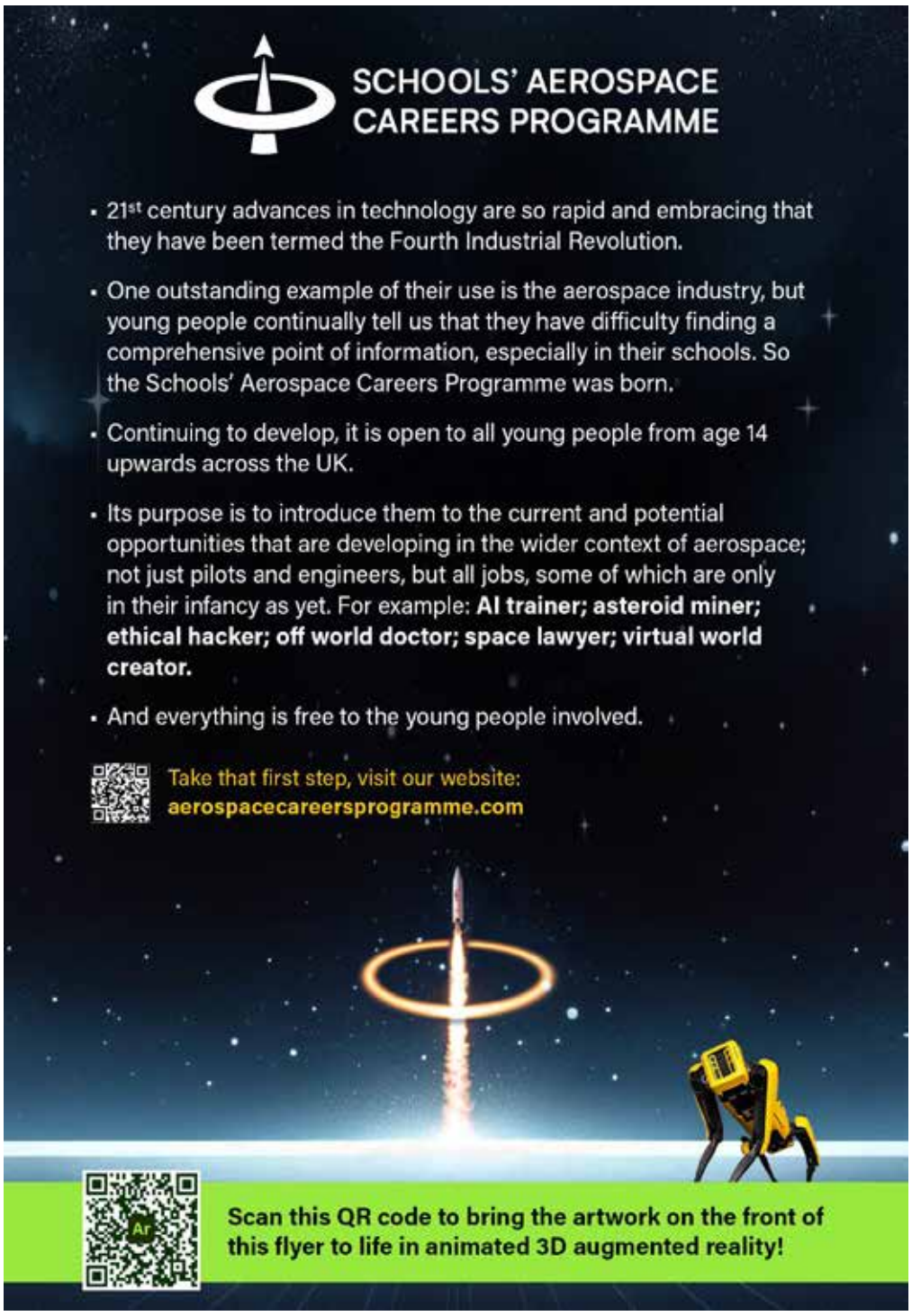
A dramatic expansion of the aerospace industry and related drone technologies is forecast over the next decade, potentially leaving us with a significant shortage of engineers. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and virtual reality will also provide enormous career opportunities. Keeping students up to date with accurate and relevant information about such a fast changing industry can be a challenge for any school.



The Aerospace Careers Programme charity is working to support young people, from any background, to access fulfilling careers in engineering based industries, especially aerospace, space and aviation. It works with its industry partners and schools to provide its services free of charge as part of its charitable aim.

The Schools' Aerospace Careers Programme
www.aerospacecareersprogramme.co.uk

CCHSG was delighted to host a travelling presentation roadshow involving ACP personnel, industry speakers and role models. Alongside CCHSG students at the event were groups from other schools within the Alpha Trust; Manningtree High School, The Gilberd School and



Trinity School. The star of the event was "Spot", a very agile, canine-like quadruped robot, developed by Boston Dynamics. Spot can move across rough terrain, climb stairs, and even get back up again if it falls over. As well as robotics, students had the opportunity to experience sessions featuring virtual reality, flight simulators, 3D printing and filming via a camera equipped drone. Our thanks to Mrs Hughes and Miss Clark for co-ordinating the event.

Our Mission

to encourage the interest of young people in technology generally and, specifically, provide them with a permanent, UK-wide, careers advisory and support service in respect of the aerospace, space, aviation, and associated industries;

Outcomes

a source of continually updated and relevant careers information about current and potential career opportunities and the routes into those careers;

Our Approach

to undertake UK-wide roadshow presentations and a highly active network that brings young people and companies face-to-face, all backed up by digital support.

NASA is actively planning to expand human spaceflight and robotic exploration beyond low Earth orbit. Future destinations may include the moon, near Earth asteroids, and Mars and its moons. NASA is preparing to explore these destinations by first conducting what are called analog missions here on Earth. Analog missions are remote field tests in locations that are identified based on their physical similarities to extreme space environments. NASA engineers and scientists work to develop the technologies necessary to ensure an efficient, effective and sustainable future for human space exploration. CCHSG's very own "astronaut for the day", Mrs Daniels, modeled a spacesuit as part of the presentation.



We were grateful to have the support of Colchester's new MP, Pam Cox, who attended the afternoon workshops and talked to staff and students. She was particularly impressed by her conversation with robot "Spot" - even though it was unable to give a definitive answer when she posed the question "Which are better, cats or dogs?".







Mrs Marshall said:
"We pride ourselves on being a forward looking and innovative Trust. The ACP roadshow provided an excellent opportunity for students to engage with professionals working in the forefront of the aerospace industry and to gain an insight into exciting future developments. We are very grateful to ACP for providing this opportunity."





Old Girls Association AGM & School Archive

CCHSG was pleased to host the OGA AGM on 27 July 2024. The meeting was followed by buffet lunch, kindly organised by Mrs Liz White, with a variety of keen helpers, as she was bravely continuing to manage proceedings with a cast on her broken arm.



The item on the School Leaving Award 2023/24 was presented by Mary Softley

Every year, the School is asked to nominate a student who has made extra effort outside their studies, or has who supported fellow students, overcome personal difficulties, or displayed some similar qualities of merit – this is not an academic achievement award. The Association currently awards £100 to the chosen student, presented by Liz White at their end-of-year Leavers' Assembly. This year, the School chose Megan Gray-Cullum. She was nominated in acknowledgement of her many contributions to the school community, citing in particular: her sustained and wide-ranging contributions to the school societies, such as Law Society and Debating Society. She has undergone significant challenges over the last few years, but faced them with positivity and strength, providing an inspiration for others. Megan is reading Law at Cambridge University.



Megan had sent the Association a letter of thanks:

I would like to say a huge thank you to the OGA for awarding me the OGA's leavers award as I feel truly privileged to have been awarded this. The last two years for me have been a whirlwind to say the least but the community of CCHSG and support of the school has been instrumental in making me the person I am today. I am so grateful to become part of the Old Girls Association and continue being part of the community. I am truly appreciative for the award and would love to keep in touch with the OGA in the future.

CCHSG Archive

The school is keen to curate and share the historic CCHSG archive. We would would like to thank members of the OGA who have donated additional items in recent years.

We now have a substantial and complete collection of Year Books and various other items which will ultimately be digitised and shared online. The "History of CCHSG" section of the website is expanding all the time, with the aim of having the majority of the existing materials on the site over the next academic year.

https://www.cchsg.com/about-cchsg/history-of-cchsg/







School photographs from GreyFriars in the 1920s.

Twenty Year Group photos have been digitised and are now in the History of CCHSG section of the website.

CCHSG Connect - Alumni Posters

Colchester County High School for Girls

CCHSG Alumni

Sophia Rehman

Vehicle Performance Engineer

Studied at CCHSG:

A level:
Maths
Further Maths
Physics
Chemistry
and an EPQ

Class of:
Leaving year 2021



After CCHSG:
MEng Aeronautics and Astronautics with Aerodynamics
University of Southampton

Undertook an Industrial Placement Year as a Vehicle Performance Engineer with the Williams Formula 1 team

Proudest Achievement:
Seeing my name on a Formula 1 car in Silverstone for our special edition livery was really cool! While at uni, I have spent a lot of time with our Formula Student team in the vehicle performance department and enjoyed going to Silverstone for the competition last year. Next year, I'm going to be Head of Race Engineering for the team.The highlight of my placement has been going to Silverstone.

Message to current CCHSG Students:
Dream big. As big as you possibly can - the sky is truly your limit. Then set yourself small achievable goals that help you work towards your dream, and you'll soon realise your dream isn't as far away as you thought!

Colchester County High School for Girls

CCHSG Alumni

Jo Cobbett

Veterinary Surgeon

Studied at CCHSG:

A level:
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Maths

Class of:
Leaving year 2003



After CCHSG:
Cambridge University
Veterinary Science

After six years at Cambridge I worked at a couple of mixed veterinary practices over a period of eight years. I then moved to a small animal practice and am now co-owner/partner in a new independent practice.

Proudest Achievement:
My children.

Message to current CCHSG Students:
Always keep learning, and find a job that you love doing.

Colchester County High School for Girls

CCHSG Alumni

Jasmine De Verre

Special Needs Co-Educator

Studied at CCHSG:

A level:
Psychology,
English Literature,
English Language

Class of:
Leaving year 2018



After CCHSG:
BSc in Psychology
Unniversity of York

I began volunteering as a classroom assistant in schools around York whilst at University. After my degree finished I went into nursery work and currently I work at a special needs residential school as a co-educator. I support children with complex needs and help them learn social skills. I also went back into volunteering at a Scout Group and I will soon qualify to be a Scout Leader.

Proudest Achievement:
Finishing my degree during the Covid pandemic.

Message to current CCHSG Students:
If you know what you're aiming for in post-18, don't lose sight of it, and if you haven't found it yet, keep trying new things! Find out what you really enjoy!

Calling CCHSG Alumni

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

We are aiming to capture the stories of our CCHSG alumni, whose diverse pathways will interest and inspire current students. Past students can provide their details for a poster via the link below. We would love to hear from you!

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

Please contact Kate Stubbs, at CCHSGConnect@cchsg.com with any alumni related questions or ideas. Thank you!

CCHSG Alumni CCHSG Connect

We are 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



Clubs and Societies Fair



The annual Clubs and Societies Fair was as popular as always with many staff and Sixth Form students advertising their societies and clubs. All the clubs and societies available each term are listed on the website.

Monday

Morning 8.00am – 8.30am		
Lunchtime 12.45- 13.20pm	Art Theory	Year 7-9
	Netball	Year 8,9,10
	Badminton	Years 10-13
	The Bluebirds Choir	Years 7,8
	Sports Hall Athletics	Years 7,8
	Sports Leaders	(invite Only)
	Spelling Bee	Year 7
	Pride Group	All Years
	Psych Soc	All Years
	Psychology Extension	Year 13
	MEP / JMA Maths Revision	Year 11
	Med Soc	All Years
	Magistrates Court Mock Trial	(invite Only)
	Badminton	Years 10-13
	Geography Mentoring	Years 10-11 invite only
	Film Club	All Years
	French Club	All years
	English Peer Mentoring	(invite Only)
	Computer Science Revision	Years 10,11
	Dent Soc	All Years
	Zoology Society Week A	All Years
	Chinese HSK Club	All Years
	11Y06 Maths GCSE revision	Year 11
	Please check Drama notice board for School Production Rehearsals and times	
After School 15.45pm – 16.45pm		









Extracurricular Clubs

Students have the opportunity to sign up for clubs via their Edulink One app.

Please note that students can only sign up for clubs that have been allocated to their Year Group.

A full list of the activities on offer is available on the website:
https://www.cchsg.com/students/co-curriculum/extracurricular-activities/

CCHSG Rock Band “Dusk”

Dusk is CCHSG’s resident rock band which was formed in September 2023 and is run by Katie Shine. Currently the band consists of Ira Saxena and Martha Simpkins on vocals and piano, Sophia Manjura, Asmi Bhatia and Dan Bradley on electric guitar, Maisy Brookes on bass guitar and Katie Shine on drums.



The band rehearses every Friday lunchtime and has been very active within the school community, performing at last year’s winter concert with their rendition of “Supermassive Blackhole” by Muse. They have also taken part in the Schools Rock Prom at Colchester Arts Centre.





Many members of the band were involved in last year’s summer concert, “Here Comes the Sun”, making up the majority of the house band. In July this year, Dusk played at B-Fest and was extremely successful, not only winning the best band award but winning the competition overall. The band received a prize of £100 and the opportunity to play a 30 minute set at the sold out Bures Festival that weekend. This year the band have many events lined up including playing at the school’s winter concert, at Colchester Arts Centre again in March and various other gigs in venues around Essex. The majority of the members of “Dusk” are in Year 13, making this their final year at CCHSG so they are excited to continue their musical journey together for a final year. **Katie Shine**







PTFA AGM



Chair's Report
Mrs Anni Cullen

As we reflect on the past academic year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the parents and staff who have contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the PTFA. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in the success of our events and initiatives, and it has truly strengthened the bond within our school community. I would also like to give special thanks to our Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students who completed their volunteering with us. Their dedication and hard work have been invaluable, and they have made a lasting impact, of which they should all be proud. Together, through our collective efforts, we have fostered a vibrant and supportive environment that benefits our children and enriches their school experience.

As we come to the end of one year, and the beginning of another, I must extend my sincerest gratitude to all the members of the uniform team. The uniform team are at the heart of the PTFA, and their tireless energy and determination has ensured that we have been able to continue to provide this invaluable service to the school community, which has been especially important, during this time of economic uncertainty. This year alone, our Nearly New Uniform and Books sales have generated over £7k.



I look forward to the upcoming year and the exciting events we have planned, starting in October, with the much anticipated Year 7 Welcome Party. The annual Christmas Market in November, will be an event not to be missed, with plenty of festive fun as always. The PTFA committee are also currently reviewing the possibility of adding new events to our calendar over the next couple of years, such as a Firework Night.

I thank our Committee for their exceptional support and dedication throughout the year. Their contributions have made a significant difference, and I am excited to see where the next year will take the PTFA. With such a strong and committed team, I am confident that we will continue to build on our successes and create even more enriching experiences for our school community.

Here's to a new academic year filled with opportunity and collaboration. Thank you all once again!

PTFA

Treasurer's Report

No	Description	Amount
1	BALANCE OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024	£26,475.80
2	TOTAL FUNDS RAISED FROM 1 SEPTEMBER- 31 AUGUST 2024	£21,384.19
3	REMITTANCE	Cost
	1 Termly PTFA Funding Bids (ASCI 1898-Minibus)	£16,000.00
	2 Termly PTFA Funding Bids (ASCI 1775-Drama Lighting)	£2452.66
	3 Termly PTFA Funding Bids (ASCI 2003 Raspberry PI Computing Dept)	£2589.75
	4 Termly PTFA Funding Bids (ASCI 2004-LARP Kit- Adventurer's Society)	£683.60
	5 Termly PTFA Funding Bids (ASCI 2005-Future First Alumni)	£2250.00
	6 Termly PTFA Funding Bids Invoice Adjustment	£0.33
	7 Grand Prize Draw 2023 Expenses	£148.00
	8 Nearly New Uniform Sales Expenses	£171.97
	9 Oliver Production Expenses	£372.30
	10 PTFA Container	£1,440.00
	11 PTFA Parentkind Insurance	£153.00
	12 PTFA Sundries Winter Term (Secure cash bags, candy floss machine, bar restock x3 etc)	£2132.99
	13 PTFA Sundries Spring Term (Bar restock, velvetiser, pick n mix restock, serving tongs, pizza boxes etc)	£765.56
	14 PTFA Sundries Summer Term (Bar restock, catering supplies, pick n mix, tablecloths)	£531.81
	15 Quiz and Pizza Night Expenses (Pizza bases, cheese, prizes, chicken wings, salad, garlic bread)	£365.27
	16 Xmas Market 2023 Expenses (Hot food supplies, Santa's Grotto, Prizes, Stalls, cake supplies etc)	£2655.03
	17 Year 7 Welcome Party Expenses (DJ, Catering Parents, Catering, Raffle Prizes)	£1707.28
	18 Winter Production (cakes for cake stall)	£16.45
	19 Year 7 Welcome Party 2024/2025 intake (Deposit for DJ)	£139.00
	TOTAL REMITTANCE (including Minibus)	£34,573.10

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY	AMOUNT (£)
Balance of account at 31 August 2023	£39519.92
Total funds raised from 1 September 2023-31 August 2024	£21528.98
Total payouts from 1 September 2023-31 August 2024	£34573.10
Total balance brought forward and new funds raised	£26475.80



Impact of the PTFA at CCHSG 2023/24 - Mrs Frost

- A really successful Year 7 party helped introduce and gel the Year Group (students and parents).
- Christmas Market 2023 – successful community event.
- Funding laptops for the Library – instant impact and gratitude from all library users. These get used everyday!
- Funding VEX robots – allowed for whole school curriculum use, clubs and competitions that we would not have been able to do without the support from the PTFA
- Supporting with refreshments at whole school productions allows the PTFA team to integrate with the school staff so that parents can see how we work together to support the school.

On Behalf of CCHSG staff and students we thank Mrs Cullen and all the PTFA volunteers for the tremendous contribution that they have made to the CCHSG community this year.





PTFA Election Of Office Bearers

Executive Committee 2023/2024	
POSITION	NAME
Chair	Anni Cullen
Vice Chair 1	Vinodh Gurusamy
Vice Chair 2	Eve Brindley
Secretary	Caroline Westgarth
Treasurer	Cornel Nell

Executive Committee 2024/2025	
POSITION	**NAME**
Chair	Anni Cullen
Vice Chair 1	Vinodh Gurusamy
Vice Chair 2	Eve Brindley
Secretary	Caroline Westgarth
Treasurer	Sadia Chowdhury

We are delighted at the majority of the Executive Committee have agreed to remain in post for the next year. We are very grateful to Cornel Nell for all her hard work as Treasurer last year, and we welcome Sadia Chowdhury to the team.

ESU-Rutland Teacher Award - Runner Up - Mr Paz

Congratulations to Mr Paz who came runner up in the English Speaking Union Rutland Teacher Award.

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) is an international educational membership organisation. Founded by the journalist Sir Evelyn Wrench in 1918, it aims to bring together and empower people of different languages and cultures, by building skills and confidence in communication, such that individuals realise their potential.

With 35 branches in the United Kingdom and over 50 international ESUs in countries around the world, the ESU carries out a variety of activities such as debating, public speaking and student exchange programmes, runs conferences and seminars, and offers scholarships, to encourage the effective use of the English language around the globe.

This Award recognises the transformational contribution of teachers in empowering the young people they work with through public speaking and debating.

The Rutland Foundation takes pride in sponsoring projects aimed at boosting young people's confidence, entrepreneurship and social mobility.





Year 7 - Impressionist Landscapes

Year 7 have been studying the work of the nineteenth century French Impressionist painters such as Claude Monet and August Renoir. Impressionist style was characterized by relatively small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, open composition, emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time), ordinary subject matter, unusual visual angles, and inclusion of movement. Students chose their own landscape views to interpret using Impressionist techniques.



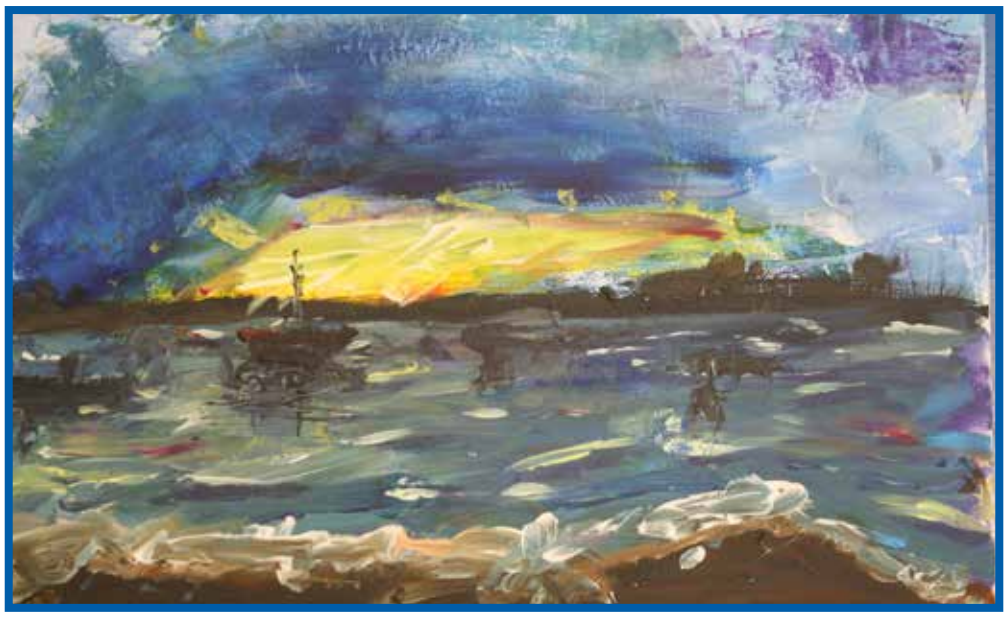












Year 10 Graphics Trip - Warner Brothers Studio

On Wednesday, 9 October we went to the Harry Potter Studio Tour London. Not only was this trip super fun, it was also beneficial to our coursework as we looked at the different aspects of graphic design involved in the branding of the Harry Potter Movies. In particular, we looked at the work of Mina Lima, who designed the packaging for props, newspapers and other graphics throughout the film series. It was also interesting to learn about the different career options available for art and graphics students in film, media and production when we finish school. In our opinion, the best part of the trip was Gringotts bank and the detailed marble pillars that were actually made from paper! We also really liked Diagon Alley and Weasley's Wizard Wheezes as the vibrant packaging stood out and inspired many of us with ideas for our current work. The full experience was very immersive and felt like we were fully entering the world of Harry Potter.

Olivia Stevens 10E and Holly Linger 10O





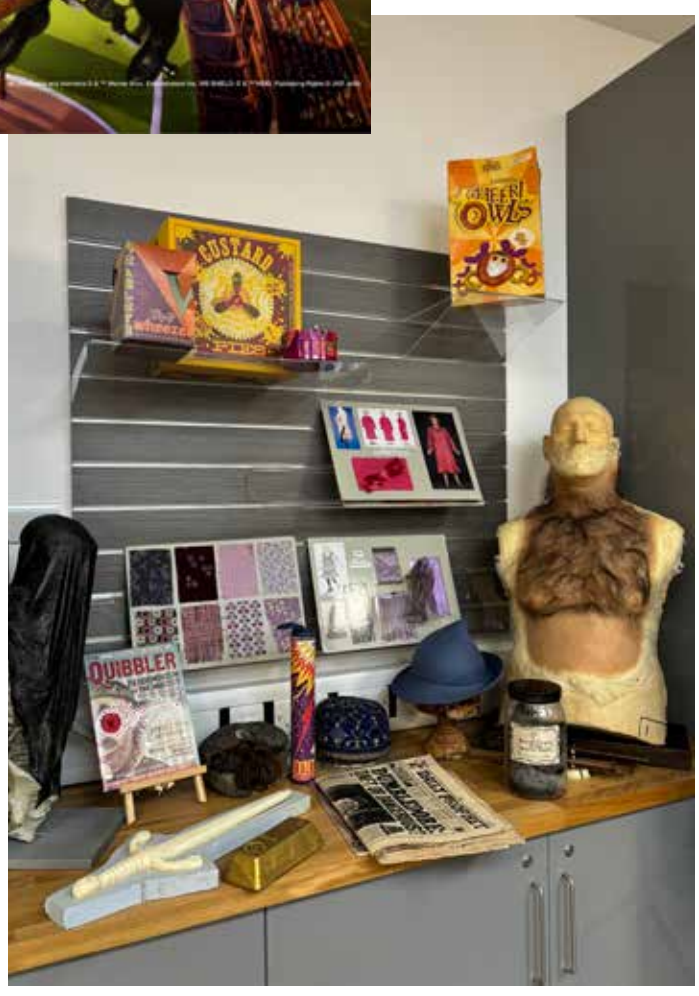
The Harry Potter trip was very exciting. The place looked amazing and the creativity blew my mind. I was so shocked by how much impact a graphic designer had on a movie or show, and it changed my whole perspective on art. I was impressed by how much work and effort was put into design, all the packaging labels and lettering etc. I loved the trip and I would recommend it, especially if you go with your friends and classmates. The trip will inspire you a lot and give you brilliant ideas for your future work. **Rashida Rashid Barco, 10O**

A trip to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio in London is an inspiring experience, especially for someone studying Art and Graphics at GCSE. The studio offers a behind-the-scenes look at the incredible artistry involved in the creation of the Harry Potter films, from intricate set designs and detailed costumes to awe-inspiring visual effects. Walking through the Great Hall, Diagon Alley, and the Forbidden Forest, you get a real sense of the craftsmanship and creativity that goes into making a fantasy world come to life. Seeing original concept art and graphic designs for props, posters, and scenes is a great source of inspiration, demonstrating how ideas evolve from sketches to reality. This experience could spark ideas for art projects, encouraging students to experiment with digital art, model-making, or even set design

Tasnia Hassan, 10H







Language Assistants at CCHSG

This academic year CCHSG is delighted to welcome Language Assistants in the MFL Department who will work with students to develop their skills in Spanish, Chinese, German and French. In this newsletter edition we hear from our Chinese and French Language Assistants. In the December newsletter we will find out more about our Spanish Assistant Miss Úrsula Rivas Rueda and our German Assistant Miss Lina Dag. Welcome to them all!



Miss Wang Yujue - Chinese Language Assistant

My name is Wang Yujue, and I come from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China. I am a graduate student in International Chinese Education at Ningbo University. I have taught sophomore students at the University of Michigan in the United States, and I was also responsible for providing Chinese oral tutoring sessions to students from Yemen, Arab countries, and Iceland.



What do you like about the UK so far?

I think Britain is a very beautiful country, and the people here are incredibly kind; there's always someone willing to help when you're in need. I really enjoy traveling around the UK, and so far, I've visited London and Cambridge, both of which are very distinctive, and I particularly love the pronunciation of British English.



Is there a food from home that you are going to miss?

Inner Mongolia is a province located in northern China, and we are famous for our delicious beef and mutton as well as fresh dairy products. I miss hand-held meat dishes very much, especially when it's dipped in a sauce made with garlic and vinegar.



What do you think the biggest challenges are in learning Mandarin?

For English learners, I think the biggest challenges are the tones and the characters. In English, there are no tones, but in Mandarin, there are four, and different tones can represent different meanings. Besides the tones, the characters are also a challenge because they are vastly different from the English alphabet. However, we have a calligraphy club now, where we practice writing Chinese characters every time. In fact, there are only five basic strokes in Chinese characters, and the commonly used ones number around 3,500. So, if one persists in attending the club, mastering Chinese can be quite simple!

Did you experience any challenges learning English?

Since English is part of the basic education in China, I have been learning English for ten years. The biggest challenge for me in learning English has been the slang that native speakers often use. Without an authentic language environment, it might not be easy to grasp slang. However, I am now working in the UK, and I believe that the language environment will help me overcome this issue.

Mlle Fantine Legueut - French Language Assistant

I come from the west of France, in Brittany, and I have lived my whole life in a town called Ploufragan.

I've just obtained my degree in Applied Foreign Languages (English and Spanish) and International Business, and I plan to pursue a Master's degree in teaching English when I return to France at the end of these 8 months. As for my hobbies, I love reading, watching movies, and baking (although I'm not good at it). I'm also a sports enthusiast, especially basketball, which I've been playing for 17 years now.

What do you like about the UK so far?
Before this experience, I had visited England a couple of times, starting with a school trip back in middle school. However, London was the only city I had seen in England until now, when I discovered Colchester ! That's why I'm so excited to explore more cities like Cambridge and Oxford, which both seem amazing.

One of the things I really like about the UK is that students finish school early compared to France. In French middle schools, most students start at 8 am and finish at 5 pm, and in high school, it can even go until 6 pm. Here, it seems to leave much more time for extracurricular activities, which I think is great.

Speaking of surprises, one thing that that was quite weird to me was the eating schedule. While lunch is quite similar, in France, we typically have dinner around 8 pm or 9 pm, so I found it quite strange when I first arrived at a family that has dinner at 6 pm. Also, in France, dinner is a social occasion where we all sit down together to eat and chat for about 30 to 40 minutes. Here, I've noticed that people tend to eat a bit faster, don't always gather at the table at the same time, and sometimes don't even eat the same meal as others.

Is there a food from home that you are going to miss?
I've discovered some British dishes that I love - crumpets



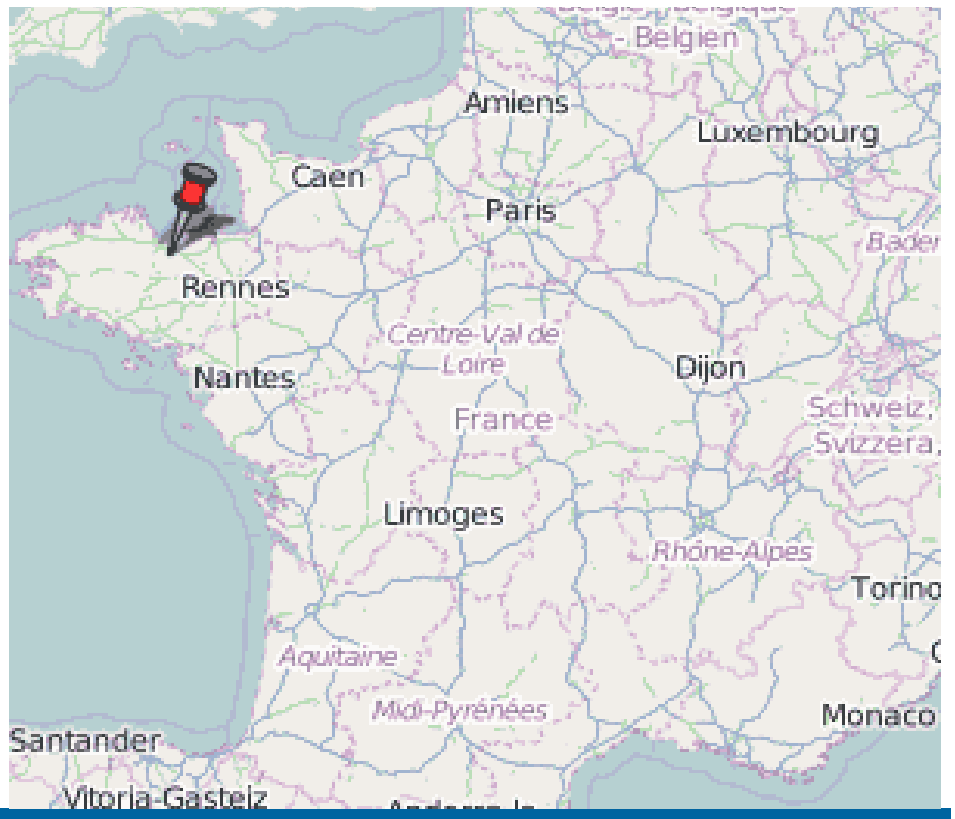




are a recent favourite ! I've also fallen in love with loaf cakes, especially the lemon and coffee ones, and I really enjoy your roast dinners. However, I must admit that I miss French food, especially saucisson, French cheeses like Comté and Brie, and pastries like les tartes tatins, les millefeuilles or the classic croissants and pains au chocolat. I'll also miss the typical food from my region, like kouign-amann (a rich pastry somewhere between a croissant and caramel cake) and galettes complètes (savoury crêpes made from buckwheat flour, traditionally filled with ham, cheese, and eggs).

What do you think the biggest challenges are in learning French?
I think the biggest challenge when learning French is figuring out the gender of nouns. Some of them seem to make no sense at all! Another tricky aspect is verb conjugation, which can be so complicated that even many French natives don't master it entirely.

On the flip side, as a French learner of English, the thing I find most challenging is mastering phrasal verbs - there are just so many of them! Another thing I struggle with is speaking too quickly without thinking about how to properly construct my sentences, which often leads to big mistakes in tense or structure. I'm trying to be more mindful of that :)



Year 13 Biology Field Trip

Sixty-one Year 13 biologists went to Dorset on 4 October for their annual A level field trip, as part of their ecology studies. The days are long, studying rivers and sand dunes, with analysis of data on two nights until 9pm. The PGL staff are very knowledgeable and gave the students an amazing experience, including an insight into their careers, which the students found very valuable. After an introductory talk on sampling and a tour, the students had their supper and played a team building activity. Some of the students working in groups, played a competitive game of giant battleships. Other students honed their frisbee skills. Even the staff played against each other. This definitely set the mood for the rest of the stay.



On Saturday morning we went to Sudland. Although it was windy, we had beautiful sunshine. PGL instructors explained the succession that had occurred in the sand dunes and showed the students the only native carnivorous plants in the UK. Let's not forget the Lion King Tree where the instructors sang to the tune of Hakuna Matata about Calluna Vulgaris, Latin name for common heather. The students undertook both transect and random sampling to investigate the stages of succession. The students worked really hard and very well together. The competition to get behind the hill first was intense. It was lovely to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic!

On Sunday morning, the students went to the river Wey at Upwey and Broadwey. They measured several factors in the ecosystem and gained an understanding of the differences in two locations of the same river. They enjoyed looking at the richness of species. One group caught a little fish! In the afternoon, the students looked at marine zonation on the rock pools. Here we did two random sampling on the rocky shores to use in their statistical tests, comparing and analysing the organisms present in the different areas of the rock pools. PGL staff caught some crabs that students enjoyed holding.



'A part of the PGL Biology fieldtrip that I keep thinking of is doing marine zonation since I got to see little crabs up close and look at all the different types of seaweed, which made using the quadrats pretty exciting, especially when I had to feel under the water for the species. Having the chance to walk (and sometimes run) around in knee-deep water with my friends was extremely fun, and the heavy rain later on ended up making the experience even more enjoyable since it added onto my first time at a rock pool!'
Ayur Kelzang



On Monday, the students enjoyed fossil hunting, finding devil's toenails and ammonites. The muddy cliffs did not stop the Year 13s and Mr Guille from getting dirty searching for fossils and sliding down in style! The second half of the group took on their fear of heights to have a go at climbing. They enjoyed climbing different walls with varying levels of difficulty. Some fantastic fun-filled activities to end the trip. **Mrs Ukwatte**









‘*Visiting Studland beach to collect data on succession was really enjoyable for me! I loved seeing and learning about the different species that inhabit the area, particularly the Sundews, which are a native plant. It was my first time seeing sand dunes and a heathland, and it was eye-opening to visually see succession in action.’* **Zi Yu Dong**

‘*I really enjoyed river sampling and seeing how the species varied at different areas down the river. It was really interesting being able to identify different species present from the identification guide.*’
Nidhi Nallanickan

Music & Drama Students Visit the Theatre Royal, Norwich

“7,000 Stranded Passengers. One Small Town. A Remarkable True Story.”

As part of the Music and Drama GCSE and A Level courses, it is important that students have the opportunity to watch and analyse live theatre productions. The Department was delighted to be able to offer students the opportunity to see “Come From Away” at the Theatre Royal in Norwich on 17 October.





The Winner of four Olivier Awards including Best New Musical in London and the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical on Broadway, this smash hit show shares the incredible real-life story of the 7,000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Canada during the wake of 9/11, and the small Newfoundland community that invited these ‘come from aways’ into their lives..



Students really enjoyed watching this lively musical and the trip allowed them to put some of their classroom-based learning into practice. Thanks go to Mrs Jefferies and Mrs Cudmore-Rice for organising the trip.

PE Department - Autumn Term 1

The PE department welcomes back our wonderful students and hopes that they enjoyed an enriching summer break. We are also very excited to welcome the new Year 7 students. We started the academic year with trials for our swim, football, netball, badminton and cross-country teams. We had many students trial and saw excellent displays of skills throughout the week. From this trials week, we have been able to pick teams to represent the school in a range of activities.

Our extracurricular PE timetable kicked off with a variety of sports offered to our students before school, at lunchtime and after school. All students are welcome to attend these clubs and can find the timetable on the PE noticeboard or on the school website. We have been very impressed with the number of students that are attending our clubs. Well done all.

NEESSA Competitions

We have various upcoming fixtures against schools within the Colchester area. We have played Paxman Academy, Stanway Academy and will also be hosting under 14 and under 16 team netball tournaments. We currently are unbeaten and hope to continue this within the district.

We have many football and basketball matches coming up. Teams will be selected from those that not only attended the trials, but have also showed commitment and exceptional attitudes to training.



County/Regional Competitions





Our under 14 and under 16 netball teams played away to Sandon School in the first round of the Essex Cup netball competition. For the under 14 team, this was a strong opposition which initially panicked the team. However after the first quarter, the team calmed and displayed excellent skills to win their game and progress to the next round. The under 16 team join them progressing through to the next round, despite their match almost being called off due to the rain!

On Friday 4 October, we travelled to Watford Leisure Centre to compete in the ESSA swimming relays gala with our Junior (Year 7 & 8), Inter (Year 9 &10) and Senior (Year 11, 12 & 13) swim squads. The teams performed exceptionally well, especially the Senior team who may be through to the National final! We are awaiting results for this competition.

We have entered the Essex table tennis competition with our under 13 and under 16 squad as well as the national badminton competition with the first round fast approaching. We also have cross country and indoor athletics competitions coming up which give students the opportunity to compete against schools in other areas with strong competitors. We are excited to see how these competitions go.

Colchester County High School for Girls PE Clubs Timetable – Autumn Term 2024

	Morning (8.00 – 8.30)	Lunchtime (12.40 – 13.10)	Afterschool (15.45 – 16.45)
Monday		Year 9, 10, 11 & Sixth Badminton SH – PST Year 8, 9 & 10 Netball Courts – LFR Year 7 Football Field – LDY All Years Dance HMA/RDE	Staff Meetings
Tuesday	All Years Swimming (GCSE PE lane reserved) Pool - LFR	Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & Sixth Football Field – LDY All Years Swimming Pool - PST All Years Basketball SH – LFR	Fixtures
Wednesday	Year 7 & 8 Netball Team Training Courts – RDE	Year 7 Netball Courts – RDE All Years Indoor Cricket SH – PST	Year 7, 8 & 9 Netball Team Training Courts/SH – All PE staff
Thursday	All Years Cross Country Field - PST	GCSE/A-level Theory Support H3 – LDY Year 7 & 8 Badminton SH – RDE Beginners Swimming (Invitation only) Pool – LFR/PST	Year 10,11 & Sixth Netball Team Training Courts/SH – All PE staff
Friday	All Years Badminton SH - LDY	All Years Friday Fun Day! GYM – All Staff Badminton Team (Invitation only) SH - PST Year 10 Sports Leaders (Invitation only) H3 - LDY	

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

Athlete in the Spotlight

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

Monica Malagala



CLUB:
Chelmsford AC

TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Tuesday and Thursday 18:00-20:30

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:
1st in England u15/17 championships in Shot with 13.30m, 2nd In Discus with 32.30m
Lee Valley indoor athletics: 1st in Shotput with a new championship record of 13.16m
Currently 2nd in the UK (U15G) for Discus with 34.60m and Shot with 13.81m

LONG TERM GOAL:
To compete at the 2028 and 2032 Olympics and win a medal

INSPIRATION:

Current World no1 women's shot putter
Chase Jackson-Ealey

PRE-COMPETITION MEAL:
Pasta and Lucozade

PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464

Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary

- Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale: Saturday 23 November
- Christmas Market 2024: Saturday 30 November

Annual Christmas Market – Call for Stallholders

The Christmas Market will be held on 30 November, 12 noon to 3pm

If you or anyone you know would like to book a stall the PTFA would love to hear from you. Open to both the school and the wider community, the Christmas Market is always a popular and well-attended event. Stalls that have run successfully in the past include Christmas decorations, gifts, candles, jewellery, crafts, cards, scarves, skincare and health products. Spaces are limited and will fill up fast. Please register your interest early to avoid disappointment. For further details and booking form, please email us at: cchsgptfa@gmail.com









Nearly New Uniform Team Appeal

The PTFA are reaching out to ask for your support in joining the Nearly New Uniform Team. This invaluable service provides affordable, good quality uniforms to our school community, especially important in these times of economic uncertainty. Unfortunately, several of our dedicated volunteers have moved on as their children have left the school for higher education, and without new volunteers, the PTFA may struggle to continue offering this much-needed service.

If you can spare any time to help, either processing uniform donations or helping out with the termly sales, your involvement would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in joining the team, please email cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Uniform donations can be left in the blue wheelie bin outside school reception and are welcome at any time of the year.