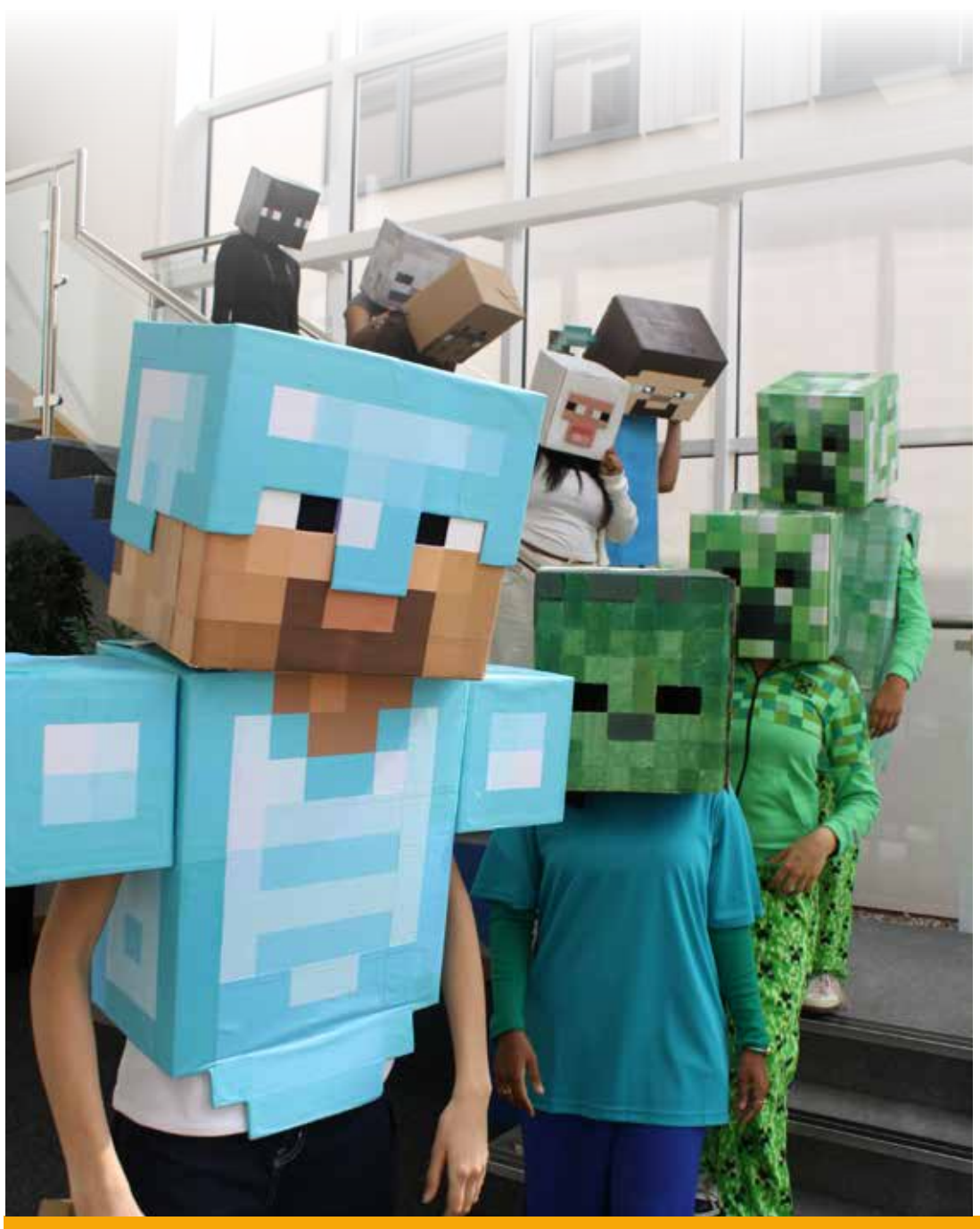
CCHSG E-Newsletter

22 May 2025

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Executive Principal's Notes

This term the focus of the whole school community has been on supporting our students who are undertaking their A level and GCSE examinations. I would like to commend the students for the way in which they are conducting themselves and for all their hard work. It was lovely to be able to take some time to celebrate milestones with the Year 13 students. I was pleased to join the Leavers' Assembly, where students reflected on their years at CCHSG and received the good wishes of the staff and Senior Team. We are grateful to Liz White, from the Old Girl's Association and Mr and Mrs Bullen, from the Catherine Bullen Foundation for their contributions to the final assembly. The last day of formal lessons was marked with our annual "Dress Up Day", which was a wonderful celebration of the vibrant Sixth Form community. The Year 11 afternoon tea party was also a great opportunity for students, together with their Form Tutors and staff, to share fond memories of the events and experiences that have shaped their time at CCHSG so far.

School Budget

I have recently written to staff to reinforce the necessity for a careful monitoring of spending. Our school budget has been rigorously managed over many years, which has ensured that we are secure. However, in future years, the General Annual Grant (GAG) allocation means that it is now even more important that best value for money is sought when managing a budget, and careful consideration is given to the value of the products and services.

Attendance and Punctuality

We have always known that there was a strong correlation between school attendance and attainment. Punctuality is also an indicator of long-term achievement, as well as being an essential life skill. A recent study suggests that differences in attendance rates are now the main reason for the attainment gap between groups of students. This underscores the importance of strategies to improve attendance and punctuality, particularly where cumulative learning is essential. By prioritizing these aspects, we seek to promote a learning environment that maximizes the potential of every student.



The Trinity School - Ofsted

This half term our Alpha Trust colleagues at Trinity School

received their first full Section 5 Ofsted inspection. I would like to thank Mark Orrin, Headteacher and the entire Senior Leadership Team, Local Governing Board, staff, students and wider school community for their support and for being at the forefront of the positive feeling around the school. We await the quality assurance process and will share the judgments when the report is published.

The past 18 months has seen Ofsted inspections of all four secondary schools in the Trust and CTTC. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Trust Board members for their steadfast support and strategic guidance during this period. For Trinity School particularly this represents a key moment in the journey since opening in 2021.The establishment of the school has in itself been a significant achievement, which involved dealing with a number of unforeseeable external challenges. The construction of the new school building was underway during COVID, which, alongside other problems, resulted in significant delay. The initial intake of students was accommodated at The Gilberd School, in mobile classrooms, while awaiting completion of the Trinity site. The Gilberd itself then also faced considerable challenges due to the closure of part of the building while RAAC was replaced. We have worked together to successfully navigate from the planning stages to opening, through Covid and RAAC and now the first Ofsted inspection. This is a great testament to the power of shared knowledge and professional support across the Trust.

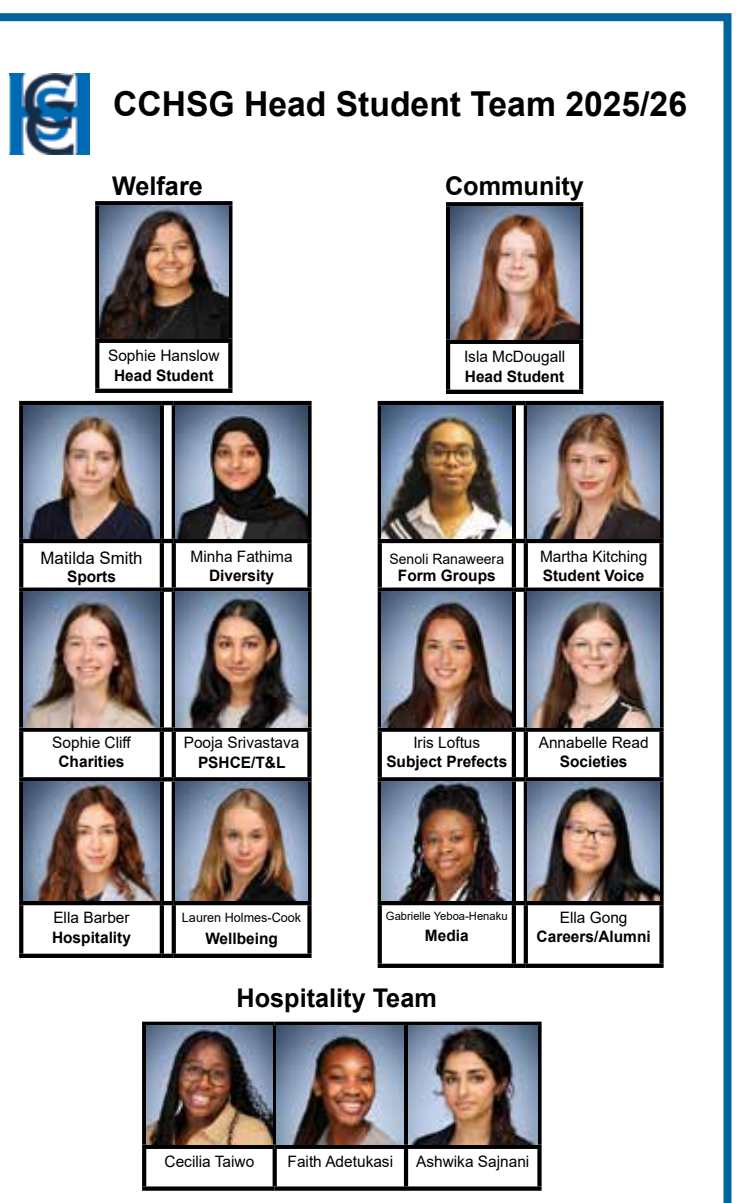
Another excellent example of partnership working is Colchester Teacher Training Consortium (CTTC), which now extends to over 90 schools across Essex and Suffolk. The consortium annually trains around 80 Primary and Secondary teachers from its base at CCHSG. Many of the staff trained at CTTC progress on to teaching roles in local schools and it is always a particular pleasure to be able to employ staff who were once students here at CCHSG. CTTC has also recently been selected as one of only ten teacher training providers in the UK to take part in the Diversity in Initial Teacher Training Project. CTTC will work alongside the Chartered College of Teaching and national leaders to increase the diversity of applicants in teacher training.

We wish the students all the best in their examinations. Just keep swimming! Never Give Up!

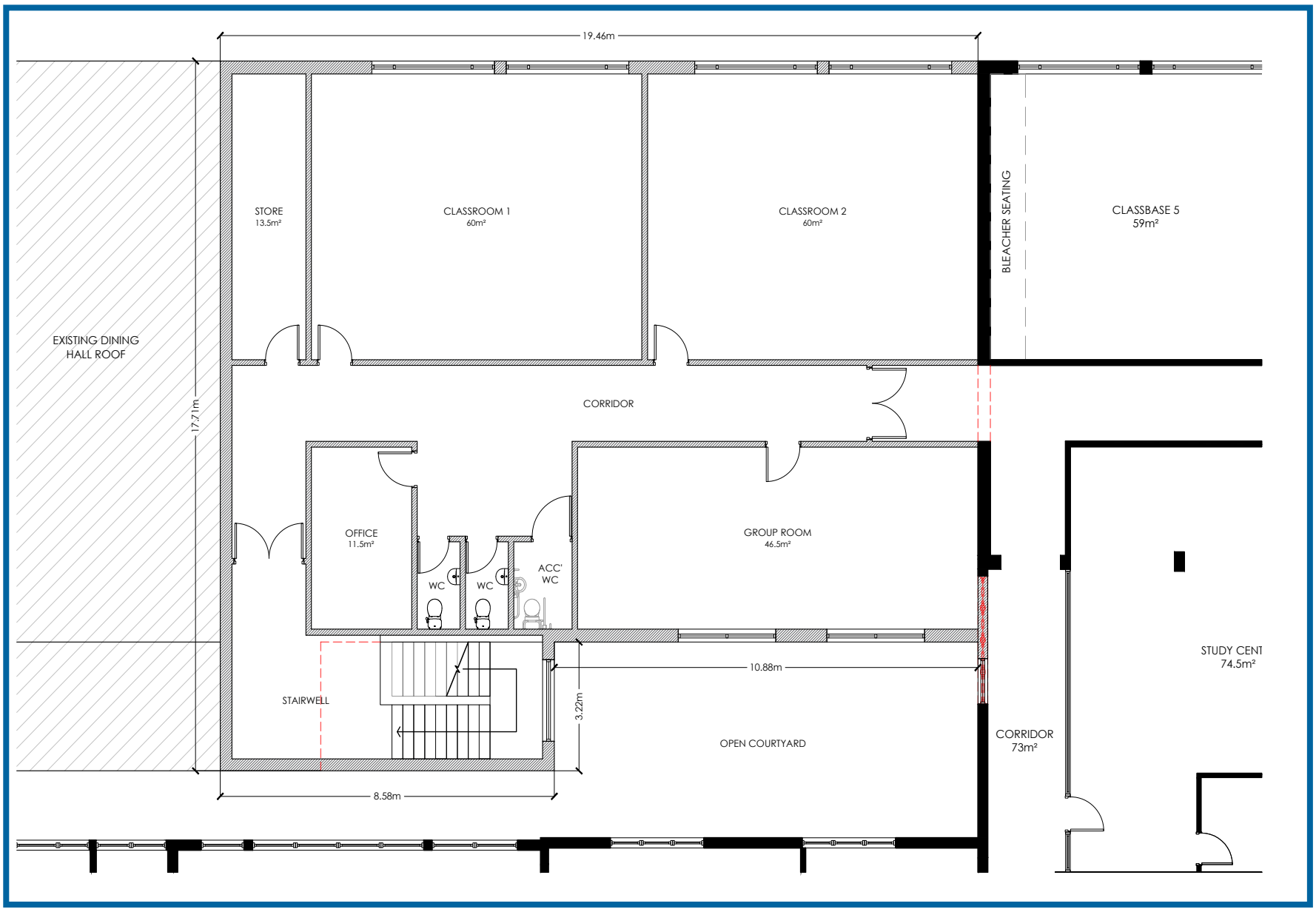
"Start by doing what is necessary;
Then what's possible;
Suddenly you are doing the impossible."
– Francis of Assisi

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO

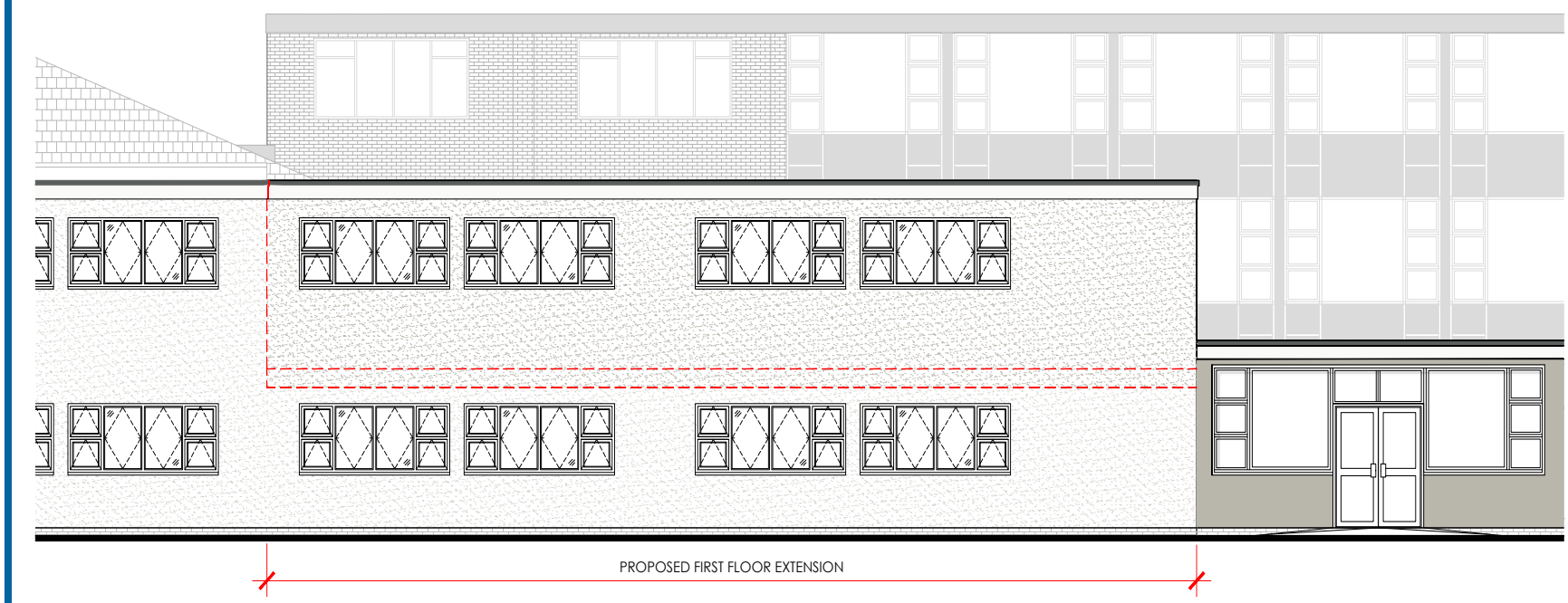




For regular news updates follow CCHSG on Facebook @colchestergirls or X @CCHSG



Our current building project will create an upper floor over the extension, providing three new classrooms and additional toilet facilities. Every care is being taken to avoid any disruption to students taking examinations. It is hoped that the work will be complete by the end of January 2026.



Colchester Teacher Training Consortium

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



CTTC is a partnership, which now extends to over 100 schools across Essex and Suffolk, who have been providing teacher training for the past 18 years. The consortium annually trains around 80 Primary and Secondary teachers from its base at CCHSG.

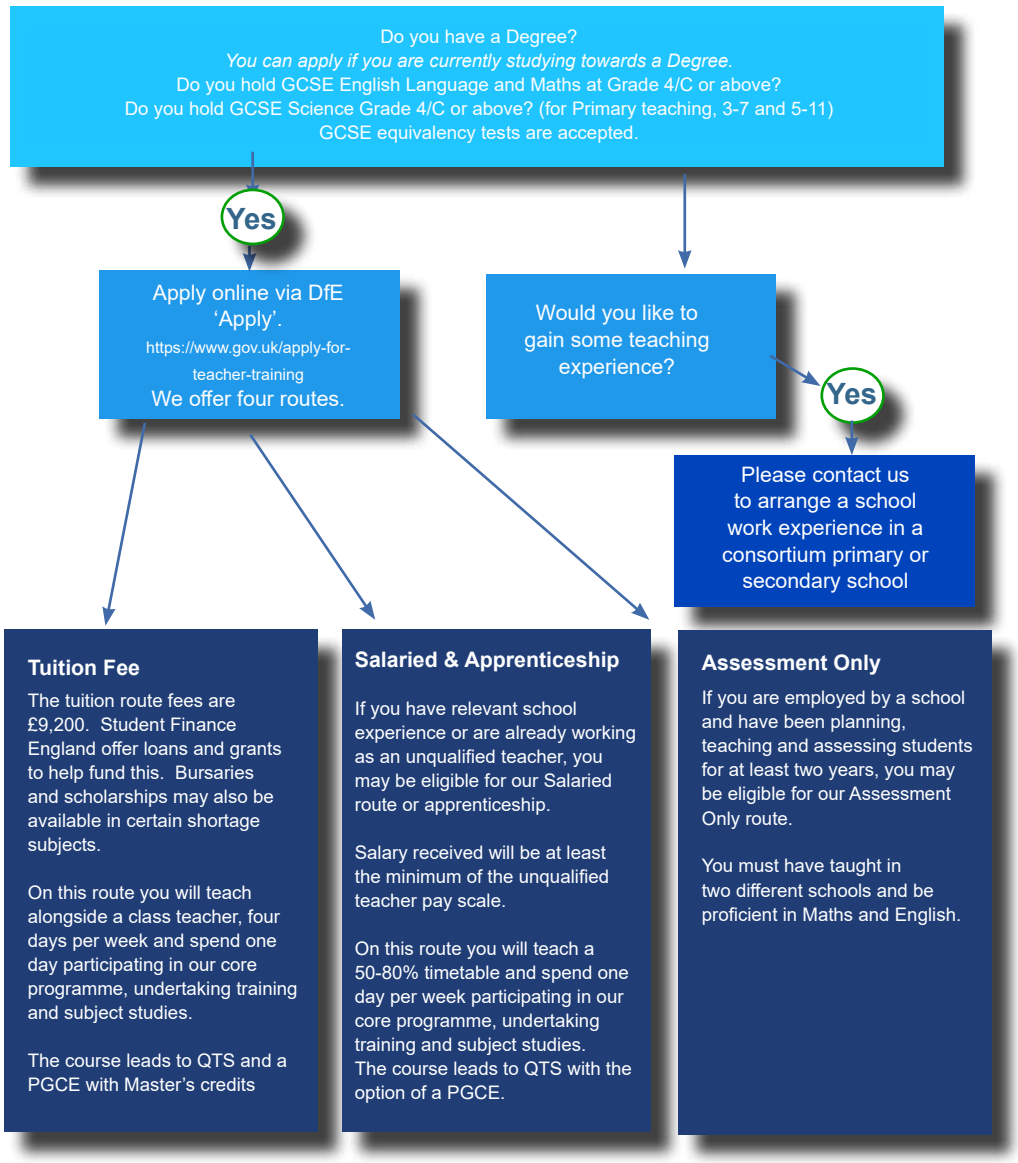
"Trainees benefit from the highest quality training and support" (Ofsted 2024).

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

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

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

Routes into Teaching



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.

Diversity in Initial Teacher Training

CTTC is one of just ten ITT Training providers in the UK to have been selected to take part in the Diversity in Initial Teacher Training project. The project is funded by Mission 44, the charitable organisation founded by Sir Lewis Hamilton to drive change to ensure every young person can thrive in school. The project aims to increase the acceptance and completion rates of ethnic minority teacher training applicants and their successful completion of Qualified Teacher Status. CTTC will work alongside the Chartered College of Teaching and national leaders to increase diversity in teacher training and create inclusive training environments for ethic minority candidates.

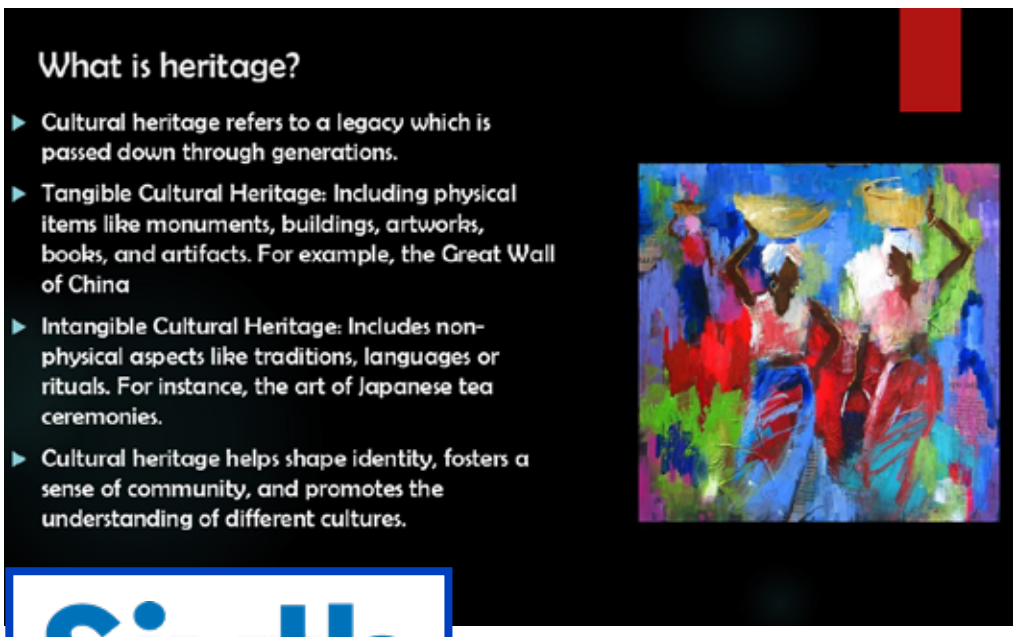
African World Heritage Day

The Afro-Carribean Society gave presentations to different Year Groups to mark African World Heritage Day, sharing their knowledge and appreciation of the subject. African World Heritage Day is observed annually on 5 May. Proclaimed by UNESCO, this day aims to celebrate and raise awareness of Africa's unique cultural and natural heritage. It highlights the continent's rich diversity and the importance of preserving its heritage for future generations.

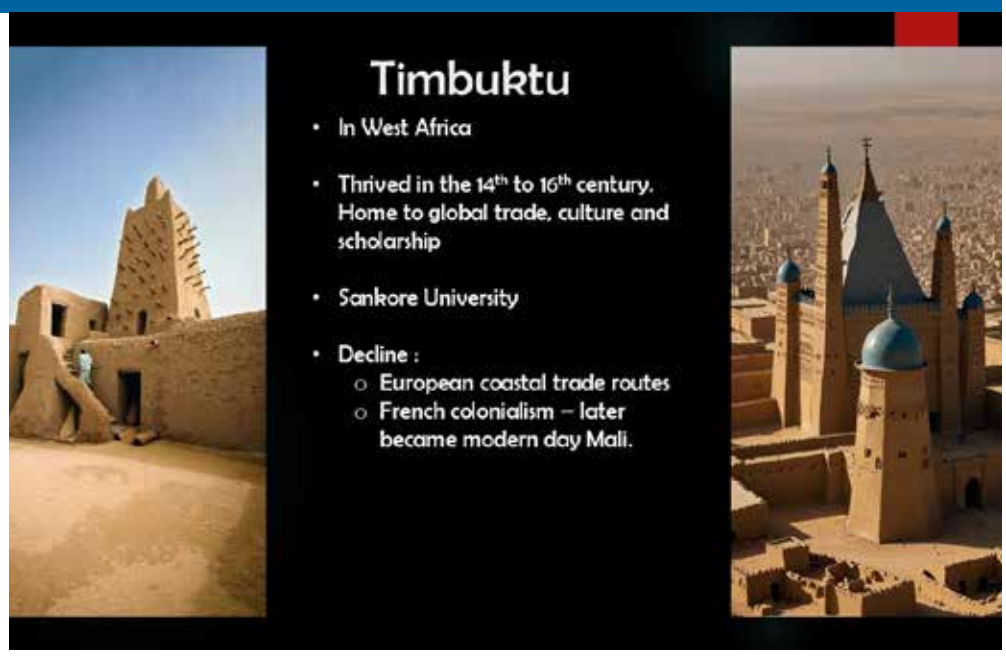


ACS members clearly communicated their passion, giving students useful and interesting information about what heritage means to them and its importance especially to African countries:

"We think spreading awareness about African World Heritage Day was important. Our school is home to a diverse community and events like this allow people to learn more about cultures that they may not know much about. It gives an understanding of the different types of people that make up our school and how we can be accepting and open to others regardless of how different their cultural heritage may be." **ACS Members**



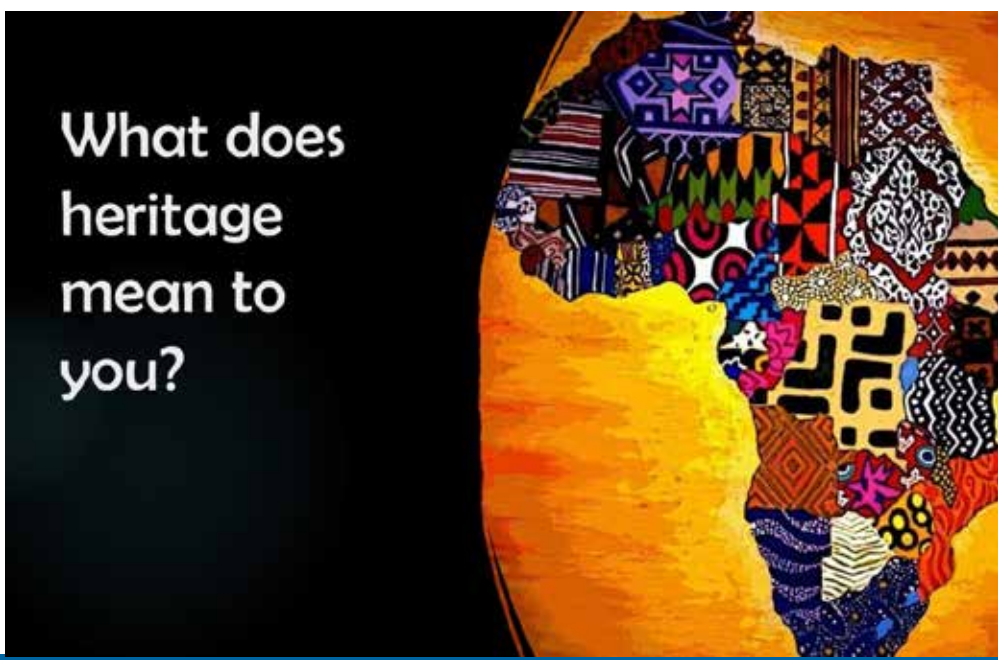
Gabrielle
Sixth Form
Media Ambassador





Students enjoyed the presentation and many found that the information given was impactful:

"I found it very fascinating to hear people speaking in different languages with one another and it was wonderful to be able to understand what was being said. The folklore stories were entirely unfamiliar to me, but I found them captivating and thought-provoking. They offered a unique insight into how different cultures interpret the world around them. Listening to them also encouraged me to reflect on my own cultural background and the traditional stories I haven't yet explored but now feel inspired to learn more about."
Tanya Parackal



Spring Concert 2025

The Spring Concert provides a showcase for some of the many extracurricular groups within the Music Department. Performers included the Concert Orchestra, the Sixth Form led *Bluebirds Choir*, and the CCHSG rock band, ***Dusk*, as well as solo and duet performances from our GCSE and A Level music students. Also featured were ***Bella Voces,*** our auditioned choir.**

Thanks go to Mrs Jefferies and Mrs Cudmore-Rice for co-ordinating the concert and to the Sixth Form students who assisted in preparing the performances and also on the evening.























CCHSG Entrepreneurship Award Day

This term saw the return of the CCHSG Entrepreneurship Award, a much-anticipated competition that challenges students to channel their creativity, critical thinking, and environmental awareness into the world of business. The focus of this year's challenge was sustainability, with pupils tasked with designing and pitching their own eco-friendly business ventures.

Working individually or in small groups, students developed detailed business plans for environmentally responsible start-ups. From reducing waste in fashion to creating greener beauty products and sustainable stationery, the range of ideas was both impressive and inspiring. Many participants took their projects a step further by producing working prototypes, demonstrating not only innovation but real commitment to bringing their ideas to life.

Students then delivered professional standard presentations to a judging panel, showcasing their product concepts, marketing strategies, environmental benefits, and financial planning. The quality of research, confidence in delivery, and originality of the concepts made judging a particularly difficult task.



With huge thanks to our judges:

Gemma Cuff – Founder and Company Director (Gemstone Mortgages)

Simon Mead – CEO (Colbea)

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

Irene Kettle – PR Officer and Journalist (Kettle Communications)

Joint 1st Place – £100 per team

Stitch & Switch:

Aditi Bashakala, Tanvi Mohandas & Srinika Vujjini

This team presented a clever circular fashion initiative that promotes clothes swapping and repurposing, encouraging customers to 'switch' garments rather than throw them away.



Leaf and Letter

Scarlett Webb & Akshara Subramanian

Scarlett and Akshara impressed with their beautifully packaged biodegradable stationery, embedded with seeds that can be planted after use, giving each letter a second life.



2nd Place – £75

Shrubs & Scrubs

Dunbarin Dare, Emilia Bennett & Emma Lilywhite

This team developed a range of handmade, plant-based skincare products with minimal packaging and a strong commitment to clean, sustainable ingredients



3rd Place – £50

Cosmos

Isha Sapre

A thoughtful solo entry featuring a modular, refillable cosmetics system aimed at reducing plastic waste in the beauty industry, with a strong brand identity and smart product design.



The Entrepreneurship Award continues to be a brilliant platform for students to explore real-world issues, apply academic skills in a practical context, and gain confidence in public speaking and teamwork.

Mr Borley, who co-ordinated the competition, shared: *“The enthusiasm and ingenuity shown by our students was truly exceptional. It's encouraging to see students thinking about business not just as a way to make profit, but as a tool for positive environmental change.”*

Congratulations to all students who took part—we can’t wait to see where your entrepreneurial journeys take you next!



Year 13 Leavers' Assembly and Awards

OGA Leaver's Award

The Old Girls'/Alumnae Association (OGA) annually recognises a student nominated by the school who has demonstrated qualities of merit outside their academic studies by presenting them with an award. The school have recommended Maisy Brookes in acknowledgement of her sustained contribution to the school and wider community.

Maisy has been particularly active in the Music Department. She is bass guitarist in our rock band "Dusk", who were winners of the 2024 Bures Festival. She is also a Music Prefect and has been leading the school Concert Orchestra and supporting with school productions. Maisy also runs the school Gardening Club and volunteers with the Essex Wildlife Trust. Maisy has had some challenges over the last few years, which she has faced with positivity and strength, providing an inspiration for others.



Mrs Liz White with Maisy

We thank Mrs Liz White, who attended the assembly on behalf of the OGA to speak to students and present the award. The OGA were pleased to learn that Maisy is planning to read Marine Biology at University.

Catherine Bullen Memorial Award

We are grateful to Mr Roger Bullen and Mrs Linda Bullen, who annually present the Catherine Bullen Memorial Prize to a Year 13 student who is progressing to a medical career. This year the award went to Emily Wong. Emily has played an active role in school societies, including a leadership role in MedSoc and also been a member of Student Voice. She had success in a number of science competitions including RSC Analyst Competition - Gold Award and East Anglian Regional Champion, RSC Top of the Bench - Second prize, Cambridge Chemistry Challenge – Gold, British Physics Olympiad – Gold and International Biology Olympiad - Silver. She has also been volunteering in a care home.





Set up in memory of past CCHSG student Catherine Bullen and run by Mr and Mrs Bullen the Foundation funds charitable projects supporting a school and medical services in north-eastern Namibia in the Omaheke region. Mr and Mrs Bullen visit the area regularly to volunteer at the clinic funded by the Foundation, where Mrs Bullen works as a nurse. This academic year students have been fundraising for the Foundation. We were delighted to be able to present Mr & Mrs Bullen with a cheque for £3,284.00 to support their work.

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



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

Items funded by the Foundation.

The Catherine Bullen Foundation





Excited children at Omuhatura Primary School Hostel on receiving an electric organ donated by our supporters Sue and Martin Lay.

Children in the classroom at Omuhatura Primary School.

The Catherine Bullen Foundation





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

The Catherine Bullen Foundation

A tractor purchased for the Vasdrai Vocational School to teach disadvantaged youth horticulture.





Distributing knitted items at a San Settlement

The Catherine Bullen Foundation



Text of Address to Fellow Students by Niamh Franklin Head Student

I really want to thank you all for what I view as some of the best years of my life. Since starting our new journey together in September of 2023, we have all clearly come a long way. We all started, making new friends and asking questions like what subjects are you taking, how were your GCSEs and even what school did you come from. But after we have grown for the last year and a half, we now ask each other about university aspirations, future careers and how we will keep in touch after we all move around the country.

It's taken us a long time to get where we are. So, I just want to take a little time to reflect on my time here at CCHSG. One of my first standout memories was the Bushcraft trip in year 7. I remember all the weird little caterpillars that would hang down from the trees and the constant checking in tents for spiders, beetles and such like. But most of all I remember the talent show at the end of the week and meeting people that were in 7H and 7E who I had never encountered before. Even 6 months after we had started, I was still making new friends. For me this really highlighted the importance of putting yourself out there and volunteering for things, as without it I do not think I would have had nearly as much fun as I did. This has continued to help me throughout life and has taught me to take every opportunity that comes my way. For example, taking any and all leadership opportunities. Without this, I wouldn't be standing here talking to you all right now, something I view as a true honour.

Since beginning my role as Head Student last year, I have learnt so much. I have learnt the value of teamwork and asking for help. Every event, like Wellbeing Day last Summer as well as Parent's and Open Evenings, every PowerPoint and assembly and speech (just like this one) have all been made significantly easier knowing I have an incredible team to lean on. With people who are always willing to volunteer and give up their time to help with every and anything that will make the team run smoothly. Communication is something that always has stood out to me as a necessity and I believe that our team has practically cracked it over the last year. This is one of the most important skills to learn in life and I believe that you should not be forced to bear the burden of copious amounts of work alone when there is a team there to support you. A challenge to this, however, was the actual act of asking for help as you could potentially view this as a weakness, but I think that, really it shows true strength to understand that you cannot do everything on your own and that it is okay to be stuck as long as you know how to overcome it.

As well as this, while asking for help is important, sometimes being the help for someone else can really showcase your reliability and dedication. People always really appreciate any help they can get and being the volunteer makes it so much easier for someone to feel like they can ask for help. Everything I have learnt in these last 7 years at CCHSG have made me the person I am today, which I will be forever grateful for. I hope to keep bringing all abilities that have been instilled into me by the school with me for the rest of my life, exercising them throughout university and my future career as well as just in general life.

I want to thank everyone for helping me, including: my peers, teachers, and all other staff who have made my school life far more fun, supportive and educational than I could ever have expected it to be. I have really enjoyed every second of this journey and I wish you all the very best of luck in the future.



Text of Address to Fellow Students by Aimee Batchelor Head Student

As you can all probably agree, it's difficult to put into words how it feels to be closing the door on this chapter of our lives and moving onto what's next. It feels like only yesterday I sat in this hall on my first days of Year 7 and 12, and I know I'm far from the only person who's struggling to believe how quickly the time has passed and how much has changed; just like those past versions of ourselves, we've reached such an exciting (albeit daunting) moment in our lives, and amidst the chaos of exams it's important to focus on how much we have to look forward to beyond CCHSG.

I get to continue studying my favourite subject, Classics, at university next year, and whether you've chosen a similar path at university or have different plans for next year, where we all end up will be the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, commitment, and the endless incredible opportunities we've had during our time here. I know I'm not alone when I say I will carry the friendships and memories I've made at CCHSG with me forever, wherever life may take me; I am both incredibly grateful for the experiences and people that have made the past few years so special, and incredibly excited to see what the future holds for all of us.

No matter your aspirations, I wish you all the best of luck; I hope all of us move forward into this next chapter with ambition and confidence, because I truly believe that if CCHSG has taught us anything, it's that anything is possible if we put ourselves out there. I will miss CCHSG immensely; thank you to everyone who has made being a part of the Class of 2025 so memorable!

Alumni Reunion - Class of 2003

On 10 May CCHSG welcomed back some of the Class of 2003 who met over coffee to reminisce and recall happy memoires of their time at CCHSG. They were joined by longstanding CCHSG staff members Dr Cox and Mrs Davison together with then Head of Maths, Mr Robin. In 2003 the Headteacher was Mrs Elizabeth Ward and the school had a role of around 650 students with four forms of entry. Ms Stubbs led groups on a tour of the school. While areas such as the main hall and gym were quite recognisable, there was amazement at some of the development to the site - the new sports hall, art rooms and library. Our visitors were particularly pleased to hear that we now have a new swimming pool which actually has adjacent changing rooms - as they had to walk in their towels across the car park from changing room to pool! Our alumni were delighted to discover that their old Form Rooms were still recognisable - with 11H (Mrs Hatwell) posing for a group photograph in F5.





CCHSG Alumni
CCHSG Connect

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:

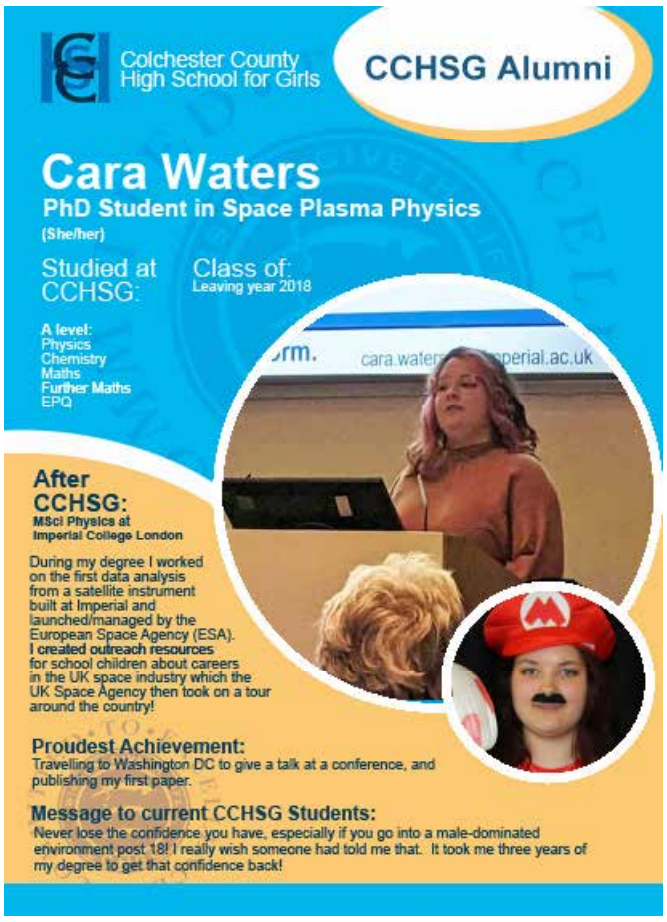
https://forms.office.com/e/jzfYqJ7dhj

or scan the QR code



CCHSG Connect - Progression Posters







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. See alumni stories on our website

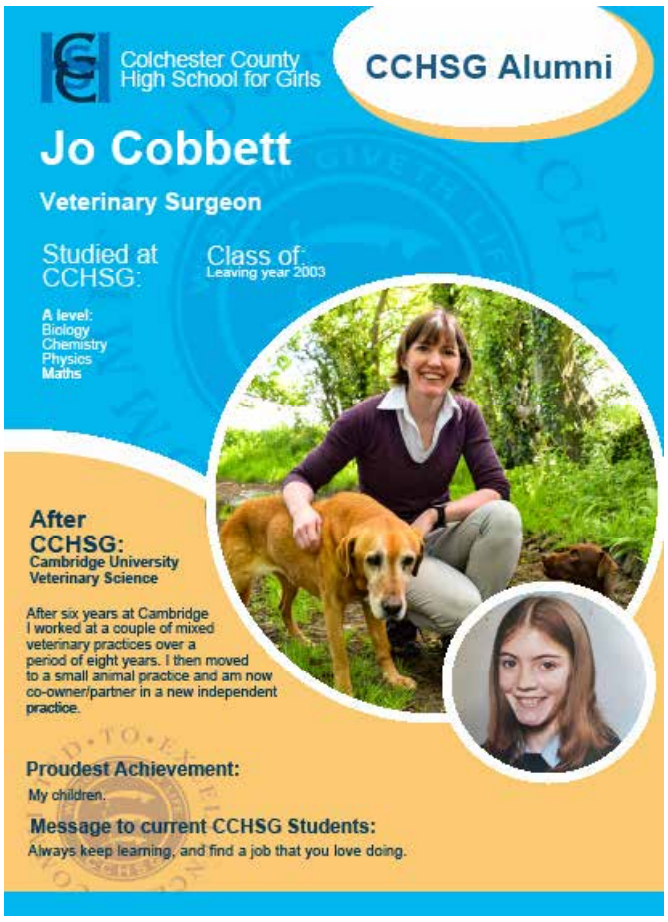
https://www.cchsg.com/about-cchsg/cchsg-alumni/cchsg-alumni-where-are-they-now/

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.







Bella Voces - CCHSG Choir

Bella Voces is an auditioned choir made up of 16 students from Year 7-13 run by Mrs Jefferies. The choir perform a wide variety of genres, usually in multiple parts. Upcoming performances this term include Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford on Wednesday 11 June, and the CCHSG Summer Show on Wednesday 16 July.



Bella Voces perform at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

On Friday 9 May, the Bella Voces choir travelled to St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds to participate in their lunchtime concert series. Bella Voces performed a variety of songs in a range of styles, to an enthusiastic public audience. These included solo, duet, trio, small group and 4-part harmony choral pieces. The acoustic in the cathedral was incredible and the Steinway concert grand piano certainly did not disappoint! Overall, it was a fantastic event to be a part of, and we look forward to returning next year. We are also looking forward to our next concert in Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford on Wednesday 11 June.

Bella Voces at Charter Hall

On 28 March, the Bella Voces choir were pleased to take part in the Colchester Schools Prom, organised by Colchester Youth Arts Partnership, an education charity which funds arts activities for young people. It is held at Charter Hall. The annual concert was started in 2000 to bring together and showcase the talent of young people from across Colchester.

As well as CCHSG many other schools took part, including Philip Morant, CRGS and Manningtree High. The event finished with a finale involving around 300 students from local schools. Bella Voces performed two songs: a medley from *Waitress the Musical* and *Unwritten* by Natasha Bedingfield.

It was an incredible experience to be a part of, and it was great to meet students from other schools and bond over our love of music. Overall, it was a brilliant event and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Jessica Bell (Year 8)



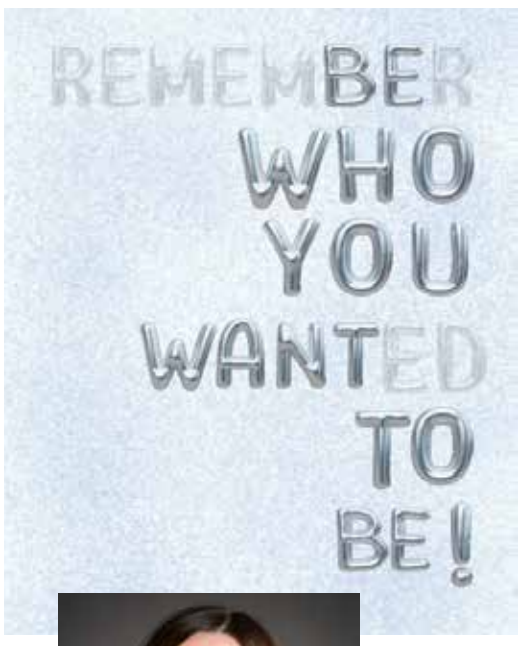


Year 11 - Celebration Tea

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



To the amazing class of 2025, you are Superstars! When you joined CCHSG I challenged you to be the best you could be and you have risen to that challenge over and over again. I am incredibly proud of all of you. Remember that you are powerful, unique, valued and valuable and never too old to wish upon a star! Your self-belief is the single most powerful tool you have. Mrs Marshall







When I think of your Year Goup I think of your energy and zest for life. Who can forget the 'Big Sleepover!' The very best of luck in the summer examinations. You have got this!

As you face the GCSEs ahead,
With determination on your face,
Remember all the knowledge gained,
In every classroom space.
Believe in your potential,
Let confidence be your guide,
For every challenge that you meet,
Is a step where dreams reside.
May your efforts shine brightly,
And your hard work pay off well,
Good luck in your GCSEs,
You're ready, I can tell. Mrs Frost



I have been very impressed and inspired by seeing how you work so well together as a Year Group. Your support for one another is commendable. You all have very bright futures in front of you and I wish you every success in your examinations. Best wishes, Dr Parrott



I couldn't be prouder of all you have achieved over the last two years. You have faced challenges, but you have remained positive and have always looked out for one another. You all deserve the very best of things and I wish you all every happiness and every success in life. Remember, If you believe in yourself, anything is possible. Mrs Daniels



Those of you who may have visited me over the last few years will know I truly believe that you are all amazing and will be successful in whatever you choose to do. Keep believing in yourselves and be kind to yourselves. You've got this! I look forward to seeing many of you next year! Mrs Ward



You have been a genuine joy to teach, to go on school trips with and to get to know over the past few years. You've shown so much kindness, resilience, and hard work in everything you've done and the excitement of CCHSG's first ever school sleepover will be remembered forever.

I couldn't be prouder of all your individual achievements and the positivity you have shown and shared throughout the school. Always be kind to yourselves and be proud of what you have already achieved. I look forward to working with many of you in September. Miss Wright

Year 13 “Dress Up Day”

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

The person who is most likely to:
Become prime minister...
Win a Nobel prize…
Go viral for something silly…
Compete in the Olympics….
Become a secret agent…
Go on Dragon’s Den or The Apprentice…
Write their autobiography…
Perform in the West End…

There were also awards for:
Best dressed in the year…
Best smile in the year…
Person you can count on the most…

We wish all Year 13 all the best in the examinations and every happiness and success in the future.

















Sixth Form

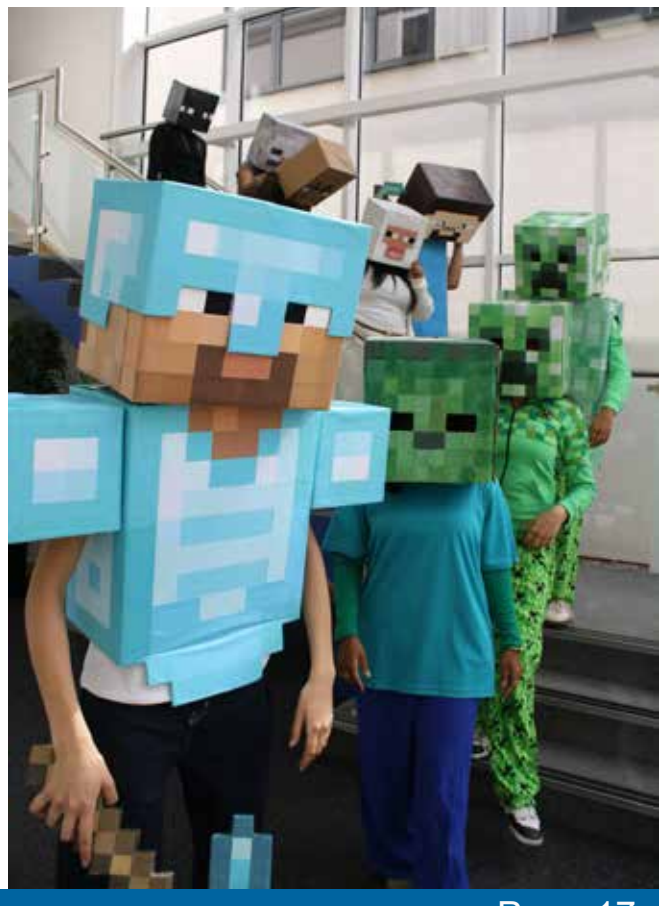




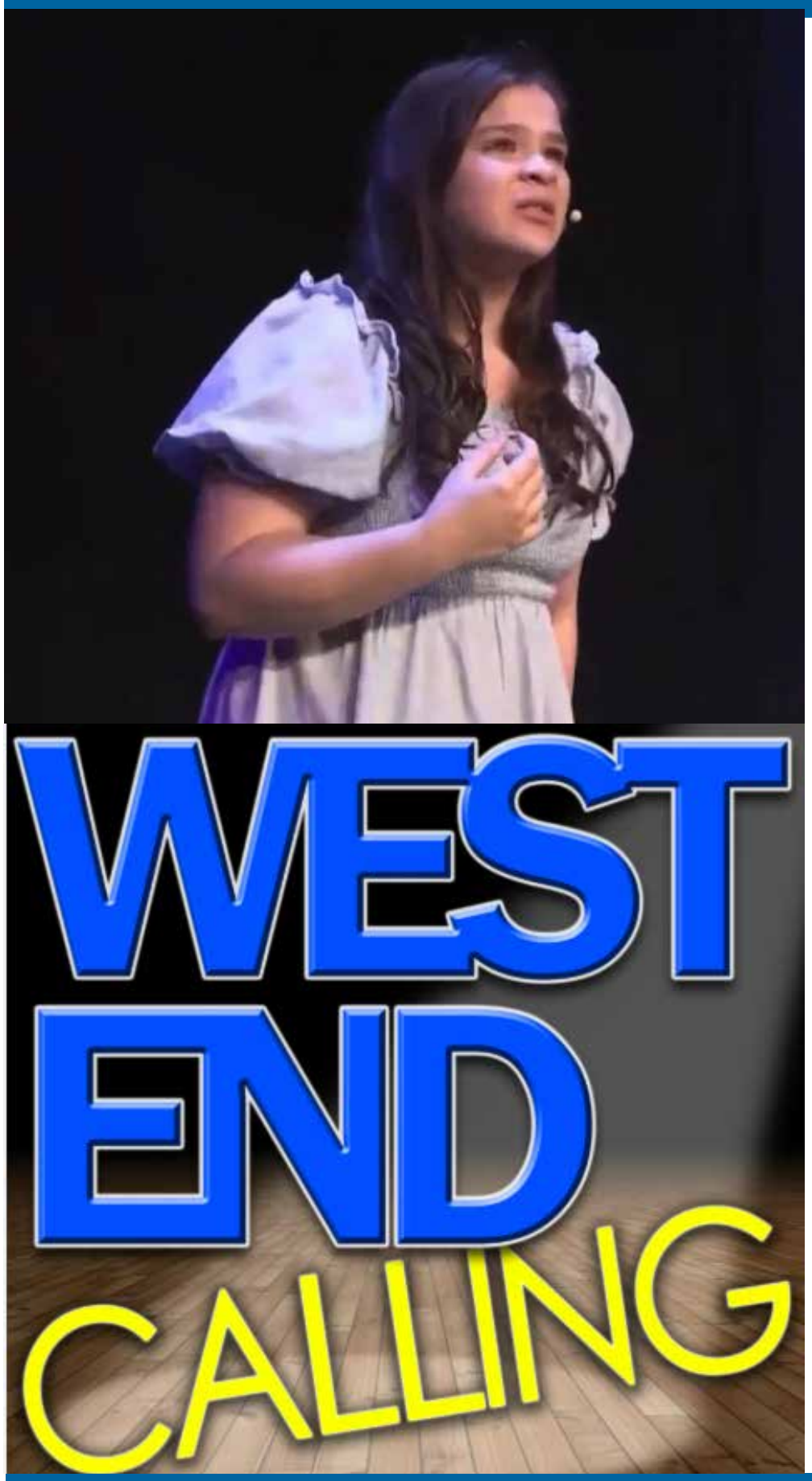








West End Calling - Niamh Cullen



Back in February, I came across an ad for West End Calling, a national musical theatre competition on TikTok and Instagram, and something just told me to go for it. All the in-person audition slots in London were already full, so I sent in a 32-bar tape of Monster from Frozen The Musical—not expecting to hear back so quickly. Just four days later, I got the email inviting me to the London heats. In April, I performed No Good Deed from Wicked in London Heat 2 (the teen heat) in front of a panel of West End performers—and to my absolute shock, I made it through to the semi-finals in first place. On May 3, I returned to the stage with Monster again for the semi-finals, and when the results were livestreamed on May 5th, I found out I'd made it to the finals!

The whole experience has been amazing—not just performing, but meeting so many other young people from all over the country who love musical theatre just as much as I do. I've been singing since I was four and in theatre school for 12 years, with roles in everything from Les Misérables and We Will Rock You at school, to Legally Blonde and School of Rock with Colchester Operatic. Most recently, I played Cosette in Witham Operatic Workshop's Les Mis, and I'm currently rehearsing for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

I'm so excited to be heading to the finals on May 26 in the West End—it's an amazing opportunity and a real step toward my dream of studying Musical Theatre at university and performing professionally one day. The winners of each category get to perform at West End Live in Trafalgar Square, in front of a crowd of 70,000 people, which would be an absolute dream come true. Just being part of this journey has been inspiring, and I can't wait to give it everything I've got in the final round.

Niamh Cullen

Gardening Club

We have had a very exciting start to the Summer Term in Gardening Club. In one of our raised beds, we have a very established chive plant, and we have been nurturing this since the beginning of the club. We were delighted when we harvested the plant and gave the chives to the canteen which they used in a potato salad. It was delicious and really special to think that crops that we are growing are being used in school and enjoyed by students.





We now have four wooden troughs which are near the Art block and we will plant a range of flowers in the coming days and weeks so that we can all benefit from some summer colour. Any students who would like to be a part of CCHSG Gardening Club, are very welcome to join us in G25 on a Thursday lunchtime.

Iris Walker

European Youth Parliament Team - Sponsorship



Thank you!

We would like to thank Anglian Flight Centres who have kindly offered to sponsor the Year 12 EYP Team for their trip to the National Finals in Liverpool this July. The sponsorship contributes towards the travel and accommodation costs for the group.

We wish the team every success!

Spanish Spelling Bee - Regional Final

After having won the school stage of the competition, Sanvika Kotha, Neshvita Galem, Aditi Vallamkonda represented the school in the Regional Final, which took place at North Cambridge Academy on 28 April. They did extremely well and will now progress on to the next phase of the competition - the National Finals - which take place at the University of Cambridge on Friday 27 June. They all agree that taking part in the competition has helped them improve not only their knowledge of one of the languages they are studying, but also their confidence in public speaking and their ability to manage stress in a competitive atmosphere.

Here is what the students said:

Neshvita: Spelling Bee has helped me improve my pronunciation as well as helping me with the languages and confidence. It has helped me increase my memory. We are glad that we are going to the nationals as it will not only help with linguistics but it will help build character and let you be sociable.

Aditi: Doing Spelling Bee was a rewarding opportunity where we all gained valuable skills including managing stress levels in a competitive atmosphere. The competition also challenged out linguistic skills in many ways. We all are immensely pleased and excited to participate in the nationals!!

Sanvika: The Spelling Bee is a wonderful and exciting opportunity to learn more about different languages and compete in them! It was a unique opportunity for us to go to the regionals in Cambridge and experience competing against different schools. The Spelling Bee has helped me improve my confidence in speaking in public and in memorising a range of Spanish words. So far this experience has challenged us in many ways and we can't wait for the nationals!!!

As a Languages department, we are immensely proud of their efforts and what they have achieved so far.

The photo shows the three students, Mrs Sarah Schechter (Director of Routes into Languages East and Fellow at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge) and Miss Picciau.





routes into LANGUAGES

Year 9 Art GCSE - Flowers Project

Year 9 Art GCSE students have been working from observation to explore expressive ways of painting flowers. They have refered to the work of other artists to provide ideas about techniques and compostion.

12 Famous Flower Paintings















Year 8 Art - Insects and Patterns





Year 8 have been working on a project based on the natural patterns seen in insects. Their work is now on display in the cafe area. These final outcomes were produced at the end of a term's work. During this project students had:

- Created mind maps to collect initial thoughts and ideas
- Made a collection of relevant visual images in the form of a mood board
- Found relevant photographic imagery, as well as artworks to support their research
- Reflected on the information that they had gathered from their initial research and image collection (mood board)
- Created a page of observational drawings linked to their ideas
- Researched relevant artists
- Looked for contextual links with any other current issues or events such as environmental concerns, deforestation or habitat loss
- Experimented with various media to test out ideas

The final pieces represent a planned 'bringing together' of all the ideas, experiments, and connections to artists.







PE Department - Summer Term 1

What a great start to the summer term! Our key stage three classes have been studying athletics, cricket or rounders and our extra-curricular clubs are being very well attended. The basketball, football, and netball seasons have come to an end and our athletics, rounders and cricket fixtures are starting.

Key stage five classes have been enjoying core PE lessons as a break from exams with the “Rounders Olympic World Cup”. In the competition the teams are allocated a country to represent and compete in rounders matches and athletics events to decide on an overall winner. Well done to all students who have taken part in this event so far.

We enjoyed the football interform which ran from Monday 24 March to Monday 31 March. Thank you to our sports leaders and well done to all that were involved, especially Year 11. The interform competitions continue with rounders interform from Monday 12 May to Friday 23 May.

Our extracurricular programme for the summer term is made up of swimming, table tennis, badminton, athletics, rounders and cricket. These sessions are aimed at improving the skills students will have learnt in lessons and preparing teams for competitions. We encourage all students to attend a sports club. We offer a wide range with the hope that all students can find something they enjoy participating in. The PE extracurricular timetable can be found on the website as well as on the PE notice board.

We have had significant basketball success this half term, our Year 8 basketball made the semi-finals of the Colchester league and played against Thomas Lord Audley school in a very close match. They ending up winning and made it through to the district finals! In the finals we played a very strong side from St Benedicts. The Yar 8 team are now second in the district.

Our U16 Football team made the finals where they played against Phillip Morant school. This was a very close match and unfortunately resulted in a loss on penalties.

Our year 10 basketball team made it to the Colchester league finals where they played against St Benedicts. The competition was strong but CCHSG



Adanna and Talya -
1st Place in Shot and Javelin



Junior Athletics Team



Year 8 Basketball Team - District Finalists



Year 7 Athletics Team



Year 8 Rounders District Champions

were stronger and are now Year 10 district basketball champions! Congratulations to the team.

On Thursday 8 May we had our first outdoors athletics competition. We competed at the Garrison against most of the schools in Colchester. Our students did themselves proud and won overall Year 7, 8 and 10/11 gold! The Year 9 results are still being confirmed.

Some stand out performances were Ella C who was 1st in 800m, Zoe A 1st in shot and high, Megan 1st in long jump, Talya 1st in javelin, Adanna 1st in shot, Grace A 1st in 200m, Georgia 1st in 800m, Year 10 relay team 1st place, Tilly 1st in shot, Monica 2nd in shot, Georgia 1st in javelin and Grace C 1st in high jump! Well done all.

We have many more competitions coming up, to be considered for the team, students need to ensure that they are attending athletics clubs.

The PE department are looking forward to celebrating all this year's sporting successes and rewarding our students with the sports presentation evening and sports day next half term.



Year 10 Athletics Team



Year 10 Basketball Team - District Champions

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

Athlete in the Spotlight

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

FAYE HOLLIDAY



CLUB:
Architects Dance Company

TRAINING SCHEDULE:
Tuesday - worlds hip hop
Wednesday - under 18 hip hop
Thursday - worlds lyrical and technique
Friday - under 16 jazz

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:
Allstar Worlds junior hip hop champion/lyrical champion

LONG TERM GOAL: dance for senior Worlds teams and coach my own team

INSPIRATION: Matthew Jones - dance coach, runs ADC and Major Edge Choreography

PRE-COMP MEAL: Something light as dancing can be multiple times throughout the day

PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464

Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale



Saturday 5 July

The next PTFA Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale for the whole school will be held on Saturday 5 July (subject to stock availability) from 10.30-12.30. We are grateful for donations of uniform, which can be placed in the blue wheelie bin outside reception. We kindly ask that items are washed prior to donation.

The Nearly New Uniform Sale for the September 2025 new Year 7 intake, will be held on Thursday 26 June from 17.00-18.00 in the Main Hall. The PTFA will also be providing refreshments for purchase. We are in need of volunteers for this extremely busy sale so if you have any time to spare, please sign up via https://volunteersignup.org/XTRXK

Easyfundraising Appeal

Since the PTFA joined the easyfundraising scheme, parents have raised over £6k for the PTFA by shopping online. Over 7000 brands are taking part. If you're still thinking of booking a summer holiday this year, travel companies such as Walt Disney World Travel, Tui, Expedia, Booking.com and more are supporting the scheme. 216 of our parents have already joined. To support CCHSG PTFA through easyfundraising please visit:

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







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

Visit https://www.stikins.co.uk to order online.