# CCHSG E-Newsletter

24 October 2025

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## Executive Principal's Notes

I am always delighted by the number and range of extracurricular activities and clubs available to students at CCHSG, many of which are led by Sixth Form students. Early this term I was pleased to visit the lunchtime Clubs and Societies Fair. This was very busy with students visiting the many stands, finding out about the various activities that will be on offer this year. The quality and variety of our extracurricular provision was something particularly mentioned by Ofsted. We maintain a full list of extracurricular activities on the website for reference.

Another highlight of the half term was our Sixth Form Open Evening. It was lovely to welcome our Year 11 students and their families and to have the opportunity to showcase our outstanding Sixth Form provision. I would like particularly to thank all the Sixth Form students who were such a key part of the evening and, as always, proved to be fantastic ambassadors for the school.

**Colchester Teacher Training Consortium (CTTC)**

CCHSG is lead school for the CTTC partnership, which now extends to over 100 schools across Essex and Suffolk. CTTC has been providing high quality teacher training for the past 18 years. This year the consortium is training 103 Primary and Secondary teachers from its base here at CCHSG. Graduates can qualify with a year of training and many CTTC trainees go on to work in local schools. Indeed, we have several CTTC alumni currently on the teaching staff at CCHSG. The programme has recently been rated as outstanding by Ofsted and is highly recommended by the trainees. As one trainee said:

*'I had such an amazing training year. I would recommend CTTC to anyone who wants to train as a teacher. Thank you for everything!'*

If you are considering a career in teaching, or a career change, please do not hesitate to contact CTTC via www.colchesterttc.org.uk.

**AI Focus for Improvement Planning**

A key focus for our improvement planning across the school and wider Trust this year is the continued development of evidence-led and informed innovation, including building AI fluency. We will be focusing on integrated strategies for AI systems



with the aim of streamlining and automating repetitive and functional support operations across the Trust. We are also exploring ways in which AI can be integrated safely and securely into teaching and learning practices, and automation implemented in school procedures wherever feasible and beneficial. We are seeking to recruit a Trust Board and Local Governing Board member with experience of working on AI applications. If you have this expertise and are interested in this role, please contact Mrs Tina Dunlop via tdunlop@cchsg.com.

**Farewell and Thank You to Vicky Carlin**

We would like to congratulate Vicky Carlin on her well-deserved promotion to Director of Operations. Vicky joined Alpha in June 2022 as HR and Business Manager, bringing with her a wealth of experience from her time at Home Farm Primary School. Vicky's work has consistently reflected the values and professionalism we strive for at Alpha Trust. Whilst we will miss her greatly, we are proud to have been part of her journey.

**In Tribute to Allan Blundell MBE (1936 - 2025)**

Allan joined the Governing Board at Colchester County High School for Girls in 1997 and served as a highly effective and proactive Chair for almost twenty years between 1998 and 2017. He continued until recent years to work as a much-valued Chair Emeritus and Trustee of the school, providing expertise and advice to the Governing Board and Senior Leadership Team. Allan was hugely respected by all the Governors, staff and wider school community for the selfless way in which he devoted his skills and time to promoting the development of the school. His support with fundraising also enabled the school to make substantial improvements to the facilities for students. In 2021, partially in recognition of his many years of invaluable work at CCHSG, Allan was awarded an MBE. He will be much missed by all who knew him. We send our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Finally, thank you to all our wonderful students, staff, parents and governors for their tremendous support. I wish everyone a relaxing half term break.

**Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH**
**Executive Principal & CEO**

## Consultation on Admissions Arrangements for September 2027 Entry

The Trustees of The Alpha Trust have initiated a consultation process to gather views on a proposed changes to the admission arrangements at Colchester County High School for Girls (CCHSG). This consultation relates to proposed changes to the policy which include:

1. The establishment of a selective co-educational joint Trust Sixth Form.
2. Amendment to the arrangements for in year tests for in year admission for Years 7 to 11.

The introduction of a selective coeducational joint Trust Sixth Form is proposed for Year 12 admissions commencing September 2027. It is intended that specialist teachers and facilities at both CCHSG and The Gilberd School would contribute to the delivery of the A Level programme. Both CCHSG and The Gilberd School have been graded as Outstanding in separate Ofsted inspections.

CCHSG has an excellent academic reputation and maintains high aspirations for all students. Over 95% of Sixth Form students apply to university each year, with many gaining places at Oxbridge and other top UK institutions. The provision would continue to be selective and the current minimum entry requirements would remain in place.

**The Consultation**

The six week consultation period will run from Thursday 16 October to Friday 28 November during this time, parents and other interested parties are invited to express their views about the proposed changes to the admissions arrangements.

Please send any comments on this proposal by email to admissionspolicyconsultation@cchsg.com

Alternatively, responses can be sent by post to:

Consultation for the 2027/28 Admissions Policy
Colchester County High School for Girls
Norman Way
Colchester
Essex
CO3 3US

The consultation will close at 17.00 on Friday 28 November 2025. Please note that responses should outline the sender's personal details, including name, address and relationship to the academy or academies. At the end of the consultation period, the Trust Board will meet to consider responses.

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







# Clubs and Societies Fair










## Extracurricular Clubs

**The annual Clubs and Societies Fair was as popular as always with many staff and Sixth Form students advertising their societies and clubs.**

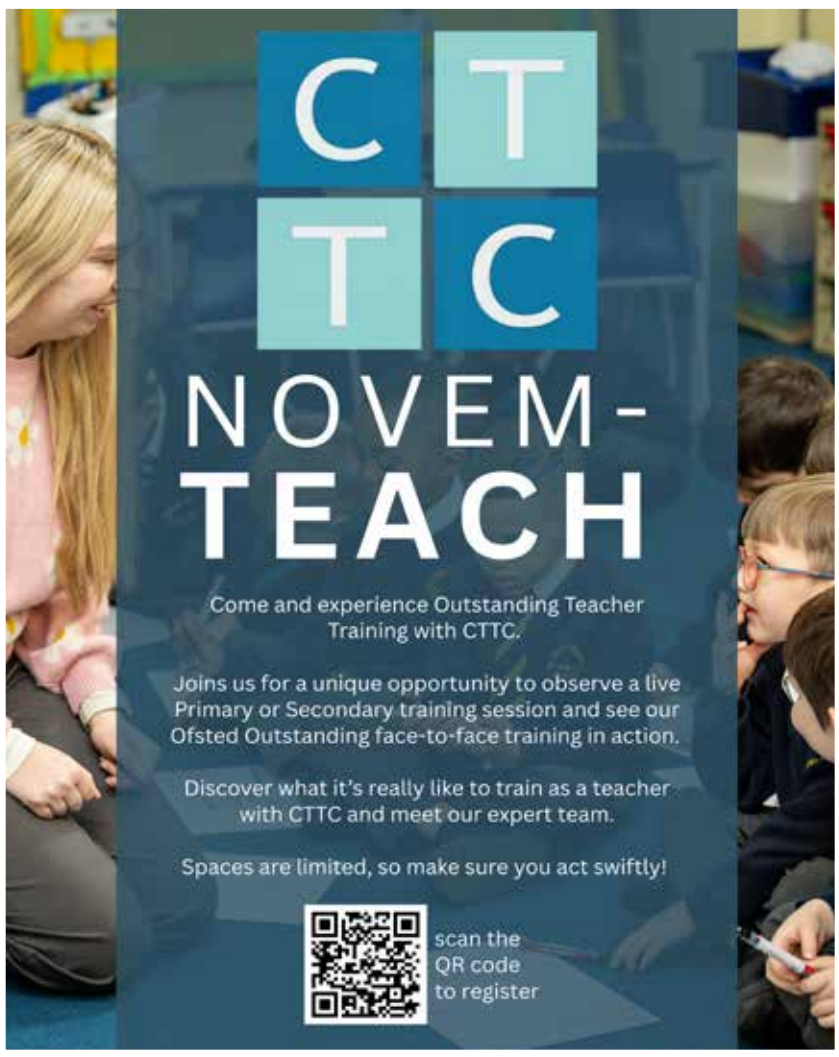
**Students have the opportunity to sign up for clubs via their Edulink One app.**

**All the clubs and societies available each term are listed on the website.**

https://www.cchsg.com/students/co-curriculum/extracurricular-activities/

# 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. Prospective trainees are invited to come and experience training with CTTC for a day during November, see below. Book HERE**




CTTC is a partnership, which now extends to over 100 schools across Essex and Suffolk. The consortium has been successfully providing teacher training for the past 18 years and now annually trains around 100 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

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.

## Now recruiting trainees for September 2026

### Apprenticeship Route into Teaching with CTTC

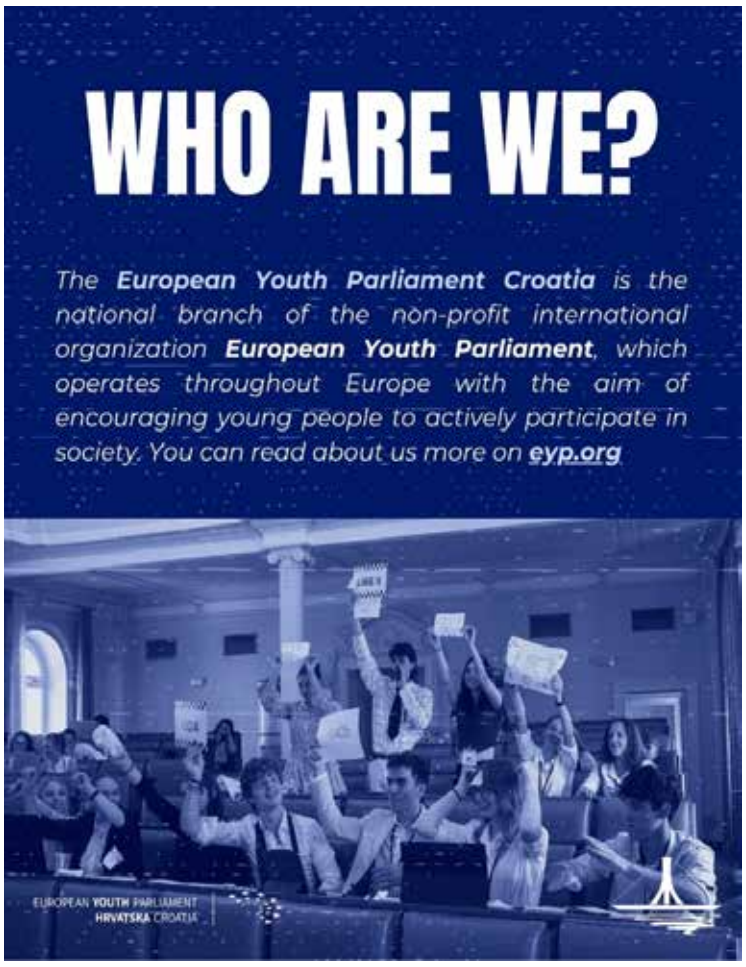
Trainees will be paid to train to teach Primary or Secondary by following the Apprenticeship route, whilst still following CTTC's highly rated training programme and having access to the fantastic support and opportunities CTTC provides.

**Destinations of trainees graduating in July 2025:**

**Primary trainees** – 100% of trainees secured employment for September 2025, with 62% of trainees securing posts at CTTC partnership schools. Destinations included special schools, coastal schools and rural schools across Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

**Secondary trainees** – 94% of trainees secured posts for September. Over the past 5 years, 60% of trainees have secured posts at partnership schools. Destinations include schools in Essex and Suffolk, with a variety of types of school, including urban, 11-16 and 11-18, as well as Sixth Form colleges.

# European Youth Parliament Team Visit Croatia

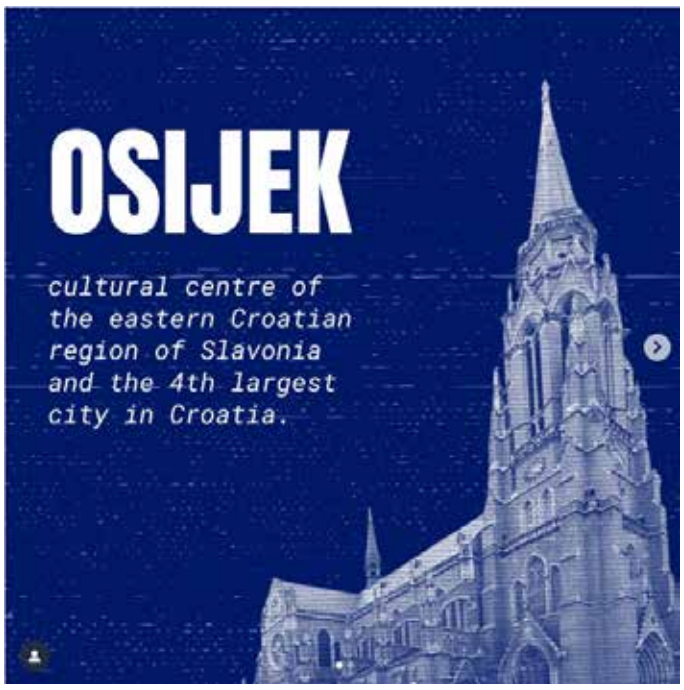



From 10 to 14 September, some of our Year 13 students had the opportunity to go Osijek, Croatia for the 35th National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament. The event involved working in committees to develop clauses and resolutions to the topics students were assigned, followed by a day of general assembly where students gave speeches and debated each committee's resolution in turn. The event also involved a lot of team building, a historical tour of the city of Osijek, as well as Eurovillage. This was an evening where each national delegation brought food from their country and students discussed and shared aspects of their cultures.










*"I found the experience amazing, as it strengthened my public speaking and teamwork skills further and allowed me to gain constructive feedback from the events jury team. It also enabled me to make connections with brilliant people from all over Europe. I learned a lot, and it was a hugely enjoyable experience. I would recommend EYP to everyone!"*
Edie Duffy


















# Sixth Form Open Evening - 22 October

**We were delighted to welcome so many Year 11 students and their families to the Sixth Form Open Evening this year. Particular thanks go to the Sixth Form students who acted as guides for our visitors and supported in departments.**

**Applications for Sixth Form entry for September 2026 are now open via the website.**
HERE

## Oxbridge & Russell Group Progression

**In 2025**

**100%** of students holding Oxbridge offers were successful in meeting the entrance requirements and started their courses in September 2025.

Many students submit successful applications to Oxbridge and others are offered places at the UKs top ranked universities on highly competitive courses. A large number of students apply for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as a range of other courses, depending on their interests and academic ability. CCHSG provides individualised support for student progression to ensure that students have the opportunity to pursue a variety of pathways according to their interests and abilities.

**On average:**

**95%** of our students progress on to Higher Education

**Over 60%** gain places at Russell Group Universities

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

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

### 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.

## Examination Success

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

"The quality of education provided by the school is outstanding."



## Extracurricular Activities

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

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











In 2025 our Sixth Form students achieved another outstanding set of results:

**23%** of all grades were **A***

**58%** of all grades were **A* or A**

Our EPQ results were also excellent:

**50%** of all grades were **A***

**92%** of all grades were **A* or A**

Ofsted

Outstanding Provider











# CCHSG Sixth Form

## Sixth Form Life

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

**"I joined CCHSG Sixth Form from a different school and felt exceptionally welcome and supported."**
*Ella*



## Student Leadership

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

**"There is a remarkable range of leadership opportunities for students."**



## Post 18 Progression Pathways

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

**"There is a strong alumni network to help us with our progression. You will always be part of the CCHSG family."**
*Kaavya*



### Oxbridge & Russell Group Progression

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## Super-Curricular Activities

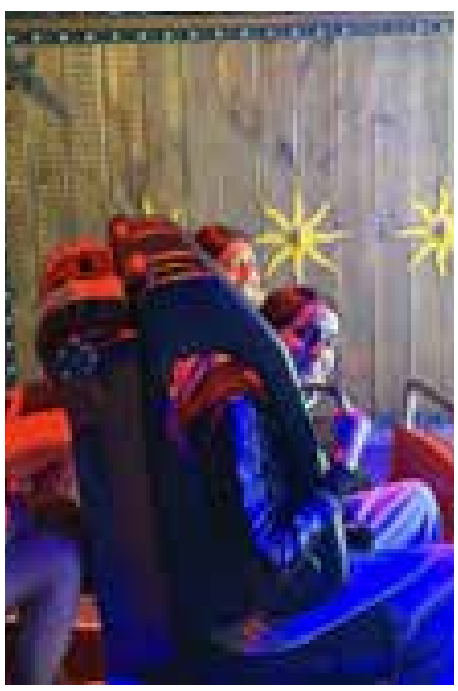
Ofsted Outstanding Provider

**"Students have access to a rich and diverse range of activities both within and outside the curriculum."**



# Year 11 Visit Thorpe Park





## A Day of Screams, Laughs and Memories

On Thursday 11 September, Year 11 swapped textbooks for rollercoasters as we set off for an adrenaline-packed day at Thorpe Park. Before weeks of mocks and revision, it was the perfect chance to unwind, have fun, and spend time together before the GCSEs begin.

We left school just after 7 a.m., and the coaches were buzzing with excitement (and snacks). After a surprisingly smooth journey, we arrived to the sight of giant loops and the distant screams of terrified riders. The fun was about to start.






Once inside, everyone split into groups and raced off to different rides. Some brave souls went straight for *Stealth*, which goes from 0 to 80 mph in under two seconds, while others decided to warm up with *Nemesis Inferno* or the *Colossus* loop coaster. A few of us (no shame!) headed for *Storm Surge* and *Flying Fish* instead, which were just as fun — and slightly less terrifying. Queues were short, and while it started tipping it down in the afternoon, the sun shone the whole day.

By mid-afternoon, everyone was comparing photos, soaked from water rides, and arguing about which coaster was the best (*Hyperia* definitely wins). After grabbing some lunch and a few souvenirs, we headed back to the coaches — tired, but very happy.

We arrived back at school around 7:30pm, exhausted but still buzzing. It was a brilliant day out and a great way for Year 11 to celebrate how far we've come as a year— and to remind ourselves that sometimes, it's okay to scream your lungs out and just enjoy the ride.

By Ruby Smith and Anna-Maria Birsan, Year 11



# CCHSG Connect

**Oxbridge Preparation; October Sixth Form Sessions**

We were delighted to welcome back Dr Rachel Thorley, alumna of CCHSG and now Community, Outreach and Recruitment (CORE) Fellow in Engineering at Churchill College, Cambridge. Dr Thorley delivered an inspiring talk on building strong applications in STEM. Students gained valuable insights into how to highlight their academic strengths, demonstrate curiosity, and present evidence of wider skills in their Oxbridge applications.




Churchill College, where Dr Thorley is based, is one of the newer Cambridge colleges, founded in 1960 as a national memorial to Sir Winston Churchill. It has a strong reputation for science and engineering, and is home to the Churchill Archives Centre, which houses Sir Winston's personal papers as well as those of many leading figures in science and politics. We were delighted to welcome Dr Thorley back to CCHSG, and are grateful for her time and expertise in supporting our aspiring Oxbridge applicants.






## 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**

## Alumni Newsletter

**Our Alumni Newsletter now publishes quarterly. Join our mailing list via CCHSG Connect, or contact Kate Stubbs via kstubbs@cchsg.com**

# Alumni Progression Posters







## Calling CCHSG Alumni

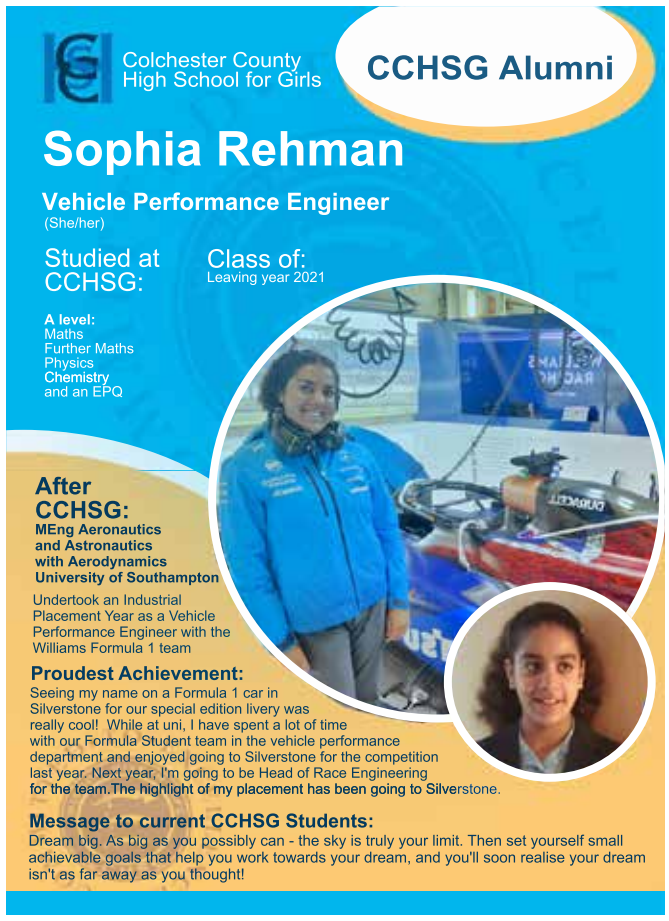
### Would you like to be part of our "progression wall" of Alumni Profile Posters?

We have now installed the first phase of our progression posters in the main ground floor corridor. 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 here

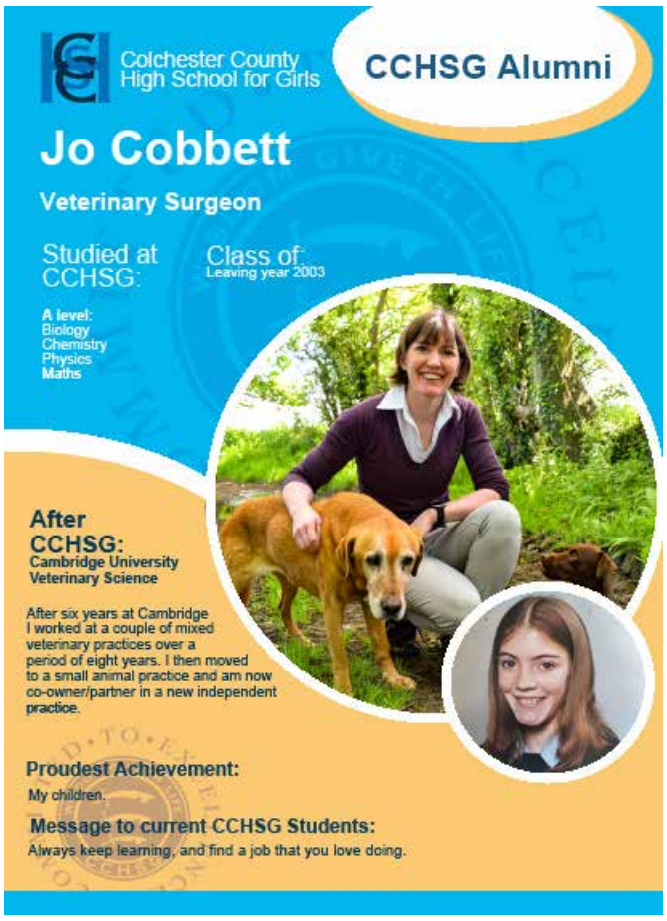
Past students can provide their details for a poster via the link below. We would love to hear from you! https://forms.office.com/e/mgpBciiYFv

Please contact Kate Stubbs, at kstubbs@cchsg.com with any alumni related questions or ideas.









# Meet our Language Assistants at CCHSG

**This academic year CCHSG has once again welcomed Language Assistants in the MFL Department. They will work with students to develop their skills in Spanish, Chinese, German and French. In this newsletter edition we hear from our Chinese and German Language Assistants. In the December newsletter we will find out more about our Spanish Assistant Deisy Cortes and our French Assistant Clotilde Robineau. Welcome to them all!**

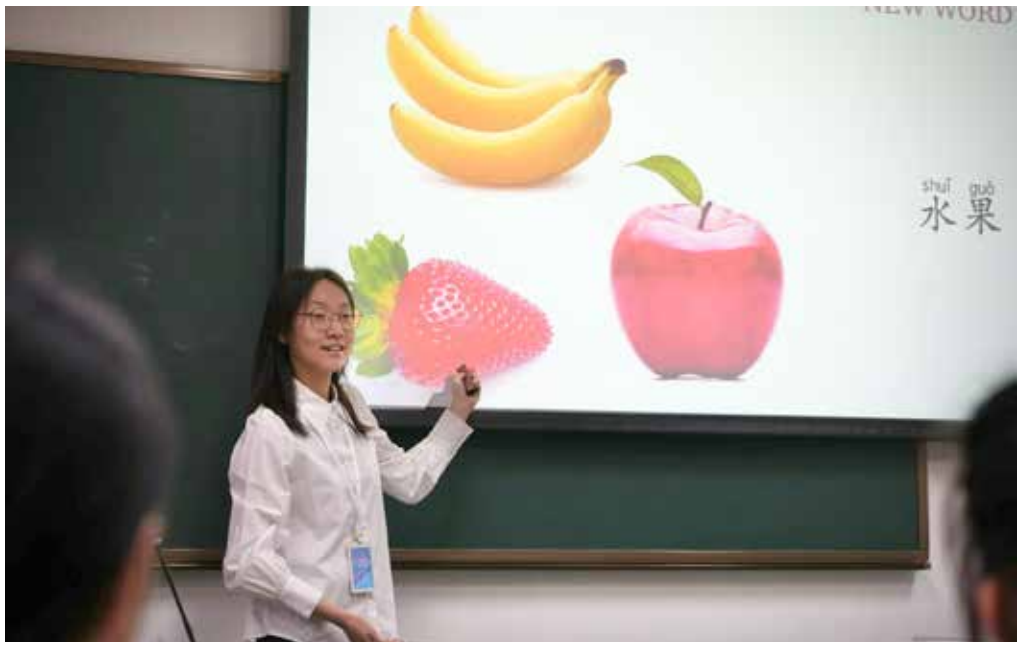



# Miss Tang Xiaomeng - Chinese Language Assistant

Hello, My name is Tang Xiaomeng, or you can call me Fiona. I am from Suzhou in China and I am currently studying for the Master's degree in International Chinese Language Teaching at Beijing Language and Culture University (which Mr Page once attended).

Last year, I served as an intern teacher at a university in China, teaching both elementary and intermediate Chinese courses. I also have some experiences of cross-cultural programs such as Chinese Bridge and the MEP (Mandarin Excellence Programme).

It is a great pleasure for me to join CCHSG as a Mandarin Language Assistant this year to share Chinese culture with these brilliant and lovely students. If we have a chance, we will do some Chinese Opera, tea art, calligraphy and Tai Chi performance. I hope that the students enjoy learning Chinese.




1. **What do you like about the UK so far?** I have been here for a month. Everyone I have met, whether colleagues at work, people in daily life, or new friends, has been so kind and patient. Their warmth helped me let go of my anxiety and adapt to the environment quickly with a lot of enthusiasm. Every time I go to the class, seeing the students fully engaged in the lesson—some lively, some quiet—makes me feel that my work is truly meaningful.



2. I**s there a food that you are going to miss?** Luoshifen (Snail Rice Nooodles) Luosifen is an instant noodle kit that features Liuzhou river snail rice noodles known for their distinctly pungent, spicy, and savoury broth. Key ingredients often include pickled bamboo shoots, dried tofu skin and peanuts.

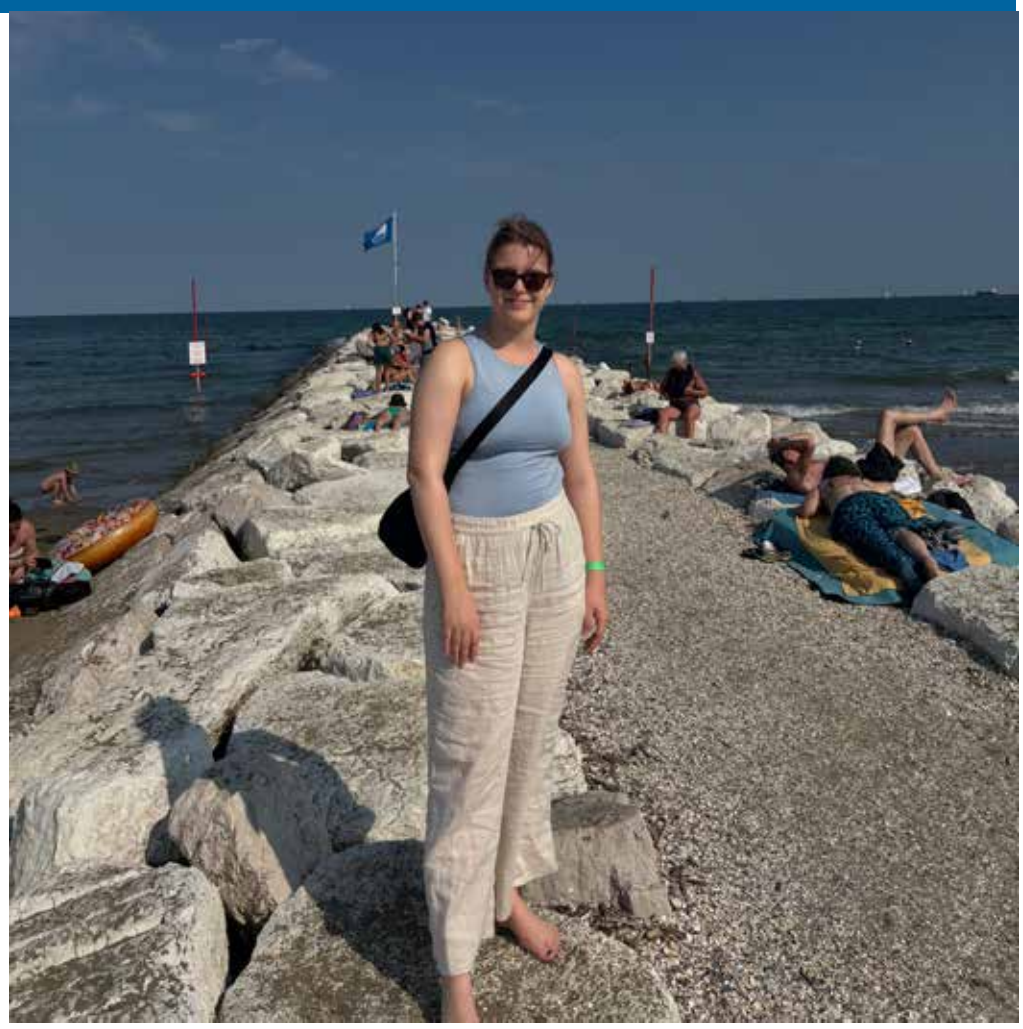



3. **What do you think the biggest challenges are learning your language?** Chinese is a language system combining sound, form and meaning in each character. Many of my students have asked me how can we remember all the Chinese characters and their pronunciations. I would say it takes some time at the very beginning to repeat and remember, which is necessary in every language learning, but once you grasp the basic knowledge and master the rules, it will be easy for you to handle.

4. **Did you experience any challenges learning English?** I have been learning English for many years, and I believe that I have acquired a lot of knowledge in English, but the biggest challenge for me is it is still hard for me to obtain information and express myself fully and accurately. The insight it gives me is that language skills are as important as language knowledge, if I am going to be the language teacher.

# Emilia Karnowski - German Language Assistant

**1. What do you like about the UK so far?**
The two biggest things I like about the UK so far are the people and the nature. Every single person that I have met since I arrived has been nice, kind, and very helpful, which has allowed me to settle in to the UK and especially Colchester. The other big thing that stands out to me is the beautiful nature here. Colchester is surrounded by such a magnificent landscape which I have only started to explore. During a recent trip to Southend-on-Sea, I have realized that not just Colchester, but the rest of the UK has beautiful scenery as well.



**2. Is there a food that you are going to miss?**
I'm going to miss Käsespätzle the most. Käsespätzle are soft German egg noodles paired with large amounts of cheese, normally Emmentaler, baked until the noodles are golden brown and the cheese has melted. They can also contain either roasted onions or small pieces of bacon. My favourite version contains tiny roasted pieces of bacon. This specific version is my great-grandma's recipe that, in my personal opinion, can't be topped. Even thinking about it makes me hungry.



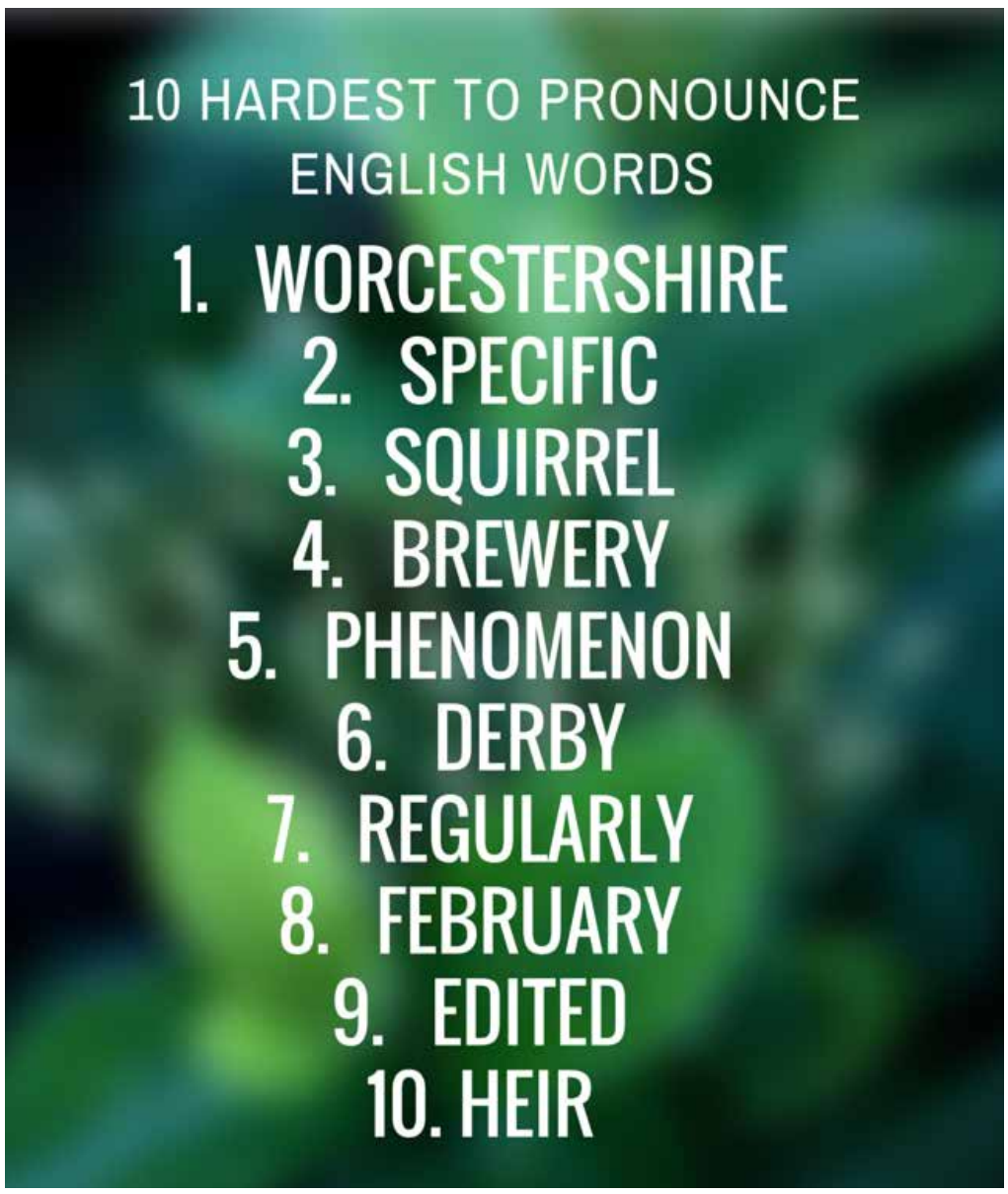
**3. What do you think the biggest challenges are learning your language?**

There are two main challenges when learning German: grammar and pronunciation.

The pronunciation of some German words can be tricky, as we have a few special letters called Umlaute, which are unique to German. Also, English is a soft and flowy language in comparison to German which is a lot harsher and more abrupt, making it tougher to pronounce.

German grammar is a tricky thing, with many different grammatical cases, genders, and verb forms that can be conjugated until you have no idea what verb you were even conjugating. How can sein-bin-ist all be different versions of just one simple verb, that is no longer just an irregular verb but its own art form. While the verbs can be confusing, nouns and their grammatical genders, articles, and pronouns can be even worse.

4. **Did you experience any challenges learning English?**
My main challenge while learning English was the large gap between the pronunciation and spelling of words. I knew how to write and read the words, but had no idea how to pronounce what I wrote. Even now, I still get stumped by some words and their pronunciation. *Worcestershire sauce* or *Colonel* come to mind.



# Sixth Form News

## Biology Field Trip to Dorset

62 Year 13 Biologists travelled to Dorset to complete their Fieldwork activities. This trip enabled the students to put their biology theory into practice by doing sampling practicals at different locations. They collected data from sand dunes, rock pools and the river, which they then analysed using statistical tests. In addition, students had time to engage in fun team building activities such as archery, rock climbing and fossil hunting. The students returned to school having had new, enjoyable and useful experiences which will definitely enhance their A Level journey.

*"The trip allowed students to actually see how sampling methods are performed. It also gave them the opportunity to study ecosystems that you can't see on the school site such as rock pools and sand dunes"* – Mrs Barrett

**Sampling the River Wey**
Students used kick sampling to examine the species found in different areas of the river, comparing this to flow rate, sediment size and nitrate levels.



**Fossil Hunting**
On the final morning, we walked to the beach at Osmington Bay to hunt for Devil's Toe Nails, Ammonites and other fossils.



**Sand Dune Succession**
Students used transects and random sampling to examine species distribution in the sand dunes. Starting at the fore dune and ending at the hind dune. The sand dunes at Shell Bay are managed to provide a rare lowland heath habitat.





**Marine Zonation**
Students used a transect to study how the distribution of seaweed and marine organisms changed from the low tide to high tide mark on the beach.



*"I loved transect sampling on the sand dunes in Shell Bay and I found all the different species we found really interesting",* Delinda Banks, Year 13 student

# Sixth Form Visiting Speakers

## Bank of England Guest Lecture

The A-Level Economics cohort recently welcomed Shree Ramesh, a Supervisor at the Bank of England, who delivered an insightful lecture on the Bank's role in managing the UK economy.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of monetary policy, with a particular focus on how adjustments to interest rates and the use of quantitative easing can influence inflation, economic growth, and financial stability. Students gained valuable clarity on the mechanisms underpinning these policy tools and their impact on both households and businesses. In addition, the lecture addressed the regulation of the financial system, emphasising the importance of safeguarding the stability of banks and ensuring the protection of consumers. This segment of the talk highlighted the Bank's critical responsibility in maintaining confidence in the financial sector.



The visit also incorporated a forward-looking discussion on career pathways, including opportunities within the Bank of England and the growing availability of degree apprenticeships in the financial and economic sectors. This offered students a broader perspective on potential professional routes beyond traditional higher education.

The talk was an invaluable experience, enhancing students' academic understanding while also encouraging them to reflect on their future aspirations within the field of economics and finance. We extend our sincere thanks to the Bank of England for their time and expertise, and to the Economics Department staff who organised this excellent opportunity for our students.

## Pharmacology Society Guest Speakers - GmPriority Pharma

On the 14 October, a talk was delivered by representatives from GmPriority Pharma about their industry. Sarah-Jane Dowels (Head of Operations) and Elnaz Salehian (a Research and Development Scientist) spoke about routes into the pharmacology industry and their personal journeys into the field. The talk was hosted by the student-run Pharmacology Society and was open to students from Year 10 to Year 13.

*"The talk was very informative and engaging. Insightful questions were asked by students throughout,"*
Iman Nodal, Year 12 student



## Claire Read from Knights plc




During a PSHCE session, Year 12 and 13 gained an insight into the world of law through an engaging talk led by Claire Read. She is a partner at Knights Plc which specialises in trusts, estate administration and tax planning. The talk outlined different routes into a career in law, transferrable skills that firms value, and the day-to-day life of a solicitor as well as Read's own journey to becoming a solicitor.

*"It was very useful as we were given an overview of all the different ways of getting into a career in law. I learned important things that I didn't know beforehand, which was especially useful to me as I am interested in going into the field of law. As well as this, the talk was delivered in a very engaging way and even those who weren't planning to go into law found it interesting. It benefitted the whole sixth form"* - Pooja Srivastava, Year 13 student

Knights is a fast growing legal and professional services business with over 930 professionals delivering services to over 18,000 clients from 13 offices across the UK—in cities like Birmingham, Leeds, Oxford, and York.

# CCHSG Rewards and Awards




## Merits to be awarded for the following categories:

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

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

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



# Celebrating Navratri: Anisha Khire, Dance Award

### Celebrating Navratri: A Festival of Strength, Spirit & Community

Navratri is a vibrant nine-day Hindu festival honouring Goddess Durga and her nine divine forms—each representing qualities like strength, wisdom, courage, and devotion. Observed with prayers, fasting, and cultural festivities, Navratri brings people together in celebration.

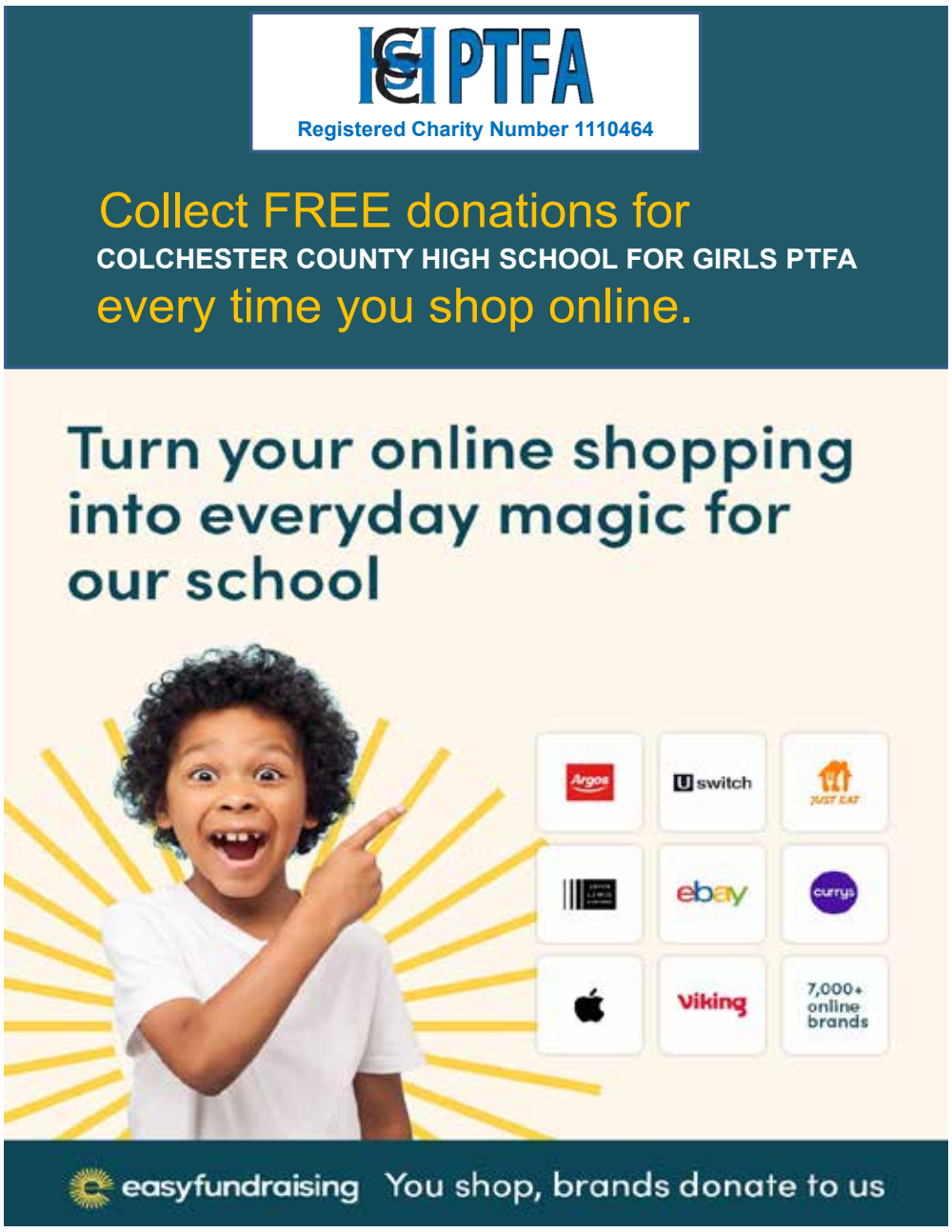





Navratri is one of India's most cherished festivals. A highlight of the season is Garba and Dandiya, traditional dances from Gujarat performed in colourful dress with rhythmic claps or sticks. These dances express both devotion and community spirit.

Congratulations to Anisha Khire, whose dance performance at a festival held as part of the celebrations gained the award of Best Dancer in the teens category. Anisha has been training at a dance school for several years, and she was delighted to receive the award.

# PTFA Fundraising







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 www.stikins.co.uk to order online.**

# Old Girls Association AGM 2025 & School Archive

On 20 September, CCHSG was pleased once again to host the OGA AGM. The meeting was followed by buffet lunch, kindly organised by Mrs Liz White.

**The item on the School Leaving Award 2024/54 was presented by Mary Softley.**
Every year, CCHSG is asked to nominate a student who has made extra effort outside their studies, contributed to the school or wider community, overcome personal difficulties, or displayed some similar qualities of merit. 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 Maisy Brookes in recognition of her extra-curricular contributions, particularly in the Music Department. Maisy had sent the Association a letter of thanks:

Dear *Old Girl's Association,*
*I am writing to thank you very much for presenting me with the OGA Leaver's Award. I am so pleased to have the time and effort that I have put into my extracurricular activities acknowledged, and to know that I have made a positive impact. It was wonderful to meet Mrs White when she came to represent the OGA at our Year 13 Leavers' Assembly. I hope that past students will continue to have strong links with the school as this can be such a valuable support for the current and future students.*

*I really appreciated the wide range of musical opportunities at CCHSG and loved leading the orchestra when I was in the Sixth Form. I also enjoyed representing the school at external events, as guitarist in the rock band. This was so much fun and always a great break from academic subjects. While I am taking a gap year after exams, I am hoping to find some more opportunities for volunteering, in addition to the volunteer role that I have at the Essex Wildlife Trust. I am especially interested in animal conservation as that is what I hope to pursue as a career. I am also planning to improve my first aid skills as part of my current part-time job.*
*Thank you once again for the award.*

*Best wishes, Maisy*



**CCHSG Archive**

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

We now have a substantial collection of Year Books and various other items which have been digitised and are soon to be 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/

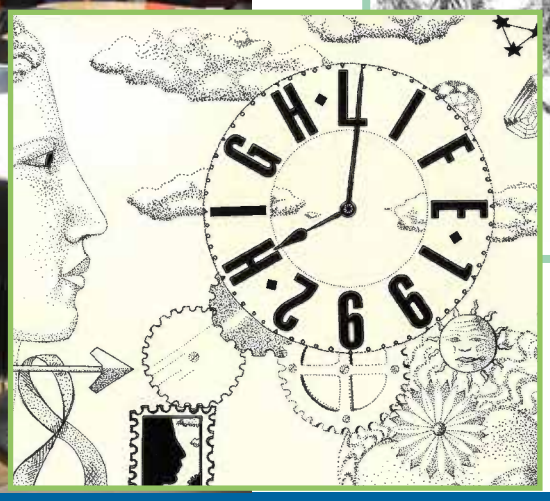


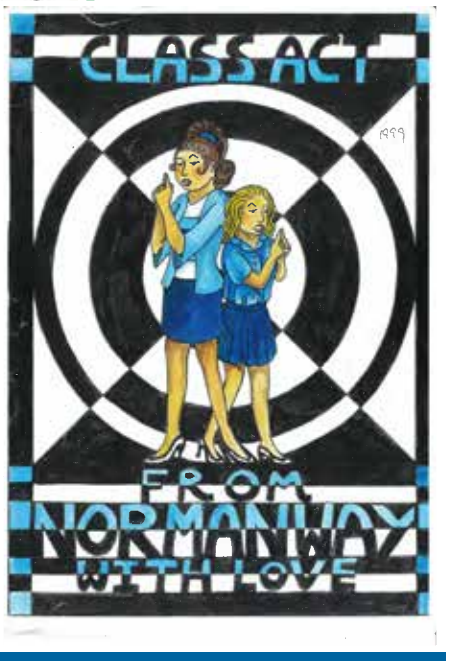








# Choral Competition - Years 7 & 8

Over the past month, Year 7 and Year 8 students have been hard at work in their music classes, preparing for the much-anticipated annual Choral Competition. Each Form Group took to the stage to perform two songs they had diligently rehearsed over the course of four weeks.

**Winners of Year 7 Choral Competition** were 7L who sung *Build Me Up Buttercup* by the Foundations (Set Song) and *Colours of the Wind* from *Pocahontas (*Chosen Song).



**Winners of Year 8 Choral Competition** were 8O who sung *Flowers* by Miley Cyrus (Set Song) and *Daisies* by Katy Perry (Chosen Song).

The event was a true showcase of talent, creativity, and teamwork. The standard of performances was exceptionally high, making it a very close competition. From harmonies to stage presence, solo ballet dance to full form choreography, every group brought something special to the spotlight.

A special thank you goes to all the Sixth Form students who played a crucial role in making the event a success. From working backstage to managing lighting and sound, their professionalism and support was invaluable.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the judging panel, Mrs Cudmore-Rice, Mrs Cox and Miss Patrick and to the Year 7 and Year 8 Form Tutors for their encouragement and assistance throughout the preparations. Their dedication helped guide the students to deliver such outstanding performances.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. They impressed the judges and audience alike with their dedication and musical flair! This truly was a team effort—thank you all!

# Tori Longdon Workshop with Bella Voces

"On 12 September I spent a wonderful morning at Colchester County High School for Girls, working with their newly auditioned chamber choir *Bella Voces*. It was a joy to help them shape their sound as an ensemble.

I am a conductor, choral trainer and presenter based in London. After reading Music at Durham University, I gained a distinction in Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. My work now spans professional ensembles and major venues as Associate Chorus Director of the London Philharmonic Choir, Principal Conductor of the Covent Garden Chorus, and as a workshop leader for schools and youth choirs across the UK. Helping young singers discover their collective voice is one of the most rewarding parts of what I do.

Our session began with vocal warm-ups to encourage healthy breathing and resonance, then moved into exercises on blend, balance and tuning. We worked on new repertoire for the first time, and focused on building awareness of each other and the conductor.  Even within a single morning I heard the choir's sound deepen and unify. Their enthusiasm and focus were infectious, and a strong sense of camaraderie was already taking root. I left feeling inspired by *Bella Voces* potential and excited to hear what they will achieve as they continue to grow together.

Thank you to everyone at CCHSG for the warm welcome and for inviting me to share this first step on their journey this year." - Tori Longdon



*"Throughout the 3 hour masterclass, we learnt new repertoire, interesting voice warmups, discovered ways to keep our vocals healthy, and most importantly how to listen to each other and balance our voices in a performance. We really enjoyed the workshop, and we would love to work with Tori again in the future."*
Jessica Bell (9L) and Rosemary Fish (9O)

# PE Department - Autumn Term 1




Year 7
Essex Cup
Netball Team

As the new academic year begins, the PE department is thrilled to welcome back students from Years 8 to 13 and extend a warm hello to our newest members in Years 7 and 12. It's been a busy and energetic start to the year, with plenty of sporting action already underway as well as sports trials and some sporting competitions.

We began the term with exciting fixtures in both the Colchester League and the Essex Cup netball competitions. Our teams have demonstrated fantastic spirit and teamwork, setting the tone for a competitive season ahead. In football, our Essex Cup campaign is off to a strong start, with the U16 team successfully progressing to the next round thanks to their determination and skill on the pitch. In netball, our Year 7s and U16s have had great success.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a packed calendar featuring cross country meets, table tennis tournaments, and indoor athletics competitions. These events will showcase the diverse talents of our students across various disciplines. Additionally, our Year 10 Sports Leaders have started their leadership journey with a series of engaging events and opportunities, showing great enthusiasm and commitment to supporting younger students and promoting sport throughout the school.

After the October half term, the excitement continues as our basketball teams take to the court in the Essex Cup, and we are eager to see them in action.  Finally, our first interform event of the year is fast approaching: the Netball Interform Competition. This event is always a highlight, bringing together students from all year groups to celebrate sport, teamwork, and school spirit.

Here's to a fantastic half term filled with energy, achievement, and plenty of sporting success!

Miss L Freeman - **Head of Physical Education**

U16
Essex Cup
Netball Team



# PE Clubs Timetable for the Autumn Term

| | Morning (8.00 – 8.30) | Lunchtime (12.40 – 13.10) | Afterschool (15.45 – 16.45) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Monday** | | All Years Badminton -SH – PST<br>All Years Netball Courts – RDE<br>Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & Sixth Form Football Field – LDY | Staff Meetings |
| **Tuesday** | All Years Swimming (GCSE PE lane reserved) Pool – LFR | All Years Indoor Cricket - SH – PST<br>Year 7 Football, Field – LDY<br>All Years Gymnastics, Gym – LFR | Year 7, 8 & 9 Netball Team Training Courts/SH – All PE staff |
| **Wednesday** | Year 7 & 8 Netball Team Training Courts – RDE | All Years Swimming Pool – RDE<br>Year 9,10,11 & Sixth Form Basketball SH - LFR | Year 10,11 & Sixth Form Netball Team Training Courts/SH – All PE staff |
| **Thursday** | All Years Table Tennis Gym – PST | Year 9,10,11 & Sixth Form GCSE/A-level Theory Support H3 – LDY<br>Year 7 & 8 Basketball - SH – LFR<br>Beginners Swimming (Invitation only) Pool – RDE/PST | |
| **Friday** | All Years Badminton SH - LDY | All Years Friday Fun Day!<br>GYM – RDE/LFR<br>Badminton Team Training (Invitation only) SH - PST<br>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…**



## Lilly Krohn

INSPIRATION:
Imogen Daisy Grant. Imogen has represented Great Britain at World and Olympic rowing events. She lost an Olympic medal opportunity by 0.01 seconds at the 2020 Olympics, and then started a 10-win streak in the lightweight double sculls going on to win Gold in the last ever lightweight double sculls category at the Olympics.

CLUB: **Sudbury Rowing Club**

TRAINING SCHEDULE:
- Tuesday and Wednesday: water training (summer), ergs and weights (winter) 17:30-20.00
- Thursday and Friday: at home ergs/ S&C
- Sunday: Water sessions 08.00-12:30

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:
Silver medal at British championships in the WClub 8+, beating both CUBC A and B boats.

LONG TERM GOAL:
I would love to represent my club at Henley Royal Regatta, and eventually get scouted by a University or by Team GB.

PRE-COMP MEAL:
Quakers protein oats with bananas and honey, if it's an early start.
Chicken caesar salad, boiled eggs, sour patch kids, and jelly cubes is my lunch before races.

# PTFA AGM 2025




**Chair's Report - Mrs Anni Cullen**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look back on the past academic year, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the parents, carers, and staff who have given their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the PTFA. Your support has been the foundation of our success, helping us to run events and initiatives that not only raise funds but also bring our community closer together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the dedication of our out-going uniform team. They are at the very heart of the PTFA, and their tireless work ensures we can continue to provide this invaluable service to families, particularly important in these times of financial pressure. We are naturally saddened to see them leave, but wish their families every success for the future. We are also delighted to welcome new members onto the team, particularly from the new Year 7 cohort, who will help us to build on the success of the nearly new sales in the year ahead.

Looking forward, we are excited about the events planned for the coming months. October will see the ever-popular Year 7 Welcome Party, followed in November by our first CCHSG Fireworks Night and the festive Quizmas Quiz Night. The PTFA Committee is also exploring the possibility of introducing further events in the years to come, such as a winter or summer ball, to expand the opportunities for families to come together and celebrate.

Finally, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Eve Brindley, Vice-Chair, who is stepping down as her daughter leaves the school. Eve has given so much to the PTFA over the past few years, and her hard work, dedication, and positivity have left a lasting mark. She will be sorely missed, and we are deeply grateful for everything she has done.

Together, we have achieved so much this year, and with such a strong and committed team, I am confident that the PTFA will continue to grow and thrive. Thank you all once again for your support — here's to another year of opportunity, community, and collaboration.

Anni Cullen PTFA Chair

## PTFA FUNDRAISING 2024/2025

| No | Event/Source of Income | Amount Raised |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Easyfundraising Scheme | £260.20 |
| 2 | New Year 7 Welcome Party 2024 | £2643.50 |
| 3 | Recycling Scheme | £4.40 |
| 4 | Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale Autumn Term | £2555.09 |
| 5 | Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale Spring Term | £1527.73 |
| 6 | Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale Summer Term | £3528.33 |
| 7 | Winter Concert | £685.96 |
| 8 | Christmas Market 2024 | £4764.83 |
| 9 | The Boyfriend Production | £1072.16 |
| 10 | Quiz Night | £163.83 |
| 11 | Spring Concert | £173.66 |
| 12 | Summer Concert | £416.38 |
| | **TOTAL RAISED** | **£17,796.07** |

# Election Of Office Bearers

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chair:** | Mrs Anni Cullen |
| **Vice Chairs:** | Mr Vinodh Gurusamy |
| **Secretary:** | Mrs Caroline Westgarth |
| **Treasurer:** | Mrs Sadia Chowdhury |
| **Communications:** | Ms Kate Stubbs |
| **Nearly New Uniform:** | Mrs Anni Cullen |

**Report from Mrs Frost**

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to our committed PTFA. The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association is truly the beating heart of our school community. From organising non-uniform sales that raise over £8,000 in vital funding, to your tireless support at every school event—whether it's baking, serving refreshments, or simply cheering us on—you are always there, making a difference. Your efforts in running high profile events are just as important. The Year 7 Party, Quiz Nights and other events are a highlight of our calendar. These activities bring together students, families, and staff in a spirit of celebration and generosity, and it simply would not be possible without your dedication and creativity.

The funds you raise help us provide extra resources, enriching experiences and opportunities for our students. Even more than that, you help to foster a sense of belonging and pride in our school. Whether it is supporting with new kits for PE, equipment for our Gardening Club or new microphones for our school stage, every item is valued and gratefully received. On behalf of all the staff and students, thank you for your energy, your commitment, and your unwavering support. We are incredibly lucky to have such a fantastic PTFA, and I look forward to the forthcoming fireworks night and all that we will achieve together in the year ahead.

## PTFA Fundraising

We are delighted that our fundraising activities, supported by the school community, have enabled the purchase of a significant number of additional resources for student use. The aim of additional PTFA funding is to provide resources or equipment which enable an extension or enhancement of teaching, learning or student wellbeing. Department bids are first approved by the Senior Leadership Team, then discussed and voted on at PTFA meetings. In the past two years the PTFA have funded the purchase of:

- **PE:** Football goalposts and football team kits
- **The Adventure Society After School Club:** equipment for live action role play (LARP) which will now take place each term
- **Computing:** Raspberry Pi units and VEX Robotics equipment for use in lessons and at lunchtime clubs
- **Covered corridor boards** for the display of student work
- **Library:** 15 new laptops for student use
- **Drama and Music:** Upgraded stage lighting system in the Main Hall for use during concerts and productions

Kits were provided for school football teams and portable goal posts made available for the pitches on the school field.





In the library, fifteen new laptops are now available for student use throughout the day.

The new stage lighting system in the Main Hall has already been put to excellent use during the production of "The Boy Friend" in February and the "Evening of Languages" in March.



# PTFA

## PTFA CONTACTS:

**Chair: Anni Cullen**
**cchsgptfa@gmail.com**
**Registered Charity No. 110464**

## Calendar 2025/2026

CCHSG PTFA Calendar 2025/2026

### Autumn Term

| | |
|---|---|
| PTFA Annual General Meeting (in person) followed by Ordinary PTFA Meeting | Tue 23 September 19.00 - 20.30 in G25 |
| Year 7 Welcome Party & Parents/Carers Social Evening<br>Disco for students, refreshments for parents & students | Fri 10 October 19.00 - 21.30 |
| CCHSG PTFA Firework Event | Fri 7 November 18.00 - 20.00 |
| PTFA Meeting<br>Online link to be published | Mon 10 November 19.00 - 21.00 |
| Nearly New Uniform & Books Sale<br>Open to all Year Groups | Sat 15 November 10.00 - 12.30 |
| CCHSG PTFA Quizmas | Fri 28 November 18.30 - 21.00 |
| Winter Concert<br>Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle | Tue 2 & Wed 3 December 18.30 - 21.00 |

### Spring Term

| | |
|---|---|
| PTFA Meeting<br>Online link to be published | Mon January 26 18.30 - 20.00 |
| School Production, The Sound of Music<br>Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle | Wed 4 - Fri 6 February |
| Nearly New Uniform & Books Sale<br>Open to all Year Groups | Sat 21 March 10.00 - 12.30 |

### Summer Term

| | |
|---|---|
| PTFA Meeting<br>Online link to be published | Mon 8 June |
| Nearly New Uniform & Books Sale<br>Open to all Year Groups - subject to stock availability | Sat 4 July 10.00 - 12.30 |
| Summer Show<br>Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle | Mon 13 & Tue 14 July |




The ever-popular PTFA Quiz Night returns with a twist! Join us for the first ever CCHSG QuizMas - grab your friends and family, book a table for a team of 4-8. This will be a sell-out event so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Which team will lift the coveted CCHSG PTFA Quiz Champion shield?

Ticket price:- (includes festive meal)
Family (2 adults & 2 children up to 17 years) = £25.00
Adults (18 and over) = £10.00
Child (17 and under) = £7.00
Tickets now available on Classlist.

## PTFA Fireworks Event

Over half the tickets have now been sold via https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EQVM
Please be advised, we had a number of tickets allocated as family tickets. These have now sold out. Tickets will also available at the entrance gate on the night priced at £10 for adults and £8 for children.

An event this size is only possible with help from volunteers and we are always grateful for offers of help from parents and carers. If you are able to volunteer your time before or during the Fireworks Night, please sign up via the following link:
volunteersignup.org/RBLBW

