CCHSG E-Newsletter

18 December 2025

Contents:

2 ALPS GCSE Diamond Value Added Award
3 Oxbridge Scholar Programme
4 Colchester Teacher Training Consortium
5 GCSE Drama Mercury Theatre Trip
Healthy Living
6 Winter Concert
7 Piano Masterclass with Chad Vindin
8 Aspiring to Oxbridge - Visit to Emmanuel College
Year 8 Science Museum Trip
9 Year 8 Remembrance Day Installation
10 CCHSG Connect
Alumna Heather Dick Visits CCHSG
11 Alumni Progression Posters
Class of 1986 - Reunion Invitation
12-13 Meet Our Language Assistants
14-15 Sixth Form News
Year 12 Forward Thinking Day
Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
Alumna Harriet Adediji - webinar with ACS
16 CCHSG AWARDS - Merit Totals
17 Kaya Shah - Mayor's Merit Award
Amy Cutmore - Volunteer Police Cadets
18 Young Geographer of the Year Competition
19 Senaya De Silva - Recent Music Achievements
Anisha Khire - National Entertainment Awards
20 Spanish Language Immersion Visit
21 Physics Trip to Cambridge University
22 Liddington Football and Netball Weekend
23 Winter Art Competition
Rotary Art Competition
24 ESU Public Speaking Competitions
25 Latin & Classical Civilisation - British Museum
Alumna Aimee Batchelor - Classics at Oxford
26-27 PE Department News
28 PTFA News



Mrs Marshall with the Winter Art Competition organiser, Scarlett and winners.

Executive Principal's Notes

At this time of celebration and reflection, we are exceptionally pleased that CCHSG has recently received formal recognition from two external sources for the quality of the education that we provide.

"State Secondary School of the Year in East Anglia, 2026."

This month, we received the news that *The Sunday Times* has named CCHSG "State Secondary School of the Year in East Anglia, 2026". The Parent Power Guide is widely acknowledged as an authoritative survey of the country's top schools.

Helen Davies, editor of The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide, said: *"As well as celebrating the academic excellence of the top schools it is uplifting to see how they are shaping their students to be ready for the 21st century and instilling a lifelong love of learning."*

We are delighted that the staff and students at CCHSG have received recognition in this way.

ALPS GCSE Diamond Award 2025 - CCHSG is in the top 1% of UK schools for value added.

Student's excellent 2025 GCSE results have been recognised, in an independent report created by ALPS, as being in the top 1% of schools nationally for value added.

While our headline figures and examination results are impressive, a more meaningful measure of an academic school's quality is its value-added performance. ALPS evaluates student and school progress using national data and benchmarks, providing an objective assessment of value added. This analysis compares how students with similar starting points in Year 7 perform at GCSE, and the results show that those who join CCHSG make greater progress from Year 7 to GCSE than the majority of schools nationwide. This is particularly significant given that our students enter already achieving at a high level.

We recognise the dedication and hard work of our students, and this data also offers compelling evidence of the impact of our high-quality teaching, extensive extracurricular opportunities, leadership development, and pastoral care on their academic success.

We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering commitment of our parents, students and staff. Their collective dedication is fundamental to our success.

Thank You PTFA

We extend heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for their invaluable work in organising an exceptional number of events this term. There was the spectacular Fireworks Night, attended by around 800 spectators, which was much enjoyed by students, parents and staff alike, including myself! The Nearly New Uniform Sales continue to be a huge success, providing a valuable service to parents and raising substantial funds for the purchase of school resources. The PTFA also organised the very successful Quizmas Quiz with ten teams competing for the trophy. In addition, the PTFA also provided the refreshments at the Winter Concert, which were much appreciated by the audience. Sincere gratitude goes to the PTFA Committee, Chair Mrs Anni Cullen and all the volunteers for so generously giving their time to support the school community.

Winners of the Winter Art Competition 2025 – Creative Stars

Congratulations to the winners of our 2025 Winter Art Competition. Their designs will be featured on the official CCHSG Christmas cards this year. I had the pleasure of meeting with Scarlett Webb, Year 9 Art Ambassador, who helped organise the competition, to review the entries. I have also personally thanked our competition winners and presented them with their prizes. You can find pictures of the winning designs later in the newsletter. Well done to everyone who took part.

The Winter Concert – A Festive Showcase

The CCHSG seasonal festivities commenced with our Winter Concert, which I was very pleased to attend. This was a magical community event that effectively showcased outstanding performances and a diverse range of musical selections. The Concert Orchestra also delivered a commendable programme. It was wonderful to see over 150 students taking part in the various choirs and ensembles. The audience appreciated both the music and the festive atmosphere. Our thanks to Mrs Jefferies, Mrs Cudmore-Rice, and all the staff and Sixth Form students who supported with the concert.

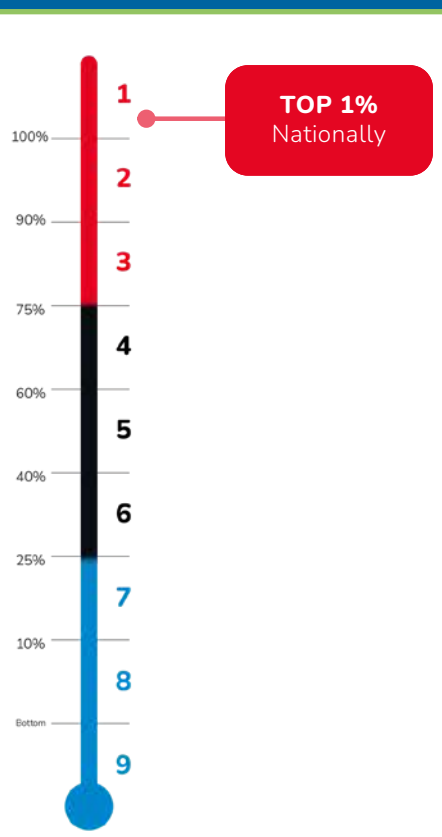
Festivities will continue for students in the last week of term with our celebration assemblies, Christmas lunch, Year Group cinema visits and Sixth Form Movie Night.

We wish everyone a delightful break and every happiness and success in 2026.

Mrs Gillian Marshall MSc NPQH
Executive Principal & CEO



ALPS GCSE Diamond Award 2025 - CCHSG is in the top 1% of UK schools for value added.





Mary Ahern
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

National position compared to the GCSE outcomes from the DfE National dataset

2025 Alps Certificate of Outstanding Progress

Colchester County High School for Girls

GCSE 2025

Alps Helping students aim higher

Save the date

Our next school production "The Sound of Music" takes place on 5 and 6 February. Tickets will be available in early January.

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

Student Voice 2026

Year 7


Sophia Harrington


Eri Ojo

Year 8


Mabel Walker


Abigail Fominyam

Year 9


Nicole Alao


Eve Ogunledun

Year 10


Rushda Donthi


Ekaterina Gruzdeva

Year 11


Esther Godwin


Calli Boyles

Year 12


Daniella Deniran


Idara Ubong

Congratulations to our New Student Voice team who were elected by the students last month. Student Voice elections are held each November for representatives of all Year Groups. Student Voice meets weekly with a Senior Leader to discuss student matters and work on projects within the school.

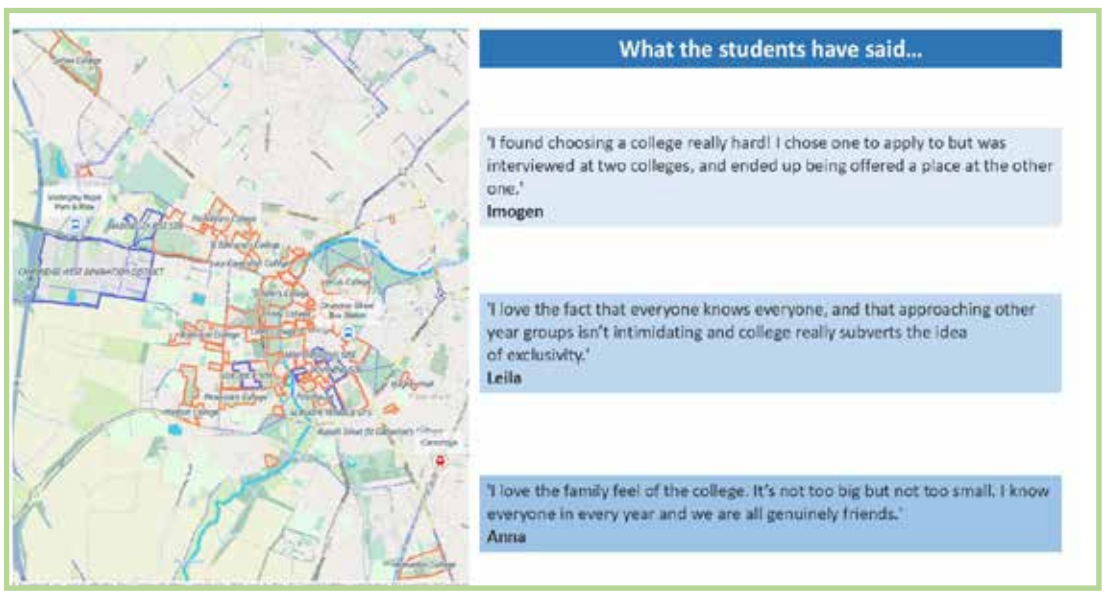
Leadership Opportunities

As students progress through the school, they are given more opportunities to assume positions of responsibility, taking on roles such as Subject Mentors or Form Prefects. Students in Year 12 have the opportunity to apply to be members of the Head Student Team. Extracurricular activities also provide students with further opportunities to develop their skills in organisation and leadership. Students can choose to become Subject Ambassadors, promoting areas of the curriculum through assemblies and other activities. Senior students often run or support with clubs for younger students. Extracurricular activities also provide a forum for students to be supported in representing the school in a range of local and national competitions such as the Maths Challenge Competition and Modern Foreign Languages Spelling Bees.

Year 11 - Oxbridge Scholar Programme

The CCHSG Oxbridge Scholar Programme is designed as a fast-track pathway, providing students with the essential foundations required for a successful application to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge. An Oxbridge degree is recognised globally as a mark of exceptional ability. Graduates are actively sought by leading employers across all sectors. The combination of rigorous academic training, critical thinking skills, and the prestigious Oxbridge name creates unparalleled career opportunities. The programme begins in Year 11 and continues through Years 12 and 13, offering tailored guidance, academic enrichment, and support to help students achieve their aspirations.

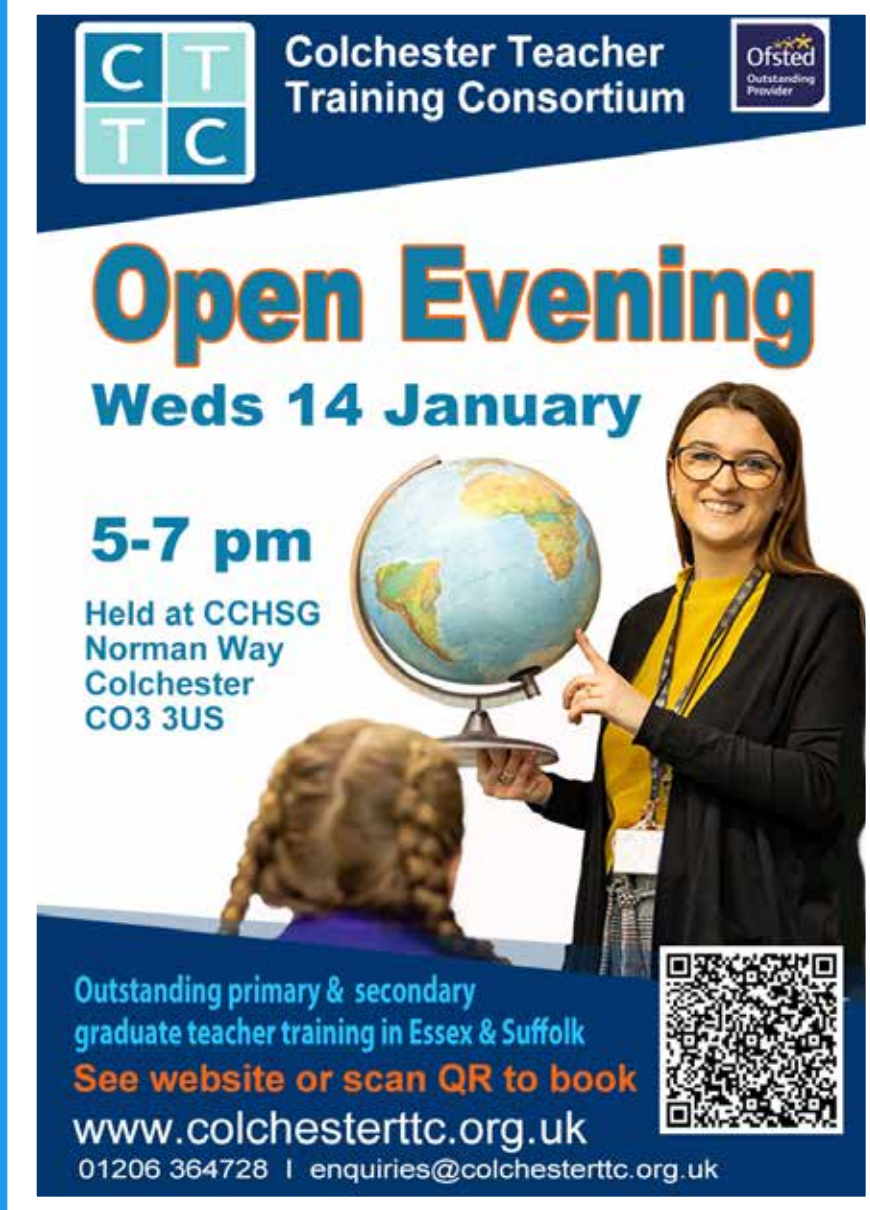
The launch of this year's CCHSG Oxbridge Scholar Programme took place on Wednesday 10 December. Interested students in Year 11 and their parents had the opportunity to join us to hear about the programme from Mrs Hughes, Associate Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Pigott, who leads on Oxbridge preparation across the school from Year 7. The event proved highly successful and engaging, facilitating valuable insights and productive discussions.





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. 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.

GCSE Drama - Mercury Theatre Trip



MERCURY

The whole class thoroughly enjoyed the piece; engaged by the numerous twists and turns in the plot, as well as the unique portrayal of their relationship through physicality in addition to dialogue. Watching this performance was extremely helpful to the course we are studying as it gave us fresh ideas and new perspectives on how to approach our Devising Theatre Unit. It also gave us some new material to use for Section B of the written exam, the consensus being that the set (two chairs and a series of drawers that were pulled in and out and upon which the actors climbed throughout the piece) was especially good for this. The performance was incredible, and we were all very grateful to have been given the opportunity to see it. **Mayah Thomas-Robinson**

On Wednesday 5 November the Year 11 Drama students went to the Mercury Theatre to view the matinee performance of *Lost Atoms* by Frantic Assembly.

The piece explored the relationship between two characters, Jess and Robbie, and how their love soured over time. The performance starred two actors who talked to each other and to characters we couldn't see, demonstrating the "bubble" they described themselves as being in early in the relationship. It was performed in the style of physical theatre, which made it very interesting to see their relationship play out in a stylised way.



Healthy Living Room Reopens with Delicious Results

We are pleased to say that the Healthy Living room has now reopened, following a period of closure due to building work. This allows students to return to hands-on Healthy Living sessions that both support practical skills and a nurture a lifelong appreciation for nutritious cooking. The atmosphere in the food room has been buzzing with energy, creativity, and some truly mouth-watering aromas!

Our Year 7 students have begun their journey by mastering a vibrant vegetable stir fry. As part of their introduction to kitchen skills, they explored a range of knife techniques, including brunoise and julienne, practising safe handling, precision, and control. The friendly competition for the Year 7 Master Chef title added an exciting edge to the lesson. The final dishes were colourful, flavourful, and a brilliant showcase of their new abilities.

Year 8 have taken their cooking to the next level by experimenting with the art of sauce-making. Their task: to create a fragrant and flavourful Thai curry from scratch. Students worked thoughtfully with herbs and spices, learning how to balance heat, sweetness, and aromatics to craft a dish that was uniquely their own, while managing the added pressure of working with proteins. The irresistible smells drifting down the corridor were evidence of their success! Their creativity, teamwork, and willingness to try new flavours deserve to be celebrated.

The practical sessions are really valuable—not just for developing culinary skills, but for building confidence, and providing a space where students can express themselves through food. We look forward to many more delicious creations throughout the year. **Miss Dennis**









Winter Concert

On the evenings of 2 and 3 December, we began to spread the Christmas spirit with our annual Winter Concert. This year, the theme was “flowers, trees, and plants”, featuring festive numbers including *The Christmas Song*, *The Holly and The Ivy*, and the finale of *Rocking around the Christmas Tree.* Students from the entire school community contributed with performances from our choirs (The Bluebirds, The Nightingales, and Bella Voces), Concert Orchestra, various instrument groups, the winners of Year 7 and 8 Choral Competitions, and more! Sixth Form students also helped out backstage, ensuring the performances ran smoothly, and coordinating the sound and lighting. We hope everyone who came to see the show enjoyed it as much as we all did. Come back in February for *The Sound of Music,* our next show - everyone enjoyed the *Edelweiss* teaser in this concert!

Gabrielle Yeboa-Henaku



Huge thanks to Mrs Jefferies, Mrs Cudmore-Rice and to all the staff and Sixth Form students who supported with the concert. We are also grateful to the PTFA volunteers who provided the refreshments on both evenings.









Piano Masterclass with Chad Vindin



On Friday 28 November, we were delighted to welcome Chad Vindin, vocal coach at the Royal Academy of Music and staff pianist at the Royal College of Music, who led an outstanding piano masterclass for our GCSE Music pianists. The event was an inspiring showcase of talent, with eight students performing a wide-ranging and ambitious repertoire.

This valuable opportunity allowed students to receive expert feedback from a professional musician. Masterclasses like these not only improve performance skills but also provide insight into potential career paths in music, whether in performance, teaching, or composition. Experiences like this help students build the confidence and knowledge needed to pursue careers in the arts.

The performances spanned a rich variety of styles and periods, including Mendelssohn's lively *Tarantella*, Beethoven's *Adagio cantabile* from the *Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor*, Paul Desmond's jazz classic *Take Five*, and contemporary works such as *The Bounce* by Zoe Rahman. Further highlights included music by Chopin, Haydn, Martinu, Tailleferre, and more, demonstrating both the breadth and depth of the students' musical interests and abilities.

During each focused 20-minute session, Chad offered expert guidance on essential performance skills, including pedal control, tempo consistency, legato playing, hand balance, finger control, and expressive use of colour and dynamics. Students also explored a variety of warm-up exercises, gaining valuable tools to enhance both their practice routines and performance confidence.

The masterclass was an enriching and motivating experience for all involved and a wonderful celebration of our students' hard work, progress, and musical potential. We are very grateful to Chad and hope to invite him to work with our students again.

Mrs Jefferies

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
London



Bella Voces Choir at Colchester Choral Society

On Sunday 7 December, members of the *Bella Voces* choir were delighted to join Colchester Choral Society for their annual *Here Comes Christmas* concert at St. Botolph's Church, Colchester.

The choir showcased their talents with a beautifully performed solo piece, *A Winter Carol* by Fiona Lander, and also took part in three additional works alongside younger singers. The festive afternoon was completed with a selection of much-loved congregational carols, enjoyed by performers and audience alike, with minced pies and (non-alcoholic) mulled cider to finish!

Mrs Jefferies



Aspiring to Oxbridge - Students Visit Emmanuel College

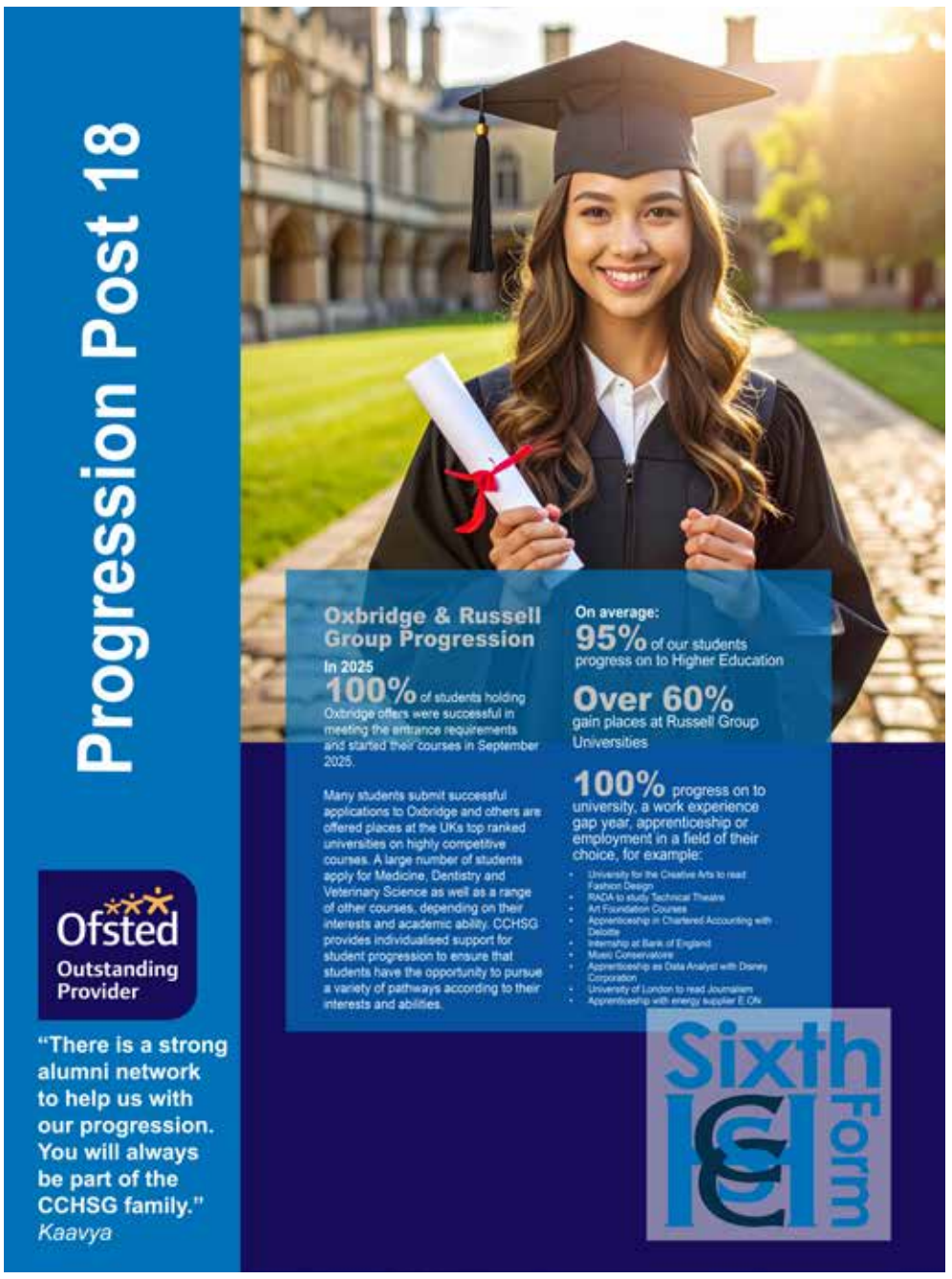
Recently, we were given the amazing opportunity to visit Cambridge University, and specifically Emmanuel College, one of the many colleges on the Cambridge campus.

To start with, we had a presentation on various myths about university life, and Oxbridge as a whole. The perception that Cambridge is a university that only admits incredibly high-performing students was mentioned, and clarified to not be representative of current admissions, which value potential as well as performance.

Next, we were taken on a tour by student ambassadors. We went around the Emmanuel campus, and were able to see the different dorm areas, cafes on campus, and even inside the library. This enabled us to appreciate the contained nature of living within a single college in a collegiate university.

After lunch, we participated in a university-style challenge, centred around the presentation of science in the media. This gave us a chance to explore new, more complex ways of thinking, and to compare our ideas to genuine projects university students had done before.

Overall, it was an incredibly informative and engaging day.
Year 12 Student



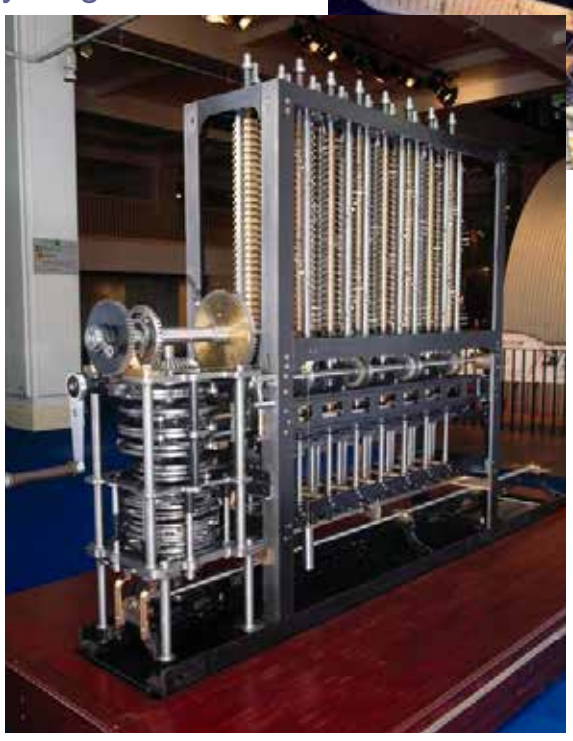
Year 8 Science Museum Trip

The Science Department arranged for Year 8 students visit the London Science Museum, where they attended interactive workshops looking at the role of engineers and also looking at genetics and the brain. There was also an opportunity to find out about STEM careers. Half the Year Group attended due to limitations on numbers at the museum, and the other half of the Year Group will visit later in the academic year.



"We spent the day exploring the many fascinating exhibits at the museum, where we learnt about everything from the history of science to current technological innovations. Each gallery offered something new to learn, and it was amazing to see real-life examples of concepts we have studied in class.

One of the highlights during the trip was a special lecture we attended on science communication and how to deliver effective talks. This was engaging, informative, and really helped us understand how scientists share ideas with the world. Indeed, many of us left feeling inspired and a little more confident about speaking and presenting in our own lessons.



It was also nice to connect some of the aspects of science to the aspects of computing as we lucky enough to see the finished invention of Charles Babbage - the analytical engine, the first computer. It was very interesting to see how different subjects connect. The trip was extremely interesting, fun, and memorable but also a brilliant learning experience for everyone involved. It gave us the chance to learn outside class and explore something new.
Ella Clarke

Year 8 Remembrance Day Installation

The works produced for this project were a response to the role of war artists in WW1. These artists created a visual record of the conflict for propaganda, memorialisation, and historical documentation. Artists who had witnessed the front line were seen as uniquely placed to deliver an authentic portrayal of the war. The images that were produced continue to shape our interpretations of the First World War today. The artists used their skills to depict everything from the front lines to Home-Front industries. Artists also played a role in documenting the effect of war on the Home Front, particularly on women's lives.

Students selected specific works from the Imperial War Museum archive to study. Information was gathered about individual artists such as John Nash, Percy Wyndham Lewis, C. R. W. Nevinson, Paul Nash and Anna Airy. Many artists and critics felt that traditional methods of painting could no longer provide an adequate or "truthful" representation of the conflict, so they developed experimental new techniques.















CCHSG Connect

CCHSG Alumna Heather Dick Visits CCHSG

On 14 November past student Heather Dick visited CCHSG to give subject enrichment talks and discuss her gap year and university journey.



Heather left CCHSG Sixth Form in 2022. During her time here she directed two school choirs of over 100 students, coordinating performances at local community events. Heather also served as Head Student, representing the school through public speaking engagements and the organisation of key student initiatives. Currently in her second year at St Andrew's University, Heather is really enjoying her Geography and International Relations course.

During her visit Heather worked with Mrs Daniels and Year 11 during PSCHE and also with the Geography department, running a lunchtime Q & A session for interested students.

Mrs Ward said:

Heather came to talk to Year 11 about her time at CCHSG, particularly Years 11-13. She spoke about taking a gap year, her travels to Vietnam and other countries during that year and the positive impact it had on her. You could have heard a pin drop while she was speaking and when Heather asked if anyone had any questions there were many students wanting to talk to her. The message Heather was sharing was that everyone can have a plan, that things can happen to change that plan, but it doesn't mean it has to be a negative outcome.

Heather commented:

"It was such a full-circle moment to be back in the school which taught me so much about myself and how to deal with life's obstacles. Being able to share my experience and connect with so many students was incredibly special. I loved having the chance to share my passion for Geography as well and all things St Andrews!"





Please help us reach out to our former students using your own networks. We are always keen to hear news of past students and to share their achievements.

Alumni Newsletter

Our Alumni Newsletter now publishes quarterly. Join our mailing list by contacting Kate Stubbs via

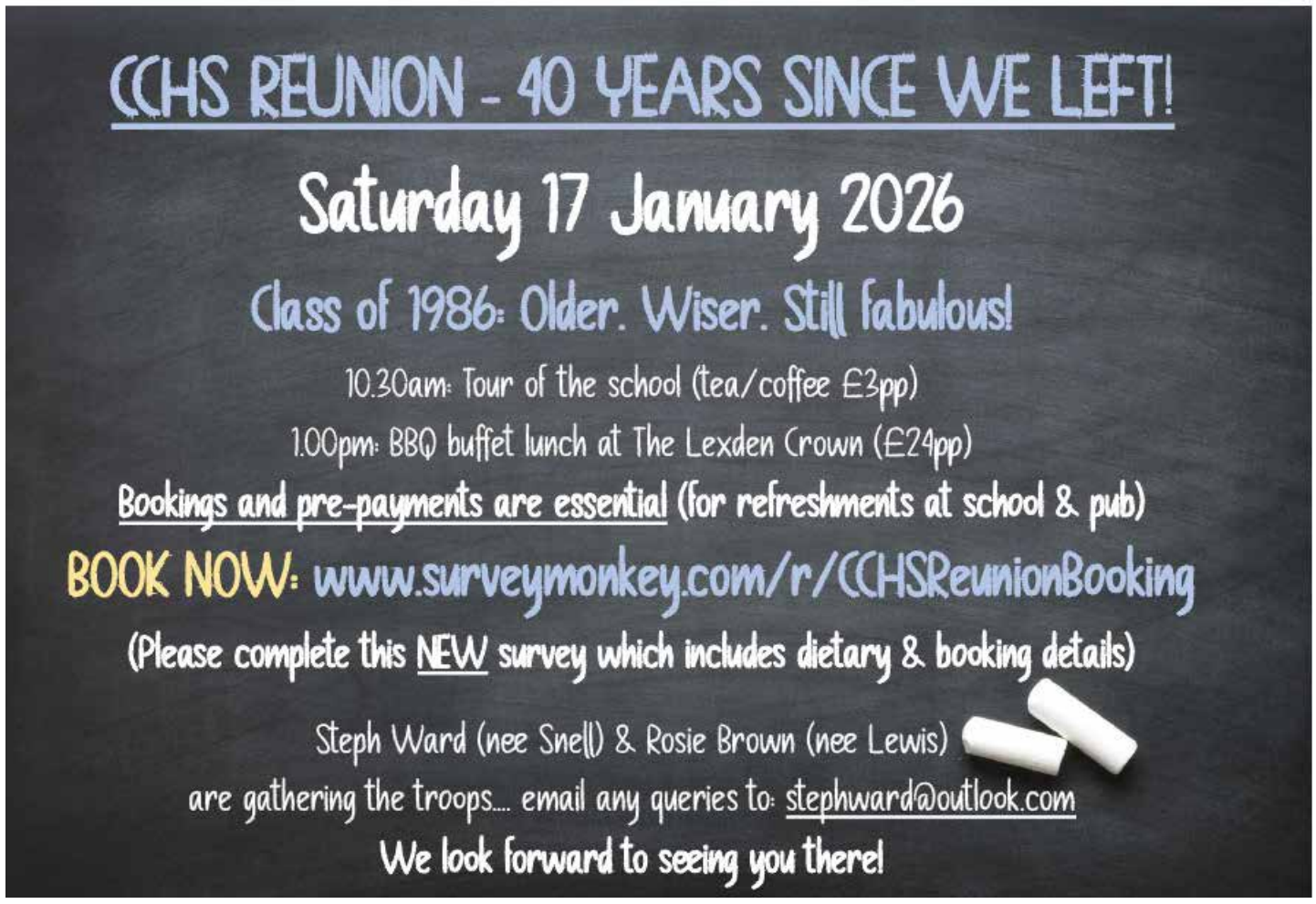
kstubbs@cchsg.com

Class of 1986 - Reunion Invitation

Calling the Class of 1986!

CCHSG is hosting a reunion on the morning of Saturday 17 January.

If you know of any alumni from this Year Group who would be interested in attending, please ask them to get in touch with Steph Ward or Rosie Brown via stephward@outlook.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 the 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 the October newsletter we heard from our Chinese language Assistant, Tang Xiaomeng and our German Language Assistant Emilia Karnowski. In this edition we find out more about our Spanish Assistant Deisy Morales and our French Assistant Clotilde Robineau. Welcome to them all!



Deisy Morales - Spanish Language Assistant

My name is Deisy Morales, and I´m the Spanish language assistant. I am from Bogotá, Colombia´s capital city. However, I have lived and worked as an English teacher in the Boyacá department since 2018. It is located in the east-central part of Colombia. I love teaching and have been doing it for over 10 years. I have taught in schools, universities, and bilingual projects across my country. For the last 5 years, I have wanted to become a language assistant in the UK. This year, my dream came true. I am so happy and thankful to be here as a member of the MFL Department at CCHSG. I especially appreciate the interaction with such smart, formal, and hardworking students.

What I like most about the UK is the wide variety of events to attend and places to visit. I enjoy learning, and this country and city have offered me the chance to explore diverse culture and history. The UK and Europe are rich in both. Besides that, I am grateful for the warmth and assistance that many people have shown me since my first day here.

I will definitely miss much of my town´s food, but certainly the *fritanga* stands the most because I regularly ate it after long trips on my MTB bike or at family gatherings at weekends. This dish has several variations and the one from the Boyacá region is one of the most popular. The *fritanga* combines potatoes (a local type called *criolla*), *cassava*, corn, plantain, smoked beef and pork, sausages, *longaniza*, and *rellena*. This dish can also be accompanied by some chilli sauce and avocado, and it´s even better if served with *refajo* (a mix of beer and soda). Colombia is a country of *arepas* (corn cakes), so *fritanga* can also contain pieces of *arepas*. My favourite *arepas* are the ones my mum makes.







The biggest challenges of learning Spanish are not that different from learning any other language. In these two short months, I´ve seen how some students struggle with verb conjugations and the noun and adjective agreement when speaking. However, they always make an effort to do it well and even ask about the Spanish words when they forget them. In my opinion, beyond accuracy, fluency, or pronunciation, the most important thing is to feel confident in your abilities.

As I continue learning English, I would say that one challenge has been to fully understand English speakers. There are still different expressions used in each country that remain new to me. I regularly take my e-dictionary to check some examples and pronunciation, but I think that the best way to get new vocabulary is to use it in specific contexts. I understand that learning a language is a continuous process, and I enjoy it.

Clotilde Robineau - French Language Assistant

Bonjour !

I'm Clotilde, I'm 20 years old and I come from Caen in Normandie. I studied humanities in Cherbourg and then I studied English Literature and Cinema in Caen. I love theatre and music. I play the flute and the ukulele.





What do you like about the UK so far?

The first thing that surprised me was the hospitality of English people. In France it's very uncommon to call strangers with affectionate names like "Sweety", "Lovely", or "Dear".

Of course I miss outdoor terraces that we have at home but I really enjoy the atmosphere in pubs which are warmer and more friendly. I also discovered some beautiful landscapes in the Highlands during my trip to Scotland.

3 things I find strange in the UK :

- Serving baked beans at every meal (especially in the canteen).
- Seeing British people go outside without coats or scarves when it's -2°C.
- Having to queue everywhere, all the time – and don't even think about overtaking the line !

Is there a food that you are going to miss?

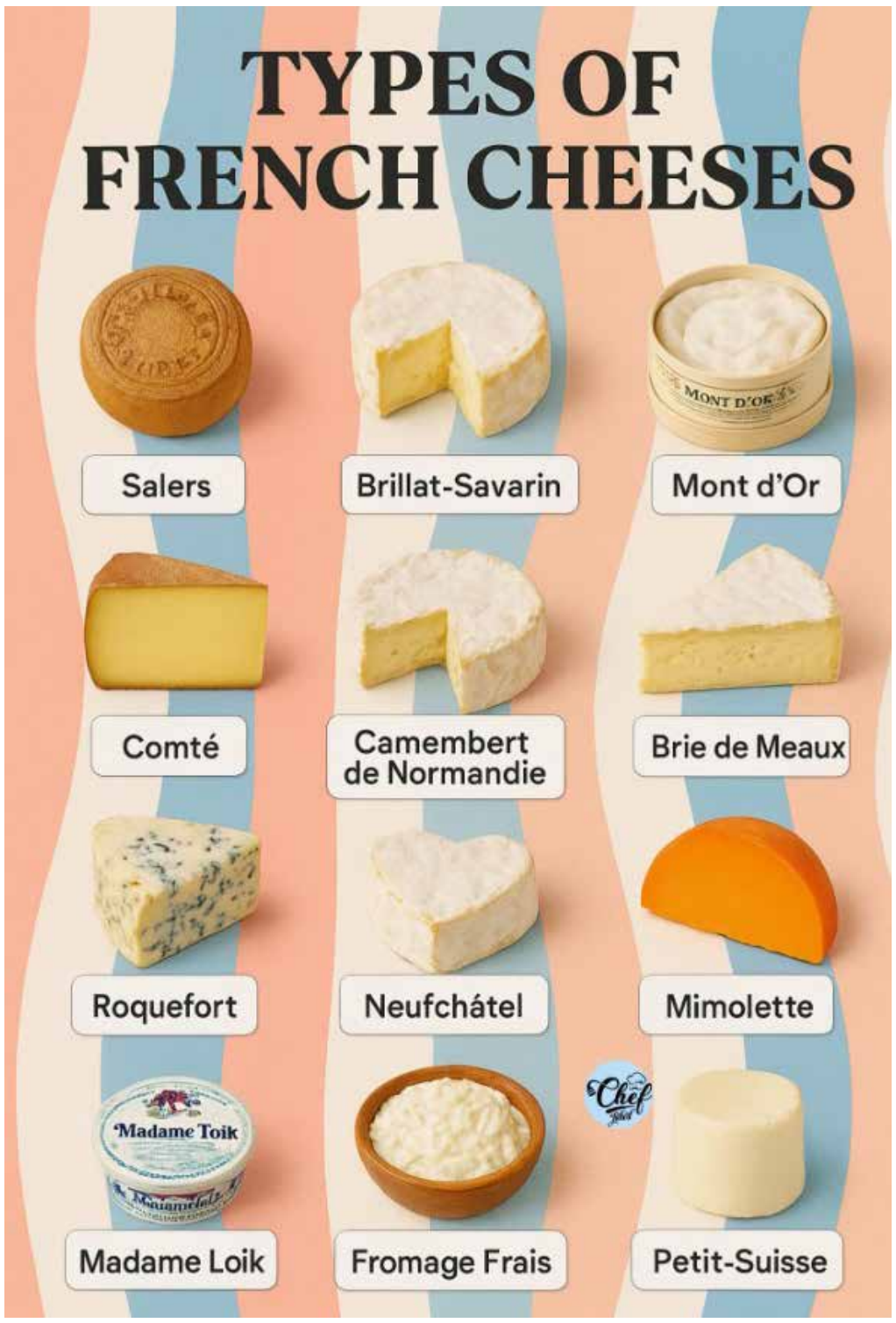
I already miss cheese very much! My favourites are *comté, camembert* (from Normandie) and *fourme d'Ambert*. Of course I also miss French *baguette*. I don't think I will ever fully accept the idea of eating cheese on biscuits…

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

Of course French tenses, the pronunciation of the French "R" and the tricky sounds like "*eu/oi*" in "*œil, bourgeois, bœuf.*"

Did you experience any challenges learning English?

I was surprised by the English greetings. When someone said "Hello, how are you?" I always answered seriously because in French "*Bonjour, comment ça va*?" is a real question. So I kept accidentally oversharing. Honestly it still happens!



Sixth Form News

Year 12 Forward Thinking Day



Year 12 were invited to a Forward Thinking Day at the University of Essex, where they attended many tailored sessions, designed to give an insight into further education as a whole. The sessions covered personal branding, UCAS applications and other routes after A levels. Making informed decisions regarding further education is becoming increasingly important due to the wide range of options such as vocational courses, university, apprenticeships, volunteer work, and gap years.

Being given the opportunity to discuss the new process of UCAS applications with part of their admissions team was incredibly helpful, as the structure has been altered for 2025. The new structure seems confusing initially, but once their purpose was explained, the idea of having multiple questions makes this application far simpler to complete as the universities are telling us what they want to know. They went through the questions individually, covering what to include in each section, and how to navigate the UCAS website.

Lipika Fangoo, a Year 12 student said: 'Emily (the admissions advisor) definitely made the idea of beginning to look at our UCAS pages less daunting.'

Visiting the university and taking in its atmosphere was a wonderful experience. The free lunch hour given to Year 12 was a chance for them to also explore the campus for themselves and see what it has to offer, but the university's student ambassadors were also kind enough to take us on tours of the campus and talk to us about what life as a student is like. We also attended a student panel where the ambassadors discussed the courses they were studying and why they felt university was the right decision for them. Making the right decision for yourself with regards to what you wish to pursue is incredibly important; the Essex University team perfectly explained how to go about this decision and stressed the need for the decision to be your own and something you truly want to pursue.

Year 12 students were also introduced to the idea of personal branding. Emily explained to us the significance of our online presence. The she gave us an activity to do which made us think about what we would expect from someone else's personal brand, to help us create our own. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity.

Aria and Renah (Year 12)

Year 11 Taste Sixth Form Life for a Day



On Thursday 13 November, our Year 11 students, joined by some Year 11 students from The Gilberd School and Manningtree High School had a glimpse into life in the Sixth Form at CCHSG. The Year 11 students had the chance to sample taster A level lessons in four subjects of their choice. They then attended a session run by the Head Student Team, which enabled them to talk to current students about their experiences in the Sixth Form.

Within the subject sessions, teachers introduced their subjects with popular topics and answered questions, which gave Year 11 students a glimpse into the Sixth Form lesson experience. This allowed students to explore their subject options and helped them decide which subjects they would like to do. The Sixth Form talks, which ran throughout the day, gave Year 11s the opportunity to ask questions and find out more during a Q&A session. The Year 11 students asked questions ranging from academic subjects to social life. Sixth Form students talked about frees and managing their workload whilst retaining a healthy life balance. The talks had really positive feedback.

Whilst Sixth Form life is demanding at any school, CCHSG provides extraordinary support and a friendly environment. I hope the Year 11 students felt that they experienced this on the day. As someone nearing the end of her time at CCHSG, it is an incredibly reassuring thought that the current Year 11s will be the next Sixth Form cohort.

Lauren Holmes-Cook (Year 13)

Sixth Form Support Year 11 Devising Performance

Congratulations to the Year 11 students for completing their first GCSE Drama performance! The CCHSG Drama community came together in early November to support the Year 11s, who performed their fantastic GCSE devising pieces. They had been working towards this since last year during their timetabled Drama lessons, as well as putting in lots of hard work during their free time. The students had to create their own original 10–15-minute piece of theatre, in groups, based on a stimulus provided by the examination board. This used their knowledge of theatre practitioners to develop the style of their performance.

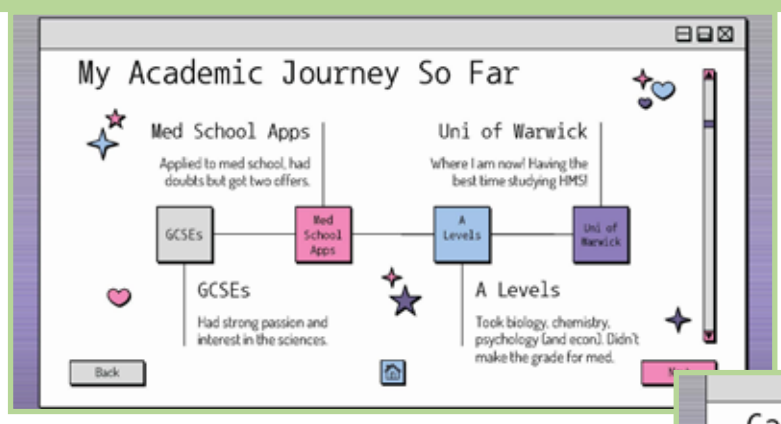
The groups all did this amazingly, with outstanding scripts, storylines, acting, and costume design. Every student contributed something really valuable to the final product and each performance was a clear culmination of the impressive teamwork shown by the Year 11 class. As the date of the performances drew nearer, the Year 11 were supported by a group of Year 12 and 13 students, who volunteered their time to help the final performances run smoothly: setting up; staying after school for rehearsals; showing up on a Saturday to run tech and give feedback; and operating sound, lighting, camera, and curtains during the examined performances.

Their combined hard work paid off as every group performed excellently, and everyone involved should be extremely proud of their contributions. They also inspired the next generation of CCHSG thespians: the Year 9 and 10 classes studying Drama came along to watch and support the Year 11s, celebrating their success while also seeing what they themselves will be doing in years to come.

And, of course, lots of fun was had along the way. After all, it wouldn't be a CCHSG Drama event without snacks, music, dancing, laughs, and community spirit.
Sophie Cliff **- Year 13**

Alumna Webinar at Afro-Carribean Society









On 5 December, Harriet Adediji, CCHSG alumna, hosted a lunchtime webinar for the Afro-Caribbean Society (ACS). Harriet shared insights into her time at CCHSG, reflected on how opportunities such as leading ACS helped shape her identity and leadership skills, and offered a glimpse into her journey through university life. She is currently studying Health, Medicine and Society at the University of Warwick.

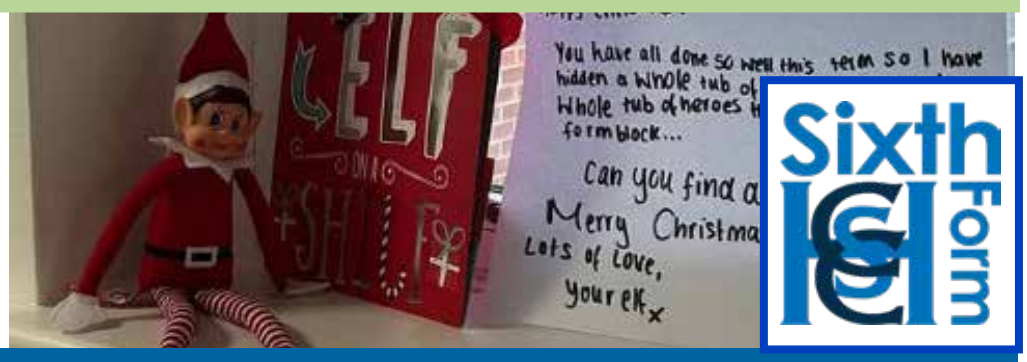
Sixth Form Movie Night

Last Friday the Sixth Form held a very enjoyable Christmas movie night. The hall was decorated with Christmas decorations, creating a festive atmosphere. Before the movie started, there was hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows, which was a nice touch and got everyone in the festive mood. There were also snacks and drinks available, and pizza was ordered for everyone to enjoy during the film. We watched 'Love Actually', which was a great choice and helped get everyone into the Christmas spirit.



Elf on the Shelf

This month, CCHSG has a special visitor keeping a cheerful eye on our hallways and classrooms—our very own School Elf on the Shelf! Each day, the elf pops up in a new spot, spreading smiles, encouraging kindness, and reminding students to do their best. We have been keeping an eye out for the elf's daily adventures as we count down to the holidays together!



CCHSG Rewards and Awards

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.



Merits to be awarded for the following categories:

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









Kaya Shah - Mayor's Merit Award

Congratulations to Kaya Shah who was recently awarded the Havering Mayor's Merit Award for her creativity, compassion, and voluntary service.

Over the past few months, Kaya has been crocheting pairs of butterfly motifs, which she has kindly donated to the ongoing appeal at the palliative-care unit at Queen's Hospital. Local crafters have been creating pairs of knitted and crocheted hearts, angels, and butterflies as keepsakes for patients and their families.

Kaya said: "I wanted to use my skills to help our community, so I started making crochet butterflies for families at Queen's Hospital Palliative Care. I hope that when families come across the butterfly pairs, they bring a small moment of comfort and remind them that they are in our thoughts. I'm looking forward to making more, and I hope it encourages others to support and build communities shaped by compassion and kindness."

https://thehaveringdaily.co.uk/2025/10/29/mayors-merit-award-honoring-local-crochet-contributors/









Volunteer Police Cadets



I strongly recommend people to join activities like this as it builds many skills and gives a sense of belonging to the local community. If policing or a public service career is what you're looking for this is an amazing start too.

At VPC we practice drill (marching); learn about laws, certain offences and situations an officer may find themselves in; we learn how to use the radios and practise with them; we volunteer in the community by signing up for events, and of course we have fun. I've already taken part in laser tag, marshalled at a fireworks display and marched on Remembrance Day. I'm excited to continue my journey now as an official cadet and I'm very grateful to have this opportunity.

Amy Cutmore 10E

Recently, I joined the local Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC). It wasn't because I have ambition to be a police officer but because it is an awesome opportunity that would open loads of doors including giving me a chance to make new friends and have fun. I've really enjoyed my time in police cadets, and I look forward to it every week. This week I was sworn in as an official Volunteer Police Cadet and as the oath said, I take pride in my uniform and try my best in all activities.

https://vpc.police.uk/be-a-cadet



RGS Young Geographer of the Year Competition

The Royal Geographical Society Young Geographer of the Year competition is held annually. This award is given to pupils from primary years up to A Level who have demonstrated creative and analytical thinking about geography in line with an annual theme.

For this year's competition, entrants were asked to design posters or ArcGIS StoryMaps that engaged with the theme of "Understanding Islands", highlighting the unique geographies, challenges, and connections between islands around the world and the communities and ecosystems they support.

With over 400 schools participating, 1,200 entries were received. Judges evaluated entrants' analysis of the unique geographical challenges and opportunities present on their chosen island(s), as well as their visual representation and storytelling. This year, 16 young people were selected for recognition, with two winners and two highly commended entries selected for each age category.

We congratulate Anisha Saket Khire who won "Highly commended" in the KS3 category.

Mr Kennedy attended the award ceremony with Anisha at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 5 December. The Society's Director, Professor Joe Smith, presented this year's winning and highly commended pupils with their certificates alongside the Society's Vice President for Education, Alan Parkinson, and said:

"*I'd like to give my warmest congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who entered this year's Young Geographer of the Year competition. Islands, including the one we live on, are uniquely affected by climate change, but they also have unique opportunities to address these challenges. The high standard of entries we received across this year's competition gives me confidence that the next generation of geographers is already asking the right questions about the issues facing island communities and how these can teach us about the wider world.*"

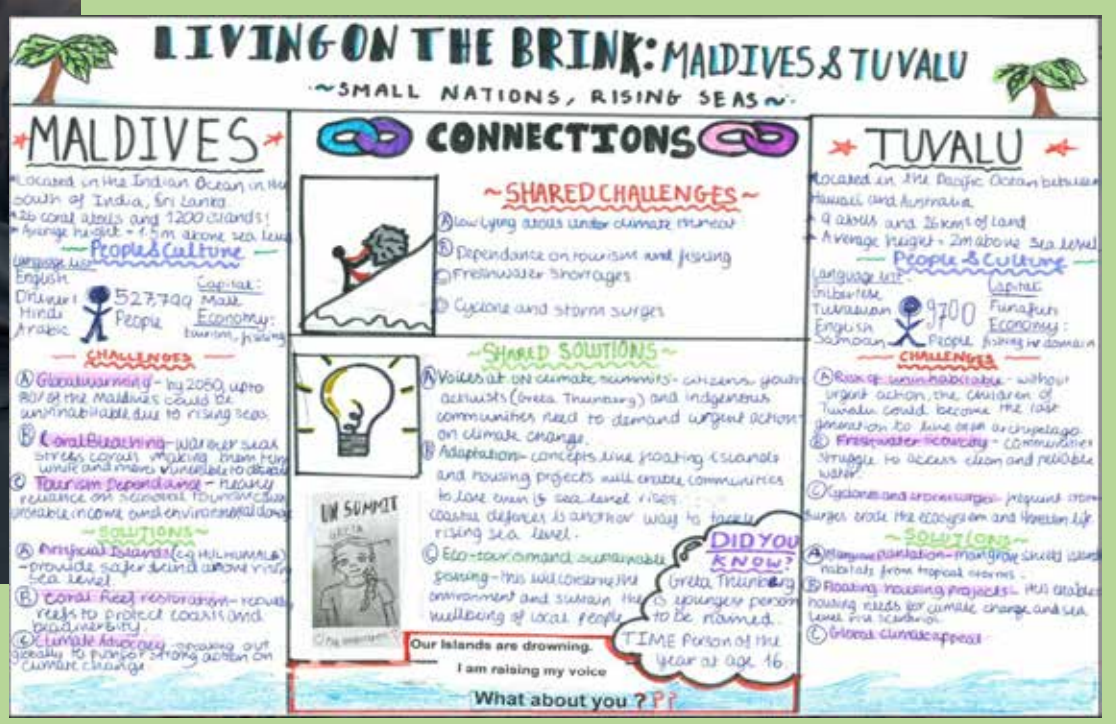
The Royal Geographical Society was founded in 1830 to advance geographical science. They support geographical research, education, and fieldwork and expeditions, as well as advocating on behalf of the discipline, supporting geographers in professional practice, and promoting geography to public audiences.

Geography is unique in bridging the social and natural sciences. Find out what geography is and what makes it essential in understanding the world in which we live.

See https://www.rgs.org/about-us/what-is-geography







Senaya De Silva - Recent Music Achievements

Congratulations to Senaya De Silva on her outstanding achievements in Music over recent months. In November she participated in the Chelmsford Music Festival achieving excellent results: Graded Piano (Grade 6): 93 marks with Honours; Junior Recital (14 years and under): 90 marks with Honours; Orchestral Strings (Grade 5): 88 marks with Distinction.

In addition, Senaya had the wonderful opportunity to perform with one of the most renowned Sri Lankan artists, Kasun Kalhara, during a live concert at the Dominion Centre, London. She played the harp introduction and accompanied his song “Mal Mitak tiyanna”.

Harp introduction: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjtxAudDZ2M

Song with the artist:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u7coiydJa8&list=RD7u7coiydJa8&start_radio=1

Senaya will also be performing piano at Chapter House in Chelmsford for the Chelmsford & District Welsh Society meeting, and she will perform piano at the Chelmsford local heats for the Rotary Young Musician competition, which will be held on 9 January 2026.



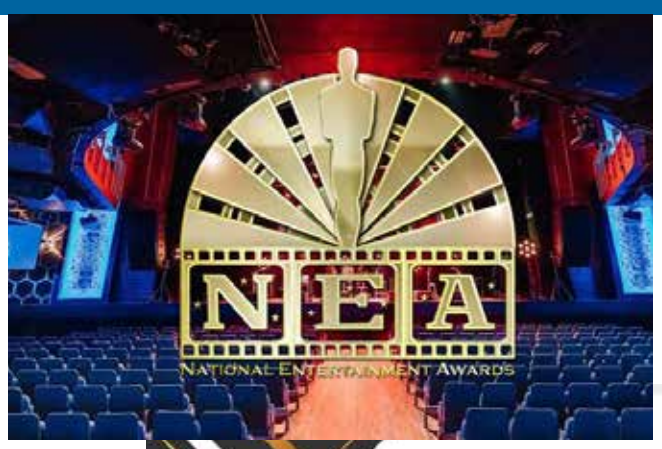


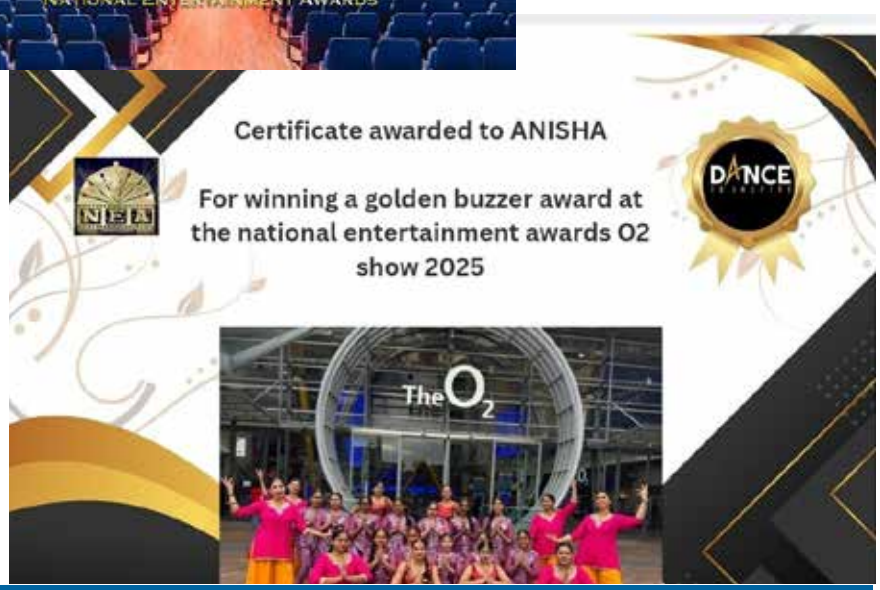
Senya said: “*Even though I’ve been performing for many years now, I still get nervous every time I’m about to perform, and that’s completely normal! If you’re feeling nervous, I see it as a good thing because it shows that you care about what you’re doing. From performing at competitions, such as the Chelmsford Music Festival, to entertaining large crowds, like playing harp at the Dominion Theatre in London, the exaggerated feeling just before you’re about to go on stage is always the same. Performing at a major concert alongside a well-known Sri Lankan artist was an incredible experience. I am so proud to have performed on the same stage with such a popular artist, and the opportunity has given me even more confidence in my musical journey. Playing on such a big stage, with such a big instrument, really pushed me outside my comfort zone in the best way, and it taught me how exciting it is to share music with such a huge audience. Overall, I feel that one lesson I’ve learned and would love to share, especially with beginner performers out there: don’t chase perfection, focus on connection. If you’ve prepared well, trust yourself, step onto the stage, and play as if you’re sharing something you genuinely care about. The audience feels your confidence more than any tiny mistake*!”

National Entertainment Awards - Anisha Khire

Alongside her studies, Anisha has been training with *Dance to Inspire,* a professional Bollywood dance company. Recently, the company was invited to a prestigious National Entertainment Awards event at the Indigo O2 Arena, where they won the National Professional Impact Award category. Anisha performed with her team in front of a full-capacity audience of more than 2,500 people.

Anisha said: “*Dancing at the Indigo O2 Arena was something really special — it felt exciting, colourful and full of energy. The whole place had a magical atmosphere that made me feel a mix of nerves and excitement at the same time. When I stepped out onto the stage, I could feel all the hard work from the whole year coming together in that one moment. Once the music began, I forgot about being nervous and just enjoyed dancing with my team. Winning the award was an amazing surprise and made the experience even more unforgettable. It has made me want to keep improving and doing my best in dance*.”





Spanish Language Immersion Visit

This term, Year 10 students who take GCSE Spanish had the opportunity to take part in an immersive trip to Andalusia, Spain. The trip took place from 7 to 10 November and the 68 students were accompanied by Mrs Picciau, Mr Paz, Ms Zambrano, Miss Prevost, Mr Snow, Mrs Upsher and Mrs Meadows.



On the first day of the trip, once having arrived to Málaga after a very early start, the group explored the seaside and many of the students enjoyed ice cream in the warm Spanish sun.



After some leisure time, students took part in a flamenco dance class at 'La Peña del Flamenco', guided by expert flamenco dancers.



The second day consisted of a day trip to Granada. Students had the opportunity to appreciate the Arabic influences on Spanish architecture by visiting the Alhambra Palace and its gardens. They also practised their Spanish language skills not only with the guides, but in real life scenarios, by ordering food, buying souvenirs, and interacting with locals.

The last full day in Spain was spent exploring Córdoba's Old Town on foot, and by visiting the Mosque-Cathedral Monumental Site. Students were particularly impressed by the hundreds of red and white columns, and by mix between different styles, as the mosque was expanded at different points in time and a Baroque church was built inside.





Overall, the feedback was extremely positive and students made the most of the experience. As a department, we are looking forward being able to offer the same opportunity to current Year 9 Spanish students.

Cambridge Physics Centre - Sixth Form Lectures

Every year, the Cavendish Laboratory of Cambridge University host a series of physics related lectures every month for six months. “Looking into the Earth: A Journey through Golbal Seismology” was part of this series.

Global Seismology is the study of what lies within our planet using seismic waves. The talk started with a brief introduction to seismic waves and seismological techniques, as well as a history of the field. The speaker then explored how we can image the geology on the boundary between the mantle and core nearly 3000 km down and what do we know about the inner core, the centre of our planet.

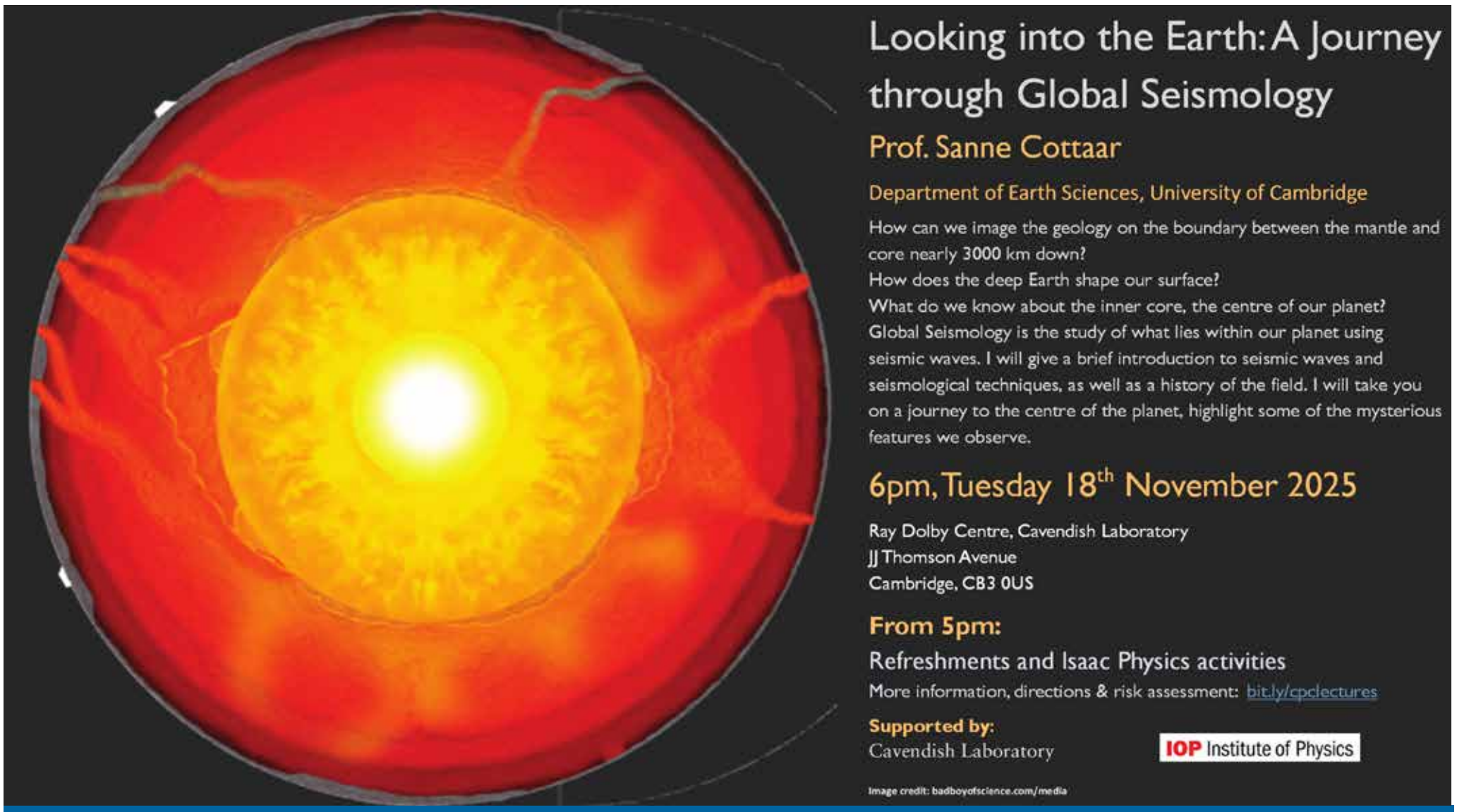
Zopheen Moghal:
The lecture was very informative, and explained various aspects of current research in seismology, including studying earthquakes, the changing models of the structure of the earth, and even studies on Mars. It addressed the importance of collaboration in science, and helped me conceptualise the real-world research of theory studied in both my Physics and Geography lessons.

Anushka Karthik:
I was most fascinated by the fact that data can be accessed globally by any individuals conducting research on (structural) seismology, as it is useful if one's project is underfunded. It was great to hear about how technological advancements in the near future could help us predict earthquakes, since that would have such an enormous global impact and benefit so many people. Already, learning about the way the Earth's core was determined to be liquid was extremely intriguing, as sheer waves cannot travel through it.

Mayukha Bhatt:
The lectures are both interesting and fun! They provide an insight into the topic at a depth greater than A level physics, so are especially useful for anyone looking into studying something physics related at university. Even if not, they are still good fun! The most recent lecture talked about how we study earthquakes and learn more about the inside of the earth, and we learnt why the core of the Earth is so hot!

Lewa Tangunyil:
The part I found most interesting is how closely seismology connects with other fields, all drawing on the same huge network of experimental data to reach different conclusions. I liked learning that data normally used to track earthquakes was also used to model Large Low Velocity Provinces, which are enormous regions in the lower mantle where seismic waves slow down. Using this approach, structural seismologists can build a clearer picture of what the earth’s interior is made of.

Erin Lancelott:
It was very cool to learn about how observations of seismic waves are actually used to learn about the structure of the Earth, including ultra low velocity zones inside the Earth that cause seismic waves to behave differently than is otherwise expected. It was interesting to go beyond the ideas about seismic waves learnt at GCSE, especially learning about the challenges and multidisciplinary approaches to understanding the structure of the Earth. Overall, I really enjoyed it.



Liddington Football & Netball Weekend, 7-9 November

The journey up to Liddington Hall was where our fantastic weekend started. It was filled with karaoke, lots of games of "Among Us", and plenty of snacks and sweets. Upon arriving, we started our stay at PGL with some competitive and very fast games of “Splat”, which finished with a very funny final between Miss Dennis and Gabby. Then we headed to a very delicious dinner before going to our rooms to go to bed. After breakfast, the next day, netballers headed out to the courts to start warming up, whilst the footballers did the activities PGL provided. Then the netballers who had won all their games so far and the footballers, who had enjoyed the morning of activities, headed back to our rooms to get changed then go to lunch.

In the afternoon, the netballers and footballers switched over so that the footballers could do their training which was filled with some excellent drills. The netballers did activities such as the giant swing and aero ball and then all students combined to do archery. After a very tiring day of sport and activities we all went back to our rooms to get changed for the silent disco and dinner. The silent disco was great fun - especially Emma's dancing - and it allowed us to mix with other schools as well. After the disco, we went back to our rooms and could not miss out on some meditation, led by Mrs Ashworth. This was followed by a game of “Heads down, thumbs up”. We then went to bed to prepare for our last day on this amazing trip.

On the last day, the Year 8s won all their matches so proceeded to the semi-finals and went on to win the



tournament. The Year 9s had a more tense experience as we lost one of our games 3-2. After being slightly disheartened, we found out we were in the semi-finals against the school we had lost to. In this game we played excellently and won 9-4 which put us through to the finals. Thankfully, we won the final which meant both Year 8 and 9 netball teams had won the tournament. Then, all students headed to our last lunch, which was a delicious roast. The footballers then went to their training after lunch whilst the netballers attended the prize giving. We got back into the minibuses after having an amazing and fun weekend which all students enjoyed. Overall, it was the best weekend ever and we were all very sad to be leaving! Thank you to all the teachers who provided us with an incredible weekend, especially Miss Freeman, who organised it. **Jemima Rutland**



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.

Winter Art Competition Winners

Congratulations to the competition winners, who have had their designs used on the official CCHSG Christmas cards this year. Well done to all those who entered. Thanks also to Scarlett Webb for organising the competition.



Summer Yuan - Year 8



Mrs Marshall wiith Scarlett Webb and three of the competition winnrs



Varunya Janarthanan - Year 7



Lucy Burch - Year 11



Liepa Sticinskaite - Year 9

Rotary Young Artist Competition

The Young Artist Competition is a competition organised and promoted by Rotary International.The competition aims to encourage young people to be creative, develop skills in using traditional or contemporary media, demonstrate interpretation of the topic and express personal ideas. The theme for this year's competition was 'Wonderful Water'. The artwork goes through a local stage of judging first, followed by the district heats.

Congratulations to the three CCHSG students: Teagan Lynn, Sophia Harrison and Enaiyah Begum Rashid who were selected as local finalists. Enaiyah's work was Highly Commended. We congratulate them on their excellent work.



ESU Public Speaking Competitions

ESU Public Speaking Competition (Year 10)



Six Year 10 students took part in the English Speaking Union (ESU) Public Speaking Competition on 10 November. CCHSG had two teams, each comprising a Speaker, a Chair, and a Questioner, and went against teams from The Campion School, Thomas Gainsborough, and Sawston Village College. The students showed tremendous preparation and composure in their respective roles:

Team A: Isha Sapre - Chair, Rebecca Yang – Speaker
Scarlett Webb - Questioner

Team B: Tanishka Kenny - Chair, Sophia Harrison – Speaker
Ekaterina Gruzdeva - Questioner

Students were given a range of topics to choose from in advance. They undertook intensive research before carefully crafting and delivering their speeches in front of the judges. Everyone's speeches were very well thought out and excellently presented. Following the main address, the Questioner was tasked with testing the Speaker's depth of knowledge and ability to think on the spot. They posed a series of challenging questions regarding the speech content, the supporting research and the overall understanding of the topic. The Chair managed the Q&A session by taking additional questions from the audience, allowing the Speaker to clarify or expand on their points. They then delivered a formal Vote of Thanks.

The competition was fierce, and all our students represented the school with exceptional skill and maturity. We are thrilled that Team B has successfully progressed to the next stage of the competition! While Team A unfortunately did not progress, they demonstrated outstanding public speaking ability, and their dedication and hard work was amazing! We wish Team B the best of luck as they prepare for the next round! **Tanishka Kenny**

ESU Sixth Form Online Speaking Competition

Year 12 students took part in an online ESU speaking competition, presenting on topics of their own choosing. Misaki Sherpa said "*As a Year 12 external student, the school has helped me embrace new opportunities. Taking part in the online Sixth Form ESU Public Speaking Regional Competition was very impactful as I was competing against talented students across the East of England. My speech "Biting back: Conquering the Fear of Dental Phobia"" challenged me to explore the nature of modern dentistry. The fact that I came runner-up strengthened my confidence in my public speaking skills and further fuelled my ambition to become a dentist."*



ESU Mace (Year 12)

We made every effort to prepare for the competition, not only dedicating time outside school but spending lunchtimes together working on our speeches and rebuttals. ESU really made sure we worked as a team. We were, of course, quite nervous when we sat down. But we all had the confidence in each other because we knew all the preparation we had put in. We worked well as a group and supported each other when difficult questions were asked and when we took notes on how to respond to our opposition. Our debate for the ESU Mace was extremely successful, and most importantly, it was fun. Within the first few minutes, it became easier to speak out as we realised that everyone was in the same boat. The whole process kept us on our toes and is an experience that we cannot wait to do again. The most valuable takeaway was understanding the crucial importance of effective teamwork. Making it to the next round required us to trust each other as we faced the rigorous demands of timed speeches and rapid rebuttal. Our success would not be possible if not for trust, collaboration and communication; three core skills that will hopefully bring us more success for the next round.

The ESU Mace team,
Neha Karikkasserry, Caitlin Frisby and Harriet Freeman



Latin and Classical Civilisation - British Museum Trip

On Tuesday 25 November, Sixth Form students of Latin and Classical Civilisation visited the British Museum for an immersive trip into the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. Students explored the galleries at their own pace, taking in everything from everyday artefacts to monumental works of art. They all enjoyed searching the museum for different statues and vases, adding a real-world dimension to their studies.

The standout moments of the day included the renowned Parthenon exhibition and the dramatic Bassae Frieze — pieces that form a core part of the A Level syllabus and offered students the chance to encounter their set works up close. For the Year 13s, it was a chance to further explore and analyse sources which may appear in their upcoming exams. For Year 12, it was a great taster of things still to come in their study of the Ancient world. Many commented that seeing these masterpieces in person brought a new level of excitement and clarity to their learning.

Year 12 Classical Civilisation student Poppy Adams said, “I’ve always loved Classical Civilisation in the classroom, but it was great seeing the material we will be studying and really brought the ancient world alive!”

Fellow Year 12 student, Latinist Evie Simmons added, “I found it fascinating to learn more about the Roman and Greek history which I have read about in my translations. I discovered so much more about Roman architecture, art, and lifestyle, which I am sure I will use in future translations and in my Literature essays.”

Students of Latin and Classical Civilisation often progress to study subjects such as Classics, Ancient History, and Archaeology, but the skills that they have developed, from analytical thinking to linguistic precision, are invaluable across all career paths, including scientific and technical fields, and



experiences like this trip play a valuable role in broadening cultural and academic horizons.

A level Classical Civilisation is a truly broad multidisciplinary subject, involving elements of English, History, Art, Mathematics, Sciences, Philosophy etc. The purpose of the course is to introduce candidates to a time and culture which is so different, and yet so similar to our own, and in so doing develop an awareness of the progress and nature of humans and their interaction within an organised society. No prior knowledge or GCSE is required.





Alumna Aimee Batchelor - Classics at Oxford

On Monday 15 November, Aimee Batchelor visited to deliver a talk to students on studying Classics at the University of Oxford. Aimee left CCHSG last year to read Classics at Oxford having gained A Levels in Latin, Classical Civilisation, English and History.

Aimee provided a useful insight into choosing a degree, the admissions process and the University of Oxford experience.

Aimee spoke very fondly of her time here at CCHSG and encouraged current students to make the most of opportunities available to them. It is always fantastic to have past students return to talk about their new experiences post CCHSG.
Miss Swettenham



PE Department - Autumn Term 2

Our students have had an action-packed term, filled with fantastic sporting achievements and experiences. During lessons, we have been covering gymnastics, netball, football, basketball and dance. Our extracurricular timetable has included badminton, swimming, football, netball, table tennis, cross country, cricket, water polo and basketball.

The Under 14 Essex Cup team secured a brilliant win against Ursuline on 3 November to progress to the knockout stages. Despite a hard-fought match against FitzWimarc School they were narrowly defeated by just one goal. Meanwhile, our Under 16 basketball team played FitzWimarc School, Woodlands School and Chelmsford County High School for Girls in the Essex Cup group stages. This was the first year we have entered this league, and the team worked tremendously well in close matches—special mention to Monica for her incredible three-pointers!



Year 8 and 9 netball teams and upper school footballers enjoyed a sporting weekend at Liddington.

Our Year 8 and 9 netball teams and upper school footballers enjoyed a fantastic weekend at Liddington, taking part in expert football coaching, a netball tournament, and adventurous activities such as archery and the giant swing.

Year 7 students also shone in the Central Venue netball tournament, winning all but one match and finishing second overall in the district. In the Essex Cup, our Year 7 netball team won their group before facing a tough opponent and bowing out with pride. The Under 16 netball team continues to progress in the Essex Plate and will face Becket Keys next—a great achievement, especially as many of the players are new to netball outside school.

Our badminton teams dominated the district tournament, with both teams winning their matches. Year 7 and 8 footballers competed in the Utilita Cup, showing excellent teamwork and skill development.



Under 14 Football Team

The Under 16 football team progressed in the Essex Cup but eventually lost to a strong St Martin's side. District football also kicked off with matches against Philip Morant School, where our Under 14s and Under 16s secured one win and one draw.

Cross country season continued with the district event at Colchester Sports Park, where multiple teams qualified for the next round.



Cross Country



Cross Country



Year 7 Netball Team



Under 16 Basketball Team

Our Under 13 and Under 15 cricket teams displayed outstanding skill and teamwork in the Essex Indoor Cricket Tournament. Additionally, our Under 14 and Under 16 netball teams competed in the county round of the National Netball Tournament on 16 November, performing brilliantly despite the cold conditions. District netball matches are ongoing, and our teams are progressing well in the league.

Our interform Christmas volleyball competition began on Monday 8 December and students were able to win best dressed awards as well as winning their matches. All the students that took part had a great time and it was excellent to see Tutors coming along to support. Well done to all our athletes for their hard work, determination, and team spirit throughout this term. We are proud of every single one of you. Have a restful break.

Miss Freeman

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…

Lilia Venkatasamy



CLUB: **Westwood Karate Academy**

INSPIRATION:
My friends and my sensei

TRAINING SCHEDULE:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Fridays, Saturdays (squad sessions), and Sundays

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:
Silver British Open, Gold Europeans, Black belt

LONG TERM GOAL:
Gold in World Championships

PRE-COMP MEAL:
Smoothie or yogurt

PTFA

PTFA CONTACTS:

Chair: Anni Cullen
cchsgptfa@gmail.com

Registered Charity No. 110464

Easyfundraising Appeal

Since the PTFA joined the easyfundraising scheme, parents have raised over £6k for the PTFA by shopping online. Over 7000 brands such as John Lewis, M & S, ASOS, New Look and more are taking part. To join won't cost you any extra as all donation costs are met by the individual brands. 216 of our parents have already joined the scheme. To support CCHSG PTFA through easyfundraising as you do your Christmas shopping, please visit:

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



Nearly New Uniform Update

The next Nearly New Uniform and Books Sale will take place on Saturday 21 March in the main hall from 10.00-12.30. If you have any unwanted uniform items, in good condition, we are pleased to accept donations at any time of the year. Uniform can be placed in the blue wheelie bin outside reception. We are currently understaffed on our uniform team, so we would kindly ask that all items are washed, and if possible ironed, prior to donation.





The PTFA Committee would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and thank you all for your fantastic support this term. We look forward to seeing you again and working together in the new year.

Thank you and happy holidays!