Colchester County High School for Girls
Parent Weekly Bulletin
13 September 2024

Term dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term
Monday 2 September
Friday 20 December
Half Term
Monday 28 October
Friday 1 November

Spring Term
Monday 6 January
Friday 4 April
Half Term
Monday 17 February
Friday 21 February

Summer Term
Tuesday 22 April
Tuesday 22 July
Half Term
Monday 26 May
Friday 30 May

Bank Holiday
21April
5 May

Non–Pupil Days 2024/25
Monday 2 September
Monday 23 September
Tuesday 1 October
Thursday 24 October
Friday 25 October
Friday 20 December
Monday 21 July
Tuesday 22 July

Term dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term
Monday 1 September
Friday 19 December
Half Term
27 October – 31 October

Spring Term
Monday 5 January
Friday 27 March
Half Term
16 February – 20 February

Summer Term
Monday 13 April
Monday 20 July
Half Term
25 May – 29 May
Bank Holiday
4 May

Non–Pupil Days 2025/26
Monday 1 September
Monday 22 September
Tuesday 30 September
Thursday 23 October
Friday 24 October
Friday 19 December
Friday 17 July
Monday 20 July

Safeguarding:
Never Acceptable
to report a concern:
Click Here to make an Anonymous Report
Link to Whisper an anonymous third-party service for CCHSG.

Dates for Your Diary

Week A Monday	Sept	16	Y13 Assembly in the Hall
Tuesday	Sept	17	Y11 Assembly in the Hall Y11 Information Evening
Wednesday	Sept	18	Y9 Assembly in the Hall Y12 Welcome Breakfast 08.50 – 09.05: 12C, O, L & H UCAS Early Entry Deadline
Thursday	Sept	19	Y7 Assembly on TEAMS Y12 Information Evening Y13 Biology field trip information evening on TEAMS
Friday	Sept	20	Y12 Welcome Breakfast 08.50 – 09.05: 12E, S & T
Saturday	Sept	21	11+ Testing Day

A parent calendar is available on the school website (link)

Nut Free School
We ask everyone to ensure that no nuts or nut products are brought into school. This includes during travel to and from school via public or shared transport. Thank you.

Votes for schools
The topic for discussion for this week is: Can you access healthy food choices in your community?

Lost Property
Students should ensure that all their belongings are clearly named, including a surname. Un-named lost property that has been handed in is photographed and displayed on SharePoint. Items can be collected from Reception and will be kept for two school weeks before being recycled.

Colchester teacher Training Consortium Open Evening
Colchester Teacher Training Consortium (CTTC) will host an Open Evening recruitment event on Monday 7 October 2024 17.00 to 19.00. For further information visit - Events - Colchester Teaching Training Consortium (colchesterttc.org.uk). Please find the link below regarding registering for the event.
https://forms.office.com/e/6js6Qgtmmr

CCHSG 500 Club
We would like to thank all those staff and parents who have supported us through the 500 Club in the 2023/24 academic year. Through your generosity, CCHSG 500 Club raised over £4,240.00 with a total of £2,072.20 paid out to winners of the 10 monthly draws.

We are seeking the continued support of our school community with the CCHSG 500 Club for the 2024/25 academic year (October 2024 – July 2025). Parents/carers, students (aged 16 & over) and staff of CCHSG can take part. Membership takes the form of a one-off payment of £40, which entitles participants to be entered into ten monthly draws for the prize money of up to £500. All the funds raised will go directly towards the provision of additional resources and equipment for our students. Tickets and further details are available via:
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DRUD

Curricular and Enrichment Activities

Extra curricular clubs
Students have enjoyed an extracurricular fair yesterday showcasing all the clubs and societies we host at CCHSG. Students should sign up for all clubs via their Edulink One app. Please note that students can only sign up for clubs that have been allocated to their year group.

Reimagine Competition
The reimagine competition is nationwide animation competition, aimed at all ages from Year 7 to Year 13, to create a short animation about climate change!
Any students interested in learning more about the competition, are invited to come to G2 at lunchtime on Friday 20 September.

Correspondence Sent out this Week
Year 12 Law Consent
Virtual Year 7 Parent Tutor Consultation Evening
Year 8 Information Evening
Year 9 Information Evening
Devised Technical Rehearsal, Technical Assistant
Year 11 Devised Technical Rehearsal
Y10 Careers visit to Colchester Zoo

Word of the Week for w/c 16 September
Word of the week is: **Eclectic** *meaning* selecting what seems best of various styles or ideas.

MENSA Brainteasers
Which word goes after all the following words?
SLOW HEART SIDE SUN WIND

Answer to last week's Brainteaser
Opportunity

Wellbeing Information
If a student feels they need wellbeing support, they should contact any member of the pastoral team or any of the following:

EWMHS: 0800 953 0222
Young Minds: https://www.youngminds.org.uk/
Kooth: https://www.kooth.com/
Sexual abuse or harassment can also be reported to neveracceptable@cchsg.com or see the anonymous reporting link on the front of the Bulletin.
Childline: 0800 1111 NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
The School Nurse and School Counsellor are available for student appointments.

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Careers/Progression Information
Careers Lead – Miss Clark

Students can book an appointment with our impartial careers advisor Ms Poyser via this link: https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CCHSGCareersAppointment@cchsg.com/bookings/ . Students will be emailed with confirmation of their appointment time and date.

All Year Groups
Take the Quiz on Unifrog to explore careers and subjects related to your interests! Quiz Profile - Student - Unifrog
Remember to record any activities you have done and skills you have demonstrated throughout the year on Unifrog to help with future applications: Activities - Student - Unifrog Skills - Student - Unifrog

Years 9-13

Virtual work experience courses are available on Unifrog: Courses - Student - Unifrog
Examples of virtual work experience: The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Get Into Teaching, NHS, BBC, Mechanical Engineering.
Examples of courses: Catching a Criminal: Forensics and Language, The Psychology Behind Memory, How to Change Law in the UK, Proof in Mathematics.

Join Unifrog for the following webinars next week: Webinars - Student - Unifrog

Virtual Work Experience with the Institution of Mechanical Engineering
Date: Monday 16 September 16:30
Time: 45 minutes

Explore the mysteries of our universe through the study of physics, quantum science and artificial intelligence
Date: Tuesday 17 September 16:30
Time: 45 minutes

Becoming a doctor
Date: Wednesday 18 September 16:30
Time: 45 minutes

Interactive law taster: "Is Melissa guilty of murder?"
Date: Tuesday 19 September 16:30
Time: 45 minutes

E Safety
Lead - Mr Nachman

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about MyLOL
Teenagers' blossoming interest in romantic relationships and their devotion to online networking is a potent combination – and, regrettably, not always a safe one. It raises all kind of worries about the possibility of sharing intimate images or deeply personal information; and that's simply with contacts their own age – to say nothing of the chance of connecting with an older stranger.

MyLOL – a site which specifically facilitates interaction between 13 to 19-year-olds – has amassed around a million users worldwide, but sadly its safeguarding protocols can't match that level of success. The ease with which an adult could pose as a teen under a bogus birthdate makes grooming a realistic threat – and that's far from the platform's only risk, as the attached guide explains.

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Dining Room Arrangements

Breakfast: Served between 08.00 – 08.35, accessed via the Dining Hall Extension Doors outside the servery.

Breaktime: Years 7 – 11 Break service in Dining Hall.

Lunchtime: Hot food in the Dining Hall at allocated time for each Year Group, cold food and pre-ordered paninis and sandwiches available from the Snack Shack 12.35 – 13.00. Years 12 & 13 pre-ordered food in Sixth Form Refectory from 12.15.

Packed lunches
The school hall is available for packed lunches next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday 19 September students should eat their packed lunch in their tutor base and vacate classrooms by 13.00, leaving the area clean and tidy.

We strongly suggest students pre-order sandwiches and salad pots to avoid lengthy queues. Pre-orders must be made by 08.30 via the Civica Eats APP.

- **Please ensure that that the Civica Eats APP is up to date.**
- **Please ensure that ParentPay meal accounts are in credit.**

Students to Dining Hall for Lunch:

Week A		**Week B**	
12.35	Y13, 12, 11	12.35	Y13, 12, 11
12.50	Y8 & 7	12.50	Y9 & 10
13.00	Y9 & 10	13.00	Y7 & Y8

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Beef in Black Bean Sauce & Rice	Lasagne & Salad	Pizza Chips & Beans	Chicken Korma & Rice	Fish Finger Roll & Salad
Vegetable Pasta & Salad	Vegetable Chilli & Rice (Vegan)	Macaroni Cheese & Peas	Cheesy Stack Wrap & Salad	Halloumi Burger & Salad
Sticky Toffee Pudding	Apple Crumble & Custard	Pavlova	Rice Pudding & Jam	Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce
Panini £3.30				
Soup of the Day (changes daily) £1.30 with Homemade Bread £0.40				
Soup Carrot & Coriander (Vegan)	Soup Leek & Potato (Vegan)	Soup Vegetable (Vegan)	Soup Tomato & Basil	Soup Butternut Squash & Sweet Potato (Vegan)

Please let a member of the catering team know of any allergies. Full allergen information is available upon request.

PTFA
Registered Charity No. 1110464

Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary

- PTFA Annual General Meeting followed by Ordinary PTFA Meeting: Wednesday 18 September
- Year 7 Welcome Party: Friday 18 October
- Nearly New Uniform: Saturday 23 November
- Christmas Market 2024: Saturday 30 November

1. PTFA Annual General Meeting followed by Ordinary PTFA Meeting: Wednesday 18 September 19.30

The PTFA AGM will take place on Wednesday 18 September in room G25 at 19.30. The AGM will run for approximately 30 minutes, and this will be followed by the first ordinary meeting of the new academic year.

2. Year 7 Welcome Party: Friday 18 October

The PTFA is pleased to announce that this year's New Year 7 Welcome Party will be taking place on Friday 18 October from 19.00-21.00. Doors will open from 18.30 onwards.

This social event is a valuable opportunity for parents/carers to get to know other parents/carers from their child's Form and Year Group, and for students to socialise and make some new friends. Students will be entertained with a disco and provided with snacks and drinks during the evening. Year 7 Form Tutors will also be attending this event. Students are free to wear casual, comfortable clothing and shoes. Please note that there is no provision for students to stay in school after 4pm before this event.

The parent/carer event will take place separately, in the dining hall. There will be a licenced bar and hot drinks available to purchase. Complimentary canapes will be served whilst Year 7 parents/carers mingle with other parents from the Year Group. A Raffle Draw, in support of the PTFA, will also be held at this event.

Tickets are available to purchase at £12.50 per child only via www.classlist.com (to cover the costs of the event). Tickets must be purchased by 23.59 on Friday 11 October 2024. We regret that due to catering deadlines, we will not be able to extend the ticket purchase deadline. If a parent/carer has twins, two tickets will need to be purchased for the event. Tickets are not required for parents/carers (limited to 2 attendees) but we do need the names of all attendees, so parents/carers must ensure that they complete the short questionnaire on the ticket purchase page. If parents/carers are yet to join Classlist, they can do so via www.classlist.com

The PTFA look forward to welcoming all our new Year 7 students and parents to the event.

3. Easyfundrasing Appeal

Since the PTFA joined the easyfundraising scheme, parents and staff have raised over £5.9k for the PTFA by shopping online. Over 7000 brands such as John Lewis, Asos, New Look and more are taking part. If you're thinking of booking a winter holiday this year, travel companies such as Walt Disney World Travel, Tui, Expedia, Booking.com and more are supporting the scheme. To join won't cost any extra as all donation costs are met by the individual brands. 216 of our parents and staff have already joined the scheme. To support CCHSG PTFA through easyfundraising please visit https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colchestercountygirlspta

PTFA CONTACTS:
PTFA Chair: Mrs Anni Cullen
https://www.cchsg.com/parent-carers-hub/cchsg-ptfa/
For all enquires related to the PTFA, please email cchsgptfa@gmail.com

CCHSG PTFA Calendar 2024/2025

PTFA

Autumn Term

PTFA Annual General Meeting followed by Ordinary PTFA Meeting	Wed September 18 19.30 - 21.00
Year 7 Students, Parents/Carers Social Evening (Disco & Refreshments for students, Refreshments & Raffle Draw for parents)	Fri October 18 19.00 - 21.30
PTFA Meeting (Online - link to be published)	Mon November 11 18.30 - 20.00
Nearly New Uniform & Books Sale (Open to all year group)	Sat November 23 10.00 - 12.30
Annual Christmas Market	Sat November 30 12.00 - 15.00
Winter Concert (Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle)	Tues 3 Dec/Wed 4 Dec

Spring Term

PTFA Meeting (Online - link to be published)	Mon January 27 18.30 - 20.00
School Production-The Boyfriend (Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle)	Mon 5 Feb/Tues 6 Feb/Wed 7 Feb
Spring Term Nearly New Uniform & Books Sale (Open to all year groups)	Sat 15 March 10.00 - 12.30
PTFA Meeting (Online - link to be published)	Tues March 25 18.30 - 20.00

Summer Term

Quiz Night Food to be catered, PTFA run Bar & Cafe	Fri April 25 19.00 - 21.30
PTFA Meeting (Online - link to be published)	Mon June 2 18.30 - 20.00
Summer Term Nearly New Uniform Sale (Open to all year groups- subject to stock availability)	Sat 5 July 10.00 - 12.30
School Production (Hot Drinks, Licenced Bar & Raffle)	Wed 16 July

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION 13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was $9.95 (just under £8).

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posting under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert



Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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