



Clacton County High School Weekly News

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[The CCHS Blog](#)

Autumn Term 2021 | Issue 1 | Friday 10th September

Welcome and Welcome Back!!

With the first full week of the academic year completed, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our latest cohort of students into year 7 and a welcome back to all of our other year groups. It is great to see everyone back in school and really excited and ready for the forthcoming year.

Students have returned looking exceptionally smart in their school uniforms and

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for taking note of our expectations. [Full information on uniform](#) is available on our website, but if you have any issues or require any support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's relevant pastoral team via admin@cchs.school; staff are available to help.

From an educational point of view, the year ahead looks promising and we remain optimistic that with home and school working together, our students can all achieve their potential and remain healthy and happy in school.

I wish everyone all the very best for the year 2021-22.



Chris Taylor – Head of School

The Start of a New Chapter

Last Friday saw the official start of the new academic year and the first day at secondary school for our new Year 7 students and first day at Sigma Sixth College for year 12 students. All have adapted well to their new surroundings and to the current arrangements that we have in place. This is our largest new intake group for a number of years with 306 students joining CCHS in Year 7 this academic year. We wish them a happy and successful time during their five years of secondary education at our school.



Head of School, Chris Taylor, greeted our new Year 7 students on their first morning at CCHS



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Outstanding Summer Exam Results

In August, our GCSE and A Level students celebrated after receiving some wonderful results. Top performers at GCSE include **Beth**, who achieved nine GCSEs all at grade 9 as well as a BTEC distinction star; along with **Elizabeth, Jane, Sam Paul** and **Alfie** who gained outstanding personal results by achieving grades 7, 8 or 9 in all of their GCSE's. Chris Taylor, Head of School, was delighted with the all the students' outcomes and said, *"We are immensely proud of all the work and achievements of our students, especially after such a difficult and disrupted year. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure students are all able to progress onto further education and study, and we look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future. I would like to congratulate the students and thank staff through what has been a challenging 18 months.*



At A-Level there were many outstanding individual results with the vast majority of students achieving their first-choice place at university. Amongst the highest achievers were **Daniel** (A* grades in Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry) who has gained a place at University College London to read Maths; **Leticija** (A* grades in English Language, English Literature and Criminology) who has gained a place at Kings College London to read Literature; **Thomas** (A* grade in Maths and A grades in Further Maths and Physics) who has gained a place at the University of Exeter to read Maths; **Rebecca** (A* grade in Drama and A grades in English Literature and Spanish) who will study Musical Theatre at BIMM Institute of Performing Arts; **Thea**

(A* grade in Psychology and A grades in Maths and Chemistry) who has gained a place at the University of Durham to pursue Education Studies; **Katie** (A grades in Maths, Chemistry and Biology) who will be reading medicine at Kings College London; **Georgina** (A grade in Criminology and Distinction* grades in Health & Social Care and Music) who will be taking a gap year. Head of College, Sarah McKarry commented, *"We are delighted for all of our students, they had shown great maturity and resilience throughout their sixth form studies and should all be proud of their achievements. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure students are all able to progress. Many of our students will be going on to university and equally a number have secured some really excellent apprenticeship opportunities both locally and further afield. We look forward to seeing how they progress into the future".*



Executive Headteacher, Neil Gallagher said, *"I am delighted for our students and their families, my congratulations go out to them all. We have seen exceptional achievements across the board; the proportion of students achieving the highest grades is very impressive. This has been down to the incredible efforts made by the students and their teachers; I cannot praise the staff here at CCHS and Sigma Sixth more highly for their commitment and dedication to our students. My congratulations to all of the students and their families and I wish them every success for the future."*

Student Mentors Support our new Year 7 students



Starting secondary school can be very daunting for anyone, so this term we are helping our new Year 7 students settle in with the help of a number of Year 9 students. They have joined our Student Leadership team as mentors and are attached to each tutor group as an extra level of support for the new students, helping with the transition to secondary school and as an additional support for the tutor of their assigned form. Our eight Senior Student Leaders have also been assisting the mentors with helping the Year 7 students navigate around the school and find their classes. The leaders collect each class at the end of their lesson and take them to their next lesson so they can quickly learn where their various lessons throughout the week take place.



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Class Charts Portal - Homework at CCHS

This academic year we are launching a new online portal for students and parents which will include details of the work that is set by teachers for their students to complete at home. The new homework system replaces the Show My Homework/Satchel-One portal which has been in use for a number of years.

The new 'Class Charts' system will be rolled out over the next week, once the system is up and running, students' homework will appear on Class Charts, including any 'Due Date'.

Both parents and students will be able to set-up their personal Class Charts account, using the unique code which will be distributed to each of them.

It is possible for parents to set-up an account for each parent using the same code. Families with more than one child at the school should set-up one Class Chart account and then use the 'Add Pupil' option to add their other children to their account using the code(s) supplied for each child.

To allow easy access to Class Charts, the school website has links to each of the Parent and Student Portals on the respective website menu tabs; **Android** and **iOS** parent and student apps are also available and may be accessed using the links found within the account.

Google Classroom will still be in use and teachers may link the homework to a task set on Google Classroom. Students in Years 8 upwards will be familiar with this method, as it was used extensively during the lockdown closures. Our Year 7 students will receive their school email address, along with instructions on how to log in to their Google account and reset the default password, during their Computer Science lessons.

Year 6 Summer School

During August we organised a fantastic week of activities and introductory lessons for over 250 of our new Year 7 students. Over the course of the week students were able to meet many new friends, learn their way around the school and get to know some of the teachers.



Students took part in a daily PE lesson and had the opportunity to play a number of team games, learn about and use the equipment in our Fitness Suite and tackle a short orienteering course. They attended lessons linked to English, Maths, Science, Music, Spanish, Art, Business Studies, Food Technology, Humanities subjects and learnt the basics of how to perform CPR on someone who has stopped breathing. Students also enjoyed a day out at Colchester Zoo, during one of the hotter weeks of the summer holiday!



The new students were introduced to our PROUD ideals (Perseverance, Responsibility, Opportunity, Unity and Diversity) and their participation and enthusiasm in lessons, throughout the week, were rewarded with PROUD points which have given many of them a great start to the year. In addition, teachers nominated students who had produced outstanding work, helped others and actively contributed to the lesson. Those students who achieved multiple nominations were rewarded during their final assembly at the end of the week. Numerous prizes were awarded including the top five summer school students who each received a Kindle Paperwhite eReader.

Congratulations to all of our summer school students, along with those who collected PROUD points and nominations throughout a fantastic week. The feedback from the students and their parents has been exceptional positive with many highlighting that many of their anxieties of starting a new school had been alleviated. Thank you also to the CCHS staff who so generously gave up some of their holiday time to support the summer school.



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COVID-19 – Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Home Testing

Although all of the legal restrictions have now been lifted, it is still vital that we continue to look after each other to protect everyone within our community. We cannot be complacent and it remains very important that students continue to take their LFD tests on Sunday and Wednesday evenings each week and report the result, via the unique link contained within the 'Test Register' email sent to parents twice weekly, and via www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. This week every student has been issued with an NHS Lateral Flow Testing kit which contains 7 tests – additional kits can be obtained from the school and further kits will be distributed to students accordingly. Parents of students in Year 8 to Year 13 will continue to receive an reminder email on Wednesdays and Sundays – this contains a unique link to report your child's test result on 'Test Register' and it is also vital that you also report the result via the Government Reporting Website. Year 7 parents should start to receive these emails next week, once the new data has been synchronised; in the meantime, please report the result on the Government site.

If a student tests positive after taking a Lateral Flow Test, please report the result and also email the school – please include your child's name and form group. A PCR test should be booked in this instance via the Government website and they should remain at home until the result of the PCR test is known. Please contact the school with the result – an emailed copy of the result should also be sent to admin@cchs.school. If the PCR test is negative, then student can return to school, if not they should isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that symptoms developed or, if they are asymptomatic, from when the positive PCR test result was received.

Support for Parents, Carers, Guardians and Grandparents

Essex Community and Family Learning offer help and support for anyone with caring responsibility for children and young people across Essex. The organisation is part of the county's Adult Community Learning College, who offer adult learning opportunities alongside the support available. Download their support booklet to find out more about how they can help.

Each week Essex Community and Family Learning run a variety of activities to help support adults – next week's activities are listed HERE – 13th to 17th September. Further information and subsequent weeks' activities can be found on the Community and Family Learning website.

CCHS Weekly News & Website

Primarily for our 'new' parents, 'Weekly News' is emailed* out to parents and students at the end of each week – current and previous editions are also available on the school's website. Weekly News contains news, information and changes to the school calendar, along with the achievements of our students – not only in school, but outside as well. If your son or daughter does something, of which they are proud, please let us know. Please email details of your child's personal achievements to – parentnews@cchs.school – this email address can be found at the top of each edition of Weekly News.

In addition, parents will receive a 'Weekly Mailing' every Friday via email*, this containing more general information, links to important letters separated by year groups, additional support information for families and repeated notices.

Our website, www.countyhigh.org.uk is an ideal source of information. There are numerous 'Link Buttons' and current notices on the 'Parent Quick Links' webpage, as shortcuts to the most accessed information. These and more are also available from the 'Parents' tab on the drop-down menu.

***As the majority of communication is sent via email it is imperative that we have up-to-date contact information.**

If you have changed your email address or have not been receiving our Weekly Mailing each week then, please ensure that we have your current email address by emailing the school at admin@cchs.school – please include the name(s) and form(s) of your child/children in the main part of the email.

Term Dates for this Academic Year

Autumn Term 2021

Thurs 23 rd September	Open Evening School closes at 1.15pm
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th October	Half term holiday
Fri 26 th November	Non-pupil day
Fri 17 th December	End of term

Spring Term 2022

Wed 5 th January	Start of term
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th February	Half term holiday
Mon 21 st February	Non-pupil day
Fri 1 st April	End of term

Summer Term 2022

Tues 19 th April	Start of term
Mon 2 nd May	May Day holiday
Mon 30 th May – Fri 3 rd June	Half term holiday
Thurs 21 st July	End of term

[The term dates for the 2021-2022 academic year are also available on the school website, along with the term dates for the 2022-23 academic year.](http://The term dates for the 2021-2022 academic year are also available on the school website, along with the term dates for the 2022-23 academic year)

For detailed information about school events, exam dates and student report schedule please see our Key Dates Calendar.



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