



Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



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[Sigma Sixth](#)

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Season's Greetings from CCHS

As the autumn term draws to a close, the members of our Local Governance Committee, along with the teachers, support and administrative staff at Clacton County High School, would like to wish all of our students and their parents and carers, a very Merry Christmas.

NB. We return to lessons in the New Year on Monday, 8th January at 8.45am prompt.

[Please read the end of term letter from Chris Taylor, Head of School - here.](#)



The Joy of Giving at Christmas - CCHS in the Community

This week we were delighted to be able to spread some seasonal cheer through our annual Christmas present appeal. Each year, CCHS students and their families kindly donate gifts and essential items for the residents of Holly Court operated by Anchor Housing. Now in its thirteenth year, the initiative also helps us all focus on the idea of caring and thinking of others at Christmas. The response to the CCHS Charity Committee appeal has once again been very humbling. We have been overwhelmed by the number of items that have been received, accompanied by generous online donations. Last week's Parental Engagement evening added £191 to the total, whilst Year 7 students have been busy in their art lessons, making and painting over ninety special clay Christmas decorations as an extra-special personalised gift for every resident.



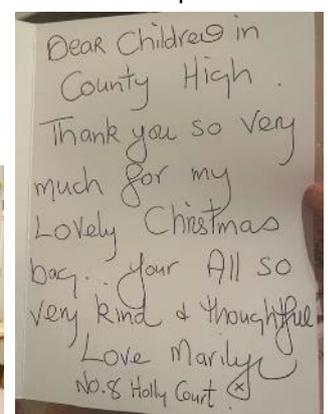
On Monday the special CCHS Christmas tote bags were filled with presents and arranged around the school tree ready for delivery. We were delighted to be able to give each of the residents of Holly Court an early present and they were once again astounded by the kindness and generosity of our students and their families. In addition, our Sigma Sixth students had kindly written Christmas cards for everyone, which were delivered with their presents.



Anchor Housing Manager, Ela Crabtree-Soanes,

was full of praise for everyone involved; *"The generosity and thoughtfulness of the students at Clacton County High School amazes us every year. You make so many people happy at Christmas time. For some of our residents this is the only Christmas present they receive. Thank you all so much."*

Holly Court Appeal coordinator, Media Studies teacher Alex Macleod, said; *"We have had an overwhelming response from our wonderful students and their families. This has been another bumper year, thank you to all our parents, students and staff who contributed to make this wonderful and kind gesture possible. The gratitude from the residents themselves makes the appeal even more relevant."*



Yesterday, we were delighted that we were able to donate the excess presents from the Holly Court appeal, along with other donations, to the Salvation Army food bank in order to help assist local families in need at Christmas time.

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CCHS Parental Engagement - Parents and their Children Working Together

Last week, a number of Year 7 and Year 8 students and their parents enjoyed a fantastic Christmas workshop event, based in our Design and Technology department, and organised by our Parental Engagement team. During the evening there was an opportunity for everyone to enjoy numerous activities including the chance to make their own Christmas decorations, create pop-up Christmas cards and decorate Christmas biscuits. The event also included festive songs from our school choir and band, along with a number of festive games and a Christmas raffle. Many thanks to Mrs Bartlett, who had made special crocheted Christmas decorations to sell. The proceeds from the event, almost £200 including the sale of crochet decorations, were added to the amazing total collected for our annual Holly Court Christmas Appeal.



Many thanks to everyone who attended, we hope that you enjoyed the activities; our gratitude also to our Parental Engagement team and the Design and Technology department for facilitating the workshop.

CCHS Art in the Community @ Christmas



Sigma Sixth students have been busy helping create a special shop window art installation for the Clacton Christmas Art Trail. Year 12 students Angela, Lily and Aradia, worked alongside artist Michelle Bennett, developing their ideas and bringing them to life in the form of a window display as part of the 'Clacton Window Wanderland trail'. The art project, created by the Lemmings Theatre group, consists of twelve multi-coloured illuminated season images which are being revealed daily at dusk in and around Clacton town centre; shop windows are being transformed into a stunning stained-glass art trail throughout the town. The Sigma Sixth installation now features in the 'Little Darlings' Hairdresser's shop window.



A Lovely Fundraising Effort



Year 8 student, Erin has been very busy making special Christmas themed bracelets to raise money for two charities close to her heart at Christmas. Erin has produced over a hundred bracelets and has already raised over £100 from her sales. She is splitting the proceeds equally between two charities - Macmillan Cancer Support and The Stroke Association, in memory of her two grandads who were each supported by one of the charities before they passed. A lovely gesture - Well done Erin!



CCHS Christmas Card Competition



Congratulations to Millie Hipkin – Year 7 (whose card is pictured left) and Sophie Lee – Year 8 (whose card is featured right) for winning this year's CCHS Christmas Card design competition. Both won a £10 Amazon voucher for their fantastic creations. Sophie's design was ultimately chosen to front the official CCHS Christmas Card 2023.

Well done also to the runners-up –Jessica Beck and Evie Grubb (Year 7), along with Zac Russell and Niamh Tracey (Year 8) – whose designs have been used as Christmas 'Thank You' cards, which students from every form have sent to a member of staff who has had a positive impact on their learning this term.



CCHS Racing Team – Testing Event

Our Formula 24 Racing team has grown this year with numerous new drivers and technicians joining the team. As part of an initiative to help develop the team and help the team drivers gain some track experience, the whole team travelled to the Northern Gateway cycling track in Colchester recently. They utilised the smooth tarmac and banked cornered track to practice their driving skills, with the technicians on hand to fine-tune the set-up on each car to help maximise each car's speed and handling.



Thank You and Good Luck to the Staff Leaving CCHS

The governors, staff and students at CCHS would like to say a big thank you for the hard work of all the staff leaving CCHS this year, to wish them every success and good luck in the future.

Erica Watts

Erica joined us as a trainee teacher back in 2006. After qualifying, she has taught science at CCHS, and has been Head of Key Stage 5 Science for a number of years. After seventeen years at CCHS she leaves us to become second-in-charge of Science at the Gilbert School in Colchester. *"I wish the wonderful CCHS community the very best for the future"*.



Kay Myddleton

Over the past three years at CCHS, since joining us in 2020, Kay has taught Art, Photography, Product Design and Textiles, across all year groups, including our sixth form at Sigma Sixth. She now starts a new chapter of her life in Liverpool where she will be teaching Art and Photography at Shevington High School in Wigan.



Charlotte Brinkley

Charlotte arrived at CCHS in 2019 to teach science. More recently, she has also joined the Humanities department teaching geography. Charlotte is now combining her passions in science and geography to become an Urban Planner at Suffolk County Council.



"A huge thank you to Team Science, Team Humanities, and anyone else in the CCHS staff body who helped me along the way. It has been a pleasure to teach at Clacton County High School."

Naomi Wilson

Since joining CCHS in July 2017 as a trainee teacher, Naomi has taught mathematics across all year groups, including Key Stage 5 A-Level maths. In addition, she has mentored numerous trainee teachers and Early Career Teachers. Naomi was appointed Key Stage 4 Mathematics lead in 2021, and became a Lead Practitioner for maths last year. She now leaves us to return to Somerset, where she grew up, to be closer to her family. In January, Naomi will be joining the maths department at Queen's College in Taunton.



"Working at CCHS over the last 7 years has been an incredible experience and one I will never forget. It has been a privilege to work with so many wonderful students and I wish them all the very best for their future. Thank you to all the staff I have worked with over the years - you are all amazing. Finally, a huge thank you to the maths team for being a constant source of support and laughter, I will miss you all beyond words."

Alex Chapman

Alex started working in the CCHS sixth form back in 2015. Over the following eight years, Alex has worked as an attendance officer and then as one of our pastoral managers. She leaves us to work as an Advisor and Job Coach, for the Civil Service, at The Department for Work and Pensions. *"Despite the challenges of the role, I have made some truly amazing friends. And, if I have helped just one student over my years here, then I know I can leave CCHS having made a difference."*



We also say goodbye to Science teacher, Sian James and Assistant Year Manager, Rebecca Johnson.

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