



# Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



[www.countyhigh.org.uk](http://www.countyhigh.org.uk)

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Spring Term 2024 | Issue 21 | Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

[Link to Weekly Notices](#)

## **Non-Pupil Day – Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**

Following next week's half term holiday, there is a Trust wide non-pupil day for staff training on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February. Students return to school for the second half of the spring term on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8.45am.

## **National Apprenticeship Week @ Sigma Sixth**

Our sixth form students were fully immersed in this year's National Apprenticeship Week, examining this alternative route that they could follow once they complete their sixth form studies. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual celebration helped highlight the value, benefit and opportunity that apprenticeships offer. This year's theme "Skills for Life" aimed to encourage everyone to consider how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and employers to develop a workforce with future ready skills.



Special visitors included representatives from BDO (Ipswich), an Accounting, Tax and Business Advisory Services company, along with Kakra Wartemberg, a Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant from East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, who spoke about apprenticeships and career paths in their fields. The students particularly enjoyed handling the medical equipment used in a range of their treatments, the splints they use on babies and the human bone that she brought along with her!



There was also a host of live online sessions that our Sigma Sixth students participated in, including The Big Assembly Live - apprenticeship broadcast, apprenticeship quizzes, and a lunchtime drop-in session for help with finding, applying for, and securing an apprenticeship – a number of these recordings are now available on the [Festival of Apprenticeships YouTube Channel](#), for those students in other year groups who may be considering following a route into apprenticeship. Other useful resources include the 'Success at School's Apprenticeship Guide for parents and carers' which is available via the [Success At School website](#), along with the [National Apprenticeship Week website](#), which is full of information.

## **English Literature Brought to Life**

Year 10 students had the opportunity to experience an exciting performance last week when Quantum Theatre, a theatre company from London, visited the school with their brand-new adaptation of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'; one of the core texts that they are studying for the English Literature exam next summer. It was a little strange to be transported back to Christmas in the middle of February but the students fully embraced the festive feel to the play. The production was faithful to the original story and helped to reinforce our students' knowledge of the plot and key quotations. Student feedback was positive afterwards, with many saying they enjoyed the performance and that it helped them to understand the key themes of the novella.



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## Students Embrace Public Speaking

Last week, over ninety Year 10 students participated in one of three all day Jack Petchey "Speak Out" challenge workshops. The Jack Petchey Foundation funds these public speaking sessions for students across the country because they believe that young people sometimes lack the confidence, skills and opportunities to share their ideas.



The workshops focused on equipping students with the skills and confidence to be better public speakers, as well as attentive listeners. Within the workshops, the Year 10 students shared their personal views and perspectives on topics with their classmates. In doing so, they felt empowered and listened to, as well as increasing their empathy for each other. Four finalists were chosen from each session — well done to Faith Bunce, Teddy Davy, Freya Donaghy, George Feighery, Dominic Jarrett, Kevin Senel, Athena Mandelenis, Jack Moore, Ava Orford, Lucy Pickard, Freja Turner-Butler and Oliver Wicks. They will now take part in our in-school competition school in a few weeks to choose one person, and a reserve, for the Regional Final of this year's Speak Out Challenge, being held at The Gilberd School on 18<sup>th</sup> April. If successful, they will have the chance to perform in the national final in London's West End later this year. Good luck to them all!

## Lucy is Junior Table Tennis Champion

Congratulations to Lucy in Year 10 who recently took part in Colchester Table Tennis Club's tournament. She joined over fifty players in the annual competition, all competing on a level playing field, thanks to the carefully crafted handicap system. Lucy successfully navigated the group stages, finishing in second place, before progressing to the knock-out stage of the competition and eventually made it into the final. She then faced fellow teammate Toby and was ecstatic to triumph over her skilled opponent, to be crowned as the Colchester Table Tennis Junior Singles Champion 2024.



## Key Stage 3 Reading Challenge; Students "Opting-in" to Improve their Reading



**Sparx Reader**

Your students have completed

**1,416 hours**

of careful reading this year in Sparx Reader.  
Great effort!

Your students have read

**152 books**

this year in Sparx Reader. Well done!

This year students in Years 7 and 8 are utilising the Sparx Reader online platform as part of their English homework. Students pick books to read from the recommendations made, according to their reading ability and then off they go; they can access their books on any device, even phones. Sparx tracks what students are reading and how much effort they put into their reading, not the actual number of books they read, and awards Sparx Reader Points (SRP) as they read. After each section, students answer a number of questions to check their comprehension of what they have read and earn more Reader Points. Well done to all those students who are Opting-In and completing their online reading. Year 7 and Year 8 students are expected to earn at least 600 points (equivalent to 60 minutes of reading) and congratulations to all those students who are earning many more! To access the [Sparx Reader Platform click here](#) – students use their school Google account (their school email address and password) to log into this valuable provision. Please could parents help ensure that their child is accessing the Sparx Reader platform throughout each week to help them improve their reading – just reading 20-minutes each day is enough to have a positive impact on educational and personal development. For additional help with the Sparx platforms (Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader) see our [‘Sparx - How to Guide’](#) on the [‘How To Log into our Remote Access Provision’](#) page on the school website.

## Mother's Day Poems Essex Life

As part of a special feature for the 'Essex Life' magazine, some of our Year 7 students recently penned a Mother's Day poem. We are delighted that a number of these have been published in the March edition of the magazine, which goes on sale today. Well done to all those students who spent time writing their special poetic mothers' day messages.



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## **Celebrating Student Success**

### **Attendance Weekly Golden Ticket Awards**

100% Attendance prize draw - one student from each form group wins their form's 'Golden Attendance Ticket', allowing them to skip to the front of the Clouds food servery queue on a day of their choice.

### **Congratulations to.....**



#### **Year 7**

Charley Beaver, Daina Dickson, Dylan Finch, Arthur Francis, Archie Hill, Darcy Jerram, Edie Joshua, Dulcie-Mae Miller, Archie Nash, Darcie Saunders, Ellie-May Taylor and Albert Tom



#### **Year 8**

Archie Anderson, Steven Crofts, Ava Donaghy, Faith Ellington, Isaac Gavrilovic, Aaron Grant, Ava Mae Renaut, Abigail Marriott, Bailey Marsh, Colbie Nicholls, Jessica Reader and Jayden-James Wheeler



#### **Year 9**

Kristian Antonov, Austin Cox, Jackson Kamara, Tara-Leigh Keenan, Alan Kruszewski, Dolcie Lay, Lucie Protheroe, Luke Quilter, Sky Rook, Shaneka Sawyer and Bradley Soames



#### **Year 10**

Joshua Arnold, George Barr, Dulcee Buckley, Jonnie Down, Flynn Eyre, Ethan Heyden, Charlie Low, Ben McNally, Summer Moore, Riley Paine and Mia Slim



#### **Year 11**

Ruby Anderson, Ben Baker, Tia Barton, Chloe Chan, Jack Cherry, Reuben Finn, Carla Hassan, Charlie Hunt, Vinny Lloyd and Charlie Newport

### **Weekly Proud Awards**

The top students in each year group who attained the most PROUD+ points last week and also had 100% attendance (listed alphabetically) – Each year group winner collects the top prize of an amazing £10 Amazon voucher.



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#### **Year 7**

Harrison Andrews, Deborah Femi-Ajayi, Arthur Francis, Elly-Mae Illman, Evan King, Tilly Luton, Henry Miller, Kyle Partridge, Mason Rose and Lillie-May Shirra

**Winner** – Deborah

#### **Year 8**

Callum Cheshire, Caitlin Clarke, Maisey Dearsley, Eva Doherty, Faith Ellington, Mia Jarrett, Kaedyn Stanton, Charlie Will and Brooke Yallop

**Winner** - Caitlin

#### **Year 9**

Hekta Aldridge, Ameera Al-Lamki, Aimee Cowlin, Lucie Protheroe, Precious Smith, Celeste Tchicaya, Princess White and Maia Williams

**Winner** - Princess

#### **Year 10**

Lexie Albert, George Barr, Grace Coles, Hayden Edwards, Charlotte Finch, George McDougall, Daniel Mussenden, Imogen Ridout, Alfie Soames and Freja Turner-Butler

**Winner** – George McDougall

#### **Year 11**

Tiffany Ball, Sam Brooker, Alice Dale, Alexander Gavrilovic, Spencer Jacobs, Jack Keeling, Dillon Morris, Sainte-Marie, Nigel, Henry Welsh, Kingston White and Amy Young

**Winner** – Alex