



# Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



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[Link to Weekly Notices](#)

## End of Academic Year - Extended Issue

### Pearson Teaching Awards 2024

We are exceedingly proud to announce that staff at Clacton County High School have been awarded a record five awards in the Pearson Teaching Awards 2024. These annual awards are nationally recognised and celebrate all those who work within the educational profession who are role-models and an inspiration to the young people they teach and help. The CCHS winners were nominated by their colleagues as part of the recent national 'Thank a Teacher Day', and were presented with their certificates last week.



CCHS staff with their awards

Congratulations to: Kyla Feighery and Quentin Dorléans - **Outstanding New Teacher of the Year**; Rayia Bracey - **Outstanding Teacher of the Year**; Karen Hawthorn and Sandy Tate - **Unsung Hero Awards**.

### District Athletics 2024



Our top athletes recently represented CCHS at the annual District Athletics meet, competing against schools from across Colchester and North East Essex. A fantastic day of competition resulted in numerous outstanding performances and personal achievements for our fifty competitors. The team had numerous personal best performances with two CCHS athletes winning gold and others having to settle with silver – the first came in the Year 8 Boy's 300m with Jack taking the gold in 41.6 seconds, breaking the same CCHS record that he'd already broken at the Coastal Athletics meet a few weeks ago - that record had stood unbroken since 2015 until Jack took to the track this season! The second gold was collected by Sydnie in the Year 9 Girl's High Jump with a leap of 1.5m – breaking the school record that had stood since 2005 by 3cm - Sydnie then bettered her new record by jumping 1.55m at Sports Day this week. The CCHS team also picked up silver medals from Tom in the Year 10/11 Boy's 200m sprint, followed by our Year 8 Boys' team, who rounded off the day with a stunning race in the 4 x 100m relay. Well done to all of the CCHS athletics team! [More photos are available on our Photo Gallery](#)



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## Sigma Sixth - Problem Solving Day



Last week, our sixth formers were given some testing problems and team-working activities to solve as part of a fun challenge carousel. Designed to help stimulate their critical thinking and dexterity, the session posed numerous mental and physical challenges for the teams to overcome – learning from their mistakes as they went along. Year 12 students tackled the challenges, followed by our prospective sixth formers, as part of their Year 11 into Year 12 Induction day at Sigma Sixth. Great fun was had by all and a great deal of learning occurred without the students realising!

## CCHS Annual Sports Awards Evening



This week, our PE department held their annual CCHS Sports Award Evening, hosted by our PE team, to celebrate the achievements of our students who have excelled in extra-curricular activities this school year. Head of School, Chris Taylor, presented awards to students celebrating their exceptional achievement and performance throughout the year. These spanned across numerous sports, from football and rugby through to netball and athletics. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Year 11 Sports Personalities; Josh and Izzy. ‘Team of the Year’ Award went to the Year 7 Boys’ Football Squad. There were also awards for the Sports Winners from each year group, congratulations to Year 7 winners Mia and Vinnie; Year 8 winners Bluebell and George; Year 9 winners Sydnie and Codie; Year 10 winners Kenna-Rose and Vontai.

## Summer Holiday Dates

Uniform try-on day

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July** – 11am to 2pm

**Results Days** **A-Level 15<sup>th</sup> August** - 9am to 12 noon  
Sigma Sixth College – Main Atrium

**GCSE 22<sup>nd</sup> August** - 9am to 12 noon  
CCHS Main Hall

**Year 12 22<sup>nd</sup> August** – Results Day Sigma Sixth Enrolment  
Enrolment Interviews at CCHS

**23<sup>rd</sup> August** – Enrolment Interviews at Sigma Sixth  
(non-CCHS students)

## Next Academic Year – Sept 2024

Term start dates – remember that your son or daughter will be moving up to the next year group in September!

**Year 7** **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – 8.45am in School Sports Hall

**Year 8-11** **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** – 8.45am  
Extended form time on the first day only, to receive timetables and other information

## Next Academic Year – Continued

**Year 12** **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
9.00am – Assembly in the Sigma Sixth Atrium

**Year 13** **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**  
8.50am – Normal Lessons

Additional dates for the autumn term 2024:

**Thu 19<sup>th</sup> September** **School finishes after period 3 (1.15pm)**  
(Main school only - due to our annual Open Evening)

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> October** – **Autumn Half Term Holiday**

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov** **Non-Pupil Days**

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December** **End of Term**

**School finishes after period 2 (11.55)**

The term dates are also available to download from the ‘School Calendar’ section of the school website – [LINK HERE](#)

## **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.

### **Sandy Tate**

*"I joined in 2019 just before Covid as Deputy Head so that was rather a baptism of fire! During my five years at CCHS I have taught Music, which I am completely passionate about and my Deputy Headship role has been focussed around the safety and welfare of our children, looking after those with safeguarding concerns, those who are in care and those who face challenges regarding their mental health. I now start my retirement, although from September, I will be coming back for one day each week, just to ease myself into not working after 37 years of teaching full time - and the fact that I'm not sure I will like life without at least some contact with our young people!*

*I would like to thank my colleagues and friends for their support through my time at CCHS, particularly the senior leadership team, my lovely children that I work with and whom I am going to miss greatly and wish the school the very best in its future journey"*



### **Jade Morgan**

Jade joined CCHS as a trainee teacher in 2017 (as Miss Bowyer), although her first time at CCHS was more than 27 years ago as a student. She left a career in journalism to teach English and decided that it was only natural to come back to the place where it had all begun; she wanted to try to pay forward the work of incredible teachers that had inspired her during my time as a student at CCHS. Jade has taught English Language and Literature to hundreds of students over her 7 years at CCHS and, more recently, has also taught A Level English Language and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) at our Sigma Sixth College. She now leaves us to join the English team at the independent Ipswich High School.

*"It has been an honour to work with truly inspirational colleagues in the wider CCHS family, but particularly within the English department. They are unrelenting in their quest to help our students develop their reading, writing and oracy skills, and beyond this, to help students find joy in the subject. It's the students here though that make CCHS - it's been a privilege to play a small part in their stories. They bring knowledge, determination and wit to the classroom every day and make it a pleasure to work here. With my original form group - 7BOW - now entering Y13, it seemed a natural progression for me to look to move on too, but CCHS will always hold a space in my heart."*



### **Lynne Horsewill**

Lynne has worked at CCHS for nearly thirty years. She started as an admin assistant and has undertaken numerous roles throughout her career at CCHS; for the past thirteen years she has been Executive PA to our Head of School and our Executive Head Teacher.

Lynne now starts her well-deserved retirement.



### **Kerrie-Ann Fitzgerald**

Kerrie joined us as a trainee teacher in 2017 and after gaining her Qualified Teacher status began her teaching career at CCHS in September 2018. Over the past six years she has been a respected member of our humanities team, teaching Religious Education, Geography and History. This year she headed up our Debate Club and successfully organised two year 7 trips to the Gurdwara Sikh temple in London. Kerrie moves to Thomas Lord Audley school in Colchester as a teacher of Religion & Worldviews along with Citizenship.

*"A big thank you to all staff and students. I have loved teaching at CCHS, the students here really do impact us as teachers too, and are the reason we do what we do. Have an amazing summer, make memories and all the best for the future."*



### **Quentin Dorléans**

Quentin arrived at CCHS in September 2021 as a trainee Maths teacher. Over the past three years he has enjoyed getting involved with trips and extra curriculums including the maths competitions between the local schools, the CCHS Duke of Edinburgh programme, which he led this year, and the school's STEM Club and F24 racing car team. He now takes a short sabbatical from teaching to work as a solar designer in Colchester, before moving to Australia in the middle of next year.

*"It's been a blast and I've really enjoyed getting to know all the fantastic and opinionated students, and very grateful for the support my fellow staff have provided me with in my early years."*



### **Sean Bartlett**

After starting his career with us as a trainee teacher back in 2018, Sean returned to CCHS to teach PE in September 2022. Alongside teaching Physical Education at Key Stage 3 and 4, Sean has been our leader of Key Stage 5 Sport. He now moves to the Bloom World Academy in Dubai to continue his career teaching PE.

*"Thank you to all staff, parents and students for your support over the last 2 academic years. I wish everyone the best moving forward"*



## Chloe Wright

Chloe joined our Humanities Faculty last September teaching History, Geography and Religious Education. She now moves to the Gilbert School in Colchester.

*"Thank you to all staff and students for the past year!"*



## Amelia Peck

Amelia has taught History and Religious Education at CCHS for the past year and now departs to pursue a PhD with the view of becoming a Doctor of History/Politics. She will be researching the links and cultures in the transnational solidarity movement with Latin America during the 1960s and 1970s and the solidarity movement for Palestine 1923-24.



## Hannah Tipper

Hannah has taught Science at CCHS since last October and is now emigrating to Australia where she will be teaching science alongside a pastoral role, helping with Forces' families, utilising her experiences whilst she was in the army.

*"The students at CCHS have really made my time here very worthwhile, I have been proud to call them my students and know they have very bright futures."*



We also say goodbye to Drama and Criminology teacher, **Anna Wade** who leaves us after 22 years at CCHS; Assistant Director of Learning for Humanities, **Liz Harmer**; Textiles teacher, **Anita Mussett**, who leaves us after 15 years; Inclusion support teacher, **Sam Hunt**, who is returning to CCHS in September as a trainee teacher; PE Graduate Teaching Assistant, **Hailie Fenech**, who is also transitioning into teacher training; **Korben Symmonds**, another Graduate Teaching Assistant who is transitioning into teacher training; Reset supervisor, **Joanne Harris-Beck**, who is moving to Market Fields school; **Wendy Gras-Avis**, another member of support staff who is transitioning into teacher training and Receptionist and form Pastoral Leader, **Vicky-Silk Green**.



## Discovering History at the Castle



Our Year 7 historians had the opportunity to visit Colchester Castle last week for a special action-packed day learning about the history of the castle and how the Roman people lived. Over sixty students took part in various activities throughout the day, including a challenge to construct a model Roman 'Roundhouse'.



## The CCHS F24 Racing Team at Silverstone

This week our racing team enjoyed a well-deserved reward for engaging in our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities throughout this academic year. The group spent a great day at the Silverstone Race Circuit, the legendary home of the British Grand Prix and MotoGP events. The team enjoyed a track experience and a special racing workshop, as well as the opportunity to visit the Silverstone Museum, which tells the compelling story about the history and heritage of the Silverstone Circuit and British Racing. During the day the team had a chance to actually race around the Silverstone Circuit, except it was the Scalextric scale model of the track with Scalextric cars!



## Sports Days – July 2024

Students from across the school have once again enjoyed our traditional sports days, which are always highly competitive. The Year 7 and 8 sports day, last week, saw both year groups fully participating in various sporting competitions before taking to the athletics track and competing in the field events.



Well done to 7x5 (Mrs Rubio-Weston) and 8y4 (Miss McCrossan) who won the rounders tournament; 7x1 (Miss Allen) and 7y6 (Miss Goldsmith), 8x1 (Mr Bartlett) and 8y1 (Mr Wynn-Jones) for finishing top in the football; 7x2 (Miss Bailey) and 8y1 (Mr Wynn-Jones) for winning the swimming Gala; plus 7y5 (Miss Cox) and 8x6 (Mr Henderson) for coming top in the mini-Olympics competition. In the afternoon, both year groups watched the conclusion of the athletics competition with the track finals with some fantastic competitive races to watch.



The Year 9 and 10 sports day this week, followed a similar format with 9y3 (Mr Stacey) and 10x2 (Mr Raza) winning their respective rounders tournaments and 9x5 (Mrs Pickard) and 10x5 (Mrs Tucker) finishing top in the football. Well done to our Sports Day winners for 2024 – 7x3 (Miss Feighery), 8x3 (Mr Clark), 9x6 (Mrs Everett) and 10y2 (Mrs Matthews).

## Sparx Reader – Celebrating the Joy of Reading

Our Sparx Reader is our reading platform for Year 7 and Year 8 students and tracks what they are reading. It also monitors how much effort they put into their reading, rewarding them with Sparx Reader Points (SRP) as they read. Students have then been adding additional Reader points



to their totals by correctly answering questions to check their comprehension of what they have read. Throughout this launch year, Year 7 and Year 8 students were tasked to earn at least 600 points (equivalent to 60 minutes of reading) each fortnight, and numerous students have been gaining many more points than this minimum.

This year our students have clocked up some impressive reading statistics - 1,984 hours of careful reading completed, across 265 books, totalling an impressive 11,083,054 words read by our students.

Congratulations to our overall winning English groups this year Miss Harvey's 7x/En1 (pictured above) and Mrs Welham's 8y/En2 where they received a certificate and treat! In September, the competition restarts and increases with our Year 7 students continuing with their weekly reading via Sparx, when they are in Year 8, along with our new Year 7 students, joining us in September.

## Start of Summer Holiday on Hold

The start of the Summer break is on hold for Mr Henderson, Key Sage 3 Physical Education Lead, who is taking on a massive challenge next week. He is attempting the 'Goggins 4x4x48' Challenge, named after David Goggins - a retired United States Navy SEAL who is now a ultramarathon runner, ultra-distance cyclist and triathlete. Mr Henderson will be running 4 miles, every 4 hours, for 48 hours - starting at 6pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, then again at 10pm, 2am, 6am and so on, until the final run at 2pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July - this all equates to a total of 48 miles across 12 runs, in 48 hours. He is also considering adding a 13<sup>th</sup> run at the end - just for luck - to tip the total distance to equate to the distance of two marathons. Mr Henderson is raising money for Pancreatic Cancer UK and welcomes any donations to his challenge attempt – [Please help add to the fundraising total here](#)



## 'Billy Elliot – The Musical' – The CCHS Summer Production 2024



After weeks of rehearsals, set building and costume production, the 2024 CCHS musical took to the school stage last week for four outstanding performances. The combined efforts of our music, dance and drama departments once again produced another fantastic production.



The whole cast produced an outstanding show with stand-out performances from a number of students, including talented Year 10 Seth Garner who took on the demanding role of Billy Elliot, having never danced before! A special mention must go to fantastic performances by Joss-Paul Miller (Year 11), who played Billy's older-brother Tony Elliot; Rocco McIntyre (Year 12) – Billy's father; Eloise Carter – Billy's Nan (Year 11); and Ocean Tao-Mansell (Year 12) – Billy's Dance teacher.



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Anna Wade, one of our Drama team was kind enough put pen-to-paper with her thoughts on the show.....

***"I am just there. Flyin' like a bird. Like electricity, yeah like electricity" - Billy***

*What a glorious show with a wonderful cast. County High's production of Billy Elliot was presented to sold out audiences who, quite rightly, stood to their feet as the curtain closed. Everyone who worked on this show should be proud of what they contributed and achieved. With a cast of over sixty, the inventive staging allowed them all room to "shine". The set, the costumes and the wonderful lighting, especially on the final number created the atmosphere and the cultural divide between the miners and the authorities that demolished the culture and livelihoods of this community in the Eighties.*

*A story of grief and loss, the cast combined moments of joy and exuberance in numbers like "Express Yourself" with the sadness of the grieving family in songs like "The Letter". This ambitious project showcased the talent of so many of the County High kids, who never cease to amaze: from Seth Garner learning to dance, to Tom Isles growing in confidence in his first lead role. It seems so wrong to single any individual out, in a production that was so much about a warm, hard-working, friendly group of people. As always thanks need to go to so many of the staff that support these shows and make the musical at CCHS such a special occasion and it seems unfair to name one. However, without Andy Parsons, Steve Thomas and Nathan Peck, who give up their time and volunteered to make the technical aspects come together, it would not be the same. If you participated or attended as an audience, thank you, as without you this would not be possible.*

*Anna Wade (who had the privilege of watching and not working on it this year!)*

Anna now leaves CCHS to become Head of Drama at the New Hall School in Chelmsford in September. The CCHS Drama team would like to thank her for all her support over the last 22 years. The cast and production team wish her the best of luck.



[The 'Billy Elliot – The Musical' production photos are available on our photo webpage](#)

Chris Taylor, Head of School, added his congratulations, "Yet again our incredibly talented students have pulled off an incredible production and done themselves and their community proud. Huge congratulations and I look forward to next year's rendition of the annual CCHS musical extravaganza, whatever that may be, watch this space!"

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