



# Clacton County High School Weekly News

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[The CCHS Blog](#)

Spring Term 2022 | Issue 16 | Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January

## **School Building Expansion Update**

Just before the end of the year Morgan Sindall, our building contractors, handed over the keys to our new sports hall and teaching block. After the 'ground was broken', at the end of April last year, it has taken just under seven months for the buildings to be completed. Over the coming weeks the finishing touches will be added including the necessary IT equipment, white boards and video projectors in the teaching rooms, with the hope that we can 'move in' around the February half-term.

The new entrance gates at the rear of the school are already in use at the start and end of the day, as well as our new bike racks for students who cycle to school; we now have bike storage facilities at the front and rear of the school allowing the main school site to be a 'bike free zone'.



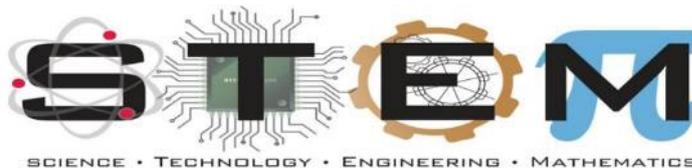
A number of students have already had the opportunity to see inside the new sports hall, which is virtually twice the size of our existing gym, with PE classes already using the fantastic new facilities. The new building not only provides us with an additional six classrooms and sports area, but during exam periods it will now allow whole year groups to sit public examinations in one location, instead of being split between the school hall and the gym, it has created a dedicated exam area in school.

## **STEM Crest Awards**

Just before the summer holidays last year, a selected group of Year 9 students spent the day as junior engineers; planning, designing, building and testing their own model plane. An engineer from our STEM partner, 'The Smallpeice Trust', connected virtually to lead the special hands-on session to help stimulate students' interest in engineering, along with the other STEM subjects.

The science, technology and maths disciplines are all crucial to engineering and, with a shortage of students following engineering related courses in Higher Education, it is becoming more important to grab the interest of younger students early, to help them focus on these subjects and give them goals to aim for.

Recently the students who participated received a CREST Discovery Award from the British Science Association, for completing a hands-on problem solving and critical thinking activity. The CREST awards inspire young people to become independent and reflective learners through enquiry-based project work putting communication, teamwork and project management skills into action. The awards are well-regarded, high-quality and a tangible recognition of success and enhance applications for university, an apprenticeship or for a job. Well done to them all!



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## CCHS Clubs and Activities – Spring Term

As we move into a new term there is an updated weekly schedule for extra-curricular clubs and activities which are now available for students to participate in after school. Please visit the [Clubs and Activities page on our website](#) for full details of all of our current extra-curricular sessions.

### Sigma Sixth Scholars



Our sixth form provision at Sigma Sixth Tendring, offers our most able students the opportunity to follow a scholars' programme which is designed to raise student aspirations and extend understanding of post-18 options. As part of the programme, seven of our Year 13 students have applied to Oxbridge for 2022 entry; an increase from two last year, and a number of them have already attended interviews.

In addition, many of our Year 12 scholars have applied for 'widening participation programmes' offered by some of the leading universities in the country, including Cambridge, Kings College London, University College London (UCL) and Sheffield University. These programmes are available to high attaining Year 12 students who meet specific criteria. We also continue to raise aspirations of all our Sigma Sixth Year 12 and 13 students by providing regular information on suitable programmes and opportunities, along with support for applications.

All Year 11 students, both CCHS and from other schools, who would like to apply for a place at Sigma Sixth Tendring now need to complete the online application form, [available on the Sigma Sixth website](#) or by just following the QR code link. **Applications to join Sigma Sixth Tendring, close on 31<sup>st</sup> January.**



### The CCHS 'Word of the Week'

In Weekly News every Friday, we are publishing the featured word for the following week, its definition, origins and an example of its use in a sentence. [Click here for details about the CCHS 'Word of the Week' initiative.](#)

Next week's 'Word of the Week' is **Victimise**

**Pronunciation:** VICK-TIM-EYES

**Meaning:** to single someone out for cruel or unjust treatment

**Etymology:** from Latin 'victima', meaning 'sacrificial animal'

**In Use:** 'You shouldn't victimise people who are different to yourself'.

## Interschool Indoor Athletics

As last term drew to a close, our Year 7 and Year 8 athletes were in action against other local secondary schools in their respective year group Indoor Athletic meets.



Our Year 7 team (*above*) travelled to Tendring Technology College whilst the Year 8 team (*below*) were in action the following day at Clacton Coastal Academy.



The teams took part in a number of indoor field events; standing vertical jumps, speed bounce, standing long jump and javelin, along with numerous running and relay races.



Both Year 7 teams, boys and girls were placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall, whilst the Year 8 boys just missed out on winning their competition, with the girls' team finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Well done to all of our athletes and we look forward to the summer term and athletics outside.



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