



Clacton County High School Weekly News

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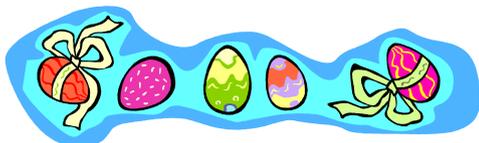
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[The CCHS Blog](#)

Spring Term 2022 | Issue 26 | Friday 1st April

Don't be Fooled – It is the End of Term Happy Easter!

Today signifies the end of the Spring Term with two weeks Easter



holiday to enjoy, before we **return to school for the Summer Term on Tuesday, 19th April at 8.45am.**

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter; try not to eat too many chocolate eggs!

Please Note: There are a number of revision sessions scheduled throughout the holiday for students taking exams this summer. These have been arranged individually between staff and their students and are by invitation only. If you are a parent of a student who has been invited, can we urge you to impress upon them the importance of making the most of this additional support. Remember, staff are prepared to give up their holiday and family time to commit to their students and we hope that the students show their appreciation by attending.

Sports Leaders in Action

Our Sigma Sixth Sports Leaders spent an afternoon at Birch Hall Outward bound centre recently, helping run the district Primary Cross-country running championships.



They were split between marshalling the runners at various points around the course or placing the students at the finish. The weather was not particularly kind but our leaders were full of encouragement, helping motivate the runners around the course and through to the finish line! The event went really well and the sixth form leaders were fantastic. Well done to them all!

Navigation is 'Easier' in the Sunshine!

Our Year 9 DofE students enjoyed the warm spring weather when they took part in their second practice hike last week, for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



The hikers were split into small groups and used their navigation skills to find their way along their pre-planned routes using marked footpaths from the designated start and finish points at Little Bentley and Weeley Village.



The fifty students all completed their hikes without too many mistakes and now start preparing for their final practice hike at the end of April, before their assessment in Thetford Forest before the end of summer term in July.



Sigma Sixth Tending

Clacton County High School's Sixth Form College

The Sixth Form Blog from Sarah McKarry, Head of College

We have had a very busy and eventful spring term at Sigma Sixth. There have been lots of activities and opportunities going on to enhance our students' college experience and there has been a real buzz in the air..... [Click here to read the full Sigma Sixth Tending Blog.](#)



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Mathematic Geniuses

Last week it was the turn of our Year 8 mathematicians to compete in their North Essex Mathematics Olympiad (NEMO). The annual competition series returned to the calendar this academic year with teams from each year group competing in their own contests throughout the year; the final competition of the series, for Year 7 students, will take place next term. Over twenty teams, from numerous schools across the district, gathered at the Philip Morant school in Colchester to challenge their mathematical knowledge.



The teams tackled a variety of stimulating maths questions and puzzles across three rounds, culminating in a team relay race, where each member of the team had to answer a question correctly before the next member of the team could start their question.

Well done to all our talented mathematicians who all worked extremely well and put in an amazing effort; our boys' team -



Sam, Callum and Archie who came 3rd overall, followed by our two girls' teams - Faith, Alexis, Kayleigh, Alyssa, Parinitaa and Sophia, for their magnificent efforts throughout the competition.

Thank You and Good Luck

The governors, staff and students at CCHS would like to say a big thank to James Brown who is leaving CCHS this week. James joined the school in 2018 and has been a key member of our PE team for the past four years. He now leaves us to become Head of Year at Colchester Academy, as well as continuing to teach Physical Education.



"I have enjoyed every moment of my time teaching at CCHS. I will really miss the students and all of the staff, but I am really looking forward to my next step in my teaching career. I wish you all well for the future"

Red Nose Day – Disco Fun



All be it a week later than the official Red Nose Day, our Year 7 students were ecstatic to be able to experience their first school disco last Friday evening – we even had a dancing Dinosaur 'gate-crash' the party!

The evening was the brain-child of our Year 9 Broader Curriculum Community Focus group. They organised the whole evening with the help from their teacher Mrs Barker and Broader Curriculum co-ordinator, Mr Burfoot.



The dancing was interspersed with a number of games, including a variation on 'musical chairs' but standing on an ever-decreasing number of spots on the floor, a Limbo competition and opportunity for small teams of students to create the best toilet paper 'Mummy'.



It was fantastic for them to be able to enjoy themselves ahead of completing their second term at CCHS. Time goes by very quickly at secondary school and it won't be long until they will have completed their first year at secondary school!



The evening was a resounding success and managed to raise £300 for Comic Relief. Many thanks to the students who attended and help raise this fantastic amount, along with the teachers, who gave up their time, to support the event.



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Computer Science Code Cracking

Our Year 10 computer scientists recently spent a day 'Learning on Location' at the home of World War II code breaking. The students enjoyed learning about how code breakers at Bletchley Park used mathematical means to decipher intercepted messages. These were the fundamental building blocks of computer design and the computer science of today's 21st Century electronic devices. Students were able to explore various displays around the site and interact with the digital exhibits centred around code breaking and ciphers.



As part of the trip they learnt about the historical significance of Bletchley Park during the war and about the important role women played in breaking the codes as the vast majority of men were away fighting the war, along with the role code breaking and misinformation played in the D-Day landings and the impact it had on the war.



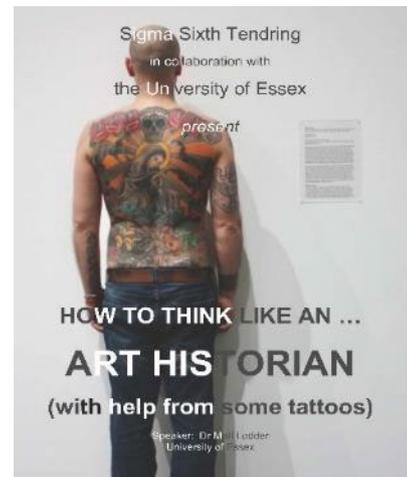
They also attended a special workshop, featuring a fully functional Enigma machine, a device used extensively by the Germans. They learnt how encryption works and discovered how the cipher device encrypted messages. The talk also explained how the Enigma code was eventually broken, thus enabling the allies to decode German messages. A fantastically informative day out, full of fascinating facts and former secrets, enjoyed by all!



Sigma Sixth Lecture Series

Last week saw the second instalment in the Sigma Sixth and University of Essex Lecture Series with the focus on 'How to think like an Art Historian - with the help of a glass of water, a cartoon strip and some tattoos.' Students were introduced to the discipline of Art History and its relevance to how we view images & artefacts in the world around us.

Doctor Matt Lodder, a Senior Lecturer in Art History and Theory, and Director of American Studies at the University of Essex, visited our sixth form college to deliver a challenging and thought provoking lecture about the way we see, interpret and value art. Dr Lodder argued



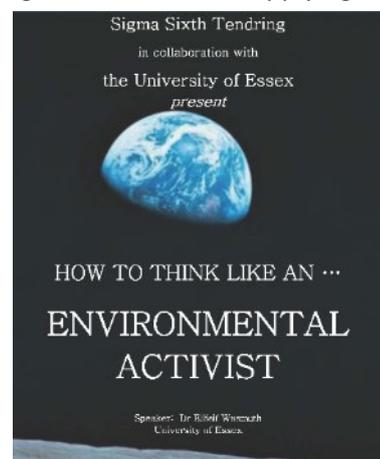
that the category of art could [and should] be applied to all facets of human creativity, including the design of packaging, cars and even tattoos.

The lecture also encouraged students to think about how certain images are designed to construct and manipulate our perspectives, making links to social media and the prevalence of photoshopped images of the 'perfect' face or body.

Our Sigma Scholars also attended a bespoke seminar introducing key ideas in Art History, specifically the idea of viewer perspective and its links to image composition. Students engaged well with some challenging ideas drawn directly from undergraduate level course content.

Dr Lodder was impressed with Sigma students' ability to respond to and ask questions, and took the time to speak individually to students and staff. He offered ongoing support to the college in areas of interest including A level Art, Photography and Design, and advice on applying to degree programmes such as Liberal Arts and American Studies.

The lecture series continues after the Easter break with: 'How to think like an... Environmental Activist' in April, and the final in the series 'How to think like a... Human Rights Advocate', scheduled for June.



If you would like any more information on the enrichment activities available at Sigma Sixth, and how we work to prepare students to become thoughtful, insightful members of their community and the wider world, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team.



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