

# Chelmsford County High School for Girls

## Alumnae Newsletter



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We hope you enjoy this Newsletter!

Winter 2020

Issue 5



## Headteacher's Welcome

### Undaunted

For all of the current vernacular and behaviours: new normal, Covid-safe, year group bubbles, one-way systems, etc, it has been the usual and expected which have shone through for me this term. I can best illustrate this by describing the experiences of our most junior and senior students.

We were privileged to welcome 180 amazing Year 7 students in September. They brought with them a tide of enthusiasm, energy and optimism. Their presence and impact has been a real tonic for everyone. They have settled in so wonderfully well, in their year group zone of the School. I have the pleasure of teaching Philosophy to two Year 7 classes and what an example they are – full of confidence, curiosity and capability. Our Year 7 students have had the run of the astro at lunchtimes. They have taken walks with classmates, played games, sat and chatted, and feasted on their lunches. Whilst on duty, my abiding memory is hearing their laughter and seeing their developing friendships. It is heartening to know that these bonds will grow and be cemented through the years, both within and beyond the School.

Students in the senior years, who are studying their GCSE and A Level courses, have been an absolute inspiration to us all. Their commitment to their studies, the focus on their ambitions and the care shown to one another are extraordinary. Let the cynics, the gloomsters and the critics, who too often peddle negativity about young people, particularly teenagers, hang their heads in shame – to witness these remarkable young women persevere, prosper and thrive, with all the challenging circumstances they are facing, is fulsome testament to the power of the human spirit.

This speaks to the broader picture of our School this term. Students across all year groups have adapted and remained focused on the vital features which animate our School: developing friendships, community support and academic ambitions.



*Students during the first week back in school this academic year - adapting well to new routines in school.*

The School staff, teaching and support colleagues, have been magnificent this term. Their industry, professionalism and commitment, to each other and our students, has been true and unwavering. People who come to work at CCHS often declare what a special place it is. I am one of them, as I work through my tenth year here.

I thank our parents, governors and alumnae for all the feedback support and encouragement that you have provided to us this term, particularly in relation to our change@cchs work. Our School is fuelled and enriched with all that these key stakeholders share with us.

We now prepare to turn our faces to the warmer winds of the Spring and Summer Terms, when we will experience the wonders of a School Production (it will be different, but it will be), a Dance Show (again, different, but it will be), a Spring Concert and so many other joyous occasions and traditions.

We will, together, move forward, undaunted, relishing all the strengths of our School community and embracing the opportunities that arise when gifted students, talented staff, encouraging parents, supportive governors and an engaged alumnae work in common cause.

I wish you Season's Greetings and a very Happy New Year!



*Students during the first week of the Autumn term, enjoying time with their classmates and year group bubbles.*



# Speech Day 2020

2020's Speech Day was one of the first school events to fall victim to the onslaught of Covid 19; the planned celebrations in the Cathedral in March were cancelled even before the sudden decision to close schools from the 20<sup>th</sup> March. At the time of writing it has not yet been possible to envisage when we may invite the leavers of 2019 back to school to congratulate them on their achievements in person.

Initial plans to run a replacement event in the summer or autumn of 2020 having been scuppered by the continuing pandemic, we would like to take the opportunity in this newsletter to congratulate all those who left CCHS in 2019 on everything they achieved, both in their examinations that summer and throughout the two or seven years they were in the school before then. The A level results of 2019 were the best CCHS had seen for many years and a real testimony to the commitment and hard work of the students, as well as of their parents and their teachers. The school is proud of them all.

CCHS is fortunate that so many former students, parents and staff of the school have been kind enough over the years to donate trophies and money to reward the achievements of future generations of students. From Kate Luckin-Smith, who as Kate Driver was the first pupil on roll in 1907 to those whose association with the school has been more recent, we are grateful to them all.

We particularly note this year the donation of a new prize by Mrs Nicole Chapman, Headteacher from 2007 to 2019. This will be awarded each year to a student who has combined academic excellence with an outstanding contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school.



*The Chapman Prize, donated by Mrs Chapman in 2020.*

*Below, Mrs Chapman greeting guests at her farewell event in school on 1st July 2019.*



**CCHS 1986. First pupil on School Roll in 1907 visits the school. Mrs Luckin-Smith nee Kate Driver, with Miss Brooks**



**CCHS Oct 1986. First pupil on School Roll in 1907 visits the school. Mrs Luckin-Smith nee Kate Driver, now aged 94, at a pupil's desk**



# From the archives – photos from earlier days

Overleaf we have written about our Music, Dance and Drama events (2020) and we thought you might like to see some of our archived pictures, from earlier days, that fall within this theme.



CHS Senior Choir 1956



CHS Junior Choir 1956



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, MAY 1957  
Music & Singing, Forms II, V & VI



CHS: School Choral 1946-7  
1 of 2 photos



SCHOOL CHORAL 1946-7  
CHS: School Choral 1946-7  
2 of 2 photos



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, MAY 1957  
Music & Singing, Forms II, V & VI



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
'The Stolen Prince' by Forms I



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
'The Stolen Prince' by Forms I



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
'The Stolen Prince' by Forms I



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
'Saucy Sid' by Forms I



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
Audience for 'Saucy Sid' by Forms I



CHS 50th BIRTHDAY, 6th May 1957  
'Saucy Sid' by Forms I



CHS 1941  
16th Term Play, 'Ave Through the Looking Glass'  
most in school program



CHS 1971. Madrigal Group's visit to Portugal  
15th-29th July.



CHS 1986  
School Production 'As You Like It'  
Director: Alicia Barbaud



CHS 1911. Rehearsals for Historical Tableaux  
presented by the school on 22-6-1911.  
Coronation Day of George V and Queen Mary.  
Presentation given in the Recreation Ground at Chelmsford.



CHS 1911. Rehearsals for Historical Tableaux  
presented by the school on 22-6-1911.  
Coronation Day of George V and Queen Mary.  
Presentation given in the Recreation Ground at Chelmsford.



# Music, Drama and Dance this Year

At the time of writing the school's extra-curricular life is being adversely affected by the impact of Covid 19 and staff and students are having to think of new and interesting ways of practising and presenting Music, Dance and Drama. However we were fortunate that the pandemic came sufficiently late in last academic year that we are able to report on almost a full year of school performances.

Music in school was the most affected by our physical closure in March, with neither the Spring Concert nor the Summer Cabaret Concert able to take place. However the Christmas Concert at the end of the autumn term of 2019 was another excellent example of the talents of CCHS students and of the work of our Music Department, with a series of ensemble performances that were much appreciated by the sell-out audience.



*Rehearsals in full swing for the Christmas Concert in December 2019.*



This year's school production was *Antigone* - a challenge for any school - but one to which our cast, ably led by Mr Adam Selby (in his first production at CCHS) rose admirably. Over the last few years CCHS has made a speciality of presenting tragedy - *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Macbeth*, *Antigone*, and cast, crew and audience always value the opportunity to delve into the darker aspects of the human condition.



Our production of *Antigone* saw wonderful performances from the whole cast but particular mention must be made of Samantha who as Creon showed depth beyond her years as well as a phenomenal memory for dialogue; her character is rarely off stage and is always at the centre of the action. Similarly Isabella as Antigone showed immense skill in giving life to the eponymous tragic heroine.



Our thanks to Mr Selby and Mrs Broughton for their hard work in articulating their vision to their cast and crew and for producing such a successful show.

*Images from the dress rehearsal for Antigone*



# Music, Drama and Dance this Year

The school Dance Show continues to inspire and entertain all those fortunate to obtain a ticket.

Our 2020 show, *Ultraviolet* was ably led and inspired by the Year 13 Dance Officials - Isobel, Helena, Charlotte and Charlotte. They led a cast of some 160 dancers in numbers from all genres of dance, all of which were choreographed either by the officials or by Year 10 Dance Prefects.



The CCHS Dance Shows are always a triumph of student initiative and leadership and this year's was no exception. At the time of writing it is not entirely clear what form Covid regulations will allow the 2021 Dance Show to take but it is certain that this year's officials will do well to maintain the high standards set in 2020.

As ever our productions benefitted from the expert technical assistance of Mr Simon French and Mr Mark Rowell. There can be few state schools in the country who can benefit from such expertise and imagination in technical support; the way that an undistinguished school hall is transformed for each performance is a remarkable testimony to their enthusiasm, knowledge and ingenuity.



*Ultraviolet.  
Danceshow  
February 2020.*





CCHS is proud to be a diverse community and a progressive community. Events last summer led the whole school to reflect on how we can and should change so as to ensure that our commitment to equality and diversity is at the forefront of all our work. To this end Mrs Ledwidge, our Deputy Headteacher, is proud to be leading on our exciting new project 'Change@CCHS'.

The Change Project will focus our thoughts as we examine all aspects of the school in our determination to ensure that staff and students are working together to build an even stronger community that celebrates equality and diversity. Thus far committees of both staff and students have been formed and meetings have begun to focus on areas where a need for change has been highlighted. CCHS is proud to be working with Equality and Diversity UK to enable all staff to access high quality training on issues of diversity and the language we use to speak about it.



We have again celebrated Black History Month with a range of initiatives and resolved that we will do more to address Black History in the other eleven months of the year. Key departments have been asked to think hard about the ways in which their syllabi address (or may better address) issues of equality, diversity and the realities of the contemporary world. This consideration will undoubtedly lead to future students studying different texts and topics or to them and their teachers asking different questions about 'traditional' material.

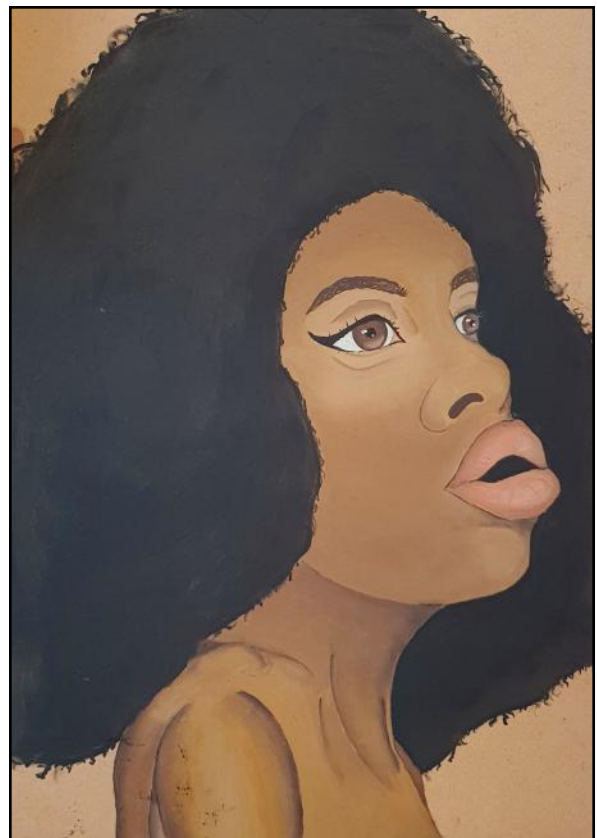
The CCHS community is committed to reflecting thoughtfully and thoroughly about how we can change and develop and we welcome the contributions of our former students to that discussion. If you would like to contribute please do contact [change@cchs.essex.uk](mailto:change@cchs.essex.uk)

*Right and overleaf is some magnificent art work by Year 13 student, Demi.*





# CHANGE @ CCHS



# 2020 Examination Results and Student Successes

Readers will be well aware that 2020 was a summer like no other in terms of examination results. Schools found themselves embroiled in multiple controversies over A level results and the impact of this was taxing for both staff and students.

However when the dust had settled CCHS was right to be proud of the achievements of all its Year 13 students. The 'Centre Assessed Grades' they were awarded were undoubtedly testimony to their hard work on their A level courses and the rigorous work of their teachers and other staff in developing a process to issue fair and well-evidenced grades. Whilst schools are not publishing results statistics for 2020, the grades our students achieved were certainly extremely impressive.

These impressive grades meant that our students were able to take up a huge range of offers at the universities of their choice. We celebrate all their achievements and the diversity of the courses they chose to study. Of particular note is the fact that 19 students were able to take up places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge; both in absolute and percentage terms this is the highest number of such places achieved by CCHS students since 2005 and a credit to both staff and students. We were particularly pleased by the range of courses for which students opted – the school's traditional strengths in Medicine and Languages being well balanced by successes in, for example, Music, Theology and Mathematics.

We have also celebrated other student achievements in the past year, from successes in university essay prizes to sporting and cultural achievements.

## University Essay Prizes:

**Bethan** won the Julia Wood Essay Prize awarded by St Hugh's College, Oxford for her essay on 'Sparing the weak and feeble': was the Black Death the cause of population ageing in medieval England? Interested readers can find her essay [here](#).

**Anna** won joint second prize in the Classics Essay competition run by Newnham College Cambridge. Her essay discussed performance and the appreciation of Greek Tragedy.

**Edith and Lauren** were both 'highly commended' for their entries in the Woolf Essay Prize competition run by Newnham College, Cambridge. Both Edith and Lauren wrote about images of entrapment in the work of female fiction writers of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

**Mary-Beth** was 'highly commended' for her entry to the Philippa Fawcett Mathematics essay competition run by Newnham College, Cambridge. Mary-Beth's essay discussed the myriad connections between Music in the western classical tradition and Mathematics.



# 2020 Examination Results and Student Successes

## Other Student Achievements:

**Preesha** was selected as one of 15 winners in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2020, organised by The Poetry Society. The Society received a staggering 15,966 poems from a record-breaking 118 countries. The judges this year were poets Keith Jarrett and Maura Dooley.

In Preesha's statement to the Society, she stated: *"when I was informed that my poem was in the top 15, I couldn't believe it! It means a lot, as poetry was simply an occasional hobby for me - winning this award has given me more confidence in my skills and it provides countless opportunities for me to improve upon them. I'm really grateful for this and am looking forward to writing more poetry."*

Preesha's poem 'My Grandmother' will be published in a printed winners' anthology in March 2021. Her poem is available to listen to on the Poetry Society's YouTube channel, click [HERE](#).

**Holly** was highly commended for her entry into the Royal Society of Literature creative writing competition.

**Rose** came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition with her entry on 'What we can learn from children'.

**Amy** won the Alan Turing Cryptographic Competition run by Manchester University.

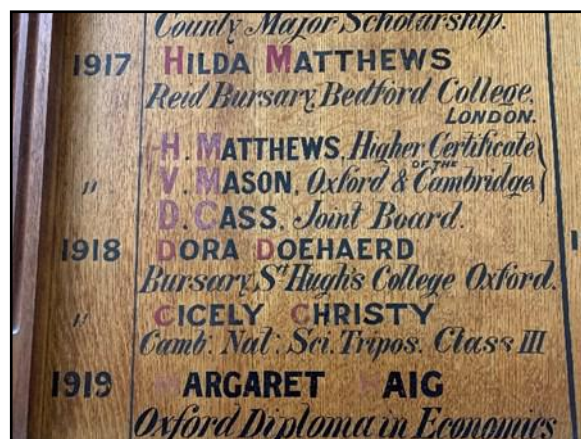


*Biro drawing of the school by Year 14, Jessica.*

# From the archives – C(C)HS & Belgian Refugees

Whilst working in the school archives for an item on CCHS and the First World War which appeared in the 2018 newsletter, your correspondent came across information about a family of Belgian refugees who were welcomed into the CCHS community in 1915 and who remained in touch with Miss Bancroft for years after their enforced sojourn in Chelmsford.

Dora Doehaerd, the eldest of the three sisters who studied at CCHS is recorded on the scholarship board which is still on display in the school – her place at St Hugh's College in Oxford was clearly a considerable success both for her and for the school.



The Doehaerd sisters came to Chelmsford in 1915. Their father, Emile Doehaerd, was a famous cellist and it is recorded that at the opening of the new school Hall (the current Gym) M. Doehaerd 'gave an hour of exquisite pleasure by a cello recital'. It appears that his daughters Dora, Cecile and Marie-Louise were first educated by the nuns at New Hall before transferring to CHS in 1915 and 1916. The family returned to Belgium in the spring of 1919.



Miss Bancroft

Headmistress from 1911 to 1935

The strong relationships they made with CHS are indicated by the frequent references to them in Miss Bancroft's contributions to successive school magazines. For example Miss Bancroft reported Dora's letter to her, describing 'days of tumultuous cheering, mad enthusiasm and overflowing happiness' in Brussels after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in July 1919. Other letters recorded their reminiscences of things such as CHS Christmas parties 'with excited CHS juniors, Father Christmas, the jellies and the cakes'.

It is also recorded that in 1928, on the occasion of the school's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, the Doehaerd sisters gave the school a silver shield inscribed with their names and 'En souvenir de quatre heureuses annees' to be presented for House competitions in 'Instrumental Music, Speech and Song'. At the time of writing the whereabouts of this shield are sadly unknown but we remain hopeful of rediscovering it. If any reader remembers the shield or knows of its whereabouts the school would obviously be very glad to hear from them.



# From the archives – C(C)HS & Belgian Refugees

Another Belgian refugee, Madame Stanislas Thielen of Malines (presumably both these were her married names) also wrote in the 1928 school magazine of her wonderful memories of her time at the school during the war. It appears that she also served for a time on the school staff, perhaps teaching French. She wrote of her gratitude to the people of Chelmsford and its High School, gratitude shared by others who had also joined the school:

'Their houses, their churches, their hospitals their schools, were opened to their stricken neighbours. Toutes les delicatesses, toutes les manifestations du coeur, ils les on eues. And they educated our children; they gave them the benefit of their best schools. The Chelmsford High School, at the instigation of its eminent Headmistress, and by the consent of its Board of Governors, welcomed young girls as pupils, girls whose rosy cheeks told of the healthy and blissful life they led. And it was in joyful and proud accent that they talked of the school successes! It did one good to hear them! They never forgot and never will forget, the happy time they spent at the school, where they not only received the best teaching, but also the most efficient physical training. And it seems that an English education is a real advantage to a Belgian girl when she has a home of her own. For they all are married now, and take great delight in visiting with the children the scenes of their happy girlhood. Is this a sign that our foreign system of education for girls is not complete? I, personally, am always proud to have been connected with the beautifully equipped Chelmsford High School in ever so humble a way.

Further research would no doubt shed more light on the hospitality which the school offered to those forced to flee their homes in time of war. The plight of refugees is still a cause which is important to CCHS and over the past few years a good deal of charity fundraising has gone to causes associated with ameliorating their difficulties. For this reason, if no other, recording the story of the Doehaerds, Madame Thielen and others seemed apposite.



*Hockey team – picture taken in the 1920s*

*Photo of CCHS students in the 1920s*



Back in July 2020 we heard from a Mr Hickinbotham. Here's what he had to say...

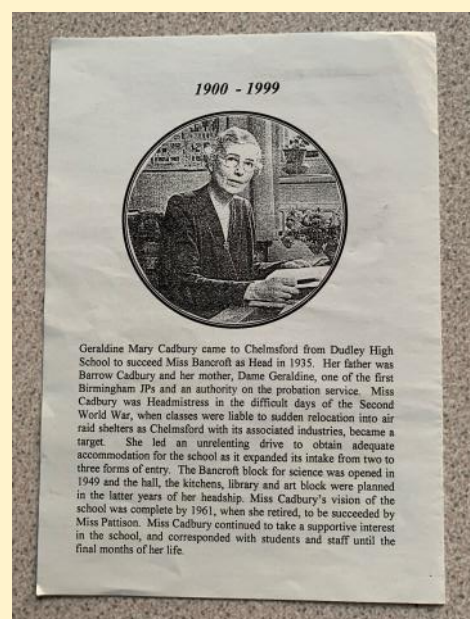
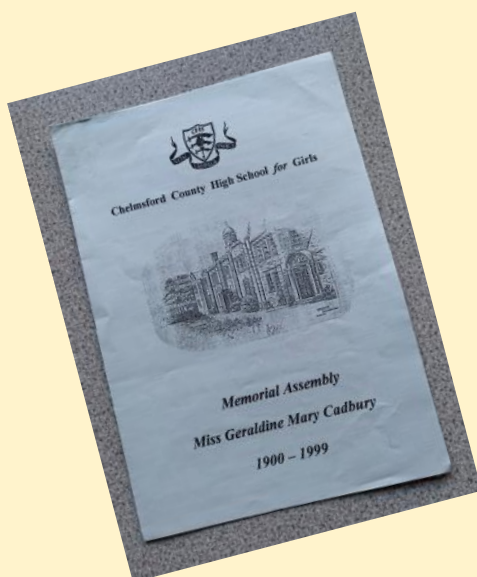
*I am in the process of sorting my mother's possessions following her death a few weeks ago and have come across a school photograph of County High School for Girls, Chelmsford. There is no date on the front of the photograph but the pencilled date on the back is 1961. The reason my mother had this picture was because her aunt, my great aunt, was **Geraldine Cadbury** who was, of course, headmistress of the school. I just wondered if anyone connected with the school would like this picture.*

We followed up on this interesting email and now have the photograph for storage in our archives. We are so grateful to Mr Hickinbotham for thinking of us when he discovered the photograph. Pictured below is Miss Cadbury, third Headmistress of Chelmsford County High School for Girls, from 1936 until 1961.



Also in July we heard from Hannah Brunton (née Dyer) who was a student at CCHS from 1992 until 1999. She had found a box of paperwork that contained CCHS Commemoration, Speech Day and Carol Service programmes which she kindly sent to us.

Interestingly, her paperwork also included the programme for Miss Cadbury's Memorial Assembly, and the front and back cover are pictured below.





## From the archives....

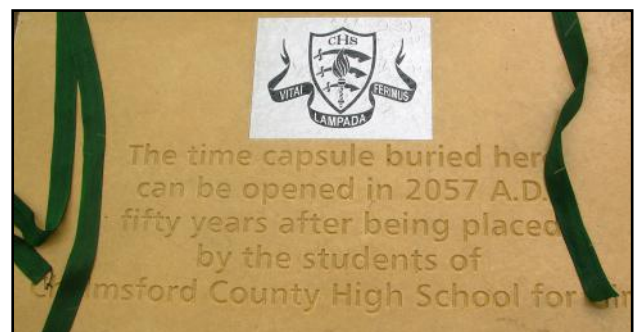
The very important work that has been done to archive photos, memories and school magazines means we have a rich source of interesting historical information and alumnae memories to share with you. Below are some interesting topics for discussion at student societies, taken from an article written in the 1909 Christmas magazine:

*The meetings of the **Scientific Enquiry Society**, begun by teacher Miss Willey, a year ago were reported on. At the beginning only Form V pupils took part, but from Autumn 1909 term Forms IV and Lower V were incorporated. Meetings were held in the school hall every other Thursday usually 4.15-5pm. Scientific questions were sent in a week before the meeting to the Secretary and were posted in Form rooms. Among the questions discussed: 'Why does a kettle sing before it boils?'; 'When a melon is cut why doesn't all the juice run out?'; 'Why doesn't boiling water burn your fingers while water which is not quite boiling does?'*

*The **Debating Society**, whose president was the teacher Miss Boothby, were reported to have been well attended by Forms IV, V and Upper V. Some motions were: 'The sword is mightier than the pen'; 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder'; 'Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise'; 'Home lessons should be abolished'; 'Animals should not be kept in captivity'.*



'The New Building' in 1907.



Time Capsule – buried in 2008; not to be opened until 2057.

## News from Former Students....

We are always keen to hear from former students about what they are up to post-CCHS. Feel free to contact us by emailing [oldgirls@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:oldgirls@cchs.essex.sch.uk) or by posting your news on our Alumnae Facebook group page (CCHS Alumnae).

We received a wonderful email in November from a former student. Here is what she had to say:

*'The photograph below was taken when I was in the Prep-school in the 1930s. The uniform was not changed until Miss Bancroft retired and Miss Cadbury modernised it! In the photograph I am wearing my wellington boots and carrying my outdoor shoes because I had to walk on a footpath to catch the bus whilst navigating a ditch! I changed my boots to my shoes leaving my boots at the end of the footpath until I returned home that evening.*

*Incidentally, I was Betty Hamlett at school. Miss Bancroft wanted me to be known as Sarah Hamlett but my mother insisted that I kept my baby name until I was 18. Then my married name became Warsop.*

*All Good Wishes...*



It was wonderful to welcome former student Cath Possamai back to school in early March. She gave a fascinating careers talk to our students and was able to enlighten them on her own career success since leaving CCHS.

She also met two of her own former teachers from when she was a student here in the 1990s – Mrs Gulliver and Mr Moore!



Cath was interviewed by Alicia and Sophia, our Senior Prefects who have responsibility for Alumnae Relations, and you will find their interview later in the Newsletter.



CCHS Alumnae



@CCHSAalumnae

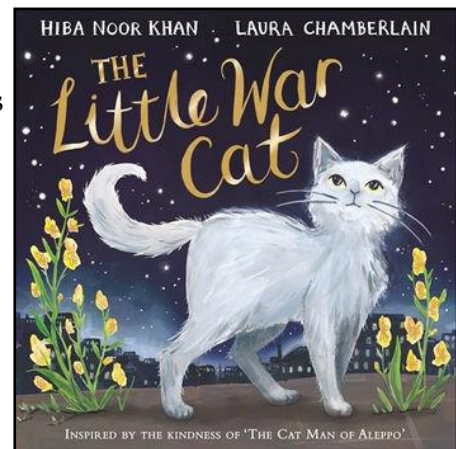


## More News from Former Students....

Some of you may already be aware of this, if you follow us on our Alumnae Twitter and/or Alumnae Facebook pages, but we were really pleased to hear from our former student Hiba Noor Khan in October. She was a student here from 2004 until 2011 and she told us about a book that she has written called *The Little War Cat*. The illustrations in this book are also courtesy of a former student, Laura Chamberlain who left CCHS a few years after Hiba.

The book is inspired by a true story and is described as a 'moving tale of hope amidst conflict'. A synopsis of the book says:

*'The Little War Cat* follows the story of a little grey cat who is caught up in the bangs and crashes of the humans in boots, who have changed the city of Aleppo she knew so well into one that's harder to recognize. She is roaming the streets looking for food and shelter when an unlikely friend appears. He shows her that kindness is still there when you look for it, and soon the little grey cat knows exactly what to do to made a difference herself'.



1961: CCHS staff with Miss Cadbury (Headmistress).

*This photo was probably taken shortly before Miss Cadbury's retirement.*

*It is interesting to note that no male teachers were members of school staff at that time.*

*Please remember to update us on your recent news. Ways to do this are included on the final page of this newsletter.*

# More News from Former Students....

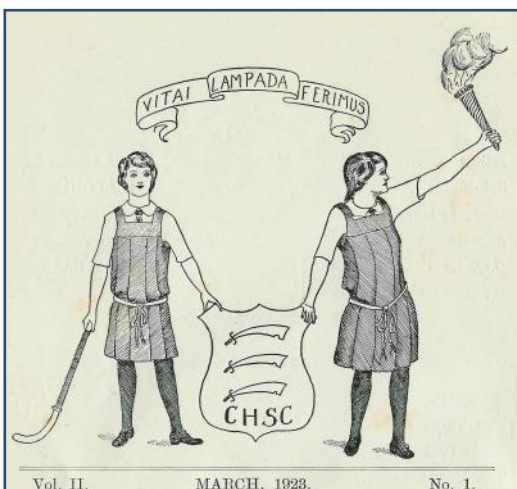
Back in February we heard from the mother of a former student, Emma Jane Graham, who now lives in Stockholm with her family. While she was a student at CCHS in the 1980s she played the cello in the school orchestra throughout her time at this school.

The family were happy to donate the cello, which Emma no longer uses and it has been used in school by pupils who have been very lucky to have use of such a beautiful instrument.

We felt very lucky that Emma's family thought of us when they decided they no longer wished to keep the instrument!



Cantitrici Choir in 2007. This photo featured in the Essex Chronicle that year.



Vol. II. MARCH, 1923. No. 1.

From the archives....

**The Hostel from 1910 to 1935:** (Information from Autumn 1936 magazine on the retirement of Miss A Russell)

*The School served an area far wider than Chelmsford, and parents at a distance wanted to avail themselves of the High School for their daughters' education. For a year or so a few girls were received into the family of Mr Smylie, then on the staff of the Chelmsford Grammar School and who lived in the square house at the corner of Broomfield and Glebe roads. When the Smylie family left Chelmsford on the appointment of Mr Smylie to the Headship of Sudbury Grammar School, it was Miss Russell who took on the responsibility of the **CHS Hostel** and allowed it to begin its existence. Miss Russell's friend and late colleague, Miss Knibbs, who had been in charge of the School Boarding House of Hereford High School, came to undertake the Hostel's management and she and Miss Russell began work together at the Glebe Road house in January 1911. Miss Knibbs on her marriage to Mr Walker relinquished the work in July 1924 when the post was successively filled by Mrs Smith, Mrs Purves and Miss Lainchbury. As numbers of boarders grew, Maltese Lodge was taken in May 1916, and remained the School Hostel until July 1935. When at the death of its owner, Mr Whitmore, the house was sold in 1921, Mrs Price the first Headmistress of the school (née Vernon Harcourt) kindly bought it in order that the continued lease of the house might be possible. Thus for almost 26 years (in 1936) the Hostel had been a most important element in the School life. For many successive generations of girls their long and happy course at Chelmsford High School was through its means made possible. Another benefit was that girls at the Hostel shared a community life more intimate and home-like than that of the wider world of School. Miss Bancroft remembered the familiar faces of those who had shared the life, the work and the play in the rooms and pleasant garden of Maltese Lodge and this company of wives and mothers and responsible workers in many types of posts in England and elsewhere remembered the kindness and help they received from Miss Russell in their Hostel days. The School could count on the Hostel boarders as an especially helpful band, the Hostel hosted pieces of entertainment arranged by its young company, and many a young mistress in her first months of teaching found a pleasant home in the Hostel instead of the sudden solitariness of lodgings. Miss Russell had the gift of serenity even in the busiest times. She would enjoy her years of retirement with her many varied interests and the affectionate regard of many friends and pleasant memories of the High School.*

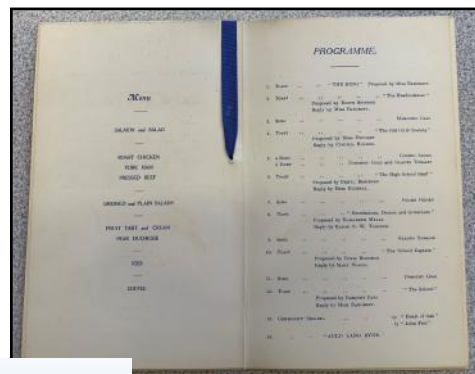
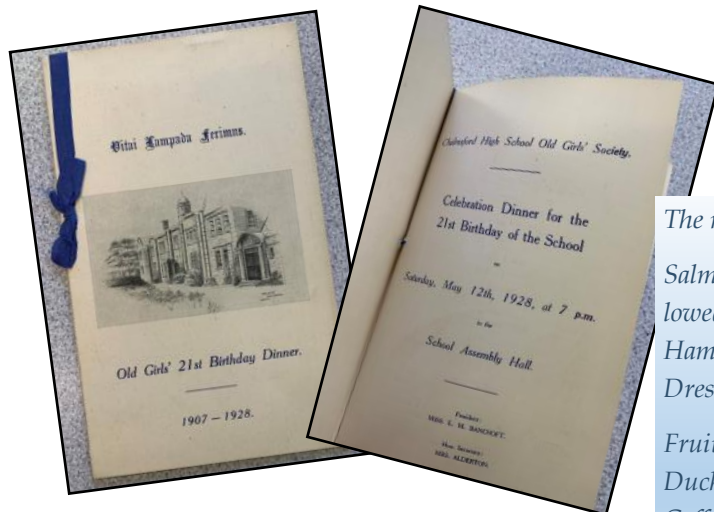
Please remember to update us on your recent news. Ways to do this are included on the final page of this newsletter.



# From the archives – CCHS 21st Birthday Dinner

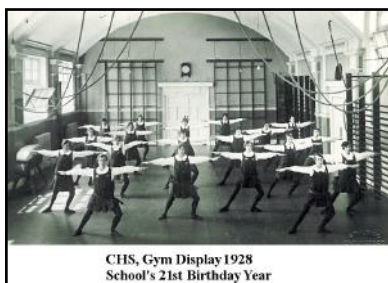
CCHS celebrated its 21st Birthday in 1928 and a dig amongst some of our archived materials unearthed the programme from an Old Girls' Society event that was held in the school Hall to celebrate this special birthday. It took place on Saturday 12th May 1928 at 7.00 p.m.

The programme is shown here, alongside some pictures that were taken in 1928 to celebrate the 21st Birthday year.



The menu included:  
*Salmon & Salad to start followed by Roast Chicken, York Ham or Pressed Beef with Dressed & Plain Salads.  
 Fruit Tart & Cream or Pear Duchesse followed by Ices & Coffee.*

*Contemporary readers might of course question the lack of vegetarian options in the food available at this event!*



CCHS, Gym Display 1928  
 School's 21st Birthday Year



CCHS 1928, Juniors  
 With Miss Peers



CCHS, Gym Display 1928  
 School's 21st Birthday Year

- The programme above lists:**
- Toast 'The King' proposed by Miss Bancroft
  - Toast 'The Headmistress' proposed by Edith Spinner; reply by Miss Bancroft
  - Song – Marjorie Cass
  - Toast 'The Old Girls' Society' proposed by Miss Poulson; reply by Cynthia Holder
  - Song – Connie Auger
  - Duet – Dorothy Cole & Gladys Tomalin
  - Toast 'The High School Staff' proposed by Beryl Robinson; reply by Miss Russell
  - Song – Peggy Green
  - Toast 'Benefactors, Donors & Governors' proposed by Elizabeth Myall; reply Canon O.W. Tancock
  - Song – Gladys Tomalin
  - Toast 'The School Captain' proposed by Doris Blooman; reply by Mary Wood
  - Song – Dorothy Cole
  - Toast 'The School' proposed by Dorothy Cass; reply by Miss Bancroft
  - Community Singing – 'Heart of Oak' and 'John Peel'
  - Community Singing – 'Auld Lang Syne'

# Interview with Mme Gulliver

*Madame Gulliver retired in the Summer after 35 years of service to the school. Sophia and Alicia, our Alumnae Development Prefects interviewed her recently to find out more about her time at CCHS and about her cherished memories. Here is what they found out....*

*When did you start at CCHS, and how has it changed since then?*

I started at CCHS in 1985, and since then the uniform has changed several times, the technology has changed, and there wasn't any technology at all when I arrived, but I think that the fundamental sense of community and fun has remained. The school has never been just about academic work, but encompasses so many other things, both in terms of extra-curricular activities and what our aspirations for our students are, which in my opinion, is far more than just exam results. We want to see our students equipped for the outside world, and if they go out of here ready for it, then we've done our job well, and I think that has always been the case. When I was first employed, I taught French and Drama, and the reason they wanted a Drama teacher, even though it wasn't an examined subject at the time, was because they wanted the students to get out from behind their desks, because even back then, it was important to the school that the students did more than just study. Technology has changed hugely, and I still have my flashcards where I drew little stick men waiting for the bus and dancing at the discotheque because we didn't have the internet to get pictures from. We used to have a Banda machine, which was a rubber roll with ink on it and a handle at the side, and you would write onto a carbon copy piece of paper and put it onto the roll, then turn the handle and it would ink copy onto the pages, and so if you wanted 30 copies for a class, you would have to turn the handle 30 times. Another thing I remember is that all the students used to have lift-up desks, and everyone used to keep their books in there. So overall, technology has changed the most, but what we want for our students has remained the same.



*Since you started here, how has your role changed and evolved with the school?*

When I started, I was a newly qualified teacher, and by the end I was Head of French and Languages Faculty leader. My role first changed when I became responsible for trips abroad and when new technology came in. I was really keen on trying to use computers, and I used to get the classes up to the computer room to write letters and add pictures amongst the words, as this was in the really early days of using Word. I developed explanation sheets for the other members of the department so that they could take their classes in and do it too, and it was the same when we got interactive white boards. For language teachers specifically, these were fantastic, as the idea of moving a word around and replacing words was really quite exciting. I can remember going to a demonstration to show us how to use interactive whiteboards and I sat thinking how amazing this would be for languages, and we started implementing it at CCHS. I then started studying for my MA, and I did lots of projects and research using CCHS and how we could do things differently and improve them, which was really interesting, and I became much more open to taking on various roles all over the school. At one point I was in charge of trying to organise the school calendar, which as we all know is very complicated, and was a fun challenge.



# Interview with Mme Gulliver

*What characterised your time?*

I think it would have to be the Russian lessons, because I brought the Russian language to CCHS. During lockdown, I received a lovely letter from an ex-student who had gone to university and done Russian, and she wrote to thank me, saying how she'd come across the booklet that we had when we went to Russia, and how much it reminded her of her time here. The fact that she went to study it afterwards brought it back to me how important it is to continue offering different language opportunities at school. Many students that I taught over the years have gone to study all kinds of languages, be it French, German or Spanish, but I've often received word from students who studied Russian, and they have gone on to study other languages such as Japanese, Arabic or Serbian. I think introducing languages to students, but particularly Russian, has allowed them to discover a whole plethora of languages that they have then gone on to become interested in or learn.

*If you could tell yourself one thing back when you started, what would it be?*

I think it would be to have more confidence in my own ability, and I think that this is something that our students here could do a lot more as well. Believing in yourself a bit more, and believing that you can do something very well.

*What will you always cherish about CCHS?*

The people and the relationships that were formed with both the staff and the students. There is such a large number of students that I remember and they remember me, which is really lovely to look back on. There are also some really fond memories of taking trips abroad. Specifically, the French exchanges were extremely special, because so many girls have participated in them over the years, and have made friends for life as a result. There was one occasion when we arrived with the group at Lyon airport, and as we were going through passport control, a young lady approached me and said 'Oh, Mrs Gulliver!', and it was actually an ex-student who'd left years ago, and she was coming back to Lyon to visit her exchange partner! I will also cherish the Russian trips, as they were so special, and they impacted students so much. So often students would make comments afterwards that, whether it was seeing the real life of Russian people, or learning so much more about the history and culture, it had really impacted them, and I think that is something really special.



*Mme Gulliver  
(3rd row back,  
second from  
left) in the Staff  
Photo taken in  
2002.*



*...and directing proceedings for Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs in 2012.*

# Interview with Mme Gulliver

*What are your plans now?*

I have started trying to learn sign language as an online course. I did a 10 week course many years ago and I absolutely loved it, but I think it would be better to do it with a teacher in front me, which I obviously can't do at the moment. With COVID, I haven't been able to do many of the things I was hoping to do in my retirement, but I am enjoying just having a bit of time to myself. One thing that I have been doing is picking up my grandchildren from school once a week, and that's a real thrill, and, under the restrictions, I get to see my step-daughter weekly as well, which has been really nice. Having more time in my life for the people that I look after has been lovely, that being my parents, my husband and the dog of course. I've also been baking cakes, and cooking for the enjoyment of cooking rather than just because we need to eat, which has been so much fun, as well as tidying the house.

*What was your favourite school event?*

It absolutely has to be the staff pantos. I really do regret the passing of the staff pantos. They were something really special and fantastic, for the morale of the staff and they brought all of the staff together, both teaching and non-teaching. We would all come and have a laugh at lunchtimes while we were rehearsing, and often ended up laughing until we were crying. On the performance night, the whole auditorium would be alive with screaming, shouting and calling every time a new member of staff came onto the stage that they hadn't seen before, and that they didn't know was going to be in it. Specifically, the men often got the most cheers, who all seemed to want to dress up as women – you can't get enough dames in a staff panto! The girls absolutely loved it, and sang along to all the songs, and did the 'Oh no he can't!' and so forth. It was just a mad and wonderful atmosphere, and always made everybody feel good, and I am secretly hoping to squeeze another one in somehow.

*Do you have any advice for anyone taking languages?*

Go for it! Don't be put off by people saying it's difficult, and learn as many languages as you can. Learn them here in school, while it's still free, because you will never get the same opportunities out of school that we offer here in school to learn different languages. Don't worry about what you might do with your languages in the future, because you don't have to have a career using your language. The skills you learn when learning a language can be applied to all sorts of other walks of life, in terms of problem-solving, communication, cultural awareness and just knowledge generally. And also, you never know when an opportunity might come up in a far – flung country, and you'll be the one that can learn that language because of your skills, and go and take up that opportunity that others would be frightened of.



*Mme Gulliver starring in the school pantomime Puss in Boots during the mid-1980s.*



# Interview with Mme Gulliver

*What is your favourite memory from your time at CCHS?*

There are so many to pick from, but I do love the moments when a student would finally understand or when they found lessons fun. I would also love when students would say that they were so glad they had chosen this language to study, or I had a student who told me that they were so happy that they had Russian on their birthday. I have always loved teaching, especially Russian, because I can make it fun and relaxing rather than stressful. Several students, when they were writing comments to me, had told me that I never made French feel stressful, and that was something that surprised me because I'd never really thought of it that way. All the students here are such conscientious, hard-working girls that they do not need teachers putting more pressure on or telling them they are not doing well enough, but instead need teachers to be praising them, and telling them that they don't need to worry, because they still won't believe us even if it is true! Everyone should have more belief and confidence in themselves, and I think I, and all the other teachers, should make every effort to ensure that our students are comfortable with their learning and what they are doing, and try and bring out this confidence in everyone, which is something I will happily look back on.



*Mme Gulliver teaching at a CCHS Languages Masterclass in 2006.*



*One of our former students shared this picture on our FB Alumnae group – Mme Gulliver with her Form Group 7H 1994/1995.*



*Miss Brooks was Headmistress at CCHS when Mme Gulliver started working here in 1985.*



# Tribute to Mme Gulliver

**Mrs Melanie Gulliver, CCHS staff 1985 to 2020**

The interview above does much to record the immense contribution which Mrs Gulliver made to CCHS throughout her years of service. Many hundreds of students have reason to be grateful to her for the enthusiasm with which she taught them and Mrs Gulliver is right to be immensely proud of all her former students, both those who have built careers based on their linguistic studies and those whose use of their French and Russian is more recreational.



We are sorry that Covid put paid to the proper retirement party she deserved but do note how the Alumnae Facebook group rallied around to recall memories of her work and to react to many of the archive items she shared with them.

At the time of her retirement Mrs Gulliver was one of the last links with a much older generation of CCHS staff and students and we are glad that she will remain in touch with the school and indeed still continue to offer extra-curricular Russian teaching to Year 12 students.

Her knowledge of how things had changed and evolved in the school was always useful. However it is important to record that as a teacher and colleague Mrs Gulliver was always characterised by her enthusiasm and desire to innovate and develop her work and that of her colleagues. Here was no backward looking remnant of an 'old guard' but rather someone who embraced change, technology and the challenge of the new and who approached each year with fresh ideas and new enthusiasm. Her delight at being able to leave Bancroft and its decaying structure behind and to move her department and faculty into the new Dame Margaret Anstee Centre for Languages was palpable, as was the delight with which she and her colleagues abandoned cassette tapes for CDs and then swiftly abandoned CDs for MP3 files.

Similarly over her time she has dealt with innumerable curriculum revisions and changes of central policy, always with a sense of their potential. As her interview makes clear, Mrs Gulliver loved working with the students of CCHS and she hugely valued their commitment to and joy in learning. In return their appreciation for her was great; even those who did not think of themselves as linguists valued her as a teacher and tutor.

We are not sure if even Mrs Gulliver herself knows quite how many foreign trips she led or assisted on in her time at CCHS. However there will have been numerous French Exchanges with the Lycée Notre Dame de Bellegarde in Neuville-sur-Saône, a string of annual Year 7 French Trips to St Omer or latterly to Normandy as well as a good number of trips to Russia and other language trips to, for example, Vienna. This record of trips is testimony to Mrs Gulliver's commitment to enabling as many of her students as possible to experience the full point of language learning – the ability to climb into a different culture and way of life and to understand different habits of mind.



# Tribute to Mme Gulliver

At the time of writing with both last summer's and this summer's school trips cancelled we are particularly aware of the huge contribution that such trips make to the educational and social development of our students and we look forward to the days when we can once again climb onto coaches on Broomfield Road in the early hours of the morning.

Mrs Gulliver's enthusiasm for the stage was a consistent theme of her time at CCHS. She was the animating spirit of successive staff pantomimes, ably filling roles as producer, director, marketing manager, wardrobe mistress, scenery designer, after party hostess and probably many more. These pantomimes did a huge amount to bring the staff together and to help create the sense of community which so many staff and students continue to hold as one of their best memories of the school. Mrs Gulliver seemed to have a ready supply of pantomime scripts, all of which seemed to involve a complex mixture of all the traditional pantomime plots, topical references to CCHS, songs old and new (though more the former than the latter) and some truly terrible jokes. Despite the director's best efforts it would be wrong to say that the lead characters were ever totally in control of their lines and over the years Mrs McDonald carved out for herself a surprisingly public and vocal role as prompt. Indeed some may remember consternation in the wings as on stage ad libbing took the show further and further from the written text. Nevertheless the 'roar of the crowds and the smell of the grease paint' always meant that the show went on and a good time was always had by all. Mrs Gulliver's attention to detail and boundless energy ensured that these shows will not easily be forgotten.

As Mrs Gulliver retires she leaves one further gap to be filled – the position of Senior Timekeeper at Sports Day. We may now reveal that unbeknownst to Miss Molyneux the junior timekeepers may in years past occasionally (or often) have failed to press their buttons at the crack of the pistol or lost concentration as 'their' runner crossed the line. They may, therefore have had to engage in rapid collusion to ensure the right finishing order was recorded. However no such criticism could ever be levelled at Mrs Gulliver; we are sad that she was denied her swansong after Sports Day 2020 was cancelled; applications are now open for her replacement.

**The whole CCHS community wishes Mrs Gulliver a long and happy retirement.**

*Hannah Brunton (née Dyer) sent us some of her old programmes from events she attended while at CCHS. You may have seen more about this on page 14 of the Newsletter; here are a couple of programmes from Christmas 1994 and summer 1995. We will keep these in our archives.*



# Interviews with Former Students

## Joanne Louise Woolgar

### **When did you start and leave CCHS?**

I attended CCHS from 1977 until 1984.

### **Has your life taken the path that you thought it would after leaving CCHS?**

Yes, very different! I went on to study Human Biology at King's College, London, but when I was in London, I met my husband-to-be, Rino, an Italian who was studying in London. After I graduated, I worked for a year in marketing in a West End company, but then decided to move to Italy, or more precisely, Sardinia with Rino. I have lived in Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia now since 1988 and I work as an English teacher in a local state school. I spent a few years as a TEFL teacher in a local private school, then went on to teach in the Faculty of Languages at Cagliari University for several years, and for the last 15 years I have had a permanent position as a mother tongue language teacher in a local high school, where I'm also responsible for international relations with foreign schools and foreign exams. In the last 2 years I have taken my students to France and America to participate in International Youth Leadership Summits, I took a group of students to Australia for a 3-week exchange and have entered more than 100 students for the University of Cambridge English language Exams.

### **How would you describe your time at CCHS?**

I absolutely loved it! I see in my daily work the stresses that kids have today and I just remember my time at school as being such fun and so carefree. I had a great group of friends who I am still in touch with after 36 years and I can still picture every detail of the school as I knew it then. I particularly remember the 6<sup>th</sup> form (as we used to call it then), when we had more freedom and of course, how could one forget the uniform we used to wear?

### **What subjects did you start out with in year 7? What subjects were you offered and what did you choose at A-Level?**

In year 7 we studied English language and Literature, Maths, French, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Art, Needlework, PE, RE. From year 8 we also studied German and in year 9 Latin and Home Economics. When it came to choosing "O-Level" subjects, we had the 4 core subjects – English language, English Literature, French, Maths and 5 options. I studied Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography and Fashion and Fabrics. At A-Level I studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths plus a paper called General Studies which you took in the lower sixth and was equivalent to another O-Level. At the time it was very unusual to study 4 subjects at A-level. I think there were probably only 2 or 3 girls that took 4 subjects out of the whole year.



# Interviews with Former Students

## **What are your fondest and most prominent memories of CCHS?**

As I said before, I think my fondest memories are of the strong bonds that formed between classmates. There was a strong sense of belonging. There was the “6<sup>th</sup> Form House” which was one of the houses near the school gate, where each class had its own room where it could hang out. Lessons were not held there, but it was a space just for us. I remember feeling that we were treated much more like adults but at the same time we were protected.

## **What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

I loved the carol service. We had the school carol “Three Kings”. I still know all the words and used to love the service at the Cathedral. I also loved the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Performance – don’t know if it still exists – but the leaving year, or upper sixth would put on a show for the school which was a series of sketches and parodies about school life, usually with a couple of “guest stars” or teachers. We had great fun preparing it and performing.

## **What was the House system like – what House were you in and what was your favourite House event?**

4 Houses, 4 primary colours. I was in Chancellor (blue). I can’t remember the names of the others I’m afraid, but they were named after ex school governors I believe. Of course, the main house event was Sports day.

There were not so many other events during the year – maybe a swimming gala.

## **Were there any teachers who made a particular difference to you?**

I can remember many of my teachers. One that particularly springs to mind is Miss Freed, my French teacher in the first 2 years of school. She was like a whirlwind of energy and I loved her lessons. Miss Reed was our English teacher for 5 years. I’m afraid to say we made her life hard work sometimes but we were very fond of her.

## **What extra-curriculars were available to you?**

Mostly sports activities after school and during lunch time, and then there were various school clubs during lunch time too, from sports to the choir, and then there were lunchtime clubs for every subject practically. RE club was particularly popular as this was the only club where the boys from KEGS could also participate. Needless to say, it was always full!

## **How did CCHS prepare you for life after school?**

I finished school with 10 O-Levels and 3 A-levels, with good enough grades to secure my position at King’s College, London. Having said that, my life then took a very different turn, but I believe that my school years helped make me into the self-confident person I am, allowing me to achieve success in my career path, even in a foreign country.

# Interviews with Former Students

Joanne Louise Woolgar continued...

## What does CCHS still mean to you?

In my job, in my year 9 classes, we always compare the Italian school system with the British one and I tell my students about my school. I show them my old form photos and we visit the website. I tell them some of my fondest memories and they are always very interested. I think that they imagine it as a sort of Hogwarts to be honest!

## What advice would you give to your younger self and to girls coming through the school now?

Just make the most of the years that you spend there. The school offers you tremendous opportunities, so grab them. Cherish the friendships you make as they will last you a lifetime.

## Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS?

Not at all.

## Have you visited the school since leaving? What has surprised you that has changed/ stayed the same?

No, I haven't as I live abroad. If there are any current students who would like to link up with myself and my Italian students, I would love that.

This is the website of my school

<https://www.convittocagliari.edu.it/index.php>

Cath Possamai

## When did you start and leave CCHS?

I was there for 7 years from 1987-93.

## Has your life taken the path that you thought it would after leaving CCHS?

When I left school I honestly had no real plans or expectations beyond going to study Sports Science at Loughborough. I wasn't sure what career path I wanted to pursue beyond a loose interest in Sports Journalism so decided to do a degree in something I was passionate about, at the best place I could get into, which turned out to be Loughborough. Following a degree and a Masters, and then unsure what I wanted to do except that I knew I didn't want to be an academic, I 'fell' into recruitment because a friend said to me 'You're gobby, you'd be good at recruitment!' I have led gradually larger teams in a number of different recruitment and talent management situations, generally always trying to move on to something new every 2 - 3 years, before arriving at the role I have now, which is leading recruitment for the British Army. It's a fascinating role, leading a joint military and civilian team of 1200 people, with high pressure scrutiny from press and politicians as well as the Army itself, and my direct employer Capita.





# Interviews with Former Students

I had thought about doing a short stint in the Army before going to University, and even went as far as to walk into the army careers centre in Chelmsford to investigate that option, but had such a poor experience from the sergeant there, I walked out again, abandoning all thought of a military career - which is ironic given the job I do today. I now run that Army Careers Centre as part of my operations, and I KNOW that if my 18 year old self walked in there today the experience would be very different! (although I probably would have made a terrible army officer, not being very good at hierarchy or following orders!!)

## **How would you describe your time at CCHS?**

I had a brilliant time at CCHS. I made some good friends in my first year (or year 7 as it's now called!) who are still close friends of mine today - 33 years later. I loved sport particularly, so spent most of my lunchtimes and after school sessions, plus Saturday mornings, playing hockey, tennis, swimming or throwing the javelin. I didn't realise how much I appreciated, and how empowering the single sex dynamic was, until I spent a brief period (6 months) in Year 9 at a European School in Brussels when my Dad's job moved there. Suddenly I was in a mixed school and found that the girls in my classes sat there quietly while the boys were vocal and demanded all the teachers' attention.

They were amazed by me because it didn't occur to me to stay quiet and not put up my hand and contribute - and I was amazed that this gender difference was something that even existed. A valuable life lesson!

## **What subjects did you start out with in year 7? What subjects were you offered and what did you choose at A-Level?**

That's a memory test...! All the usual ones I think - Maths, English, French (German started in Yr 8 and Latin in Yr 9, which I swerved by moving to Brussels for 6 months - much to my friends' disgust!), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, RE. My Mum has a clear memory of my Year 7 parents' evening and the Maths teacher Mrs Jancke saying "There are 3 things required of a good mathematician - Speed, Accuracy and Neatness. So far Catherine only has Speed!" Unfortunately I don't think I've ever gained the accuracy or the neatness! Luckily though I have a brilliant Finance Director in my current role who does all my maths for me!

I did History (because I loved it), Geography and German, plus General Studies, at A-Level. I've recently been helping my eldest son choose his A-Levels and am very jealous of the wider range of subjects available to him - including Politics and Law which I think I would have loved.

# Interviews with Former Students

Cath Possamai continued...

## What are your fondest and most prominent memories of CCHS?

I think it was the people that made it for me – so most of my memories are dominated by my friends, or particularly idiosyncratic teachers! As a sports nut, I have many memories of various sports matches and events. We won the National U18 Club Hockey Championships (our school team played as a club at weekends with one of our PE teachers for a while) when I was 14 and just in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. I scored both goals in the final match which we won 2-1. That was an incredible experience which I will never forget.

There are also some good comic memories of school trips – a geography trip to Snowdonia; a French trip to Normandy and a history trip to Florence particularly stick in the mind.... including an episode in which we hid fish in our history teacher's hotel room.....

## What was your favourite school tradition/event?

I loved the Christmas Carol Service at the cathedral. That first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' from an amazing soloist was magical, and I still get goosebumps whenever I hear 'Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar.....'

One of my friends (when I asked her this question) reminded me that the canteen used to make these amazing traybake birthday cakes that we would ALWAYS buy for one another – and then scoff very rapidly. Does that still happen?!

## What was the House system like – what House were you in and what was your favourite House event?

In my time we had C, H and S. I started as an 'S' but after returning from my few months in Brussels in Yr 9 I was put into 'C', much to my disgust and that of my friends in S! I used to really enjoy Sports Day (obviously!) and also the 'Decorate your Classroom' competition

## Were there any teachers who made a particular difference to you?

My history teacher (Mr Luxmoore) for GCSE and A-Level was excellent and definitely helped inspire even more my love of history. I still have 'get a history degree' on my bucket list.....

He forgave me for the fish too.....

## What extra-curriculars were available to you?

I asked my CCHS friends via our WhatsApp group to help me with this one as my memory was failing.....there were several completely unrepeatable answers as you might imagine...! To be honest, my interest was so focussed on sport that I didn't really notice anything else. I did briefly do Music School (clarinet) but was so shocking that I got kicked out...!

## How did CCHS prepare you for life after school?

I think CCHS gave me a love of excellence and developed my natural competitive instincts even more. It also gave me a great academic grounding which served me well at University and has done since too.

# Interviews with Former Students

## **What does CCHS still mean to you?**

Fond memories definitely. And I am still absolutely an advocate of single sex education, and the 11-plus system as a result of the positive experience I had (and the stark comparison I got when I was in Brussels with a mixed gender class).

## **What advice would you give to your younger self and to girls coming through the school now?**

Well I was lucky enough to have the chance to give some of this advice in person during a careers talk I did earlier this year. My key points then were:

- The path to success never runs smooth.
- Take risks!
- Be yourself
- Assume inclusion
- Take all the help you can get
- Relax, enjoy the ride.....

And I'd happily elaborate on any of those for anyone who cares to get in touch! I am very available on LinkedIn and Twitter.



*Pinkfest 2016 – fundraiser event. We look forward to events like this again in the future.*

## **Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS?**

Clearly, the education and experience we got was of its time, but looking back now with the benefit of 27 years hindsight, I think it would have been great to have a more proactive approach to the breadth of careers that we might think about – it felt like there was some narrowing of assumption on the basis of gender. Subjects such as Law, Business Studies, Engineering and Politics, for example.

I would have liked the school to be more ethnically and socially diverse. I think this is probably less of an issue now, but it was definitely very white middle class during my time.

## **Have you visited the school since leaving? What has surprised you that has changed/ stayed the same?**

I came to the school just a few weeks before the Covid pandemic this year to give a careers talk. It was great to see two teachers (Mrs Gulliver and Mr Moore) who were around in my time, and to see how the school has expanded and changed. What really struck me was the increased ethnic diversity of the pupils – which is a huge positive.

*The eagle-eyed of you will have spotted a picture of Cath with Mr Moore and Mrs Gulliver elsewhere in this Newsletter!*



# Interviews with Former Students

## Louise Pisano

### **When did you start and leave CCHS?**

1975 to 1980. It was called CHS then.

### **Has your life taken the path that you thought it would after leaving CCHS?**

Yes it has! I went on to study accountancy and qualify as a Chartered Accountant and am now a Finance Director in a Law firm.

### **How would you describe your time at CCHS?**

Happy times.

### **What subjects did you start out with in year 7? What subjects were you offered and what did you choose at A-Level?**

The same subjects you do now, except Food Tech was called Food & Nutrition, and we did Needlework instead of Graphics and Textiles.

I did Maths, Computer Studies and Geography A levels, but not at CCHS.

### **What are your fondest and most prominent memories of CCHS?**

Great friends in class C.

### **What was your favourite school tradition/event?**

The Christmas Fayre.

### **What was the House system like - what House were you in and what was your favourite House event?**

There were 4 Houses - Hulton (red), Chancellor (blue), Tancock (yellow) and Pennefather (green). I was in Hulton. House events were mainly sports events, and my favourite was Athletics.

### **Were there any teachers who made a particular difference to you?**

The maths teachers, as they instilled my enjoyment of maths.

### **What extra-curriculars were available to you?**

Mainly sports clubs.

### **How did CCHS prepare you for life after school?**

By giving me an excellent education, which means you can aim to achieve whatever you want to!

### **What does CCHS still mean to you?**

It will always be my old school that I'm proud to have attended.

### **What advice would you give to your younger self and to girls coming through the school now?**

Make the most of all the opportunities you get.

### **Is there anything you would have liked to change about your time in CCHS?**

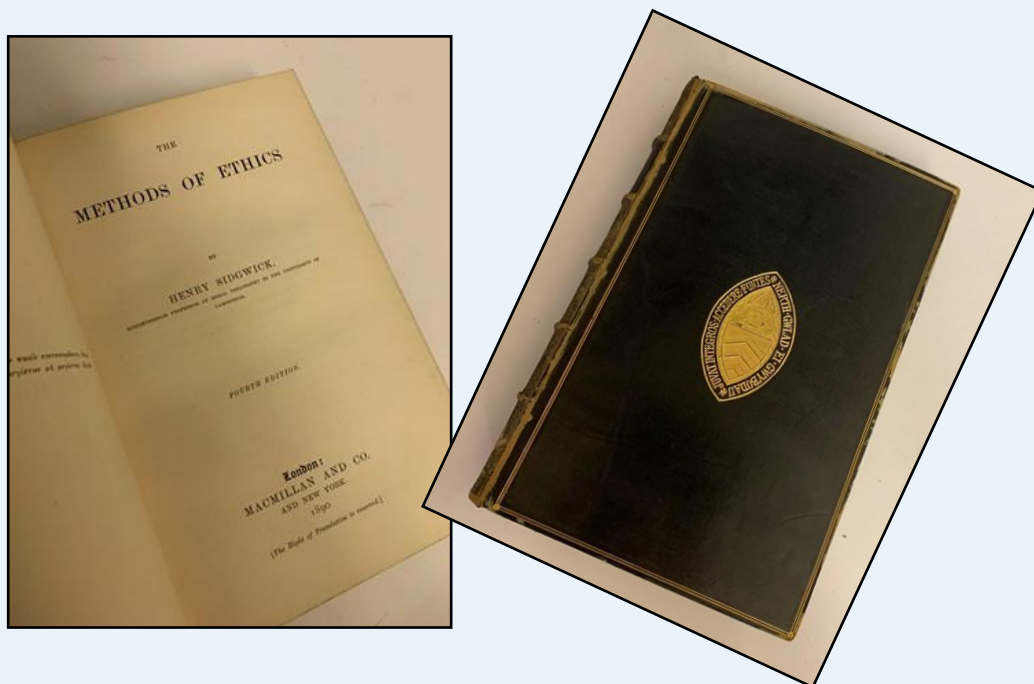
I would have changed it to be more like it is now - it has lots more facilities now for specific purposes - language rooms, music rooms, and fun House events!

### **Have you visited the school since leaving? What has surprised you that has changed/ stayed the same?**

Yes I've visited the school, as my daughter has been there from Year 7 and is now in Year 13.

## From the archives...

A beautiful book has come to light in our archives, pictured here.



The Methods of Ethics by Henry Sidgwick was awarded to Edith Maud Bancroft, who was of course Miss Bancroft, the second Headteacher at CCHS who was in post here from 1911 until 1935.

The book plate in the front of the book shows that Miss Bancroft was awarded this book for *'first (equal) prize in the class of Psychology and first prize in the class of Ethics'*.

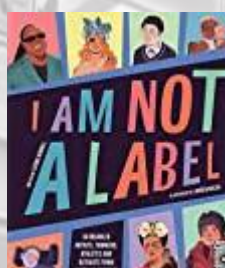
The book was awarded for the session 1889–90 by the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire and must have been left in school by Miss Bancroft after her retirement. It is interesting to think that she kept this book in school, perhaps for reference purposes during her time as Headteacher here.



# Supporting Literacy Across the School –

by contributing to the resources available in our outstanding new Library. Mrs Martin has the following message for you....

The building project is well under way at the back of our school and this means that the new Library will be relocated to the current gym next year. We are therefore currently removing our out of date books ready to restock the shelves with fantastic new books to fill the larger space we will have available for reading material.



If you would like to contribute towards this process then do click [HERE](#) to see our Amazon Wish List and add any titles you would like to purchase to your basket.

Add the school delivery address: - CCHS, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1RW and CCHS Library in the name field.

Pay for your items in the usual way and the books will be delivered to CCHS.

When the books arrive a name plate will be added to the book to recognise your generous gift to the School.

Thank you for supporting us with this initiative.

Mrs Martin, CCHS School Librarian

Thank you to everyone who has already bought new books to help stock our expanding shelves!



# Campus Development Update

As reported in last year's Alumnae Newsletter, the school has been fortunate to obtain a substantial grant from the government's Grammar School Expansion Fund to allow for the building of a new Sports Hall and a new Teaching Block.

Substantial progress has since been made on the building work; at the time of writing both buildings are nearly watertight and despite the loss of building time during the spring lockdown we still expect the work to be completed for occupation and use from September 2021.

The Sports Hall will provide a long overdue replacement for the school's ageing Gymnasium; there can be few schools in the country still using a Gym for its original (or near original) purpose after more than 100 years. The new building will also contain a Dance Studio, Fitness Suite and the usual changing rooms.



*The new Sports Hall taking shape – Autumn 2020*

The new teaching block will provide much needed additional science labs as well as a number of general teaching rooms. It is being built partly on the site of the former Bancroft building – this was originally built in 1949 to provide additional science facilities and was latterly home to the Languages Faculty as well as, allegedly, to a number of bilingual or perhaps trilingual mice. The new building is likely to be named to perpetuate the memory of Miss Bancroft, (headmistress from 1911 to 1935) and will provide a rather better memory of her massive contribution to the school than its predecessor.

The whole school is much looking forward to these buildings being ready for use and plans are also proceeding apace for the repurposing of the current Gym as a new school library; work on this is likely to start sometime in 2021. Beyond this, the next phase of campus development is also at the high level planning stage; current aspirations are for a new Sixth Form Centre so as to improve the study and social facilities available to our senior students.

# Then and Now – how things have changed....

## The House System at Chelmsford County High School for Girls

The House system at Chelmsford County High School has always been a very important part of extra-curricular life. Many of you will remember being involved in events of great importance to win points for your House in the hope of ultimately being 'crowned' the winning House at the end of the year!

The School House system was started in 1925 and each House was named after a Governor of the school: Chancellor, Hulton, Pennefather and Tancock.

In 1986 the three-House system of C, H and S was created and in 1996 the fourth House – G was added. This year we have added a fifth House – A House. This development of the House system reflects the growth of the school in student number, which currently stands at 1048 students.

The full set of Houses now are: A – Angelou (Maya), C – Curie (Marie), H – Hepburn (Audrey), S – Stewart (Miranda), F – Frank (Anne) and G – Grey-Thompson (Tanni).

Some of the regular House events have had to be put on hold this year due to current Covid-19 related restrictions. However, we have not been defeated and a wonderful set of House events have already taken place this academic year that fully comply with Covid restrictions, but which also allow students to take part in these enjoyable events and to have the opportunity to win those all-important House points!

Events this term so far have been: House football drills, balloon tennis, staff and student quizzes and lip synch battle (karaoke without singing). Never let it be said that our students are not resilient in the face of a pandemic when House points are at stake!

In the summer term the PE department organised a virtual Sports Day which included events performed from home if students were not in school, or in a socially distanced way if they were in school. Shuttle runs, one handed catch & throws, press ups, figure of eight ball, standing long jump and target throws are just a few of the events included in our Summer 2020 Virtual Sports Day and video proof was required in order to earn the points for Houses!

Overleaf are some pictures from House events through the years. We look forward to the time when these events can run in the normal way again after this year's unfortunate suspension, though perhaps some of this year's additions might be added to future House calendar events....



# House events through the years....



The scoring team at Sports Day 2010!



House Karaoke 2006 – students await the next performance



House Tug of War 2015



House Decorated Classroom 2009



House Pancakes 2019



House Cakes 2008



House Basketball 2012



House Pancakes 2007



House Karaoke 2013



# Then and Now – how things have changed....

## The Library at CCHS

As you may be aware, the Library is imminently due to expand and change its position within the school as part of the second phase of the new build. We look forward to this and include below some items from our archives that tell a little of the story of the CCHS Library over the years.

*1907-29: In 1924 the Reference Library had been given some attention: "The books have been re-catalogued on the card index system; we possess a small cabinet for the cards; and on each book is a label with a curious and mystic-looking number, which has real significance to those who are acquainted with the works of Mr Dewey....We are grateful to Miss Staniforth for the time she spent during the Christmas holidays in re-cataloguing the books and writing out the cards."*

After building work, the 'new' Library was 'completed in Spring 1931 (possibly having moved into a vacated classroom) and was a beautiful room 'quiet and serene in character, where there was every opportunity for true learning to flourish and abound'. It was an attractive room with dove grey walls and ivory paint. Its appearance with book shelves, clock, tables, chairs and special lighting arrangements was something to look forward to. Pupils using the Library were asked: "regularly to enter and cancel their borrowings; never to disarrange the volumes on the shelves; always to treat the books with scrupulous care; and to create an atmosphere of quiet work in the room which will thus become a tradition..... I would ask all the readers to ensure in every way that the library is enriched to the School by their use of it, not impoverished, remembering as they read and handle that 'Books are not absolutely dead things.' It was recorded that the Library now possessed over 1,000 books and the thousandth book 'Comment on Prononce le Francais' had been catalogued in Autumn Term 1930. In spring 1932 it was reported that Punch Magazine was arriving at the new Library every Wednesday morning'.



*The Library in the 1950s*

Since 1961 the School Library has been located below the Art Room, in the new buildings including the kitchen, dining room and school hall. In November 1986 Mrs Gillian Thompson, the teacher-librarian, sought the help of CHS parent volunteers to assist with the work of upgrading the library. Better Library services were needed by schools to encourage pupils to do more of their own research for their studies. Nine volunteers came forward to help clear out old books and classify new ones. In April 1988 two part time staff were employed for the first time to look after the library permanently. Staffing hours were gradually increased over the years until they covered the full school day.

# Then and Now – how things have changed....

## The Library continued....

**Library 1999:** *In the summer of 1999 the walls between the Library and the two small adjoining classrooms were moved to allow rearrangement of the Library and Careers Room layouts. Some of the funds came from a generous legacy from the late Miss Geraldine Cadbury, former Headmistress 1935-1961, who had made several personal financial contributions to the school in the past.*



*Photos taken during the Library refurbishment in 1999. Students were obviously helping out with the removal and storage of books during the work.*

**Library 2000:** *In January the Library began placing its entire stock of books and videos onto the new Alice computerised library system to make the task of lending and stock control much easier. An alarm barrier was installed to prevent the accidental removal of books. After 14 months' work, the final item on the Library shelves was entered into the Alice system on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2001, after which new books were able to be added.*



*Library photos from 2002 showing the splayed shelving, the computers and the coffee table and study table areas for students.*

*In June 2007 the School's first paid Librarian, Mrs Barbara Carruthers, retired after 19 years in the post. Library Assistant Mrs Maureen Ball continued and Mrs Angela Martin became the new Librarian in November 2007.*

In 2020 Mrs Martin is still in post as CCHS Librarian and has overseen many improvements and new initiatives to ensure our students have the very best facilities available to them.

In 2020, the system, now 'Oliver' (which replaced 'Alice') holds between 11,500 & 12,000 titles and we also have around 1,500 e-books, which are funded by the PA.

# In Memoriam



Mrs Jane Boendermaker sadly passed away on 16th April 2020 at 102 years of age.

Some of you may remember Mrs Boendermaker, who was appointed by Miss Pattison in 1963 and taught in the English department until her retirement in 1977. According to her daughter Julie, who contacted us, her mother considered her time at CCHS as the pinnacle of her career and loved every minute of it, even though she also spent time teaching in Staffordshire, Jersey, Rhodesia and Australia.

Mrs Boendermaker apparently offered to resign from CCHS when Julie gained a place at the school in 1968. However, Miss Pattison persuaded her to remain on the understanding that Julie would never be in her mother's class.

Julie says:

*'My mother's career at CCHS spanned significant years in the school's history: the fight to retain grammar school status, the 3-day week and oil shortages necessitating early closure of the school, frequent evacuations owing to IRA bomb scares and, most popular with the girls, afternoons off when heavy fog reduced visibility so much that the hedge between the hockey fields could not be seen.*

*Today the school faces very different and particular challenges of course. May I wish you all the very best in these extraordinary times'.*

When we shared this sad news on our FB Alumnae page, we received some lovely comments from former students who remember being taught by Mrs Boendermaker. We have shared these below and overleaf:



*What a great teacher she was! I was privileged to be a pupil and a colleague for many years with her and she was always so funny... and what a great age she lived to, which doesn't surprise me in the least. Best wishes to Julie and her family.*

*I remember her although I don't think she ever taught me. RIP and my condolences to her family.*

*I remember the fog incidents, as soon as that hedge had vanished that was it, we were off!!!!*

*My favourite ever English teacher! Really inspiring! Rest in peace.*

*So sorry to hear this sad news. Condolences to Julie, and her family. A grand age for a very grand person.*

*I remember being taught by Mrs Boendermaker between 1965 and 1972. Very sad to hear of her passing but what a great life she had. Condolences to her family.*

*I remember her so well, one of my favourite teachers at CCHS (also from 1965 until 1972). Condolences to her family.*

*...more comments continued overleaf*





## In Memoriam, continued from previous page



### **More wonderful alumnae memories of Mrs Boendermaker are below:**

*Mrs Boendermaker taught me English at A level, between 1971-73, for Chaucer and D H Lawrence. An inspirational teacher, great sense of humour and had some fascinating stories to tell. What a wonderful age - 102. My heartfelt condolences to Julie, who I also remember, and to all her family.*

*A great English teacher who I recall was very particular about us writing on the top line of a new page. Funny the things you remember.*

*...I remember that too. And a stickler for pronunciation. We'd work up to a sweat about pronouncing Telemachus correctly.*

*A larger than life character who scared the living daylights out of me. She made me learn and recite Falstaff and Portia's soliloquies and I was never naughty in her class again or forgot my home work. A wonderful teacher with a wicked sense of humour. One of the best. RIP.*

*I remember this lady well...condolences to Julie and her family! Great age which doesn't surprise me, a very determined lady! RIP!*

*I remember her well. What a full life she must have led.*

*My condolences to her family. I remember her being strict but also sharing her own experience, once of being naughty herself.*

*So grateful to Mrs Boendermaker who made sure we learned some Grammar (not part of the English curriculum in my time). At a previous school (Blessed John Payne?) she taught alongside my mother-in-law Mary McGready who sadly died many years ago but who would have been 100 now.*

*What a grand age to reach. My condolences, and I hope she died peacefully. I was NOT good at English and don't think she taught me, but I remember her being a big personality with encyclopaedic knowledge. Looking back I realise how fortunate we were to be taught by all the excellent teachers at CCHS*

*I remember a poetry lesson in my second year 1965/6 when I said firmly that I didn't like poetry. Mrs Boendermaker said equally firmly 'you will grow into it!' She was wrong on that, but she was still a very memorable teacher. I hope poetry cheered her all the way to 102.*

*I flunked O level English Language and when I returned to school the following September she threatened to kill me. I passed the retake and use of English. Then we clashed in A level when I said I loathed Ted Hughes and Tom Gunn's work. She suggested eventually I choose another book from the list for that paper as I was so unsympathetic. I studied To the Lighthouse by Virginia Wolf, loved it, still do and got a very decent grade.*



**MARY KENYON POETRY PRIZE**

At the start of the year we challenged CCHS students to write a poem on the theme of 'change' – ironically we had no idea just how much change was about to come into all of our lives.

There have been some absolutely stunning entries into the competition this year – it is just staggering to see the talent on display throughout the school. There was much discussion amongst the judges and choosing a winner was not easy in either of the two age groups. Congratulations to Isabella and Holly, both winners will receive £100 in book tokens kindly donated by the Kenyon family.

Without further ado we present to you the winning poems from each group:

**Years 12 & 13: Coma Berenices, by Isabella**

I cut my hair up to my chin.  
 Frayed, frazzled edges, brand new and scarred and old.  
 I dye it pink then blue then purple as a compromise  
 To shedding my skin. Because this psychedelic spectrum  
 Is the closest I will come to getting the furthest away from myself.  
 I keep catching myself in the mirror.  
 Red-handed. Stop thief!  
 Can never avert my eyes from the scene of the crime  
 Quite quick enough.  
 Or else I prolong the torture with vicious masochism,  
 Lingering to prod and poke the flaws. Hoping to pummel  
 Them into transient jelly.  
 It doesn't work.  
 But hair is not so uncooperative.  
 It allows itself to be manipulated with a dead resignation.  
 Maimed, bleached, vigorously styled into a new girl in the mirror.  
 Same face, same broiling bitter  
 Spit and gluey lump in the throat  
 But a fresh-pressed style and an illusion of change  
 That sustains only until the mirror catches me again.



**Years 10 & 11: Self-Destruct by Holly**

Factories multiply like an infestation,  
 Churning out fresh poisons for us to inhale.  
 Lovers lay under the gleaming constellations,  
 But fog stops their wishes from reaching the sky.

Babbling brooks swarm with abandoned bottle tops,  
 Clogged by the carelessness of a passer-by,  
 The seamless river now barricaded, blocked.  
 Flowing to the rhythm of nothing at all

Duvets of wheat that are supposed to grow  
 On the rolling hills of soil and mud,  
 Are replaced by a repugnant meadow:  
 A snare of crinkling plastic.

The birds in the trees that chirped and tweeted,  
 Now scream and squeal into the logs that they called home,  
 Burning at the hands of 7 billion people,  
 All saying they'll change the world,  
 And forgetting what they'll change with it.



Artwork by students who left us last summer: Charley's work (far left) was a leaving gift to Mrs French and Tomi's (left) is a fantastic line and water drawing of the school.



## Staff who Left in 2020

### Miss Abigail Lawrence

Miss Lawrence joined the school in September 2017 as a teacher of Chemistry, having completed much of her training at CCHS. She therefore settled quickly into the life and routines of the school and built excellent relationships with her students. Her knowledge and enthusiasm swiftly made her a valued member of the Chemistry Department and she was also an enthusiastic participant in House events, always keen to motivate her form by example. She left CCHS to take up a post in educational publishing and examining.



### Mrs Melanie Gulliver

Mrs Gulliver retired in 2020 after an incredible 35 years of service to the school as a teacher of French and Russian, Head of French and Head of the Languages Faculty. An interview and a full tribute appear elsewhere in this newsletter.



### Mr Jeremy Mitchell

Mr Mitchell joined CCHS in September 2009 as a Teacher of Mathematics. He will be remembered by his students as an excellent and inspiring teacher who did a huge amount to develop the department in which he worked; the high numbers who continue with Mathematics to A level are in part testimony to the quality of teaching offered by Mr Mitchell and the warmth and good humour with which he and his colleagues have supported so many students. Always very efficient and always highly effective, Mr Mitchell delivered lessons day in and day out that were models of clarity and which helped all in the room to make progress on even the most challenging and esoteric aspects of Mathematics.



Mr Mitchell will also be fondly remembered for the range and quality of his contributions to the musical life of the school. Many students will remember him for his knock out guitar hero performances as part of the 'Man Band' in its various incarnations as well as for his solo contributions to House Karaoke and on as many other occasions as space on the stage could be found. Less noticed by many, but of equal or great value to the school, were his rock solid and reliable contributions on the bass guitar to a range of school ensembles and to the pit band for every school show during his time at CCHS. In a world where teenage double-bass players are rare, successive Directors of Music have been grateful to Mr Mitchell for his willingness to give his time and talent to supporting the musical life of the school. A final special mention should go to Mr Mitchell's performances in the school's 2017 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*; his performance throughout was amazing and his despatch of the final guitar solo was something of which Lord Lloyd Webber would have been proud.

*Mr Mitchell performing alongside Mr French, Mrs Clements and Mr Lamberti at our Princes Trust event in Summer 2019.*



## Staff who Left in 2020, continued....

### **Mrs Maria French**

Mrs French joined CCHS in September 2010 as Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) and as a member of the History Department. She was promoted to be Deputy Head (pastoral) in September 2017. Mrs French made an immediate impact on staff and students in all aspects of her work.

As the head of pastoral care in Years 7 to 11 Mrs French was responsible both for the setting and maintenance of the highest standards in terms of behaviour, uniform and work. Her clear sense that maintaining these standards was a way of reducing potential obstacles to learning informed everything she did in this regard and meant that students and staff were left free to concentrate on education. However it would be very wrong to see the pastoral role as confined to the setting and maintenance of standards; Mrs French's time was much taken up with offering support and guidance to both students and parents who were troubled by a huge range of often challenging pastoral issues. Her fearless commitment to the highest standards in terms of safeguarding and student support was a great example to all.

Mrs French's role also encompassed oversight of the CCHS Entrance Test and she pioneered a number of changes here with the aim of increasing fairness and widening access to students from all backgrounds. Her passion for clarity and fairness were much in evidence in this work and many staff and students will remember the high standards demanded of them on Entrance Test days, whether as candidates or as those helping administer the test.

As a lover of performance and all things theatrical, Mrs French was renowned both for the quality and originality of her assemblies as well as for her leadership of various contributions to staff karaoke. In her earlier years at CCHS she also played a huge role in directing a number of school shows and was always a keen supporter of Music, Dance and Drama in the school, noted for her consistent encouragement to all students to involve themselves in productions.

Mrs French also continued to teach History with passion and flair. Her particular speciality was Tudor England and she had a particular affection for Cardinal Wolsey. Whilst the roots of her admiration were never quite clear to her colleagues (and she did not notably follow in any of Wolsey's footsteps) her students will well remember her annual commemoration of Wolsey's death as well as her 'Tudor Selfie Competition'. All those taught History by her will count themselves fortunate; her keen eye for the precise demands of the examiners and her focus on the facts will have been of great benefit to them.

Mrs French left CCHS to take up the post as Headteacher of Chislehurst School for Girls.



*Mrs French getting into the swing of things at the CCHS Jubilee Garden Party in 2012.*

## Staff who left in 2020, continued....



### M. Yannick Simonnot

M. Simonnot joined the school as a teacher of French in September 2003 and was a valued and stalwart member of the department and the school until he fell ill. He was a hugely successful teacher of his mother tongue and brought a dash of his unique French style to both his lessons and to everything else he did in school. His students were fortunate to benefit from the range of his references as a teacher – from French dialects and idioms to modern French pop music he had much to offer them. A committed internationalist, M. Simonnot played leading roles over the years on trips and exchanges to France, Germany and China and did much to develop the international outlook of the students of CCHS.

His involvement in the Charity and Internationalism work of the school culminated in his overseeing of the delivery of two caravans to refugees in Calais, in co-operation with the charity Side-By-Side. Visiting 'The Jungle' itself had a profound effect on M. Simonnot and spurred him on to make as great a difference as he could – this was recognised in his being awarded a Jack Petchey Leadership Award in 2017. In his time at CCHS M. Simonnot also taught General Studies, Theory of Knowledge and Year 7 Philosophy and was a thoughtful and successful Sixth Form tutor, guiding many students on their paths to universities.

M. Simonnot was also fully involved in many other aspects of school life, appearing in a series of staff pantomimes and being a regular on the school stage for House Karaoke and other events. We know that he found a very great deal to treasure in the values and ethos of the school and that he was always proud to be associated with CCHS.

Sadly recurring ill health prevented M. Simonnot from continuing his association with CCHS and he took the difficult decision to retire from the end of May 2020. We wish him every success in his life beyond CCHS.



*M. Simonnot & the Jungle Caravan in April 2016. The arrival in Calais in May 2016 is pictured above.*



# ...and those who joined us....

In September 2020 CCHS welcomed the following new staff:

Mrs Hayley Busby - Teacher of Chemistry and Year Leader for Y8



Miss Vanessa Kersey - Teacher of English

Mrs Naushin Khan - Subject Leader for Computer Science



Mrs Emily Manning - Teacher of Chemistry

Mr David Mitchell - Teacher of Mathematics



Miss Jacqueline Silverio - Teacher of French

# Meet our Senior Prefects for Alumnae Relations

Alicia and Sophia (pictured right) have had an excellent year as Senior Prefects, with a specific remit within their post of Alumnae Relations. Although they have not been able to be involved in quite as many of the school events and other activities that would normally take place (in non-Covid times), they have remained busy and also found the time to interview some former students for this newsletter. We hope you enjoyed reading these interviews earlier in this publication.

Anushka and Katie (pictured below, right) are looking forward to taking up their Senior Prefect responsibilities in January 2021 (along with the rest of the team).

Anushka and Katie have specific responsibility for Alumnae Development and we look forward to hearing their ideas and plans for this role.

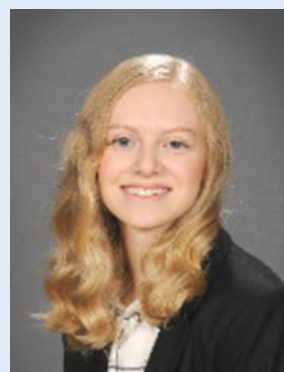


*Photo of the school taken in November 2020 after replacement of the roof tiles.*

*Remember to contact Mrs Dale (details on the final page of this newsletter) if you would like to organise a reunion.*

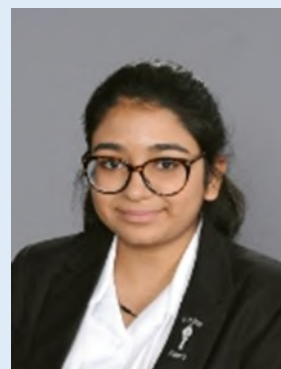
2020

Alicia and Sophia



2021

Anushka and Katie



# Training the Next Generation of Teachers at CCHS

If you are interested in pursuing teaching as a career, your former School can support and employ you. We have trained a number of strong graduates in the past, working with the TES Institute to secure their QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). We would pay your training course fees, pay you a salary, provide you with a subject mentor and a professional studies programme.

Alternatively, you might want to pursue a more traditional route into teaching. We work closely with the Billericay Education Consortium to train graduates on a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) course.

Have a look at the flyer overleaf for more information, and if you would like to discuss routes into teaching and the opportunities that CCHS can provide you with, please do contact me via: [hbates@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:hbates@cchs.essex.sch.uk)

Thank you.

**Stephen Lawlor**  
Headteacher



## Class of 2020 – final week

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our Year 13 students were not able to take part in the usual final week celebrations. However, just before lockdown back in April, we were able to hold their leavers' assembly. We were pleased to be able to celebrate their time at CCHS during this event, but sad for our Year 13s that they were not able to take part in the normal 'dress-up' week activities during their final week in school. They were amazingly resilient and embraced their final day despite the challenging times upon which we were all about to embark.







## Teacher Training

# AT CHELMSFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## DEVELOPING our own teachers

*From teacher training to educational leadership – nurturing and inspiring the teachers and school leaders of tomorrow through excellence in personalised training and development.*

### Have you ever thought about teaching and how you would go about training?

Chelmsford County High School for Girls works closely with Billericay Educational Consortium, University of Cambridge Faculty of Education, and most recently, Essex School Direct to help you make that aspiration become a reality.



**BILLERICAY  
EDUCATIONAL  
CONSORTIUM**

#### **Billericay Educational Consortium**

Billericay Educational Consortium work with a large network of partnership schools in Essex and Havering who are passionate about training and developing outstanding and confident teachers.

BEC provide bespoke training of the highest quality, and over the last five years 100% of trainees have passed the course with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with 60 Master credits. With extensive experience as an initial teacher training provider, and rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, the programme offers a real balance between hands on classroom experiences and the theory underpinning educational practice.

If you are interested in finding out more about training at **Chelmsford County High School for Girls** then drop into one of **Billericay Educational Consortium's 'virtual' chats**, (for secondary school teaching these take place every Monday from 11-12.30 p.m.) where you will be able to find out more information, including the application process. Contact [becky@billericayscitt.com](mailto:becky@billericayscitt.com) to book your place.



**TEACH  
CHELMSFORD**

#### **Essex School Direct**

Essex School Direct enjoy a successful partnership with Tes Institute, who have a reputation for innovative, online learning. Based at the lead school, Davenant Foundation School (Loughton, Essex), Essex School Direct work as a partnership with 24 other schools in West Essex, Harlow, Chelmsford and Havering.

All partnership schools have made a commitment to work together through the School Direct programme with the provider Tes Institute to offer the very best of school-based teacher training programmes. The programme will seek to maximise time spent in the classroom by ensuring that the face-to-face professional studies programme is of the highest quality and delivered within our locality.

Essex School Direct are committed to attracting, training and developing both graduates and career changers to enable all schools within our area to reach the same level of excellence and quality of provision thus ensuring that all our trainees achieve their full potential.

If you are interested in finding out more about training at **Chelmsford County High School for Girls** then contact <https://www.essexschooldirect.com/>



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**  
Faculty of Education

#### **University of Cambridge – Faculty of Education**

The Faculty provides high quality courses rated as outstanding in all areas by OFSTED in their last inspection. Our trainees are always in demand from headteachers and many of our ex-trainees go on to positions of school leadership very quickly. We consistently receive outstanding feedback from our trainees on course evaluations.

The Faculty of Education will accept applications for September 2021 entry from 13th October 2020 until 30th June 2021 or **until the course is full, whichever is earlier**. The number of places available in each subject is limited and competition is high so we recommend that applications are made early in the cycle.

If you are interested in finding out more about training at Chelmsford County High School for Girls then enquiries should be addressed to <https://www.educ.cam.ac.uk/courses/pgce/applying/>

# How can former students help CCHS?

## Careers information:

Could you come back to School to inspire our Year 9 and Year 12 students with details of your career? Every year the School organises a Careers Evening where we invite volunteers to explain their careers to our students and help inform them for their future choices. This academic year the event will take place in a different format due to Covid-related restrictions. More details of this will be published in due course but it is likely that our next Careers evening will be in the form of a virtual event. However, if you are able to help in any way, please contact Mrs Wendy Newton (email [wnewton@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wnewton@cchs.essex.sch.uk)) for more details.

## Mock interviews:

Can you help provide interview practice for our Sixth Form students? This could be for University entrance or work opportunities. We are particularly interested in hearing from those with experience as dentists or in pure science. Please contact Mrs Rowan Carroll (email [rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk)) if you are able to assist with this.

## Lunch-time talks:

We are keen to expand the number and range of these highly successful sessions which have run for many years. Their aim is to promote interests and debate that extend beyond the curriculum and to give students a sense of the different areas in which their successes at school can take them.

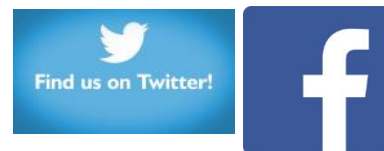
If you have a particular area of expertise and would like to engage in discussion with our students, please contact Mrs Rowan Carroll (email [rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk)).



Decorated classroom – 2006

# Keeping in touch....

## CCHS Alumnae on Social Media



Our 'CCHS Alumnae' Facebook and Twitter groups continue to grow in members. We regularly post news from the school, items from the archives as well as pictures from reunions and occasional news about former students. We also enjoy seeing the posts on Facebook from our group members which include anecdotes and pictures from their time here. Through the facebook group our former students are re-connected with each other and with CCHS. By adding the Twitter alumnae page (which is an open group) we are hoping to involve the wider CCHS family – our current parents and students as well as our alumnae .



Chelmsford County High  
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Our Facebook Alumnae  
private group can be  
found at: [CCHS Alumnae](#)

You may also wish to  
follow the Alumnae  
Twitter page:  
[@CCHSAlumnae](#)



## Alumnae Reunions

The School is always keen to receive visits from former students but unfortunately this year because of Covid-19 restrictions we have not been able to host these. However, once things settle and we are allowed to welcome guests back into school, we look forward to hosting reunions again. After such a difficult year, what better way to catch up with people you may have lost touch with over the years than to visit your school, see how things have changed (and continue to change) and reminisce about your times together at school.

If you are organising a reunion for your year group and would like to include a visit to the School later next year, please contact Mrs Rae Dale ([rdale@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rdale@cchs.essex.sch.uk)) who will be happy to help you plan this. Please also email any photographs/details of reunions to Mrs Rae Dale and Mrs Rowan Carroll ([rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rcarroll@cchs.essex.sch.uk)) so that we can include these in future newsletters and in the Alumnae section of the School's website.

If you are trying to get in touch with former friends, you may be able to link up with them through our private CCHS Alumnae Facebook group (details above). However, it is also worth checking for contact details with the School. We cannot give out contact details to others, but we can contact them on your behalf to facilitate the link. Our electronic database of members means we can quickly find former students by their leaving year, or by name.

If you are in touch with other former students, please encourage them to sign up to this via our [website](#).