

OLD GIRLS'/ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2025

Editor's Notes

Our last newsletter was in a slightly different format as, thanks to Kate Stubbs, the school printed it for us and it is the same this time. We are very grateful to the school for taking on the printing with such good results! We love hearing from Old Girls and their very different memories. Beryl Whent has sent hers in together with lots of photos which we all enjoy as they give an insight of the school in earlier days. Kathleen Wilson has also sent in some wonderful photos (and all the names!) of her form in 1950 and 1951. Yet again thanks to Joan Gurney who has written another most entertaining article about the school. Old Girls do enjoy reading memories of CCHS so please keep them coming! The old School Magazines have come up trumps once again with more evidence of erudition and humour from the girls who attended CCHS many decades ago.

We had a successful AGM in September in the School Dining Room. Coffee and Lunch were provided and everyone had a good opportunity to talk. Minutes will be in the March 2026 Newsletter.

It is not difficult to email me (or call me for my postal address) and I reiterate that no great literary work is required! Jean Johnson again organised some very good events this year which were well attended and has more in mind for next year. Many thanks to Jean for her continuing hard work!

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Information, news, comments, photos and articles for the next Newsletter by 31st March 2026.



(left). Jean's Coffee Morning
22nd July 2025.

Jo Edwards, very naughtily, managed to take a good sequence of shots at this event when Jean had arranged for the usual cakes but also brought in several boxes of warm sausage rolls from Greggs, which every one enjoyed, including Jean (see more on page 5). She will not be too pleased with these photos but we will savour them!

Joan Gurney (Appleton 1938-1951)

Jo Edwards' story about nasturtiums in our last edition (Spring 2025) transported me back to, not 1962, but 19 years earlier, 1943, with another story about a bowl of flowers.

I too had a delightful art teacher, Miss Lynn. No first names of staff were even thought about in those strictly formal days! Miss Lynn was one of a trio of friends on the staff, the other two being the English teacher, Miss R L Phillips (to distinguish her from Miss M E Phillips who taught Maths) and Miss Holmes who taught Gym (never called PE in those days). This trio of teachers were lovable and respected, but also slightly eccentric.

1943 was during the years of World War Two when everybody tried to carry on as usual, tolerating food and clothes rationing, and treating other people with respect, consideration and compassion, and providing each other with help and other comforts which were available at the time.



It was nearing Christmas 1943 and Miss Lynn also happened to be my form teacher at the time. As a mark of my respect for her, and the help she was giving me, my parents, who were farmers, sent her a jar of honey as a Christmas gift from their own bee hives. In return, Miss Lynn gave me a sealed envelope to deliver to them. Inside was a card thanking them for their kindness and signed by her. And what was that special Christmas card design which I have treasured so much ever since? A bowl of orange nasturtiums! *(left)*

Miss Lynn told me later that it was a lino-cut in colour made by her. I had never seen a lino cut with colour before, and it inspired me to take up my lino cutting kills again even after

ignoring warnings in the past to keep my free hand behind the pushing hand holding the cutting implement and ending up with a few bloody fingers as a result!

I carried on with my project and thought how good it would be to send out a lino cut print as a Christmas card the very next year, 1944, even though it lacked colour *(right)*. It never came anywhere near to matching the coloured creation of Miss Lynn in 1943.

Another uncanny similarity between Jo Edwards' story and mine was that I too was approaching the year when my end of school examination would take place in 1948. This was called School Certificate and art was one of my exam subjects. I had always like art and considered myself quite good at it. As part of



the examination in this subject, we were given the title of an 'Imaginative Composition' which we could plan and work on in advance. The title was 'Harvest' and as I was a country girl I planned a very traditional rural scene of horses pulling a wagon laden with sheaves of corn, and men carrying two tine forks making their way to the stack yard for storage and later threshing.

I thought that I would do well for my work and receive a Credit mark. But pride comes before a fall, and I was devastated when the results came through that I had only received a Pass mark. I kicked myself that I had painted more of a Constable landscape rather than a modernist work showing the influence of Pablo Picasso whose style was beginning to fill the news. Perhaps I should have slapped the paint around a little more carelessly, added some abstract shapes and unattached dismembered limbs and random eyes.

But I have no regrets today. I still love my art, and don't envy Jo her little bit of inside knowledge of the subject of her art examination in 1962, and doing well in it. I know why we both love prints of nasturtiums, and with the same gesture of friendship and memories of 8 decades ago, I wish you a Happy Christmas everybody!

Beryl Whent (Pettitt 1946-50)

Recently I went through my old school magazines and photos and it sent me right back to CCHS.

I was the "Scholarship" from my little village school and went first to Newmarket Grammar School seven miles away which I cycled every day come rain or shine. The Grammar School only had one form intake each year and half were boys and half girls sharing the same classes. There was a very fierce headmaster and we had mostly elderly teachers as it was 1945 and most younger teachers were still in the forces.

My father applied for a job in Essex and we moved to Ardleigh in November 1946. I was allowed to transfer to CCHS and my first memory was of being 'interrogated' by Miss Herriot on the landing at Grey Friars. However, I was put into Upper 4D and from the moment I entered the Great Front Door my world changed. I was met by Jennifer Lebbell who was form captain so immediately my worries dissolved.

I soon made friends with Pauline Nice and another girl from Builth Wells in Wales who had also, like me, just moved. We were friends with Barbara Hatton and Gaye Lomonaco and we were inseparable for the whole of the time until leaving. (*right: L-R Pauline and Beryl*)

Seven or eight years ago I met up with Pip from Wales who was living in Prettygate, having been a nurse all her working life. She was a Baptist Worshipper (remember Rev Warwick Bailey?) but came to my church, All Saints, for a few weeks. She was known as Jean even though her first name was Phillipa (Pip). I was so astonished to see her and said to come and sit with me and that Pauline would be joining us after ringing the church bells. On leaving the vicar came up to speak to her and I said "Do you know your Gilbert and Sullivan? He looked puzzled and I said "Three little maids from school are we".



In 1981 I went into St Mary's Hospital and was sitting on the edge of the bed feeling rather apprehensive, when I looked up and in the next bed – looking just as worried as me, was Judy Eves (née Hunwick) who had married Brian Eves of Bensusan-Butt and Eves (Colchester Accountants). We were there for 12 days and had the most hilarious stay. As the Sister said "I shall be glad to see the back of your four." (there were four of us there).



Pamela Rodd of Rodd's Riding School was also in my class. Sadly she was killed when thrown from a horse, many years later. Her son, Maurice, was manager in the opticians at Fiveways and he used to say to people "This lady was in my mum's class at school!"

Mary Clibbon (*left*) sat next to me. She was great. A large girl, I remember she took size 10 in shoes and at that time could only get men's shoes. Both her sisters, Joan and Anne (*see poem on page 9*), were also CCHS pupils – head girls, I think. I kept in touch with her for a time.

Anita Hible sat behind me and her family owned and ran the trick shop in Eld Lane. Ann Bayley whose family also lived in Ardleigh, became a doctor and I think did missionary work later.

Our visit to France was a wonderful experience and I stayed with Claude and her family and she visited me twice. (*right: Beryl and Claude at Versailles*) Her family, I found out, were Jewish which didn't mean much to me, but I know things were hard for them during the war. I asked about her Dad and she said he was deported and it was only a few years later that I understood what 'deported' meant. We took our French oral exam about three weeks after our return and I was sent for by Miss King. She said that my examiner told her that my French was good and I should go to university. Having already been sent the letter telling of my leaving at the end of the summer term, she wrote three times to my mother, but there was no way they could afford to send me and I was already promised a job at Kent Blaxill. Miss King was always keen to help her girls if possible.



Pauline also left school. Her brother, two years younger, was at the Grammar School and, in those days, a boy always took preference over a girl as it was recognised that they would always be the bread winner.

Yvonne Wyman went to Bland Fielden (accountants, now Scrutton Bland) and for years I used to see her when I went to pay the mortgage, as you did when everything was cash.

Sadly Pip, Pauline, and Judy are now gone but what memories we made.

(*below*) Beryl's friends watching school sports (*right*) from the roof of Grey Friars. (No health and safety then and no-one fell off?!)



OBITUARIES

Sadly we have a number of deaths to report and I would be grateful if Old Girls could write fuller obituaries on them for our next Newsletter.

Dr Aline Black died on 15 January 2025 aged 89.

She lived in Frinton for many years and was headteacher of CCHS from 1987 until she retired in 1998. She also taught Maths at the school and when she retired she helped with an Archaeological dig in Colchester.

Bev Hodgkinson – head of Latin died on 8th June 2025.

Mary Francis – Head Science technician died on 22nd January 2025.

Caroline Pope (Abbott 1959-1966) died on 4th September this year.

I remember Caroline as a superb pianist and she regularly played the grand piano at our daily assembly which the whole school attended. We were all feeling rather mischievous and somehow succeeded in convincing (coercing?) Caroline to play the theme music from the then very popular St Trinian's School films as we marched out of the hall. Sniggers from the girls ensued but little response was evident from the staff apart from amused raising of the eyebrows from the younger members. Nothing was ever mentioned by the senior staff, even if they recognised the music, or they probably thought 'Least said, soonest mended!' Liz White

SCHOOL LEAVER'S AWARD 2025

We have recently received a letter from Maisy Brookes the winner of this year's School Leaver's Award

Dear Old Girl's Association,

I am writing to thank you very much for presenting me with the OGA Leaver's Award. I am so pleased to have the time and effort that I have put into my extracurricular activities acknowledged, and to know that I have made a positive impact. It was wonderful to meet Mrs White when she came to represent the OGA at our Year 13 Leavers' Assembly. I hope that past students will continue to have strong links with the school as this can be such a valuable support for the current and future students.

I really appreciated the wide range of musical opportunities at CCHSG and loved leading the orchestra when I was in the Sixth Form. I also enjoyed representing the school at external events, as guitarist in the rock band. This was so much fun and always a great break from academic subjects. While I am taking a gap year after exams, I am hoping to find some more opportunities for volunteering, in addition to the volunteer role that I have at the Essex Wildlife Trust. I am especially interested in animal conservation as that is what I hope to pursue as a career. I am also planning to improve my first aid skills as part of my current part-time job.

Thank you once again for the award.

Best wishes,
Maisy

EVENTS - JEAN JOHNSON

Some of our members will have noticed that this year we have made a real effort to arrange many different occasions for members to meet. In fact, we are proud of the fact that an event was arranged for nearly every month from February to October.

We had breakfast at the Crown Pub in Lexden one Saturday, Coffee at the Officers' Club and the annual

visit to our favourite Chinese Restaurant, Bamboo House. It was whilst we were enjoying cakes at the Officers' Club that some of us agreed that, as much as we were enjoying the cakes, we would perhaps occasionally prefer a sausage roll. Hence the Coffee Morning at my house, where Mary made delicious cakes, I made cheese scones and the pièce de résistance was a vast quantity of warm sausage rolls from Greggs (*below – enjoyed by Jean!*)



We had an Open Morning to meet for coffee on the terrace at Greyfriars, which we will repeat, mainly because it's so little bother for me, your Events Organizer, to arrange, as everyone paid for their own order!

Once again we are grateful to Liz and Di for hosting and providing the usual lovely afternoon tea at the Garden Party in August.

Likewise for providing the catering at the Annual General Meeting at the School in early September (*right*). On that occasion



we were very happy to have Kate Stubbs (the Marketing & Communications Manager at the School) give us news of the School. For many of us it was enjoyable to have the opportunity to visit the School and hear all about the new developments.

At the time of writing this, we still have one more event arranged - a Coffee Morning at Greyfriars. Sadly our numbers participating at events are a little lower than last year, but we hope that if we can offer another full programme next year more of you will be able to join us.

EXTRACTS from SCHOOL MAGAZINES

50 YEARS AGO

Old Girls' Association - Business Report 1974-75

Our Winter Meeting was held on Saturday 25th January 1975. We were very pleased to be well entertained by another excellent Staff Pantomime, Bluebeard, and to meeting again so many members of Staff at supper afterwards.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 11th July 1975. The weather was kind and a croquet tournament was enjoyed both by competitors and spectators, and finally won by Tina Powell (*our very own current committee member!*). After the Business Meeting Mrs Parsonson gave an interesting and amusing talk about her year as Mayoress.

I am again pleased to welcome a large number of new members, and would also like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Hasler and my fellow Committee Members for their help and support,

Hilary Motson (Dowrick), Honorary Secretary.

M5 Geography Weekend

The coach departed from the school at about one o'clock on Friday afternoon. We saw many envious faces peering down at us from the classroom windows, which all added to the excitement of travelling north to Shrewsbury and the Black Country when we would all be slaving away at our lessons during a normal afternoon.

The journey took about six hours, with a couple of stops on the way at motorway service stations. We arrived at the Shrewsbury Youth Hostel round about seven o'clock. The evening meal was at eight, and so we were left with an hour to scrounge for beds in the dormitories, unpack and then go to see what we could find out about the lovely old town of Shrewsbury. It's a fascinating place with the Welsh and English bridges over the River, which almost completely encircles the town. The castle stands at the top of the hilly streets - a grim-looking fortress. One of the most noticeable features was the incredible number of pubs - there seemed to be one about every hundred yards.

The night was rather hectic, especially for those sleeping on the top bunks, which were decidedly rickety. We heard plenty of stories in the morning about falling out of bed on to the hard wooden floor beneath.

Saturday morning was devoted to visiting the famous Iron Bridge and the adjacent museum. We were supposed to be admiring the almost non-existent old furnaces, but it was rather difficult when all we could see was a few bricks perched precariously on top of each other.

In the afternoon, after eating our meagre packed lunch, we strolled round the Blists Hill Open Air Museum. Some of the exhibits here were very interesting, particularly an old steam engine used for pulling the 'cage' up an old mineshaft. It was in perfect working order.

Our next port of call was Telford New Town. Maybe it was not improved by the miserable drizzle falling, but it is not one of the places where I would willingly choose to live. It consisted of modern factories and warehouses, all similar in design, and new houses which appeared to be composed almost entirely of plywood!

On Sunday we woke up to a beautiful bright morning. The coach departed at nine-thirty on the first stage of the long trek back to Colchester. We stopped on the outskirts of Birmingham to see some brickworks. These were quite a revelation - I had expected some frighteningly scientific factory - instead it was three crumbling kilns built of heat-proof bricks. It all looked a little dilapidated and not very efficient

We had lunch in Dudley Park, prior to commencing our journey back home. On the way we passed over the notorious Spaghetti Junction, which isn't half as impressive as it looks from the aerial photographs. The coach sped for long monotonous hours along the M1 and finally reached its destination of the school car-park at seven o'clock.

It was a really enjoyable weekend, thanks to the continued efforts of Mrs Farquhar, Miss Jackson and last but by no means least, Mr Jones. If the M5 Field Weekend is held again next year, I would thoroughly recommend anyone who possibly can to join the expedition.

60 YEARS AGO

L'homme libre: c'est un home qui ne porte pas de cravat.

La jeane fille libre: c'est une jeune fille qui ne porte pas de beret.

Penny Sweeting (Lower VI York)

Motorways

The first UK motorway opened in 1958 at Preston, Lancashire. It was 8 miles long and later became part of the M6. The first section of the M1 opened in 1959 and was completed in 1977 so the motorways were very new when Susan Hempstead of the Middle V and Lancaster House wrote this piece for the 1964-65 Magazine. How life has changed!

Striped, white ribbons threaded through lace and patchwork; gleaming concrete ways joining town to dusty town: these are the motorways. Some say they are ugly, dangerous: others welcome them as the solution to modern transport problems.

As they scurry over gigantic fly-overs and under frail-looking foot-bridges, tinny little cars are scornfully passed by coaches, lorries and powerful limousines. These latter vehicles appreciate the smooth, almost straight roads, and slow down regretfully when approaching the roundabouts which indicate the ends of the motorways. The little, tinny cars, however, must feel frustrated as they sidle along by the kerb like tortoises, while the "hares" flash past them.

As the number of vehicles in the country increases, so the roads have to be maintained or rebuilt. Through countryside, over rivers, round towns, earth-moving engineers carve highways from the land. Long expanses of white stretch through all types of scenery; but, however the scenery may change, the road is the same for mile upon mile, only relieved by occasional sweeps to the left or right, as a minor road leads from the motorway to a by-passed town.

Although the material conditions of the motorways are monotonous, the time of day can alter the roads considerably. In the haze of early morning, when there are few vehicles except coaches and lorries, a feeling of quietness is often sensed, enhanced by the smooth, straight road and the fine, clean lines of overhead bridges. It is in the middle of the day that the journey becomes monotonous, when a steady stream of traffic forces one to keep continuously alert. At night there are, again, fewer cars, and an avenue of orange lights lead on towards one's destination. This is the time when one can really appreciate the fast trouble-free journey.

Perhaps there is a feeling of regret among some people as these motorways increase and lengthen. They may think that the many small back-roads will become unused; but those roads will be there for a very long time; they will be usable, and will serve as a peaceful contrast to the great, white, bustling motorways.

70 YEARS AGO

Foreword to the 1954-55 issue of the School Magazine:

My dear girls, past and present,

The new school remains one of our most absorbing interests. The plans, which are in being, give us some idea of our new home. The buildings will be of modern type, with an excellent hall, gymnasium and library. The setting is lovely and I hope you will walk along the new road into the playing fields and see it. We all find it difficult to exercise the virtue of patience but I can assure you that a great deal of detailed work is already being done. Meanwhile the school must go on working hard to as to keep up the level of attainment which is expected of it.

We have had to say goodbye with regret to a number of members of staff. Miss Blunt, to our sorrow, had finally to give up her work and we offer her our sincere wishes for a good recovery. Miss Nordquist left us in the summer after four years, to start her well-earned retirement. Mrs Stacey also left us as she has moved out of the district. To all these three we owe a great debt for the unselfish and excellent work for us.

And I would like to add our gratitude to Miss R L Phillips for all the work she had done for the Old Girls' Section of the magazine. Miss Burchby has undertaken the work now, and we give her our warm welcome. For reasons of finance the Old Girls Association is, in future, having only two yearly meetings in December and July. We are very sorry to have to make this change, but I know that old girls will realise what welcome guests they are, both on these two occasions and whenever they can visit us.

Yours sincerely,
Katherine Vashon-Baker.

Cautionary Tale

Anne Clibbon (Middle V 19, Plantagenet)

This is the tale of Susie Hooks
Who would insist on eating books!
In dinner she was never seen
To eat good cabbage, raw and green,
Into that room, instead, she took
A nice and tasty English book!
One day, a teacher coming round
Raised her eyes from off the ground,
And looking hard on Susie's plate
Saw : $y + 3$ makes $x + 8$!
She rubbed her eyes and looked again
Now $y + 3$ makes $x + 10$!
She fixed poor Susie with a glance,
"Answer this, girl, if you dare –
Why are you learning Maths in here?
To the Head you'll go, I fear."
"But please, my book is here to eat,"
Replied the girl with flustered heat.
But Susie to the head was sent,
And thence to the stock-cupboard went
"Now eat these books, and we shall see
What wicked lies you've told to me!"
So Susie ate, 'til black and blue
She cried aloud, "Have mercy, do!"
And home was sent quite woebegone,
And there, quite still and pale she lay,
Until the hour she passed away.
If you her gravestone should espy,
These words you'll see when passing by :
"Here lie the bones of Susie Books,
Death cased from eating High School books."

Now, if on reading this, you pale,
You'll know the moral of my tale,
And if your line be eating books,
Take warning from poor Susie Hooks!

Memories of CCHS 1950 and 1951 from Kathleen Wilson



CCHS - July 1950

*Left: Friends together L-R
Mary Bareham, Joan Crane, Shirley Frost,
Dorothy Robinson, Judy Arnold, Helen Hancock,
Ann Harland, Kathleen Wilson, Miggie Edwards
and Angela Stuart.*



Left: MVB with Sports Shield

*Back row L-R: Marion Leveridge, Joy Vince, Mary
Greeacre, Winifred Skeet, Jennifer Banham, Miss
Birch (Form Mistress), Thelma Land, Joan Crane,
Kathleen Wilson, Brenda Botham
Middle Row L-R: Mary Bareham, Elizabeth
Lucsignea, Shirley Camp, Jose Ponder, Pat
Tabart, Helen Hancock, Janet Busy, Margaret
Joyce
Front Row L-R: Judith Arnold, Shirley Jones,
Dorothy Robinson, Shirley Frost (with Sports
Shield), Margaret Rawlings, Cynthia Brown*



Left: Friends together,

*Back Row L-R: Ann Harland, Angela Stuart, Helen
Hancock
Front Row L-R: Dorothy Robinson, Shirley Frost,
Kathleen Wilson, Mary Bareham, Judy Arnold*



Left: Ann Harland and Joan Crane

CCHS MEMBERS OF UV4
North Hill, Summer 1951 – Kathleen Wilson

Right - On the Steps

Back Row L-R: Doreen Astin, Brenda Botham, Mary Greenacre, Kathleen Wilson, Mary Hickey

2nd Row from back L-R: Jose Ponder, Elizabeth Lucsignea, Judith Arnold, Margaret Rawlings, Margaret Everitt

3rd Row from back L-R: Dorothy Robinson, Mary Bareham, Joan Crane, Janet Bush, Winifred Skeet

Front Row L-R: Helen Hancock, Joy Vince, Shirley Camp



Right:

Back Row L-R: Shirley Camp, Mary Bareham, Janet Bush, Miss Flatman (Form Mistress), Mary Greenacre, Joan Crane, Mary Hickey

Middle Row L-R: Winifred Skeet, Kathleen Wilson, Joy Vince, Helen Hancock, Doreen Astin, Margaret Everitt

Front Row L-R: Brenda Botham, Jose Ponder, Elizabeth Lucsignea, Judith Arnold, Margaret Rawlings, Dorothy Robinson



Right:

Back Row L-R: Brenda Botham, Elizabeth Lucsignea (hidden), Shirley Camp, Winifred Skeet, Marion Leveridge, Mary Bareham, Joan Crane, Janet Bush

Middle Row L-R: Margaret Joyce, Joy Vince, Mary Greenacre, Kathleen Wilson, Margaret Everitt

Front Row L-R: Shirley Frost, Helen Hancock, Judith Arnold, Dorothy Robinson, Daphne Baker, Mary Hickey



Right: Kathleen Wilson, Cynthia Brown, Mary Bareham, Joan Crane



Far Right: Kathleen Wilson and Joy Vince



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

With thanks to Kate Stubbs, Marketing & Communications Manager

CCHSG European Youth Parliament Success

In July eight Year 12 students went to Liverpool to attend the National session for the European Youth Parliament. They engaged in four very busy days of teambuilding, committee work and general debate. The group had the opportunity to interact with students from across the country and Europe. We are delighted that three of our team have been selected to compete in further EYP National Finals in Poland and Croatia.

“I loved it - I am incredibly grateful that I got to take part, and I would definitely recommend it!” student Edie Duffy said.

Students also had evening social activities to remind them that this experience was about community as well as the serious issues they were debating. The activities included a scavenger hunt, games night and a Euro-concert. The CCHSG EYP team are all incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to the fundraising, to allow them to take part in this once in a lifetime experience. Mr Paz is very proud of the team and their unparalleled enthusiasm. He can't wait to see some of them continue in their EYP journey 'somewhere in Europe'.

Bures Music Festival Success 2025

On Thursday 10 July, four acts from CCHSG took to the main stage at the Bures Music Festival, participating in the annual B Fest competition, ably supported by our Sixth Form rock band, last year's overall winners Dusk. This competition is for young singers and bands (age 12-17), allowing the winners to perform to a live festival audience. The competition was particularly tough this year with a record breaking seventeen acts, making the job of the judges very difficult indeed.



All four CCHSG acts were fantastic, putting in a valiant effort and an impressive, energetic performance; Mufaro Mavhinga made a return to the B Fest stage after her success winning best solo performer last year, with her rendition of “Zombie” by The Cranberries and Niamh Cullen ably performed Bon Jovi’s “It’s My Life”. The Year 10 rock band Nova made a welcome B Fest debut, and we hope to see them return next year.

The performance of Year 12 student Delinda Banks (*left*), singing “Before He Cheats” by Carrie Underwood, however, was exceptional and she was awarded the prize for Best Solo Performance.

Delinda said: “I’m absolutely overjoyed that I not only got the opportunity to perform for a crowd, but also that I was able to take home the crown against so many incredible singers.”

All in all, a brilliant night was had by all, performers, crew, judges and audience. A massive well done to all involved.

Mrs Cudmore-Rice

A “Very Shaky Summer Webfest”

At the end of last term the annual summer show took place. A “Very Shaky Summer Webfest”: Shakespeare’s wife is becoming sick of his plays, so she decides to write her own - with a twist. It featured classics from Andrew Lloyd Webber shows such as “The Phantom of the Opera” and “Evita”, as well as six hilarious sketches written by CCHSG ex-student Lucy Molnar.

“The school shows are what I like best about CCHSG Sixth Form! I have absolutely loved participating in this year’s summer show, as I’ve been able to play a comedic character, which I don’t usually do, as well as sing the iconic “Phantom of the Opera” with an incredibly talented partner! I adore drama and I feel so fortunate that we have such an incredible drama department and a super talented cast, and I wish we were able to do more performances!”

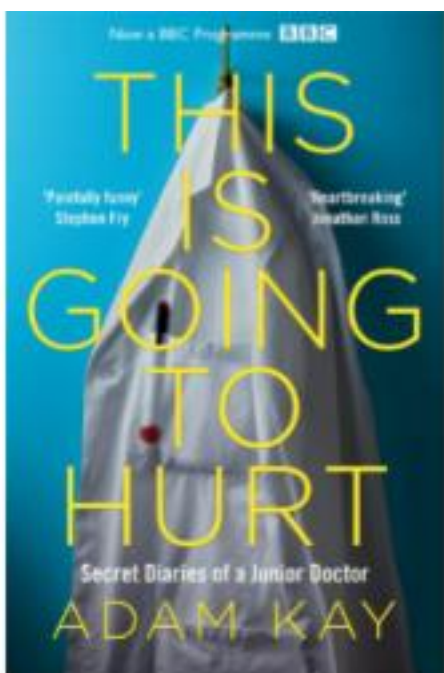
Year 12 student.



“I always love participating in the school’s shows and this year’s summer show was no exception! The show was written by a talented former student, which is exciting and makes it original and fun, with a unique fusion of comedy, Shakespeare and Andrew Lloyd Webber”.

Year 12 student.

Visiting Speaker – Adam Kay



Students had the opportunity to listen to Adam Kay, accomplished author, comedy actor and former doctor who wrote the bestselling book “This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor”, published in 2017 (*left*). The book is a collection of diary entries written by Kay during his medical training from 2004 to 2010.

During his presentation Kay talked about his journey into the world of medicine and how he ended up moving into the fulfilling career he has today. Kay is now an established screenwriter, having written and co-created the 2015 BBC Three sitcom series “Crims” along with other television work as a writer and script editor including “Mrs. Brown’s Boys”, “Mongrels”, “Very British Problems”, “Mitchell and Webb” and “Child Genius”.

Students found the talk useful and enjoyable. “It was very helpful as he gave us a realistic outlook about what it’s like to be a doctor and prompted us to ask ourselves important questions about our future career choices”.

Mayukha Bhatt 12T

VE and VJ Day Commemoration

VE/VJ Day 80 2025 marked the 80th anniversaries of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) on 8 May and VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day) on 15 August. At CCHSG, we designed a number of cross-curricular activities to mark these anniversaries. As well as our whole-school assembly delivered by three of our History Ambassadors on the 8 May, we organised the following:

The History Society showed the National Theatre's "The Next Morning" short film and the Royal British Legion "I'll remember: Discovering stories of VE and VJ Day" short film. These examined intergenerational perspectives of WWII.

The Music Department dedicated lessons at KS3 to learn the Royal British Legion "I'll Remember" song which was performed to the wider school community in the Summer Celebration Assemblies.

The English Department engaged with the Imperial War Museum "Learning from Letters" activity to promote creative writing with KS3 students.

The Art Department launched a competition led by the Art Ambassadors, to design a VE/VJ Day 80 commemorative plate.



Alumnae Reunion – Class of 2003

In May CCHSG welcomed back some of the Class of 2003 who met over coffee to reminisce and recall memories of their time at CCHSG. They were joined by longstanding CCHSG staff members Dr Cox and Mrs Davison together with previous Head of Maths, Mr Robin.

In 2003 the Headteacher was Mrs Elizabeth Ward (*right*) and the school had a role of around 650 students with four forms of entry. Ms Stubbs led groups on a tour of the school. While areas such as the main hall and gym were quite recognisable,



there was amazement at some of the development to the site - the new sports hall, art rooms and library. Our visitors were particularly pleased to hear that we now have a new swimming pool which actually has adjacent changing rooms - as they had to walk in their towels across the car park from changing room to pool! Our alumni were delighted to discover that their old Form Rooms were still recognisable - with the past members of 11H (Mrs Hatwell) posing for a group photograph in F5 (*below*).



The **CCHSG e-Newsletter** is published every half term and can be found on the website www.cchsg.com under “news” or via <https://www.cchsg.com/news/enewsletter/>

CCHS - THEN and NOW!

