



Our reference: CTALET22/LH

22nd December 2023

Re: Season's Greetings

Without doubt, it seems to me that each academic year flies by so fast, one moment we are welcoming our new intake children as CCHS 'freshers' at the start of September and the next moment we are at Christmas, and they are nearly halfway through their first year. Well done to the new cohort of students, they have settled into CCHS life exceptionally well.

The autumn term to date has been packed with so much, both academically and with extra-curricular activities. November was extremely busy with mock exams; student behaviour throughout this time was impressive with most embracing the experience of real exam conditions to help prepare for next summer. Results of the mocks have been released and students know where they need to focus their studies to optimise their opportunities to ensure they achieve the best outcomes. Congratulations to all of those students who revised hard for these mock exams. Six months of hard work and effort now will make a massive difference come the August results.

School trips this term included: the British Museum, Harry Potter Tour @ Warner Bros Studios, F24 racing for the STEM team, Bar Mock Trial experience at Suffolk Uni, First Site Gallery, a range of theatre trips, The Christmas Lecture at Anglia Ruskin and all of the usual end of the term rewards trips to the Princes Theatre pantomime Aladdin and the cinema to see Wonka, for those students with excellent attendance. Three overseas trips are planned for 2024 with skiing in Italy for 8 days in March, Madrid for 4 days also in March, and a possible trip to The Azores in October.

School trips are only a small part of our extra-curricular and broader curriculum offer, there have been many sporting events, Duke of Edinburgh challenges, parental engagement events, Judo belts trained for and awarded, Nemo Maths Challenges, Jack Petchey Awards and so much more; there is definitely something to suit every student at CCHS.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our CCHS staff for their hard work and commitment, we really do have a great body of staff. Without them and their passion and enthusiasm, we would not be able to provide the outstanding 'CCHS Experience' both inside and outside of the classroom.

The past few weeks have really highlighted to me what fantastic children you have. I have attended an awards evening to celebrate the successes of the Class of 2023, year 11 and year 13 students, witnessed some fabulous performances and been impressed with the input and engagement of our Student Leadership team. Thank you to our students who go the extra mile, embrace the PROUD values of CCHS and show visible kindness every day, we are very proud of you all.

This week we delivered our filled tote bags to the residents of Holly Court. Each year this appeal is met with an astonishing amount of donations of gifts and monetary contributions. Yet again, we have filled, to the rafters, tote bags of goodies for all of the exceptionally grateful residents. The overwhelming generosity has meant that each resident has received a filled tote bag but we have also been able to deliver spare bags to the Salvation Army in order to help assist local families in need at Christmas. Thank you to all of our families for your generous support of this appeal.

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I am also very proud to announce a return of the Christmas Day meal at CCHS for local elderly people who are on their own at Christmas. We are the venue, but a massive thanks to Dan Austin and the Clacton Rotary Clubs for organising this extra special event. Hosting of the day will be supported by a small number of staff from CCHS and their families along with some students. The chef for the day is ex-student and top chef, Tommy Leatherbarrow. Many thanks to everyone involved for giving up their personal family time to support this very special event. Our gratitude also to local businesses for their donations of food and accessories.

One final thing I wanted to remind everyone of is the safeguarding aspect especially with children obtaining new devices, new electronic games and an increased use of social media platforms. Keeping safe online, and when out and about in the community, is so important, and I urge parents and carers to consider the use of social media by your children throughout the Christmas break. Ask questions; what are they watching, who are they with online, what are they getting involved in? The dangers facing young people online cannot be underestimated. In addition, know where your children are when they are out and about, respect for others and others' property is vital, ensure your child stays away from any form of anti-social behaviour. There are plenty of free apps to monitor where your child is to help keep them safe.

To all of our families, share and spend time together over the holiday and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2024. Looking forward to seeing everyone back to school on 8th January 2024.

Best wishes,

Chris Taylor
Head of School