



# Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



[www.countyhigh.org.uk](http://www.countyhigh.org.uk)

[Sigma Sixth](#)

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[The CCHS Blog](#)

Autumn Term 2023 | Issue 1 | Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

## **Welcome and Welcome Back!!**

With the first week of the academic year completed, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our latest cohort of students into Year 7, along with their parents and carers. This week we also welcomed our Year 11 students back into school and next week, joining Year 7 and 11, we will be welcoming Year 10 back full time along with Years 8 and 9 on alternating days. Please refer to my [letter](#) sent yesterday for full details of the plans for the next two weeks.

Undoubtedly, it has not been the start of term that we all expected. Although our contractors worked non-stop throughout the summer break, and all of the original remedial work was completed as planned, unfortunately some very last-minute additional requirements issued by the government, on supporting areas containing of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), meant a change of plan for the start of term. The vast majority of work is scheduled to be completed in time for week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September, to enable a return of all years and we will keep you updated on the progress.

The students, who have been in school, have looked exceptionally smart in their school uniforms and I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for taking note of our expectations around uniform. [Full information on uniform](#) is available on our website, but if you have any issues or require any support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's relevant pastoral team via [admin@cchs.school](mailto:admin@cchs.school); staff are available to help. Students now have a [CCHS Expectations](#) insert within their new Independent Learning Folders; this will help them ensure that they are always prepared for school and Ready to Learn.

From an educational point of view, the year ahead looks promising and we remain optimistic that with home and school working together, our students can all achieve their potential and remain healthy and happy in school.

I wish everyone all the very best for the year 2023-24.

*Chris Taylor – Head of School*

## **The Start of a New Chapter – Welcome Year 7**

Although a day late, Tuesday saw the official start of the new academic year and the first day at secondary school for our new Year 7 students and first day at Sigma Sixth College for Year 12 students. All have adapted well to their new surroundings and are starting to find their way around the school. This is our largest new intake group with 339 students joining CCHS in Year 7 this academic year. We wish them a happy and successful time during their five years of secondary education at our school.



*Deputy Headteacher, Adrian Kidd, greeted our new Year 7 students on their first morning at CCHS*

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## Outstanding Summer Exam Results

In August, our GCSE and A-Level students celebrated after receiving some wonderful results. Top performers at GCSE include **Polly** with a remarkable maximum of all the highest grades (all 9 subjects at grade 9), **Elicia** (5 subjects at grade 9, 4 at grade 8 and 1 grade 7); **Freya** (4 subjects at grade 9, 3 subjects at grade 8 and 2 subjects at grade 7); **Abi** and **Maisie** (10 subjects at grade 7 and above); **Zi Yu** and **Charlie** (9 subjects at grade 7 and above); **Thomas**, **Scarlett** and **Emma** (8 subjects at grade 7 and above). In addition, our Year 10 students produced some outstanding results in their GCSE English Literature. Chris Taylor, Head of School, was delighted with the all the students' outcomes and said, "The results for this year have been a just reward for all the hard work and effort put in by the students and staff. There were some stunning individual outcomes and amazing stories of success that have enabled all our students to progress onto Sigma Sixth, apprenticeships or pursue other further education options."



At A-Level there were many outstanding individual results with the vast majority of students achieving their first-choice place at university. Amongst the highest achievers were **Elizabeth** (A\* grades in Biology and Extended Project, A grade in Psychology and B in Chemistry) who has gained a place at University of East Anglia to read Medicine; **Beth** (A\* grades in Geography and Extended Project, A grade in Chemistry and B in English Literature) who has gained a place at University of Loughborough to read Geography; **Jack** (A\* in Law, A in Extended Project and B grades in English Literature and Psychology) who has gained a place at University of Nottingham to read Law; **Alfie** (A\* in Photography, Di\* in Art and Design, A in Computer Science and C in Maths) who has gained a place at University of Cardiff to read Architecture; **Bryn** (Di\* grades in ICT and Business Studies and A in Computer Science) who has gained a place at University of Essex to read Computer Science, **Rocqi** (A grade in Criminology, B grades in English Language and Geography and C in Psychology) who has gained a place at University of Southampton to read Language, Culture and Communication; **Harry** and **Molly** (Di\*, Di\*, Di\* in Sport) who have gained places at University of Brighton and Essex, Harry will read Physical Education with QTS and Molly will read Sports Therapy.

Head of College, Sarah McKarry commented, "I am delighted with the success of our sixth form students this year and I have been impressed by their resilience and drive to succeed. They are a talented group of young people and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. This is testament to our individualised approach and supportive community at Sigma Sixth, with committed students and staff working hard, fully supported by our parents/carers".



Executive Headteacher, Neil Gallagher added, "I am delighted for our students and their families, my congratulations go out to them all. I cannot praise the staff here at CCHS and Sigma Sixth more highly for their commitment and dedication to our students. To those students leaving us, we wish you the very best of luck for the future and we will follow your progress with interest and pride."

## Essential Applications - Arbor - Student Email - Google Accounts



At CCHS we utilise a number of software applications to help support learning and keep our students informed – these include numerous Google applications and our new information management system - Arbor. Every student has their own school Google account and Gmail email account, which we use to communicate with students and keep them informed – see our dedicated [help sheet](#).



**All of our students should be accessing the Arbor Web Portal and school emails on a daily basis to ensure that they do not miss any important communications from school and to keep track of their homework (referred to as 'Assignments' in Arbor), behaviour points and timetable.**

- Parents and carers can also access the Arbor web portal and Arbor App (Android & iOS) – the app version is a streamlined version of the web-portal. The new portal also encompasses Arbor Pay, which has replaced ParentPay for all payments, except those for existing extra-curricular trips, that were open on ParentPay before the summer holiday. NB. There is not a student version of the Arbor App – although students can access their Arbor Portal through any web browser on their smart devices or computer desktop.
- Parents were sent a unique code to enable them to set up their Arbor portal and Arbor App (the login details are identical). If students and parents have yet to set-up their Arbor portal they can do so by following our [Arbor 'How to log in' guide](#).



There are additional 'How to Log in' guides on a dedicated page on the CCHS website, which contains useful help sheets and explanation videos to assist students and parents to access the various applications that we utilise in school. A dedicated '[Student Login Details' help sheet](#) advises on the format of students' school email addresses and Google usernames, along with default passwords. Students need to ensure that they secure their



Google Account by changing the default password on their account – a further [help sheet](#) details this process. Students have a number of different usernames and passwords that they need to remember for various educational portals. If they forget any of these then our IT technicians are able to reset their account back to the default password.



## CCHS Weekly News & the CCHS Website

**Reminder for all parents that 'Weekly News' is emailed\*** to parents and students at the end of each week – current and previous editions are also available on the [school's website](#). Weekly News contains news, information, achievements of our students and any changes to the school calendar. If your son or daughter does something, of which they are proud not only in school but outside as well, then let us know. Please email details of your child's personal achievements to – [parentnews@cchs.school](mailto:parentnews@cchs.school) – this email address can be found at the top of each edition of Weekly News.

Our weekly newsletter includes a section dedicated to Weekly Notices, containing more general information, links to important letters separated by year groups, support information for families and repeated notices. Our website, [www.countyhigh.org.uk](http://www.countyhigh.org.uk) is an ideal source of information. There are numerous '**Link Buttons' and current notices** on the '[Parent Quick Links](#)' webpage, as shortcuts to the most accessed information. These and more are also available from the '**Parents**' tab on the drop-down menu or through the search function (available through the magnifying-glass icon at the top of the homepage).

**\*As the majority of communication is sent via email it is imperative that we have up-to-date contact information. If you have changed your email address or have not been receiving our Weekly Mailing each week then, please ensure that we have your current email address by emailing the school at [admin@cchs.school](mailto:admin@cchs.school) – please include the name(s) and form(s) of your child/children in the main part of the email.**

## Term Dates for this Academic Year

### Autumn Term 2023

Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Open Evening School closes at 1.15pm
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-pupil days
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	End of term School closes end of lesson 2

### Spring Term 2024

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of term
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Half term holiday
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Non-pupil day
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term School closes end of lesson 2

### Summer Term 2024

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May-Day holiday
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term holiday
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of term School closes end of lesson 2

[The term dates for the 2023-2024 academic year are also available on the school website, along with advance notice of the term dates for the 2024-25 academic year.](#)

For detailed information about school events, exam dates and students' report schedule please see our [Key Dates Calendar](#).





# Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Notices and Letters



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**The Weekly Notices is a 'one-stop shop' for home/school written communications and information.**

Please take the time to check through the mailing particularly for your child's individual year group: there could be some very important information for you to be aware of.

## **A warm welcome back to all our CCHS families**

The last day of the summer term was a non-uniform day in aid of charity. We are pleased to announce that this event raised £260 for St Helena Hospice. There will be many more charitable opportunities and parent/carer engagement events this year for our students and their families to become involved with, so please keep an eye on this mailing and your emails for further notice and invitations.

The start of any new term brings about lots of questions and the need for support for our parents and carers, [our website](#) holds a lot of valuable information and should be your first port of call, any queries you may have can be emailed to [admin@cchs.school](mailto:admin@cchs.school).

## **Whole School Notices**

[Letter from Head of School Mr C Taylor. Update on Student Arrangements due to RAAC Remedial Works](#)

### **Providing correct contact information**

It is vital that the school holds accurate and up to date contact information for all our parents and carers.

**Please use Arbor** to change any of the following information relating to yourself and your child:

Home address, email address, contact telephone numbers and providing consents. The changes will be checked and then actioned.

Changes to other contact information will need to be requested via email to [admin@cchs.school](mailto:admin@cchs.school) or by messaging through the in-app messaging service.

**Parking** – Please be respectful and mindful of our neighbours along Walton Road, Boley Drive and other surrounding streets. At the start and end of the school day, to drop off or pick up, please park in the leisure centre car park or in a street well away from the main entrance and make arrangements to meet your child there.

If you need to drop off, or pick up your child at other times, please do so away from the school safety road markings, be considerate to the school's neighbours and please do not park across driveways or on verges.

As a school we are committed to trying to be as green as possible, so to help us support this please ensure that you switch your engines off when parked. Even better still, encourage your child to walk or cycle if they are able.

**Contact with CCHS Staff** – It is important to remember that our teaching staff and support staff colleagues have a range of commitments and are very busy throughout each day and often straight after school. Therefore, they may not be directly available either by phone or in person.

To avoid any disappointment or frustration, should you need to speak to a member of staff, please email [admin@cchs.school](mailto:admin@cchs.school) or complete the [contact form](#) on our [website](#) and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are unable to email please call the main school switchboard on 01255 424266.

Please be patient and courteous to our staff in reception, they are there to help you and will always try their very best to do so, but bear in mind, they do not always have an immediate answer to your question. *Remember: there is no excuse for verbal abuse!*

### **Free School Meals**

The CCHS Communications Office receives many queries in regards to Free School Meals. Please check your eligibility and to make an application by using this link [Click here](#)

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## Lockers

As more areas of school become available again, following the temporary RAAC closures, Lockers will start to be allocated. More information on this will follow in the next few weeks.



## Student absence



**Student appointments and absence reporting can be made via email [absence@cchs.school](mailto:absence@cchs.school)**

Medical or similar appointments for your child should, wherever possible, be made outside of school hours. If this is not possible, an email should be sent in advance to [absence@cchs.school](mailto:absence@cchs.school). Students who need to sign out during the school day, must sign out at attendance and they will be provided with a green 'Permission to be out of School' slip. They must sign back into school at the attendance office upon their return. This is vital for safeguarding purposes.

*(Please give your child a note on the day, to help them, and the class teacher, remember the appointment)*

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please email [absence@cchs.school](mailto:absence@cchs.school) **before** 8.45am. Please refer to the CCHS website for further information on reporting student absence - [Click here](#)

## Autumn Term date reminders

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Open Evening (school closes at 13.15)

### Year 7

#### School photographs are now live

Carmel Jane Photography were present at CCHS on Tuesday 5th of Sept 2023, to take Yr 7 Individual Photos. These school photos are now live. If you have pre-registered you should now have an email with your unique access link. If not please contact Carmel Jane Photography via the following link: <https://www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support/>

All photographs will be sent straight to home address with limited discounts available for the first 14 days.

Email: [info@carmeljane.co.uk](mailto:info@carmeljane.co.uk) Tel: 01277 822674 (9am-2pm)

### Years 8

Please see the table imbedded in the [Update on Student Arrangements due to RAAC Remedial Works](#) for a schedule of home learning

### Year 9

Please see the table imbedded in the [Update on Student Arrangements due to RAAC Remedial Works](#) for a schedule of home learning

### Year 10

No individual notices for Year 10 this week!

### Year 11

No individual notices for Year 11 this week!

## Sixth Form Notices

No individual notices for Year 12 & 13 this week!

## Safeguarding, SEND and Wellbeing

[How to stay safe in a heatwave - NHS](#)

## Community Notices

### Youth Enquiry Service (YES)

Is your child or teenager receiving counselling? Are you finding life a challenge while waiting for counselling support to begin? Youth Enquiry Service (YES) offer a safe space to share please [click here](#) for more information

### Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service

The following workshops are available for parent/carers in the local area

[Click here to view](#)

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