



Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



www.countyhigh.org.uk

[Sigma Sixth](mailto:SigmaSixth)

admin@cchs.school

parentnews@cchs.school

Autumn Term 2024 | Issue 1 | Friday 6th September

[Link to Weekly Notices](#)

Welcome and Welcome Back!!

With the first full week of the academic year completed, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our latest cohort of students into Year 7 and a welcome back to all of our other year groups. It is great to see everyone back in school, excited and ready for the forthcoming year.

Students have returned looking 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; staff are available to help.

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 2024-2025.

Chris Taylor – Head of School

The Start of a New Chapter – Welcome Year 7

This week 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 and college. This year we have 336 students joining CCHS in Year 7 and we wish them a happy and successful time through their journey at secondary school and sixth form college with us.



Deputy Headteacher, Craig Lawrie, greeted our new Year 7 students on their first morning at CCHS

Year 7 – Do you ride a bike? Do you want to be a safe cyclist?

Each year, we offer our new students the opportunity to improve their cycling skills and build their confidence when riding on the road. If you are planning to cycle to school, ride to a club or explore with your family, then Level 3 Bikeability is the answer. It will set you up for a life of freedom on wheels! The half-day course is taught in smaller groups of 6 students so every course is tailored to a riders' needs. In Level 3, you will learn more advanced skills including how to use the best riding position for any situation, ride alongside other cyclists or negotiate more complex roads. Towards the end of September, there will be four sessions on offer, each taking place during the school day.

As spaces are limited per session, early enrolment is advised; spaces will be allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis. Consent forms will be distributed to students by Year 7 Form Tutors on Monday morning; completed forms should be returned to the Year 7 Pastoral Office. Students will need to bring their own bike into school and wear a bike helmet for their Bikeability session.



Follow us



@clacton_cchs



@clactoncountyhigh



@cchssixth

Outstanding Summer Exam Results

In August, our GCSE and A-Level students celebrated after receiving some wonderful results. Top performers at GCSE included **Chloe, Betsy, Simon, Yamin, Samiha** and **Sonny**, all of whom received a fantastic set of grades. Additionally, we acknowledged those students who made the most progress across the Year 11 cohort, since starting with us five years ago – well done to **Chris, Zakk, Alexander, Ella-Rose** and **Yulian**. Congratulations also go to a number of our Year 10 students who produced some outstanding results in their GCSE Religious Education Short-Course.



Chris Taylor, Head of School, was delighted with 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 **Jamie** (A* grades in Maths, Further Maths, Extended Project and an A grade in Physics who has gained a place at University of Warwick to read Economics; **Jonathan** (A* grade in Extended Project and A grades in Maths, Chemistry and Physics) who has gained a place at University College London to read Natural Sciences; **Harry** (A grades in Law, Criminology and B grade in RE) who has gained a place at University of Sussex to read



Law; **Emily** (A grades in History, Psychology and B grades in Biology and Extended Project) who has gained a place at University of Manchester to read Law; **David** (A grades in Maths, Physics, Extended Project and B grades in Further Maths and Chemistry who will be studying abroad; **Evie** (A grade in Spanish, Extended Project and B grades in English Literature and Drama) who has gained a place at Durham to read English Literature; **Hannah** (Distinction* Dance and

Double Distinction in Health and Social Care) who has gained a place at University of Essex to read Childhood Studies, and **Laura** (Distinction*, Double Distinction Sport) who has gained an apprenticeship in Outdoor Youth Education.

Head of College, Sarah McKarry commented, *"I am incredibly proud of our Year 13 students and so happy to be able to celebrate with them following their efforts over the past two years. They have been a wonderful cohort. The utmost credit goes to them, their families and their teachers for their hard work and determination. 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. I wish every one of our Year 13 leavers the very best for their next steps and longer-term futures whether they are leaving us for university, apprenticeships, a gap year or employment"*.



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 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 their 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 Arbor portal also encompasses our cashless payment system for purchasing food at break and lunch, along with trip payments, charity donations and any other payments required.
- 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). It is also possible to use the 'Forgot Password' function – a reset link will then be sent to the email address entered, as long as it matches the email address linked to the parent contact information we hold on Arbor. 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. NB: Our new Year 7 students will receive their unique password during their first Computer Science lesson. If they wish, students can change their password to something more memorable for them, this can only be done in school when logged onto one of our Desktop machines (not a Chromebook), a further [help sheet](#) details this process. Students can also visit our IT office (opposite Room C12 – new location for our school library) to have their password updated, if they forget their password or are unable to log into their account.

CCHS Weekly Mailings & CCHS Website

Reminder for all parents that the '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](#). **CCHS Weekly News** contains news, information, achievements of our students and much more. 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 – this address can be found at the top of each edition of Weekly News. Our weekly newsletter is accompanied by **CCHS 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 is an ideal source of information. There are numerous '**Link Buttons**' 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 Mailings each week then, please ensure that we have your current email address by emailing the school at 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 2024

Thurs 19 th September	Open Evening School finishes at 1.15pm
Mon 28 th Oct – Fri 1 st Nov	Half term holiday
Fri 29 th November	Non-pupil day
Fri 20 th December	End of term School finishes at 12noon

Spring Term 2025

Mon 6 th January	Start of term
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st February	Half term holiday
Mon 24 th February	Non-pupil day
Fri 4 th April	End of term School finishes at 12noon

Summer Term 2025

Tues 22 nd April	Start of term
Mon 5 th May	May-Day holiday
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th May	Half term holiday
Fri 18 th July	End of term School finishes at 12noon

[The term dates for the 2024-2025 academic year are also available on the school website, along with advance notice of the term dates for the 2025-26 academic year.](#)

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

