



Clacton County High School Sigma Sixth Tending Weekly News



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[Sigma Sixth](#)

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End of Academic Year - Extended Issue

Discovering History at the Castle



Our Year 7 historians have been on a journey through time this term, delving into the rich history of Colchester Castle. Since April, they've explored everything from its Roman origins and the Norman Conquest to its role as a garrison, a place of siege defence, a prison, and even its chilling connections to the Witchfinder General, Matthew Hopkins.

To bring their learning to life, over 120 of our students recently enjoyed two action-packed "learning on location" days at Colchester Castle. These visits were an invaluable opportunity for them to consolidate their classroom knowledge by experiencing the castle's history first hand.



To further reinforce their understanding, History teachers Mr Bull and Mrs Mills set their students a challenge: to build replica models of motte and bailey, or stone castles as a home learning project. The response was simply incredible! Mr. Bull and Mrs. Mills were so impressed by the amazing entries that they enlisted Mr. Taylor and Mr. Chitsakamile to undertake the difficult task of judging. A huge well done to all the students who dedicated many hours to constructing their impressive entries. And a special congratulations to our winners for their outstanding projects: 1st place - Mia Snipp; 2nd place - Billie Simmons; 3rd place - Millie Franklin; Best miniature Castle: Alexander Key.



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Recognising Individuals – Jack Petchey ‘Outstanding Achievement’ Awards

Talented and dedicated individuals from across the Tendring District were celebrated at a special Jack Petchey Foundation awards evening last week. Among those who were acknowledged were a number of CCHS students. Congratulations to Ruby, Savannah, Faith, Ashton, Kayleigh, Sydnie, Demi, Trenda, Joss, Luke, Emily and Amy. Their awards were presented to them by the Leader of Tendring District Council, Councillor Mark Stephenson, who congratulated them on their magnificent achievements.



Ruby collected her award for her commitment to swimming and gymnastics. Her dedication and hard work have led to much success. Always polite, kind, and caring, she juggles her extra-curricular activities with school life perfectly and is dedicated to everything she does.

Savannah is dedicated to her gymnastics in and out of school. She's an excellent role model and incredibly supportive of her sister, Ruby. School staff speak very highly of her; she always has a smile on her face and excels with school life.

Faith is a very diligent student who went above and beyond in her English lessons. She always challenged herself, worked hard, supported others, memorised practically the whole of Macbeth for her GCSE exam, and has been an exceptional role model for other students

Ashton is one of our sports leaders who has supported students with additional needs, helping deliver sport sessions for them. Feedback from the school and parents praised how supportive, thoughtful, and caring he was.

Kayleigh is an astute and hard-working student in every subject. She gives 100% in every lesson and works hard both in school and at home. Kayleigh has developed high-level skills in art and is developing her own unique style.

Sydnie is an exemplary sports student and role model to her peers and to younger students around the school in her behaviour, attitude, and kind and polite manner; she always wears a smile. She is dedicated to her gymnastics and an inspiration to younger students, giving up her own time to coach them.

Demi has grown into a mature young lady who has overcome challenges of her own, whilst offering support to other students in and out of school. Demi shows resilience every day with a smile on face. Outside of school she takes part and leads explorers, cubs, and lifeguarding.

Trenda's dedication and versatility extend well beyond the classroom, establishing her as one of the standout students in her Year 13 cohort. She consistently demonstrates a proactive and ambitious approach, eagerly seeking new opportunities to challenge herself and gain real world experience.

Luke has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his craft across dance, drama, and music. What truly sets him apart, however, is his remarkable perseverance and strength of character. After setbacks when auditioning for numerous school productions, he showed extraordinary resilience, and as a result was deservedly cast in a lead role in the school musical, a testament to his hard work and development.

Emily is a talented Year 7 student who collected her award for her drama performances. She is involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, showing perseverance and dedication. Despite her young age, she has aspired to lead roles within a local theatre group performing at the Westcliff theatre.

Amy has become an invaluable member of the performing arts team, assisting with numerous extra-curricular activities, utilising her drama and music qualifications. She is compassionate, kind, and always happy to help where she can. Amy is a wonderful role model who helps inspire her peers and younger students alike.

Joss has been an exemplary role model of professionalism and hard work through his extra-curricular contributions to the Vocational and Performance Faculty at CCHS. He has been in every musical possible during his time at CCHS and Sigma Sixth. He is a valued member of the creative team and brings his expertise and passion to all rehearsals and events.



CCHS Annual Sports Awards Evening: A Knockout Celebration

This week, our annual Sports Award Evening, hosted by our dedicated PE team, was a resounding success! We celebrated the outstanding achievements of our students who have excelled in sporting activities throughout the academic year.

A huge highlight of the evening was our special guest, up-and-coming professional boxer, Billy Adams. Billy kicked off the evening with an inspiring message, encouraging our talented sports students to always persevere and never give up on their goals. He truly motivated everyone in attendance! Billy also generously took the time to have photos taken with all our award winners, creating memorable moments for our students. It was a fantastic evening celebrating dedication, talent, and the power of never giving up!

Head of School, Chris Taylor, presented awards to students, celebrating their exceptional achievement and performance across numerous sports, from football and rugby through to netball and athletics. We also acknowledged the important role of our sports leaders within school, alongside the sporting achievements of those students who excel in a variety of sports outside of school. In addition, we were delighted to announce the Year 11 Sports Personalities for 2025 – Vontai and Kenna, as well as the 2025 Sports Champions from each year group. Congratulations to: Year 7 winners Betty and Oliver; Year 8 winners Erin and Jake; Year 9 winners Amelia and Bailey; Year 10 winners Sydnie and Tom.



This year, the prestigious Eastman Award was presented to Grace, who throughout her time at Sigma Sixth, has flourished as a sports student. More recently in a voluntary capacity within the PE department, helping support PE lessons and sports students across Years 7 to 11. Grace's enthusiasm, dedication to her studies, and attention to detail are second to none. Over the past two years, she has become an invaluable member of the CCHS PE team, and we wish her further success in her University studies.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of our new initiative for the next academic year – the CCHS Sports Council. This council has been established to promote leadership, unity, and excellence in sport at Clacton County High School. Our sport captains' goal is to support all school sports, encourage participation, and foster a spirit of respect, teamwork, and school pride both on and off the field. The CCHS Sports Council will serve as a voice for student athletes, helping to organise teams, fixtures and events; celebrate achievements; and work alongside our PE team and sports coaches to help ensure that the CCHS sports experience is the best it can be for all our students. Congratulations to our new Presidents, Year 10 students Sydnie and Adam, and Vice-Presidents, Year 9 students Bluebell and Jayden. We also congratulate the female and male sports captains for each sport, who will be responsible for all the year group teams within their sport. All of our Sports Council members were presented with a special PE top that they will be able to wear as part of their PE kit next year, making them recognisable to other students as a point of contact for anything relating to CCHS school sport.



Celebrating the Influential Women of Essex



This week marked a significant historical moment for Clacton with the unveiling of its very first 'Blue Plaque'. The plaque celebrates the remarkable life of Catherine Booth, widely known as the "Mother of the Salvation Army." She lived and passed away in a house that once stood on the site now occupied by the Crossley View Retirement Apartments on Clacton seafront.



The national blue plaque scheme recognizes historic individuals who have made significant contributions to human welfare or happiness. Student representatives were honoured to attend the ceremony, which was graced by the presence of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs. Jennifer Tolhurst. Catherine Booth was one of Victorian Britain's most influential social reformers and co-founder of the Salvation Army, alongside her husband General William Booth. As part of the poignant ceremony, students Jess and Karina presented flowers to Sister Philomena of the St. Michael's Convent and Care Home, who graciously hosted a portion of the event.

District Athletics 2025



Our top athletes recently represented CCHS at the annual District Athletics meet, competing against schools from across Colchester and North East Essex. A fantastic day of competition resulted in numerous outstanding performances and personal achievements for our thirty competitors. The team had numerous personal best performances with two CCHS athletes winning gold and others having to settle with silver or bronze. The first gold came with Jayden C. winning the Year 9 Boy's 200m; he later took the Bronze in the 100m finals. The second CCHS gold came from Ruben with a fantastic result in the Year 9 boy's discus.



The CCHS team also picked up silver medals from Holly in the Year 7 girl's 1500m, Tyler in the Year 7 boy's discus and Sydnie in the Year 10 girl's High Jump; Sydnie also won bronze in her Triple Jump event. There were also bronze medals for brothers Jacob and Jayden in the Year 8 and Year 9 boy's 300m respectively; Daisy in the Year 10 girl's 200m and the Year 7 girls' team, who rounded off the day with a stunning race in the 4 x 100m relay. Well done to all of the CCHS athletics team! [More photos are available on our Photo Gallery](#)



Year 11 into 12 - Sigma Sixth Induction Day - Problem Solving Activities



Last week, our new sixth formers were given some testing problems and team-working activities to solve as part of a fun challenge carousel. Designed to help stimulate their critical thinking and dexterity, the session posed numerous mental and physical challenges for the teams to overcome—learning from their mistakes as they went along. The Year 11 students tackled the challenges as part of their Year 11 into Year 12 Induction Day at Sigma Sixth. Great fun was had by all, and a great deal of learning occurred without the students realising it!

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Thank You and Good Luck to the Staff Leaving CCHS

The governors, staff, and students at CCHS would like to say a big thank you for the hard work of all the staff leaving CCHS this year, and to wish them every success and good luck in the future.



Maddie Barker

"I joined CCHS seven years ago. During my time at CCHS I went from being a part time teacher to a full-time teacher, teaching across the year groups. This was followed by being a mentor, a middle leader, and the Deputy SENDCo. Next year, I am moving to Ipswich High School as the Head of Learning - SENDCo. for their nursery, primary, secondary schools, along with their sixth form college. I will not be teaching at the new school which may take a time for me to get used to! My final message to everyone is "Be the change you wish to see in the world".



Carmalina Carter

Carmalina joined CCHS as a Graduate Teaching Assistant three years ago and in September 2023 became a Cover Supervisor. Her desire to teach was ignited and Carmalina was soon teaching English to a number of classes in Years 7 and 8. This year she embarked on her teacher training and, after successfully completing her training, Carmalina now moves to Colchester Institute teaching English Language re-sit across both of the Institutes' campuses in Colchester and Braintree.



"I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to everyone at CCHS. I have absolutely and wholeheartedly loved every moment of my time here. From the incredible teaching staff to the dedicated administrative, cleaning, and maintenance teams, every person at this school has truly felt like a second family. It's hard to put into words how much I will miss being a part of such a lovely community. I feel immensely privileged to have shared in so many memorable experiences, including two unforgettable PGL trips, where I witnessed our students bravely take on new challenges and grow in confidence, and running the course with the students at the colour run. One of the greatest joys has been seeing students start their journey in Year 7 and flourish into mature, thoughtful individuals. I leave with a heavy heart but also with pride and appreciation for all the memories, laughter, and support. Thank you, CCHS, for everything — you will always hold a very special place in my heart."

We also say goodbye to Music teacher, Jude McIntyre; English teacher, Arthur Romer-Lee; Cover Supervisor, Sandeep Pathak; Inclusion Support Coordinator, Diane Blumsom, Philip Merriott; Physics Teacher, Tony Bryson; Photography Teacher, and Graduate Teaching Assistants – Ella McBurney, Hermione Wood and Taylor Albert. We wish them all the success with their next step on their career progression.

Summer Holiday – Important Dates

New Year 7 students - Uniform try-on day

Monday 28th July – 11.30am to 2pm

Results Days A-Level 14th August - 9am to 12 noon
Sigma Sixth College – Main Atrium

GCSE 21st August - 9am to 12 noon
CCHS Main Hall

Year 12 21st August – Results Day Sigma Sixth Enrolment
Enrolment at CCHS for CCHS students.
See personal letter for allocated time slot.
22nd August – Enrolment at Sigma Sixth
Tendering Education Centre for non-CCHS students.
See personal letter for allocated time slot.

Next Academic Year – Sept 2025

Term start dates – remember that your son or daughter will be moving up to the next year group in September!

Year 7 Tuesday 2nd September – 8.45am - Basketball Courts
Year 8-11 Wednesday 3rd September – 8.45am
Extended form time on the first day only, to receive timetables and other information
Year 12 Tuesday 2nd September
9.00am – Assembly in the Sigma Sixth Atrium
Year 13 Wednesday 3rd September
8.50am – Normal Lessons

Next Academic Year – Continued

Additional dates for the autumn term 2025:

Thu 25th September School finishes after period 3 (1.20pm)
(Main school only - due to our annual Open Evening)

Mon 27th – Fri 31st – October Autumn Half Term Holiday

Fri 29th November - Non-Pupil Days

Mon 1st December End of Term
Fri 19th December School finishes after period 2 (12.00)

Our term dates for the next two academic years are also available to download from the school website – [LINK HERE](#)



Clacton County High School Term Dates 2025-2026



SIGMA SIXTH TENDERING

September 2025						October 2025						November 2025						December 2025					
	A	B	A	B	A	A	B	A	B		A	B	A	B	A	A	B	A	B				
M	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29			
T		2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30		
W	3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31		
Th	4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25			
F	5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26			
Sa	6	13	20	27			4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27			
Su	7	14	21	28			5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28			

January 2026						February 2026						March 2026						April 2026					
	B	A	B	A			B	A	B		A	B	A	B			A	B	A				
M	5	12	19	26			2	9	16	23	30	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27			
T	6	13	20	27			3	10	17	24		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28			
W	7	14	21	28			4	11	18	25		3	10	17	24	31	1	8	15	22	29		
Th	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		
F	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24			

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'Oliver!' – The CCHS Summer Production 2025



After months of rehearsals, set building, and costume production, the 2025 school musical *Oliver!* took to the stage, delivering four outstanding sell-out performances. The tireless efforts of our performing arts team resulted in one of the finest shows yet, reflecting the true dedication and passion of everyone involved. The cast's enthusiasm, talent, and commitment radiated through every scene, breathing life into this much-loved classic. The ensemble performed with heart and precision, bringing their characters to vivid reality and creating a sense of magic that captivated audiences from start to finish.



Standout performances included Joss Miller's (Year 13) fresh and exciting portrayal of Fagin, earning him standing ovations for his solo number. Violet Palmer's (Year 7) breath-taking vocals as Oliver left the audience spellbound, while Seth Garner's (Year 11) Artful Dodger brought charm and youthful exuberance to the role. Amy Young (Year 13) and Rosie Markham (Year 13), sharing the role of Nancy, added emotional depth and vibrancy with their stunning voices and powerful stage presence. Other highlights came from Nikodem Goralewski's (Year 13) chilling portrayal of Bill Sikes, Adam Pepperrell's (Year 13) comical Mr. Bumble, and Anoushka Pudney's (Year 12) witty Widow Corney. The Sowerberrys, played by Edie Joshua (Year 8) and Luke Roberts (Year 9), also impressed with their sharp timing and humour.



On the eve of the opening night, Joss Miller (Fagin), along with the rest of the cast, received a very special good luck message from Simon Lipkin, who is currently starring as Fagin in Cameron Mackintosh's new production of *Oliver!* in London's West End. The CCHS production was again blessed with rave reviews including one from local actor and film director, AG Longhurst, who had never attended one of our musicals before and was blown away with the quality of the whole production; the outstanding performances from the whole ensemble and especially the lead characters.

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From start to finish, *Oliver!* was a triumph of storytelling, music, and movement. The songs were delivered with confidence and finesse, while the choreography filled the stage with energy and dynamic precision. Every moment was crafted with care, and the acting captured the heart and soul of Dickens' tale.



The technical elements of the show were equally exceptional. The stunning visuals, created by Steven Thomas and Andy Parsons, brought the world of Victorian London to life. James Poynter's remarkable set design and Zoe Bartlett's beautifully detailed costumes provided the perfect backdrop for the performances. A special mention goes to Jude McIntyre who is leaving us this year. As Musical Director, her guidance and musical direction has played a key role in shaping the production and she will be greatly missed. Thanks also to all the staff who supported and contributed to the success of the show.



[The 'Oliver!' production photos are available on our photo webpage](#)

This year's production proudly featured students from Years 7–13, demonstrating the incredible talent and teamwork across the school community. Auditions for next year's musical will take place late in the autumn term – we can't wait to see what's in store for 2026! *Oliver!* was an unforgettable celebration of music, theatre, and collaboration. Everyone involved should be immensely proud of this outstanding achievement.

Chris Taylor, Head of School, added his congratulations, "Yet again our incredibly talented students have pulled off an incredible production and done themselves and their community proud. Huge congratulations and I look forward to next year's rendition of the annual CCHS musical extravaganza, whatever that may be, watch this space!"