

Colchester High School

The only co-educational independent school
in Colchester for ages 2½ to 16





“We have certainly found a good emphasis on traditional academic values, but our children have been given so much more than that as well. The opportunities they have each had have ranged from sporting to musical, dramatic to artistic, and adventurous to intellectual.”

Parent

Welcome & Ethos

Colchester High School is Colchester's only independent school for girls and boys from 2½ to 16 years.

Pupils achieve outstanding academic results thanks to the small class sizes, experienced and professional teachers, and strong pastoral support. Colchester High School has a strong focus on the individual child and achievement of his or her academic potential. Through a detailed Assessment for Learning programme, tailored learning objectives are created and the progress of pupils is regularly, vigorously and individually tracked and monitored to ensure exceptional progress.

In addition to ensuring academic excellence, Colchester High School also firmly believes in the importance of developing the whole child. We therefore offer a varied and challenging extra-curricular programme of activities to complement our classroom teaching and enrich our pupils' school experience.

We also place a strong emphasis on maintaining a secure and caring environment which encourages good manners, consideration for others and a strong sense of community spirit throughout the whole school.

Our house system extends throughout the school and pupils not only earn points in our house competitions but also for excellent work and behaviour that sets an example for all pupils.

At Colchester High School, children of all ages can be seen interacting together throughout the school day, both in the playground and in the classroom. This not only creates a warm, nurturing family feel to the school but creates opportunities for leadership and aids with transition as pupils move through each key stage.



David Young, Principal





“All children make excellent progress in relation to their starting points. They enjoy their learning, achieve high standards, are creative and think critically.”

ISI Inspection 2016

Our nursery gives a happy and safe start to a wonderful education. We encourage each child to believe in themselves so that they feel confident within our play based environment. We help them to develop a positive attitude so that they can develop socially, emotionally and physically and gain the skills they need for everyday life as well as in school.



Nursery

2½ - 5 years

Alongside the requirements of the Statutory Framework for The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), our Nursery offers a wide curriculum encompassing not only literacy and numeracy skills but specialist subjects such as music, sport and modern foreign languages.

Our interactive Early Years Garden has a wonderful range of stimulating outdoor equipment including a new climbing frame, sandpit and outdoor drawing boards. This has proved to be a wonderful setting for the children to explore, learn and enjoy the great outdoors.

We also offer a variety of experiences for our nursery children to learn outside the classroom. Some of our exciting activities include nature walks, visits to the local shop to buy fruit for their snack and the post box to send a letter to Father Christmas.



Our Lower School provides a traditional academic education for boys and girls from age five to eleven years. The Lower School is separated into the Prep School, Reception to Year 2, and the Junior School, Years 3 to 6.



Lower School

5-11 years

Through a shared vision of the School's purpose and ethos, the moral imperative that every pupil can succeed is inherent. The Lower School has a culture and ethos of challenge and support, where all pupils can achieve success and become engaged in their own learning.

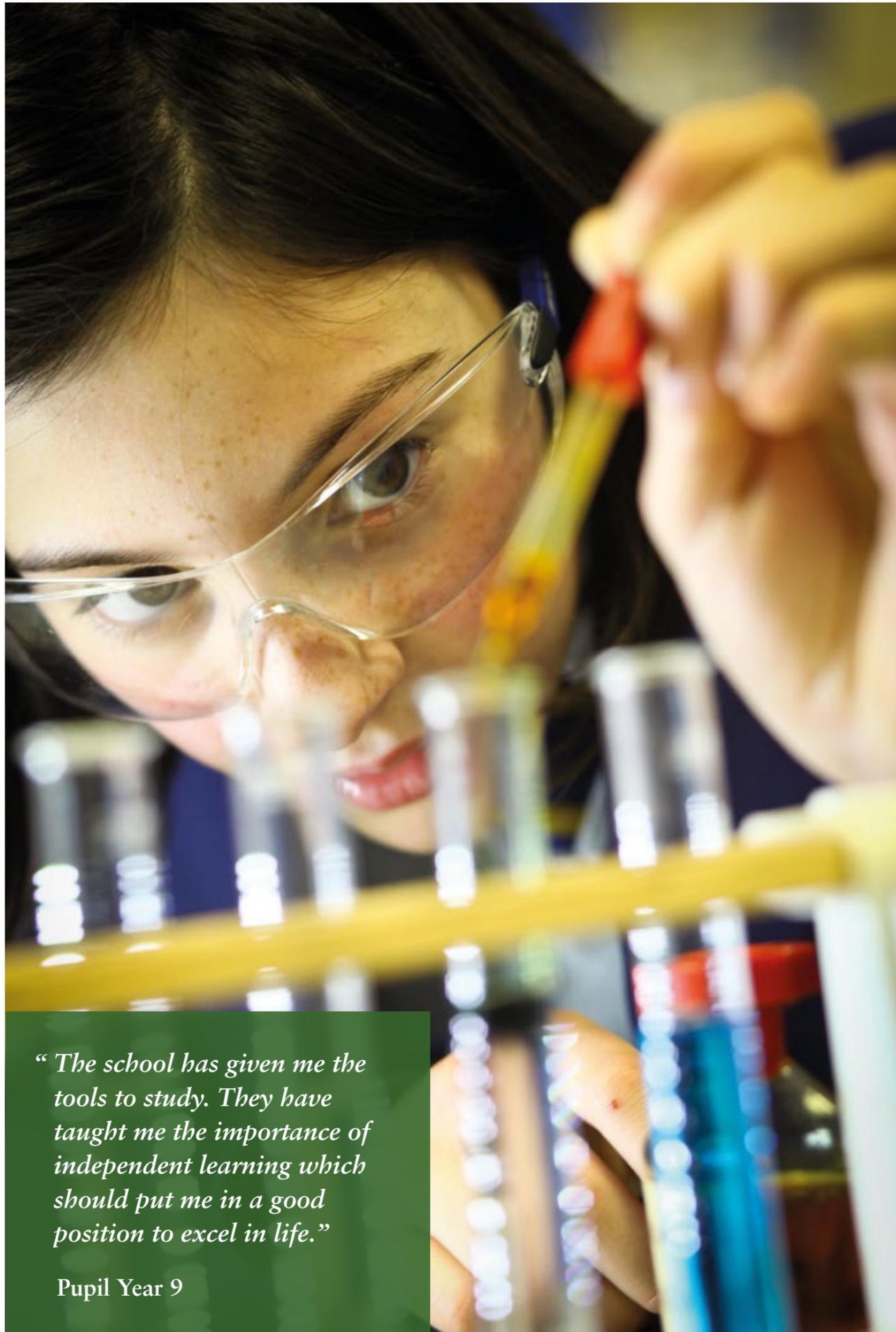
The Lower School curriculum is rich and varied, developing pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding. As well as a focus on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, pupils are encouraged to engage with a variety of additional subjects in order to develop their ability to connect with the wider world and to build a love of lifelong learning. Pupils are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activity in relation to Music and Drama, Art, Sports and Modern Foreign Languages.

Many of our pupils progress into our Senior School, although we do also prepare pupils for the 11+ examination of local selective schools.

“The lessons are fun and the teachers have made me feel enthusiastic about all subjects”

Year 6 Pupil





“The school has given me the tools to study. They have taught me the importance of independent learning which should put me in a good position to excel in life.”

Pupil Year 9

Our Senior School provides an extensive curriculum and a friendly supportive academic environment to inspire our pupils to achieve results above and beyond their predicted grades at GCSE Level.



Senior School

11-16 years

We also firmly believe that our Senior School pupils should become responsible and caring members of society and encourage them to get involved in school life through involvement in sports, the school council, charity days, trips or school productions.

Scholarships are awarded in Art, Music, Performing Arts, Science and Sports with top performers in our assessments also being invited to sit for Academic, English and Mathematics scholarships. We also offer a School Community Award at the end of Year 7 to the pupil who has contributed the most to the whole School environment during the year.

Pupils who leave the school do so with an excellent education and as well rounded individuals ready to embrace the next stage of life.





At Colchester High School we believe that taking part in sport and physical education is as important for all children as their class-based subjects and activities. From Nursery onwards, our pupils have timetabled sports periods with dedicated sports teachers.

Sport



The School is located on Wellesley Road, Colchester, giving pupils the benefit of immediate access to a range of excellent local sporting facilities which allows pupils to participate in a wide range of sports. The use of these specialist facilities, together with the dedication of the school's dynamic teaching team has ensured consistent and numerous successes in local, county and national competitions.

The main sports enjoyed are rugby, hockey, football and netball in winter, and cricket, rounders, athletics and tennis in summer.

We take part in many inter-school fixtures both locally and nationally with state and other independent schools including Cognita inter-school tournaments.





Music & Drama

Music and drama are an intrinsic part of everyday life at Colchester High School where pupils are encouraged to participate whether in form assemblies, scheduled classes or in after school clubs.

Within our Music Department, pupils are encouraged to not only sing and play instruments but also to perform, compose and listen. Instrumental and vocal tuition is available at extra cost and lessons are given by a number of established peripatetic teachers.

All pupils enjoy drama whether in their form class or in classes led by specialist drama teachers. We believe this is a key channel through which children can express themselves and gain valuable confidence and self esteem.

Music and drama performances occur throughout the year and include the Carol Service, school concerts and the summer fete. Our annual Talent Show allows our pupils to showcase their talents not just in music but also dance, storytelling, martial arts, magic and even joke telling.

There are productions in both the Senior and Junior school each year where pupils are given the opportunity not only to perform but also to become involved behind the curtain. All Nursery and Lower School pupils are also given the opportunity to participate in Christmas productions.

“ We just wanted to share our delight at the spirit and talent shown by all the children yesterday. They were all a credit to you and your staff. We were really pleased to see the diversity of the acts which shows how much they are encouraged to be individuals.”

Parent Quote



Great emphasis is also placed on art, design and creativity throughout the school.

Art & Design

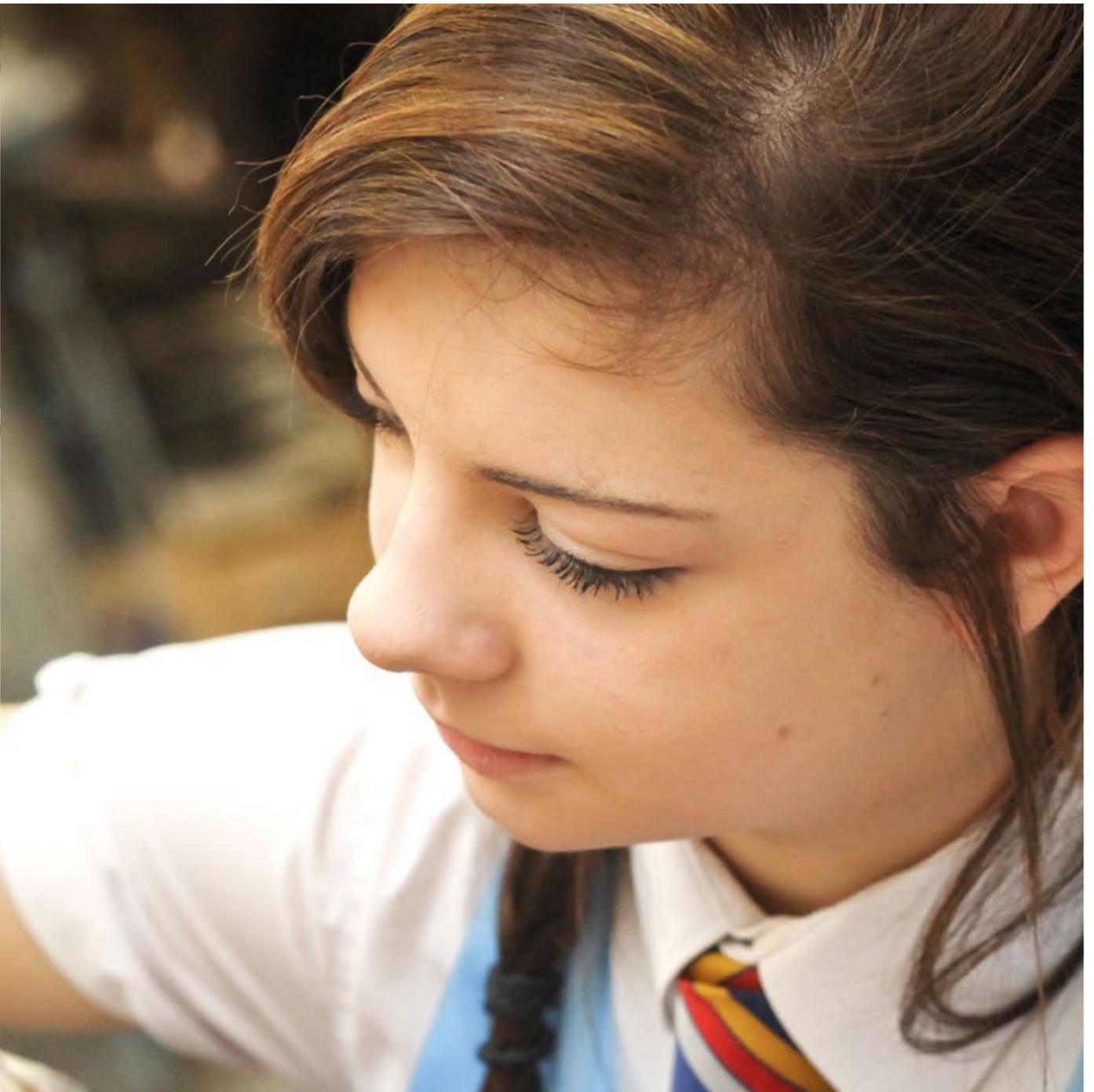
Within Nursery and the Prep Department, art is timetabled during normal class sessions. From Year Three, art and design classes take place in the Art Department with specialist teachers. A wide range of media and techniques are offered including drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics.

The Design & Technology room provides pupils with a chance to design and make products from woodwork, electronics through to textiles, costume making and prototype building.

Pupils follow their product through the whole design process from an idea to research, sketching, developing and then making.

Studies are enhanced by regular visits to galleries and museums so that pupils gain a good understanding about the art and design world both past and present.

Pupils' work is showcased during the year at various events including Open Mornings, parent curriculum evenings and the School Fete.





We offer a varied and challenging programme of clubs and activities both during the lunch hour and after school to try to encourage all pupils to try a new sport, learn new skills or contribute to school life, thereby building confidence, well-being and creativity.



Clubs & Extra Curricular Activities

With over 60 clubs offered there is something to interest every child including Production Clubs, Friendship Clubs, African Drumming, Mathematics, Language Leader, Science and Urban Gardening.

There are also a variety of after school sports activities for all pupils ranging from table tennis to tag rugby. Pupils in the Senior School are also able to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which further encourages team work, character building and an interest in the outdoors.

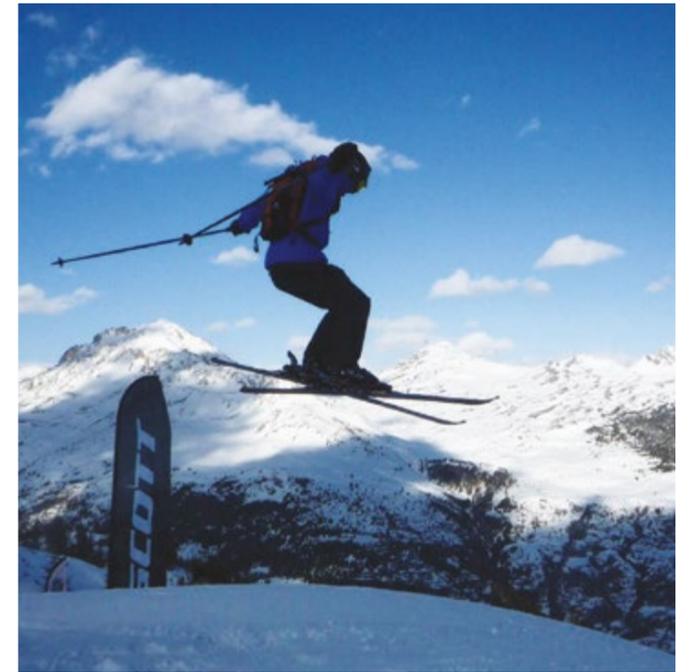
Our enrichment activities also include extra-curricular activities aimed at boosting our pupils' confidence and aptitude for public speaking. From Year 3 we offer pupils the opportunity to take the English Speaking Board exams and in Senior School we offer public speaking classes.

From Year 10, our pupils can also participate in the LAMDA Drama course which is a great opportunity for our pupils to gain an impressive recognised qualification within the drama community that aims to improve communication skills as well as foster an appreciation for the performing arts.





We believe trips are an integral part of the teaching process and act to reinforce the learning experience of our pupils and enhance the academic experience.



Learning Outside the Classroom

Within the Early Years department our trips are focused on teaching the children about the world they live in, familiarising them with their local environment and the people who live in it and teaching valuable life skills. Trips range from nature walks to visits to the beach.

As pupils move into the Junior school, the visits are structured to complement our classroom teaching such as a visit to the Royal Observatory to study Space, Victorian Day at the Colne Valley Railway or a local church to complement their religious studies.

This format continues into the Senior School where trips include local visits to art exhibitions at Firstsite, Shakespeare themed visits to Stratford Upon Avon and geography field trips. Senior School pupils also have the opportunity to participate in overseas trips including visits to the battlefields of Ypres, Belgium, historical sights of Germany and the Christmas Markets and culinary delights of Lille, France.

The school also runs exciting PGL adventure trips in both the Junior and Senior School and a very successful Ski trip for Senior pupils.



We understand that choosing the right school for your child is a major decision for any family and we appreciate that you will need to take your time to look around and learn as much as you can about Colchester High School before making your decision.

See for yourself

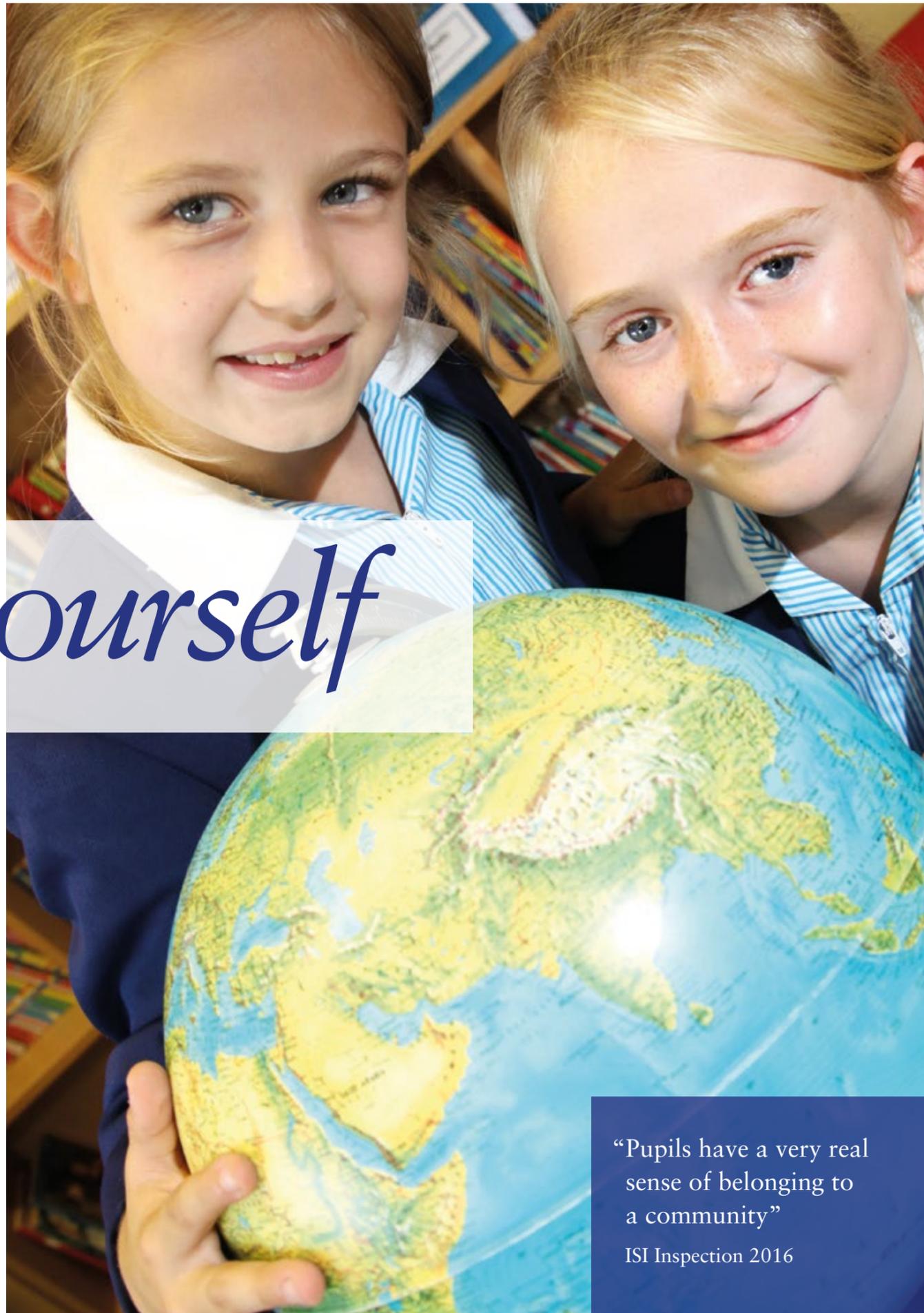
Parents and prospective pupils are welcome to have personal tours anytime during the year. You can see the pupils at work, talk with teachers and meet with our Principal to gain a thorough overview of our School and to begin to gauge whether this is the right school for your son or daughter.

We also have several Open Mornings throughout the year, with pupils acting as tour guides to give you an insight into their experience of life at Colchester High School.

Once your child is registered, he/she will be invited to come in for a Taster Day to experience school life firsthand.

Entry may be at any age from 2½ and at any stage of the academic year subject to the availability of places (except Year 10 and 11).

Colchester High School is a non-selective school so we do not have entrance exams but assessments will be undertaken during the admissions process so we can develop an individualised learning programme of study for your child.



“Pupils have a very real sense of belonging to a community”

ISI Inspection 2016





*God first,
others second,
self last*



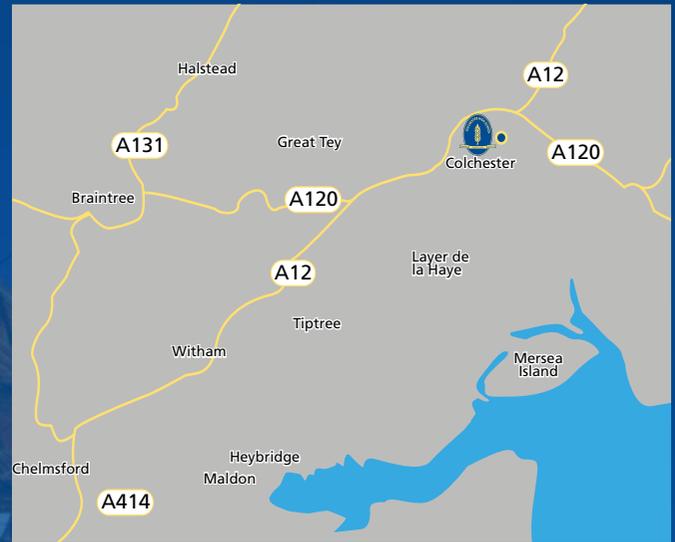
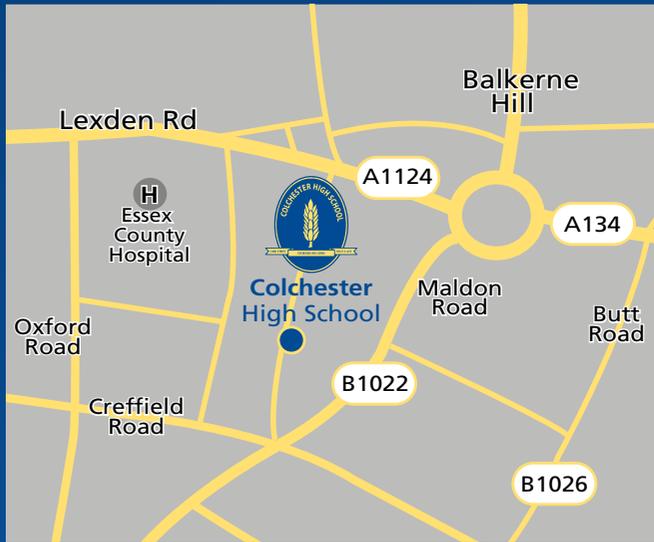
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Colchester High School

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COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

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