



COLCHESTER
PREP AND HIGH SCHOOL

CPHS CONNECT

2 February 2024
Issue 53

Dear Parents,

Today has been an exceptional day in terms of celebrating NSPCC Number Day.

Number Day is an opportunity for pupils to apply their maths skills to everyday scenarios, whilst raising money for the NSPCC. As we are all aware, mathematics and numerical literacy plays a significant part in all our lives. From an early age there are many benefits from gaining a love of mathematics – and one of my favourite sayings in helping my own children to see the value of numbers through money, as they were growing up, was not just that 'money does not grow on trees', but rather that 'if we look after the pennies then the pounds will look after themselves'!

Indeed, this is certainly true in terms of the collective endeavour of our school in raising £461.80 so far in support of the NSPCC. The pupils have also enjoyed a wealth of classroom activities as well as our annual House Coin Count Challenge, Teacher Number Hunt, Maths in Nature Poster or Photo Competition and the Mathematical cake competition. More photos of today's activities as well as the competition winners and final tally will be shared in the next newsletter.

Additionally, it was lovely to attend the CHSA meeting yesterday morning with our fantastic team of parents who have been so eagerly raising funds in support of enrichment activities and items for our school community. We would like to thank the CPHSA for their generous support towards our new-look netball dresses for our teams across the school, our new cookery aprons for our Pre-Prep creative chefs and new playground equipment.

If you would like to join this enthusiastic team of supportive parents, then please do reach out to helen.clarke@colchesterhigh.co.uk

Finally, we are very much looking forward to welcoming in our parents to our upcoming STEAM Powered: Future Ready – Curriculum Unveiled event on Wednesday 7 February. There is still time to join the conversation with the SLT for either a morning coffee or an afternoon tea, to hear about the next exciting steps within your child's educational journey at CPHS. This form can be accessed within the Forms section of your Weduc account or by clicking on the following link: [View Form](#)



Ms Gracie-Langrick
Headteacher



Why is early numeracy important?

Because mathematics...

- helps children observe, organize and find meaning in their environment
- focuses on reasoning, connecting ideas and thinking logically – important tools children can use to make sense of their world
- relates to other curriculum areas, such as science, social studies, art and music



STEAM POWERED FUTURE READY

Community Connected

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

Anti-Bullying Alliance is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people live, grow, play and learn.

Our teachers Ms Haggerty and Ms Larwood completed an anti-bullying course to make sure our pupils feel safe, secure and valued.



You said, we did!



We updated our menu according to the feedback we received from pupils. Our News Team shared with us what they think about the Menu.

"We love the new menu and I think the food choices are better than the last ones and it tastes so much better. We are very happy that they brought back the apple crumble."

Darcey & Ella C. (Year 6)

Plant 30 Challenge by Thomas Franks – Pupil Testimonial

Following the Thomas Franks Plant 30 Challenge, News Team shared their thoughts with us:

"She helped me grow more confident on eating more healthy food." **Amelia (Year 3)**

"Lottie helped me to eat a larger variety of food instead of sticking to just a few foods."

Ezra (Year 4)

"Lottie has taught me to have a healthier diet and less snacks." **Asaiah (Year 5)**



Letter From The King

Year 1 pupils have received a Thank you letter from the King following his visit to Colchester.

The children, who were in Reception at the time, had written letters and painted pictures for him.

They were delighted to receive a letter back.



Messy Play and Learn

A big thank you to everyone who joined our Early Years Messy Play and Learn Event on Friday 2 February!

Your enthusiasm and creativity turned messy moments into unforgettable memories.

We appreciate your participation and cannot wait for you to join our fun events in the future!



Academically Connected



Crest Superstar Science Club

Crest Superstar Science Club runs every Thursday in the Prep school for pupils from Year 3 to Year 6.

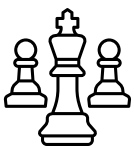
Each week we complete a different STEAM challenge to develop our scientific and engineering thinking.

At the end they will receive a certificate. To achieve the certificate, members of the club have to complete eight different challenges and receive stickers in their passports as they go along.

So far we have tried to build super strong bridges from A4 paper and design rafts which would hold as many marble passengers as possible.

We have also found ourselves using some Maths when adding up how much weight our bridges will hold.

The children are enjoying the challenge each new week brings. Although full for this term, please do consider signing up for this great club in the Summer Term.



Chess Competition

This week saw our Senior pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 commence their inter-house chess competition. We look forward to sharing the results from this competition as it progresses over the next few weeks.



MFL French Play "La Maison Hantée"

We had a very exciting opportunity for pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 who study French.

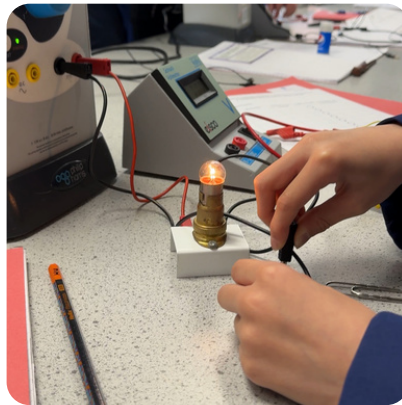
Onatti Productions, a language theatre company, performed a play in French for our pupils. The play was performed by two native speakers. All actors are trained to perform with clear, slow delivery and good use of mime to ensure the pupils can follow the play.

Thank you to Onatti Productions for organising this event where our pupils saw the French language brought to life!



Physics Investigation

Year 5 pupils participated in a physics lesson where they did an investigation of conductors and how the brightness of a bulb works.



"I learnt that scissors are a conductor because they are made from metal, which allows electricity to pass through it." **Ben**

"I liked how Mr Abbott taught us how to use different combinations so that we could complete the investigation and make a circuit." **Kate**



Polar Regions

Reception pupils learned about Polar regions, using maps to find out where they are in relation to us. They have identified animals that live in the Arctic and Antarctic, learnt some animal facts and painted some wintery scenes.

They also created fake snow and loved playing with the animals. This follows on from the topic of Winter and learning about the world around us!



NSPCC Numbers Day



Thank you to everyone who came to our school for a NSPCC Numbers Day!

More photos to follow in the next Newsletter.

Year 8 Historians

Since the Christmas break our Year 8 historians have been studying the American West focusing on the Native Americans' way of life and the conflict that occurred between the Native Americans and the White American settlers.

As part of studying the Native Americans' way of life, the pupils learned about the Tepee and why it was such a good structure for living on the Great Plains.

They were also asked to create their own tepees during the lesson to help aid their understanding.



Tea Time Recital



Our talented GCSE Year 10 and Year 11 musicians performed for their parents and music teachers in a Tea Time Recital, where they could practice to have a feeling of an audience. We really enjoyed the performances and hope that our pupils continue their music journey!

Forest School

We used the weather to plan our child initiated lesson! Reception and Nursery pupils created kites to fly around in the wind and watched Mr Rayner's wind catcher blow about on the tree.

The children then decided to make a camp fire, working together with their friends to collect firewood from the sticks on the ground. They then pretended to roast marshmallows on their fire!



Year 10 Religious Studies GSCE Trip



Year 10 Religious Studies GSCE pupils went on an educational trip to a church.

"It was a fantastic experience that allowed us to put our RS knowledge into action and helped us to understand more about Catholic views and their religion." **Alex**

Digitally Connected

UK Bebras Challenge



The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to pupils. Last November over 400,000 students took part in the UK, and over 3 million worldwide. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. It is completed online in every school

Congratulations to the pupils who did the best in our school and to Rosemary (Year 5) who achieved best in the country!



Oxford University Computing Challenge



Former Head Boy Reaches National Final of Oxford University Computing Challenge!

Congratulations to Daniel, former Prep School Head Boy and currently Year 9 at the Grammar School, who has been invited to sit the Oxford University Computing Challenge National Finals. The top 10% of Bebras scorers get invited to sit the Oxford University Computing Challenge with only the top 20% of pupils being invited back to the National Final in March.



Microsoft Office Specialist Power Point Exam

Massive Congratulations to 'Our YOUNGEST pupils to have achieved a qualification in MOS!': Ella C., Darcey, Jude, Sienna, Millie and Harry.

All passed their MOS PowerPoint exam!! 2 of them achieved over 90%

Huge well done to Mrs Smith for helping prepare the pupils! Good luck to the pupils who are going to take the exam soon!



Community Connected



The New Eco Bins



"At Eco club, we talked about the new bins we are going to have at our school. To make sure we are responsibly recycling and disposing of things, we set up a team to make signs about what to dispose in what bin.

We have had a few incidences where people nearly put crisp packets in the organic waste because they still weren't 100% sure where to put it, so we help them out so it doesn't happen again.

There are 4 new bins. We have organic waste, general waste, plastics and paper/cardboard. Eco club wants to ensure that we all recycle our waste responsibly and look after the environment and help nature!" **Ben, Lara and Amelia (Year6)**

Character Connected

Year 9 Careers Day



Year 9 pupils recently participated in a Careers Day where they were challenged to create a business proposition for a new chocolate brand that included designing the packaging and developing a financial and marketing plan for their product.

Thank you to Mark Smith at SPW Careers for organising this event. Our pupils really enjoyed it and we know that it will help them in the process to decide their GCSE options for next year.



Congratulations go to:



Our talented pupil Zachary, who performed with his dance school last week at the South East Entertainment Awards. Congratulations on winning the golden buzzer and for qualifying for the National Finals at the O2!

Actively Connected

SPORTS & CLUBS UPDATE

It has been great to start up our Prep Football Club again on Thursdays. If you are keen to come along but haven't signed up, please let Mrs Evans know as there are plenty of places left. Swimming and squash lessons continue this week for our Year 3 & 4 pupils, and on Wednesday we will make our annual visit to Holmwood House with all of Year 5 & 6. Everyone has been put into one of our x 4 teams, and we hope you will enjoy an afternoon of competitive sport. We are very proud that everyone in our Prep School gets the chance to represent our school in so many sports. Mr Dowson

Year 7 Swimming Gala Results

Congratulations to our race winners:

YR 7 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 1	YR 7 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 2	YR 7 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 3	YR 7 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 4
JACOB	GEORGE	SAM	RAFAEL
BACK STROKE WIDTH	BACK STROKE LENGTH	BREAST STROKE WIDTH	BREAST STROKE LENGTH
SAM	FREDDY	SAM	SAM

Our relay winners were: **Normans** (Widths)

Our champion swimmer was: **Freddy**



	NORMANS	ROMANS	SAXONS	DANES
YR 7 BOYS	81	69	103	55
POSITIONS	2nd	3rd	1st	4th



Netball

On Tuesday our U-15 girls' netball team had their next district league match at Stanway School: Stanway School 8 v 2 CPHS – A really close game. This time it was Phoebe who was our POM.

Year 8 Swimming Gala Results

Congratulations to our race winners:

YR 8 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 1	YR 8 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 2	YR 8 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 3	YR 8 OPEN FREESTYLE RACE 4
GYORGI	NICHOLAS	ADAM	NO RACE NEEDED

BACK STROKE WIDTH	BACK STROKE LENGTH	BREAST STROKE WIDTH	BREAST STROKE LENGTH
JAKE	ADAM	PAUL	ADAM

Our relay winners were: **Danes** (Widths)

Our champion swimmer was: **Adam**



	NORMANS	ROMANS	SAXONS	DANES
YR 7 BOYS	81	69	103	55
YR 8 BOYS	60	31	81	83
POINTS	141	100	184	138



Cross Country

On Saturday, it was the Essex Schools cross country near Benfleet. Adam and Ben qualified for CPHS via their top 8 result in the NEESSA District cross country in November. Despite the freezing conditions, Adam worked his way through the field to finish in an amazing 8th place. Adam is a Year 8 competing against Year 9's which made his achievement even more special. Ben's race was extremely tough, nevertheless, he should be very proud of qualifying yet again.



Swimming Championship

Last weekend, it was the Essex County Swimming championships and there was a large CPHS contingent at the London Aquatics Centre, not least our very own Mr Rayner and Mrs Cole, who were officiating. Congratulations go to William, Ben, and the new Essex bronze medallist in the 200m Backstroke and 400m Freestyle, Adam.

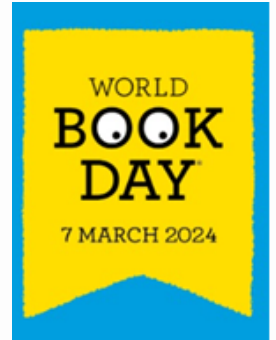
COMPETITIONS

World Book Day

It will soon be 'that time of the year' when we celebrate everything associated with reading. There will also be the usual fun and frolics and dressing up as favourite book characters. **Please look out for the CHSA Book Day costume exchange.**

Pupils are invited to enter the World Book Day competition to design a National Book Token gift card. There are three age categories: up to 8 years, 9–12 years and 13–16 years.

Designs need to be completed on the template and submitted to form teachers on or before World Book Day on Thursday 7 March. This will enable us to collate and send off all entries in time for the official closing date of 7 April. There are many great prizes on offer for winning entrants. Please see attached a template for designing your gift card.



Colchester Zoo STEM Challenge

In celebration of Colchester Zoo's 60th Birthday in 2023 and becoming a charity in 2025, the zoo unveiled its 'Zoo of the Future' a vision of what the zoo could become. Colchester Zoo is now asking pupils to take part in this dream of a future zoo by creating their own redesigned enclosure for a mixed African species paddock – the home of our rhinoceros, giraffes and other smaller animals. To participate in this enclosure design challenge, pupils will design and build an enclosure model of their vision of the future Mixed African Paddock.

The Colchester Zoo STEM Design Challenge is a FREE project offering pupils from KS1-KS4 the chance to solve real-world problems faced by zookeepers and staff at Colchester Zoo. Students will redesign an animal enclosure following the STEM design process.

This FREE project and the contest are open to all groups across the country. Resources are delivered digitally and virtually and there is no need to visit Colchester Zoo to participate.

For more information please follow this [link](#).



Notices

Year 9 Vaccinations

Vaccinations are being held on Friday 16.02.24. For these vaccinations the nurses require paper consent forms which were given to Year 9 pupils.

Lost Property

Please make sure your child's equipment and uniform are named. The lost property will be put in the cupboard in the hall. Pupils can go there and check if the thing that they lost is there.

Mother's Day

A reminder that the Mother's Day Sale organised by CHSA will be on Wednesday 6 March. This incredibly popular stall gives pupils the chance to buy beautiful, individually wrapped presents for a special Mother, Grandmother or Carer. Prices range from £1 to £5 and the stall will be open to all year groups during morning break. Pupils are invited to bring money in a named envelope or purse on the day.

E-Safety Tip

This fortnight's E-Safety tip is all about an app called: **TextMe**

TextMe is a free texting and calling service. Users can send texts, voice messages, pictures and videos to any phone number in more than 40 countries. The app is free and available to install on any Apple or Android device. On registration, it assigns a 'new' mobile number to each user, effectively making them anonymous. TextMe is recommended for people above 10 years old, but there is currently no way to determine a user's actual age: children under 10 could easily bypass this age criteria, since no verification is required to download the app. In the attached guide from National Online Security you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as predators, visible location and in-app purchases.

February Diary Dates

Tuesday 6

Year 10 & 11 Swimming Gala

Tuesday 6

Shakespearean Showcase for Year 8

Wednesday 7

Senior Offer Holder Day

Wednesday 7

Curriculum 2024 Unveil Meeting

Friday 9

Year 6 Scholarship Application
Deadline

Tuesday 13

Rec - Year 6 Parents' Evening Online

Tuesday 13

Senior Girls' Swimming Gala

Wednesday 14

Year 9 Parents' Evening - In Person Only

Wednesday 14

Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala

Thursday 15

Rec - Year 6 In Person Parents' Evening

Friday 16

CHSA Break the Uniform Rules Day

Wednesday 28

Year 5 Scholarship Assessment Day for
Year 6 Entry 2024