



Inspiring the future



Colchester County High School for Girls

# Headteacher's *Welcome*



It is my great privilege as the Headteacher of Colchester County High School for Girls to warmly welcome you to our community. I hope that you find the Prospectus useful in helping you decide if this is the right school for you. This is a vibrant, happy school providing an exceptional, inspirational opportunity for girls to develop their talents,

enjoy themselves and flourish as individuals.

The school has an outstanding academic reputation and is consistently one of the top performing schools in the country, developing the leaders of tomorrow. CCHSG prides itself on encouraging students to aspire to excellence in everything they do, whether that be academic achievement, sporting activities or creative pursuits. The students are encouraged to take part in the many extra-curricular activities on offer including drama, music, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Young Enterprise, sporting events, theatre trips and visits to places of interest in Britain and abroad.

The school's continuing academic excellence and vibrant community life is testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of both students and staff. Our teachers are passionate about

their subjects and about providing the best opportunities for our students, always willing to give up a great deal of their time outside the classroom. The quality of learning and teaching is key to our success and we have a challenging personalised curriculum which matches the ability of our students. All staff are specialists in the subjects they deliver and all students study Creative and Critical Thinking, which supports their excellent performance in other subjects.

Our environment is ordered, disciplined and structured but we recognise that deep learning requires students to be taken beyond their comfort zone; we set very high expectations and encourage risk taking. The school promotes courtesy, kindness and respect and students are supported by a strong and caring pastoral system. This provides students with a certain level of comfort that helps them develop greater self-confidence, broader interests and resilience.

It is a pleasure to teach and learn at this truly inspirational and innovative school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gillian Marshall'.

Mrs Gillian Marshall, Headteacher



“Colchester County High School for Girls is an **outstanding school** that continues to offer **exceptionally high quality education**. It consistently strives for, and achieves, excellence in all that it does.”



“Students have **excellent opportunities** to take on additional responsibility and make a **positive contribution** to the school community and beyond.” Ofsted



“The levels of care, guidance and support are **outstanding**. Students say they feel **safe** and **supported**, both by the school and each other.” Ofsted



Colchester County High School for Girls is a community of friendship and support, with an important focus on the emotional well-being of everyone in our care. The school values each student as an individual and our excellent pastoral care aims to support them in reaching the highest possible levels of personal, academic and social achievement. Our students have high expectations of themselves and work incredibly hard to achieve their goals so we ensure that they have our absolute support and care at all times. In addition to the tutor team, the school has Year Leaders and Pastoral Assistants, whose roles are to provide additional advice and support with both academic and personal issues. An inclusive pastoral curriculum includes time for reflection and support in dealing with life's challenges, as well as important opportunities for personal and social development.

Whilst truly academic, the school is firmly committed to supporting students in developing interpersonal skills such as emotional intelligence and resilience necessary for happiness and success in adult life. Our programme is developing and unique. It includes work on cognitive behaviour and a reflective aspect which encourages students to build a positive and realistic view of their needs and capabilities. Whilst we are educating tomorrow's leaders, we are also aware that some students need extra support to develop their confidence and leadership skills. The all-girl environment provides students with a high level of confidence and security.

Inspiring *Understanding*



Inspiring *Personal Development*

"The school successfully promotes a **culture of trust** and **respect** that students greatly appreciate. Students demonstrate much **enjoyment** of their education through positive attitudes to others and their desire to **achieve their absolute best.**"

Ofsted



Our school community has a wonderful atmosphere of creativity. Invention, experimentation, imagination and originality are encouraged not only in our thriving Creative Arts subjects but throughout the curriculum. We pride ourselves in being an innovative and forward looking school and aim to encourage our students to express their creativity and flourish as individuals. Students agree that being involved in one of the many theatre productions or a music concert can offer some of the most memorable and rewarding experiences of school life. All Year 7 take part in drama productions in the first year as we present firstly Dickens, and then Shakespeare - with a difference! Our flourishing Music Department organises a range of ensembles and choirs who showcase their exceptional range of musical talent during the annual programme of concerts. Creativity with a commercial slant is demanded in our Young Enterprise programme, which equips students with the ability to devise and lead successful business initiatives; groups regularly reach the regional and even national finals.



Every student at our school is encouraged to participate in Physical Education and games in a spirit of fun, teamwork and personal achievement. We offer a wide variety of sports with expert teaching and supervision, allowing our students to discover and pursue their favourite activities. There are plenty of sports clubs that students can take part in during and after school and a busy programme of fixtures and competitions. Many of our students have had considerable success at local, county and national level.

A diverse range of lunchtime and after-school clubs offer our students every opportunity to explore interests beyond the curriculum, as well as to explore subjects in greater depth. Choices range from debating and public speaking to Film Club, maths challenges and spelling bees. Visits to museums, theatres and places of national and historic interest bring learning alive. As a school committed to high achievement and high standards, we believe learning should not be confined to a classroom; by experiencing other environments, we develop a lifelong love of learning.

Inspiring **CREATIVITY**

Inspiring **discovery**



Our students have a strong sense of ownership and pride in their community, reflected in their excellent behaviour and consideration for others. They also take charge of our very active Student Voice group, which offers a real mouthpiece for students and works with senior staff to review and improve aspects of school life. Students develop skills in independence and confidence through their curriculum and are also provided with the opportunity to organise events, such as charity fundraising initiatives. Our pastoral programme includes opportunities to reflect on personal strengths and to develop team working, leadership and public speaking skills. As students progress through the school, they are given more opportunities to assume positions of responsibility, taking on roles such as subject mentors or Form Prefects.

“Students develop as **mature, articulate and confident individuals**, well prepared for their next step in education, and for their future lives.” Ofsted



Confidence and self-esteem are the cornerstones of happiness, well-being and effective learning. Our aim is to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which challenges students academically, whilst embedding a love of learning and allowing students to develop and pursue their own independent interests.

In Key Stage 3 the school goes beyond the National Curriculum statutory requirements; French and German are studied from Year 7 and all students study Latin in Year 8. Creative and Critical Thinking is taught throughout Years 7, 8 and 9. At Key Stage 4 we have a broad choice of GCSE options available to students in Year 10, where most students take nine or ten subjects. We embrace cross curricular dimensions within the curriculum, providing key opportunities for our students to develop their personal, social, decision making and problem solving skills.

Careers education and advice on progression to Higher Education is embedded throughout the curriculum and provided as a discrete part of our pastoral programme. As well as the support of our pastoral team, students benefit from access to an independent careers advisor who visits the school on a weekly basis.

“The curriculum is **outstanding** and well-supported by a wide-ranging menu of extra-curricular activities. The increasing level of **personalisation** of the curriculum helps promote the excellent development of students as **independent learners**.” Ofsted

Inspiring **Leadership**

Inspiring **choices**



# Inspiring Leadership

Our Sixth Form students are ambassadors and role models who have an important part to play in the life of the school. They flourish as they prepare for Higher Education and future life, whilst still finding time to support their younger peers as subject mentors, leading clubs and activities, as Prefects or as members of the Head Girl Team. Our students are ambitious in their choice of universities and aware of the tough competition for highly selective courses, especially Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever their chosen route, they know the importance of good preparation, and they understand the need for highly developed skills in communication, presentation and working effectively with others. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that our students are well informed about their options and effectively supported throughout the application process.

“The standards reached by students during their time in the Sixth Form are exceptionally high. The school rightly regards Sixth Form students as excellent ambassadors and role models. Virtually all students progress to higher education and most into their first choice of university.” Ofsted



# Inspiring *Ambition*

Inspiring **CREATIVITY**  
Inspiring *Personal Development*  
Inspiring **choices**  
Inspiring *Understanding*  
Inspiring *Ambition*



Colchester County High School for Girls  
Norman Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 3US

t : 01206 576973

e: [office@colchestergirls.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@colchestergirls.essex.sch.uk)

[www.cchsg.com](http://www.cchsg.com)

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