

School Matters

March 2020



Welcome to the March edition of School Matters.

It has been a challenging few weeks with the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and I am immensely proud at the resilience shown by staff, parents and students in such testing times. We will continue to monitor government guidelines and update parents as matters develop now that we are in the 'delay' stages so please do keep an eye out for communications which will also be uploaded onto our website and social media pages.

During these tough times, I'd like in this edition to take the time to reminisce on the variety of enjoyable activities students took part in before the world of COVID-19, including visits from Police and Paramedic staff in Primary, World Book Day and our students raising over £1,000 for Sport Relief.

Although it all seems like a distant memory, Ofsted also published their inspection report at the end of last month following their inspection in January. Again I'd like to thank all students and staff for their hard work during that time which resulted in our school being awarded a well-deserved 'good' status.

To view the inspection report, please [click here](#).

Regards,
David James
Principal

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Key Information

Coronavirus

On Monday 23 March, Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the nation to highlight new measures put in place to help prevent and slow the further spread of Coronavirus.

He expressed that we should all now stay indoors and should only leave our houses in very limited circumstances, such as:

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

We must stay at home. Please ensure the children are kept safely indoors and aware of the rules on social distancing and I would urge you to take this time, where you are able, to spend quality time with your loved ones.

Full details of guidance on staying at home can be found [here](#).

You will already be well-versed in the pandemic but as a reminder the most common symptoms of Coronavirus are the *recent* onset of:

- A new or continuous cough and/or
- High temperature

Of course, please ensure that you continue to wash hands regularly with soap and water.

As we receive more updates and information from the Department of Education (DfE) surrounding Coronavirus, and schools re-opening, we will continue to update you all.



Parental surveys

At the end of last month we sent out a parental survey to all parents and carers of pupils at our school. Thank you to those of you that have taken the time to respond - we are reviewing your responses and will be looking at ways in which we can all help each other.

World Class School

I have mentioned previously that we are striving to become a World Class School of High Performance Learning. This is awarded to schools that are proven to provide an exceptional level of education for its students using the High Performance Learning approach.

At our school, we are continually implementing the HPL mindset within lessons and you may have seen some of the behaviours we are introducing through language used to reward students through our achievement system. HPL's approach to learning blends and reinforces our ethos and values we stand for and sees all students as high performers who are not limited by ability, and this reflects our own ethos of **"everyone, every lesson, every opportunity"**.

Parent Voice

A reminder that Parent Voice is a forum set up to facilitate communications between school and parents and the committee meet once a month to discuss any current issues, decisions and potential new ideas for our school. To see the minutes of the last meeting in March, please [click here](#).



Updates

Celebrating our successes

We continue below to showcase the great feedback from parents and carers of students at our school.

Staff

Praise for principal Mr D James and our whole school staff,

"Thank you to you and all your staff. You all do an amazing job under a lot of pressure, and many parents like myself fully appreciate all the hard work and time you commit to our children. My son [in sixth form] continues to receive a high amount of support from his teachers and my daughter in Year 2 flourishes and grows more every term and always loves going to school."

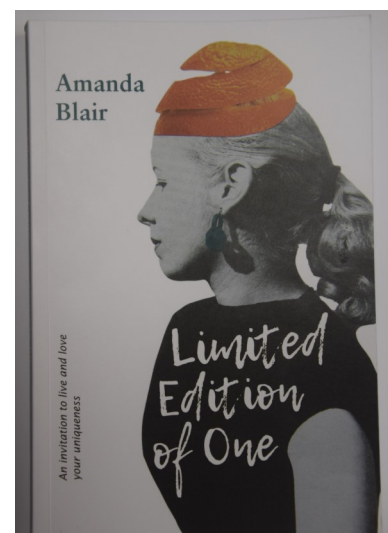
Students

Former CCS student published six months after leaving school.

A former student, Eloise Sands, who left CCS last year after gaining an A* in Photography, was commissioned to illustrate a book using her photographs. The book has since been published titled "Limited Edition of One" by Amanda Blair. It is an interactive self-help book that uses the creative process to help people understand their uniqueness and how to apply this in the world. Eloise's photographs perfectly complement the book and in the acknowledgements the author says "Eloise Sands intuitive choice of photographs blew me away. Growing this book with this phenomenal woman was pure magic".

What a star.....we miss you Eloise. Congratulations and good luck with all future endeavours.

The Visual Art Department.





We had a busy few weeks celebrating achievement points for our students.

During the Last month, lots of our Year 7 students have celebrated 80 achievement points, they were rewarded with a certificate of achievement, a badge and a 2-day lunch pass. Well done to all Year 7 students involved!



2 of our Year 8 students also celebrated earning a fantastic 250 achievements points! They were awarded their certificate in our assembly on 10 March by Vice Principal Mr Fisher. What a brilliant achievement for R Mistry and M Alluvada.





Celebrating our successes continued...

More of our Year 7 students also celebrated 80 achievement points, a big well done to all students involved!



2 of our Year 7 students also celebrated 150 achievement points!



The number of students celebrating fantastic achievement point milestones is a testament to their brilliant behaviour and attitude to learning. Achievement points are awarded using HPL's Values, Attitudes and Attributes (VAAs) mindset, a detailed list of which can be found if you [click here](#).



Parking

Although we are not currently in school I would like to say a huge thank you to parents who have been using our drop-off point. This has been working very well and easing congestion in the mornings.

Please may I also remind all parents that the disabled spaces in the school car park are strictly for blue badge holders only. There are still, unfortunately, a few occasions where non blue badge holders have occupied the disabled parking spaces, seriously affecting our pupils and staff who have mobility issues. I would appreciate your continued co-operation with this.

Contact details

If you have recently changed address, names or contact details for your children please can we remind you to ensure you let us know in writing so that our systems can be kept up to date.

Please send these in to office@ccs.northants.sch.uk

Keep up to date!

To stay up to date with key events, information and news here at Caroline Chisholm School why not follow us on Facebook and Twitter and stay updated! And feel free to share the links with your friends too!



@carolinechisholmschool



@CCS_UK

Alumni

We are seeking ex-students to join our alumni! If your child/ren has finished Year 11 or 13 with us within the last 5 years, we'd love to hear from them. They can let us know how they are getting on with their studies or new occupation and share a photo or two by completing the form here - <https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/alumni/>. We look forward to hearing from them!



Events & Sports

Activities

Sport Relief

On Friday 13 March, we hosted a sportswear themed mufti day to celebrate Sports Relief. Students brought in a voluntary £1 donation to fund raise for the cause. We managed to raise a fantastic £1,168.61. Thank you all for your kind donations, Sports Relief is a great cause and donations really do change peoples' lives.

We also hosted a Sport Relief Mile event, where all students (younger ones with parents) ran/walked 1 mile on the day. Whilst the weather wasn't brilliant, we were very proud of all the students' enthusiasm! A huge well done to all!



Year 12 Elevate Education

On Friday 28 February our Year 12's received a "Study Sensei" workshop from Elevate Education. The session was aimed at up-skilling our Y12's ability to make notes and study in an effective way that will help them retain knowledge for their exams. The sessions proved to be useful to all, with students interacting and making lots of notes to help them revise.





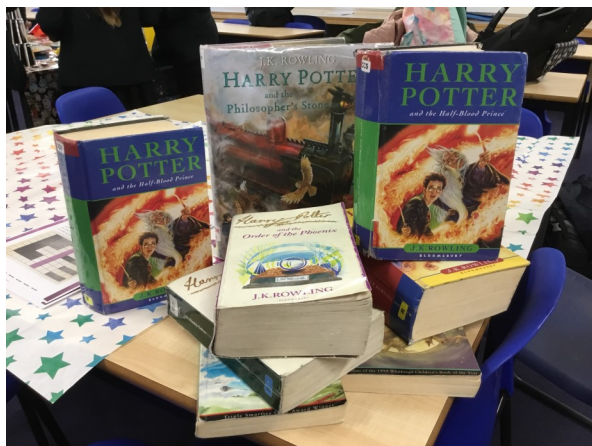
#Justaddshoulders

Our Art teacher Miss Bailey's mural for the #Justaddshoulders campaign was unveiled live on TV on Friday 28 February. It now includes over 20,000 epaulettes from servicemen and women from all around the World. For BBC News coverage of the mural [click here](#) and ITV News [click here](#).



A message from English teacher — Mrs Sereno-Spicer

I'm very lucky to be a part of the CCS Book Club, as the students involved are full of fantastic new book recommendations and we share some wonderful discussions, some of which leave me puzzling for hours after! Two very successful events from World Book Day were our Harry Potter Book Night and our termly Book Swap, all organised by some of our most ardent Book Clubbers. It's incredibly special to see such a love of books sparking among our students. It is our aim to have one themed 'Book Night' and Book Swap each term so watch this space for more details.





Foundation stage, KS1 & KS2 updates

Paramedic visit for Foundation

On Monday 24 February, our Foundation Stage received a visit from local paramedic Anna Marriott where they were given the opportunity to ask questions, as well as have a tour of an ambulance! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and asked lots of great questions.



Holdenby House

To continue their learning theme, 'Through the Keyhole' on Tuesday 10 March, our Year 2 pupils visited Holdenby House for an educational trip. The pupils dressed up in Tudor costume and took part in a variety of activities including: Tudor dancing, archery and much more.





Year 4 Music

Students in 4EL have begun to learn to play a selection of instruments including cornet, tenor horn, baritone, trombone and tuba with the help of Mr Turnbull from Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust. This is part of a government initiative called First Access, which allows all primary-aged children the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. The photos below show the children getting used to their instruments in one of their first lessons.





World Book Day

This month we celebrated World Book Day with lots of activities, which spanned the week from 2-6 March. We held a variety of events and activities through the week to celebrate, including: a dress-up day for Primary, a bookmark and "guess who?" competition, a Harry Potter themed party, a Book Swap event and much more!

Our brilliant English teachers Mrs Husband and Mr Aldridge also read Roald Dahl's novel *Boy* to the pupils to celebrate World Book Day's theme this year, Share a Million Stories. Students will have also received a £1 book token to spend. Happy reading!





Walk around Wootton

On Monday 24 February our Year 1 pupils went on a Walk around Wootton, where they looked at all the different houses, and even had a checklist to tick what type of houses they saw. The children saw lots of detached houses and even saw a bungalow! They each had to follow a map to know where they were going and the next day the pupils had to write a recount about their Walk around Wootton in their English lessons. They had lots of fun writing about everything that they saw.



Visit from Police

Our Foundation Stage received a visit recently from local police officers PCSO Wood and PC Nawaz, where the pupils had the opportunity to ask them lots of questions, have a tour of a police van, try on handcuffs and also try on some of the police uniform. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience and learnt lots of great things from the officers.





Children's play village

In Reception the children have been learning about 'People who help us'. To aid their learning they visited the Children's Play Village where there were many exciting role play areas for them to explore. These included a vets, a fire station, a school and a hospital amongst others. The children all had a fantastic time, lots were asleep on the way home!





Performing Arts

A-Level Component 2 Drama Examination

On Tuesday 11 February eight of our Year 13 students participated in a fantastic evening of performance work, which was examined as part of their A Level course, by a visiting examiner.



The students had been researching, devising, learning lines and rehearsing since September and were required to create an original devised group performance and also to perform an extract from a published play, as a duologue.

The first devised piece, 'For Good' was based around the concept of the need for humans to socialise and belong to a group, with the plot centred around a recently formed Protest group. This piece, with Max, Emily D, Henry and Sam was very funny and ended up with them plotting to kill the Queen!

The second devised piece, 'Trafficked' was based on three true stories of women who had been trafficked – one a teenage girl (Ella), one a girl from Romania looking to become an actress (Evelina) and one a single parent (Emily N).



The group all played a variety of roles, with Archie playing the Trafficker throughout, and was in the style of a fairy story, with a tragic ending.





A-Level Component 2 Drama Examination continued...

The students then performed their duologues which, this year, were all extracts from a classical text, with Sam and Emily D choosing Macbeth, Henry and Archie choosing Othello, Evelina and Max performing Antigone and Ella and Emily N performing The Importance of Being Earnest.



Mr Holt and Mrs Atherton would like to thank and congratulate the group on all their hard work, professionalism and perseverance with very little complaining! This was their last practical performance and it was a very emotional but uplifting evening. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence and to work with such a delightful, entertaining and dedicated group of students.



Student success!

We would like to congratulate our Year 11 student, Georgia M, who has recently been awarded a Silver Arts Award and is now working towards her Gold Arts Award, which is a tremendous achievement. Georgia was also interviewed for a local magazine, Arts Award, to read the full interview please [click here.](#)



GCSE Drama Practical Exam

Our Year 11 students participated in their final practical examination on Tuesday 25 February. They had been preparing scripted extracts in small groups, from a variety of published plays, ready to perform to a visiting examiner and audience, since December. Some students opted for a technical support role – designing and executing costume, hair and make-up ideas and also the sound.

We watched a variety of performances – ranging from a mad comedy 'The Crazy, Sexy, Cool Girl's Fan Club' to pieces that explored topical issues, such as depression and social media abuse.

The students conducted themselves very professionally and the examiner was really impressed by the support they gave one another.





Year 9 taster day

In February, four groups of Year 9 students participated in a GCSE Drama Taster Session with Mr Holt and Mrs Atherton. Their starting point was a set, with stage lights and music. We called the pieces we created 'City in Fear'. We were really impressed by the focus and creativity in the groups as well as the high standard of the pieces they produced.



Year 10 GCSE Drama - Hard to Swallow

On Tuesday 3 March and Wednesday 4 March our three Year 10 GCSE groups each performed their groups' version of our set text play 'Hard to Swallow' by Mark Wheeller. The play tells the true story of Catherine Dunbar, who sadly passed away from the effects of anorexia on her body, in the 1980's. The performers were supported hugely by fantastic audiences of parents, peers and friends. The students were really professional and the performances were extremely interesting to watch and also very moving.



KS3 Choir

Mr Rayner's first session of the new KS3 choir was well attended and the students were very enthusiastic. They learnt and sang 'Someone you Loved' by Lewis Capaldi and 'All That Jazz' from the musical 'Chicago'.



The choir will run during Wednesday lunchtimes in MU1 (1pm start) and students will be learning and performing a variety of music, including gospel, popular music, musicals, film music and more traditional choral music. All KS3 students are welcome to join.



Sports

Winter School Games

Our Year 5 & 6 Sportshall athletics team took part in the Winter School games at Kettering Leisure Village on 25 February for the County Final, the team came first for the sixth year in a row. A brilliant achievement, well done all!



Our Year 7, 8 and 9 Sportshall athletics team also finished second in their respective teams.

KS3 & KS4 Badminton success!

Our KS3 boys and girls teams also represented school in the Winter School Games for Badminton.

In the girls competition, we beat both teams from Northampton School for Girls and also beat local rivals Sponne to finish second in the county after narrowly losing to eventual winners Oundle.

In the boys competition, we won our pool with victories over St Peters & Oundle. This progressed the team into the next pool stage that would determine 1st to 4th place overall.



KS3 & KS4 Badminton success continued...

In this pool stage we remained unbeaten with victories against Oundle, Chenderit & Northampton School for Boys. As a result we were crowned county champions and will represent the county in the regional round in Nottingham.



Our KS3 boys and girls team



Our KS4 boys and girls Badminton team

What a brilliant result for all teams involved in the Winter School Games, well done to all.



KS3 Futsal win!

Our Year 7 & 8 girls Futsal team have also won the County Final in the Winter School Games and are now through to represent Northamptonshire in the Regional finals!

Coach Mrs Evans added, "I am SUPER proud, most of the girls are now playing in local football teams or at Northampton Town PDC or cobblers. All of them dedicate every week to training and have even done several weeks with me on just futsal for preparation. They were a real credit to the school. The girls played superb football throughout, showcasing their development of control and placement of the ball in such a small but fast game. One very proud PE Teacher and Football Coach!"



U13 Northampton Saints Redrow 7's tournament

Our U13's took part in the Northampton Saints Redrow 7's tournament on Thursday 6 March. This was the Northamptonshire leg of the 7's, which sees teams qualify from each of Northampton Saints counties that they cover to a finals day in April.

Within the 1st pool stages we drew against Northampton School for Boys, Northampton International Academy and Bishop Stopford School. Having lost their opening game's against Northampton School for Boys and Bishop Stopford by 1 try, we beat Northampton International Academy, which due to the bonus point picked up against Bishop Stopford resulted in us finishing second in our pool and qualifying for the pool that determined places 1-4.

[continued on page 22]



U13 Northampton Saints Readrow 7's tournament continued...

The quality of the sides in this pool was very high, and despite us losing our games to Northampton School for Boys, Wellingborough School and Sponne, the level of progress and determination shown is a testament to all the players.

Player of the Tournament - J James.



Our U13 team at the Northampton Saints Readrow 7s Tournament



Year 7 Netball

Our Year 7 girls Netball team faced their toughest opposition of the season, Sponne, to play the league match and it proved to be a very close game. We played some excellent netball despite the windy and wet conditions and went on to win 9-0. Player of the match - J Jesu. Well done girls!



For all our sports updates and results please check out our Caroline Chisolm School Sports Blog and Twitter.



Come from Away - London theatre trip

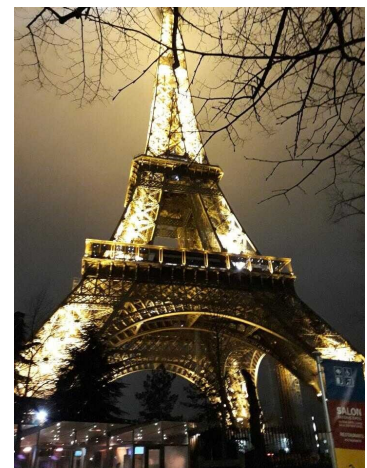
On Wednesday 26 February, we took 49 KS4 and KS5 Drama students to London to watch the award-winning musical 'Come From Away'. As part of their GCSE and A Level courses the students have to experience, analyse and evaluate live theatre. The musical is a fantastic mix of comedy and more reflective, often really emotional moments, with a great use of Celtic Folk style music from the band who remained on stage throughout. The students loved the show, noting, "I want to see it again!" and "That was awesome!". We are so happy we were able to share this experience.



A-Level Paris trip

From 4 - 7 March, 37 of our A-Level History, English and Art students took part in a trip to Paris. They visited some famous sights such as: The Arc de Triomphe, World War I memorial, the Louvre and Eiffel Tower.

On the first evening in Paris, the students visited the Arc de Triomphe, had dinner at a Parisian restaurant, went shopping at Champ-Elyees and also went up the Eiffel Tower.





Our group of CCS students at the Arc de Triomphe

Teacher Dr Ideson, who accompanied the students also noted, "It was really magical seeing the Eiffel Tower wrapped in mist and we all conquered our fears of heights making the ascent to the top. Our view was admittedly a little obscured but it was still breathtaking."





Year 12 visiting Auschwitz Memorial

On Thursday 5 March, two of our Year 12 students visited Auschwitz memorial as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project with the Holocaust Educational Trust. Students C Atkins and R Molloy will now take part in a group project with our two participants from our trip to Bergen-Belsen last month.

The Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

For C Atkins' report and more brilliant photographs from the trip, please [click here](#).



Images by C Atkins



A big thank you

I'd like to conclude this newsletter by saying a massive thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout these testing times. I look forward to welcoming all our brilliant students back when this is all over...



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