

School Matters

September 2020

Caroline
Chisholm
School

Ambition Confidence Success
Everyone Every Lesson Every Opportunity



Welcome to the first edition of our School Matters newsletter for this academic year.

The new term has got off to a flying start and I am really pleased to see so many staff and students back into school after what has felt like a very long 6 months.

We have had to face many challenges over the past few months but the commitment and resilience shown by everyone is testament to the fantastic school community that I am proud to lead.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. I am looking forward to the year ahead, whatever challenges there may be, and am confident that we will continue to see our successes rise.

Regards,

David James
Principal

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Key Dates

W/C 5 October - launch of our Year 7 2021 Virtual Tour

12 October - CCS Friends annual general meeting

24 October - 2 November - End of term break

2 November - Teacher training day

For further event information, please check the school website.



Key Information

Principal's Update

I would like to start by saying how brilliant it has been to see all of our students return on-site, and a big thank you to both parents and students for their support with our change in operations.

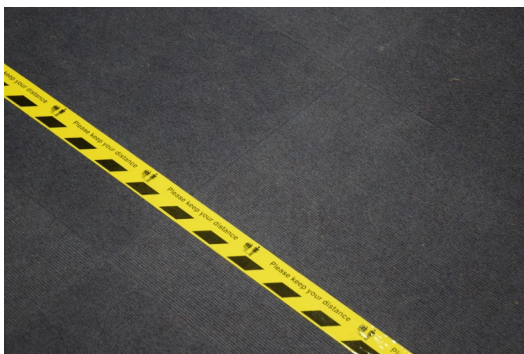
We are now living in a digital world more than ever and whatever our feelings are about this, it is clear that we will need to embrace it. As a school we have invested in our Digital Device Strategy, and we are looking forward to a delivery (which has unfortunately been delayed) of 1,400 Winbooks for our KS3&4 students to support their learning. We will, of course, keep you updated on this.

Safety provisions

As you will be aware, a large number of safety measures have been put in place due to COVID -19 and to limit any risk to children and staff. We would like to share with you a few of the new provisions that have recently come in to place:



Perspex screens have been installed in classrooms where children have to face each other. This will limit any spread of germs, and ultimately, act as a protective shield between students.



Safety tape has been added to the floor of all classrooms, students are asked to not cross this allocated space as this is dedicated for the use of the teacher only.



Hand sanitisers have been installed outside all classrooms and offices which are regularly inspected and topped up as necessary.

We have also installed sinks in the Street to increase and encourage regular handwashing during break times.

Reminders

Help keep our school safe



Clean your hands



Wear your face covering



Make space (2 metres apart)

Please can we remind students that all students in Year 7 and above are required to wear face coverings whilst moving around indoors, such as corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain, unless they are exempt for medical reasons and are wearing an orange lanyard. Face masks should also be worn at all times outside, including when travelling to and from school, with the exception of when consuming food or drink during break and lunchtime.



Updates

Celebrating our successes

Sophie Slade

Former student, Sophie Slade, has recently held her first solo exhibition, Paint the Town in Colour. Showcasing the community of Northamptonshire through a diverse colour palette, capturing architectural settings home to both well-known establishments and hidden treasures.

She has created some incredible art for the collection which can be viewed on her website: <https://www.sophiesladeart.com/> We are very proud to see the amazing work that Sophie has created and wish her the very best in her first solo exhibition.



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Students

We would like to share some of the positive feedback for tutor groups and classes we have received from staff since the start of term. There has been so much positive feedback shared, we have picked a handful for each year group:

- 7LMK have been completely brilliant in their English lesson. The whole class participated in the reading of the play - they did this with tremendous effort. 7LMK also completed their written tasks with an impressive attitude to learning and enthusiasm. 😊 - Miss Gibbs
- Some fantastic discussion on the events of the Gunpowder Plot in year 8 History lessons in the last two weeks. particular mention to 8AMY, 8SBY, 8EPE, and 8DBG. - Mrs Page
- 9ER are really enjoying our new text and have made some wonderful, empathetic and insightful contributions to the topic of euthanasia. - Miss Talbot



10B performing the prologue from 'Romeo and Juliet' in their lesson today - they choose their own music and lights and experimented with range of vocal techniques. - Mrs Atherton

- 10C Photography were fantastic today. We had an hour lesson and went out as a whole class on the nature trail and took photos. They were sensible and stuck together to not infringe on other bubbles and took some lovely photos. - Miss Johnson
- 11A Drama had a fantastic lesson this morning - exploring, in small groups, their chosen stimuli - using a series of still-images to different styles of music and then developing a short scene further, using the Rule of 5. Some excellent, perceptive ideas and great focus. - Mrs Atherton
- 12B Business Studies have made a fab initial impression. The group are extremely hard working, diligent and keen to learn so far... Everything you want in a Sixth Form group! - Mrs Freezer



Staff

We would like to say well done to 3 members of staff who completed the Virgin Virtual London Marathon on Sunday 4 October. On a day that was filled with lots of rain, your perseverance to complete a 26.2 mile run is outstanding! Miss Bailey, Miss Carter and Mrs Fern all completed the Marathon and between them they raised over £3,000 for their chosen charities.

NCETM Professional Development accreditation

Head of KS3 Maths, Ms Sanby, has recently achieved new accreditation and has qualified as a NCETM Professional Development Accredited Lead. Ms Sanby undertook many hours of training sessions and virtual sessions during lockdown in training and we are very proud of her new achievement.



Accredited Professional Development Lead

2021 / 2022 Intake Open Evenings

Due to current COVID-19 guidelines, we are unable to host open days and tours of our school for Foundation Stage, Year 7 and Sixth Form in the usual way, and so a virtual event will, as with many schools in and around the County, be held online via our website. The event will feature an overview of our fantastic school and videos, presentations and introductions from each phase and faculties. We will also be posting some common FAQs to help answer all of your questions.

Please do spread the word to friends, families and colleagues who may have children starting out in their schooling or transitioning to Year 7 or Sixth Form next year and keep an eye on our website and social media pages for further information on the event.

For any specific queries around admissions for September 2021 be emailed to

2021admissions@ccs.northants.sch.uk



2020/21 Foundation Stage intake

We still have some spaces in our current Early Years Foundation Stage, rated by Ofsted in 2020 as Outstanding, and are welcoming applications. Any enquiries should be made to admissions@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

Environment Council

Our Environment Council are currently working on three main projects in school, to help promote and improve both our schools environment and the impact on the world around us:

Cork Project

As a team we are recycling corks to create a plant display. Cork is a natural, environmentally friendly material which biodegrades completely and can be easily recycled. We are currently planning a variety of displays what will appear around the school site.



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Recycling Crisp Packets



The environment council have started a new recycling scheme to recycle as many crisp packets as a school. For each contribution the school is reimbursed money which can be used for all phases and subjects in the school. Keep a look out for your recycling crisp packet boxes in your year group bubble.

Seating area

In secondary phase you asked for additional seating areas, we are currently in the process of responding to this request! You wanted additional seats to be placed both inside and outside of the buildings. We are currently investigating potential options for this project to go ahead. This is a long term project and we look forward to including the student voice in this process.




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High Performance Learning

High Performance Learning – what are we focusing on over the next four weeks?

We are continuing to support and encourage our students to develop the learning skills they need to ensure maximum success. Over the next four weeks we will focus on specific Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics and one of the key Values, Attitudes and Attribute. If you can support your child's development of these tools for learning, that would be fantastic!

w/c 5 th Oct 2020		<u>Critical or Logical Thinking</u> 'The ability to deduct, reason, seek supporting evidence'
w/c 12 th Oct 2020		<u>Intellectual Playfulness</u> 'The ability to recognise rules and bend them to create valid but new forms'
w/c 19 th Oct 2020		<u>Automaticity</u> 'The ability to use some skills with such ease as they no longer require active thinking'
w/c 2 nd Nov 2020		<u>Collaborative</u> 'The ability to seek out opportunities to receive responses to your work; present you own views and ideas clearly and concisely; listen to the views of others; be willing and able to work in teams; take a variety of roles and be able to evaluate your own ideas and contributions'

What can you do to help? Here are a few starting points:

- Discuss the news with your child. Can they articulate their opinion and use evidence?
- Can your child take an everyday object – a spoon, a plate, a book, etc.- and come up with five original uses for that object? The more imaginative, the better.
- Discuss things your child is good at. Can they identify what they have done to help them succeed? How can they use their knowledge of this to help them succeed at other things?
- Do something collaboratively with your child; maybe: cook a meal, do some DIY, create some art, make up a story, research something. Can your child take the lead?

Posters of the ACPs and VAAs High Performance Learning framework can be found on our website: <https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/about/becoming-a-world-class-school>



Learning Council

The Learning Council, which is part of the House Team, is working with students across all year groups in school to help create a 'student voice' in which the views, concerns and ideas of those in school are heard and valued. We will be working with pupils in school to gather their feedback on the changes to learning in school since we have returned this year and meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to share feedback from different year groups.

This will hopefully allow our students to share what they have found to be working well, make suggestions on what could be improved and how best they can be supported.

Parent Voice

We held our first virtual Parent Voice and AGM meeting last week and it was great to get an overview from the Senior Leadership Team around all the measures they have implemented to protect our students and community from Covid-19. We would like to thank all staff for their hard work and commitment. We also learnt more about High Performance Learning and discussed the schools digital strategy going forward.

If you would like to read the full minutes they can be found on the [School website](#), together with how you can get involved and make a positive difference to all the children and young people who attend.

If you are interested in joining Parent Voice or just want to come along as a visitor to our meeting next term please email pvenquiries@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

Vacancies

We are always on the look out for talented people to join our school. Please keep an eye out for any suitable opportunities that may arise on the vacancies section of our website: <https://ccs-northants.careers.eteach.com/>, or send in your CV via the link to join our Talent Pool.



Teaching and Learning

Foundation Stage, KS 1 & 2 updates

Reception

Our Reception children have had a great start to their school journey with us. They are settling into their new routines and are having lots of fun exploring their new exciting learning environment.





Bikeability for Year 4 and Year 6

This month, some of our Year 4 and 6 students have taken part in a Bikeability course at school. The students showed great perseverance and listening skills, well done to you all for your hard work!





Performing Arts

Drama overview

We are delighted to welcome back all our Drama groups this year and it has been such a relief to get back into the swing of doing practical work again, albeit in a socially distanced manner! The students have responded really maturely to having to wear masks for some work, hand sanitizing, walking between the classrooms and practical areas and using the coned areas to work in.

We would like to share with you below some information on what your children will be learning for each year group.

Year Group	Scheme	Description
Year 7	What is Drama?	Exploring how we work in groups, learning new drama techniques and building our collaboration skills – games and new drama techniques
Year 8	Charlotte Dymond	Exploration of the true story of Charlotte Dymond who was murdered by her boyfriend, Matthew Weekes, in 1844 in Cornwall – devised work
Year 9	The Identification	Exploration of a poem about a teenager called Stephen who is injured in an explosion – devised work
Year 10	Introduction Workshops	A series of workshops (voice, movement, design and monologues) leading to some shared performance work
Year 11	Hard to Swallow – Component 3	Working on Hard to Swallow – the set text for Component 3, then moving onto practical coursework for Component 1 – Devising with Brecht



Year 9 Drama

Mrs Atherton would like to say a big well done to 9JSY who were amazing in their recent Drama lesson - we got through a ton of work and they were well behaved, enthusiastic and produced some great work. Pictured below are still-images of what they thought 'The Identification' poem might be about.



Year 10 Drama

10A drama have been collaborating on the prologue from 'Romeo and Juliet', focusing on using voices in creative ways. We started to add music, staging, torches and movement in their lessons and they were super energetic and enthusiastic!!!! This also uses ACP Linking as students are linking back to their research in different stages they completed in lockdown.





Year 11 Drama

It was lovely to see our Year 11's again in person, after months of online lessons and Nearpod activities! Tammy and Meryem were keen to demonstrate their rap/singing talents, having learnt the whole of the 'My Shot' song from 'Hamilton'!



Our three Year 11 GCSE Drama groups have been working successfully on their Component 1 Coursework Devised performances. Their starting point was a choice of either a quote "She knew that he wore his life on his skin, that his biography was written in flesh and on his bones..." or a statement, "Power's not given to you. You have to take it." They have then researched themes/issues/true stories and started to devise around this. We have been really impressed with some of their ideas!





Sports

Northamptonshire FA Girls Talent Pathway

We are very proud to announce that four of our KS3/4 students have been selected for the Northamptonshire Football Association's Girls Talent Pathway to join their 2020/21 squad. This is an amazing achievement for these girls and could even lead them to a space onto the England squad, Mrs Evans would like to say a big well done to all of you! ⚽



Attendance

A reminder to all students and parents/ carers that all children are expected to be in their base rooms, ready to be registered for their first period at their allocated start time. Any secondary phase students arriving on site after this time will unequivocally be issued with a 30 minute detention on the day allocated to their year bubble, any primary phase students arriving after their allotted time slot will be marked as late on the register.

If you require support or further information with regard to attendance, please contact the attendance officer on 01604 669200 or e-mail lamurphy@ccs.northants.sch.uk.

Absences should be reported via our text service on **01604 420132** or via the **School Gateway App**, which is a free messaging service that you can download to your phone.

For planned absences of one or more days, please complete a leave of absence form (available on our website).

Thank you for your continued support.



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 for secondary phase and primaryoffice@ccs.northants.sch.uk for primary phase.

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

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