

The header features a blue rectangular box on the left containing the text 'CSS News' and 'Summer 2026'. To the right of this box is a large, stylized graphic of the CSS logo, which includes the letters 'CSS' at the top, a central shield with an open book and a torch, and a large 'C' on the left side.

CSS News

Summer 2026

A message from Michelle Steadman, Head of Service

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another busy year at Children's Support Service, we're delighted to introduce our very first family newsletter – a new way for us to keep you connected with everything happening.

This term has been filled with wonderful moments and we've been privileged to work alongside your children and young people as they've grown, learned and achieved so much. Today we received our Year 6 SATs results, and I am so proud of our Year 6 children – these are some of the best results we have ever had – well done!

This newsletter is packed with celebratory highlights and updates for you. We will be sending one out at the end of each term for you moving forwards. We know that the partnership between our service and you as families is at the heart of everything we do, and we're grateful for your continued support and trust.

We've created this newsletter to:

- Keep you informed about important dates, events, and updates
- Celebrate achievements and share the fantastic work your children are doing
- Provide helpful information and resources to support your family
- Strengthen our community by sharing news and stories from across our service

We hope this will become a regular feature that you look forward to receiving, and we'd love to hear your feedback on what you'd like to see included in future editions.

As we approach the end of term, we want to thank you for your ongoing partnership. Your support makes such a difference to the children in our care, and we're looking forward to continuing to work together in the term ahead.

Wishing you and your families a restful and safe summer break.

Warm regards,

Michelle



CSS News

Summer 2026

A message from Steve Phillips, Head of Service

What makes CSS special isn't the buildings, the policies or the paperwork. It's the people. The dedicated, compassionate and resilient staff who show up every day and refuse to give up on the young people and families that we support.

Our care and support doesn't just occur in the centres and within the Medical Teams and Essex Reintegration Teams. This year CSS staff also supported close to two hundred young people identified as being close to exclusion, across twenty-one South Essex Secondary Schools and forty-two Primary schools. And beyond the South Essex borders, from Epping Forrest to Clacton, this year CSS has delivered high quality training to a further twenty- two Primary schools, six Secondary schools, and two Colleges.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in September.

Steve

A message from Nadia Ounzain, Deputy Head of Service

Having joined CSS as Deputy Head of Service in June, I have already had the pleasure of seeing the incredible dedication, care and expertise of our staff. It has been wonderful to meet colleagues, children and families and to see the difference our teams make every day.

Recently, staff came together for an INSET day to share ideas, reflect on their practice and explore new ways to support our children and young people. While this work happens behind the scenes, it is all focused on improving the experiences and opportunities we provide for every child.

As we look ahead to the next year, I am excited to work alongside our staff to further strengthen inclusion across CSS and continue our focus on high-quality teaching and learning.

Our aim is simple: to ensure every child feels valued, supported and able to achieve their very best.

I am proud to be part of such a dedicated team and look forward to building on the excellent work already taking place across the service.

Nadia

The background of the top section features a large, stylized logo for CSS. The logo is circular and contains the letters 'CSS' at the top. Below the letters, there is a shield-like emblem. The left side of the emblem shows an open book, and the right side shows a torch with a flame. The entire logo is rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background.

CSS News

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A message from Emily Valentine, Deputy Head of Service

I joined CSS in June, and, in that short time, I have already seen the dedication and commitment of the entire team. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the young people who attend the service and beginning to build relationships with their families.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I am excited to work alongside you all and build on the many successes achieved this year. I am particularly looking forward to introducing our new tutor programme, which will expose our young people to a diverse range of authors and stories from across the global community. We will also be exploring leadership opportunities and continuing to work together to prepare our young people for their next steps.

I am excited to see them progress, develop, and grow into confident young adults who will make a positive contribution to society. Thank you in advance for your support over the coming year. I look forward to working more closely with you and strengthening our partnership.

Please know that I am here to support both our students and their families, ensuring every young person has a successful and positive experience at CSS.

I wish you all a happy, restful, and safe summer holiday.

Emily

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A message from Our Leadership Team

— ” —

This has been an extremely busy and successful year in Primary, and we are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved. Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs and attending their transition days with such confidence and maturity. We know that moving on can be a big change, and we're confident they will thrive in their new environments.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year; it has been greatly appreciated. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming those returning to CSS in September.

Richard Davies, Acting Head of Primary

— ” —

This has been a busy, successful and rewarding year at CSS Fairview. I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on their hard work and determination throughout their GCSE examinations, and our Year 10 students for the maturity they have shown during their first mock examinations.

Thank you to all our families and staff for your continued support, particularly during the exceptionally hot weather when remote learning was introduced. Your encouragement has helped our students thrive. I hope you all have a relaxing and safe summer holiday, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to CSS Fairview in September.

James Shane, Head of CSS Fairview

— ” —

The summer term has been full of achievements, challenges and memorable experiences, and I am incredibly proud of everything our students have accomplished. Congratulations to our Year 11 students on completing their GCSE examinations and other qualifications, and well done to our Year 10 students as they began their mock examinations with determination and maturity.

Thank you to our families, carers and dedicated staff for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we've celebrated many highlights, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, cake decorating, college visits and our Year 11 leavers' events.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming our returning students back to CSS Wickford in September.

Martin Bunyan, Acting Head of CSS Wickford

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Achievements



Attendance

School attendance is vital to success, and we are incredibly proud of our young people and their families for the commitment they show in coming to school and engaging in their learning.

At CSS, we understand that attendance can sometimes be challenging, and that simply stepping through the school gates can be a huge achievement. As we look ahead to the new academic year, we want to remind our students that showing up is the first step towards success.

We also want our families to know that they are not alone. If you need any support in helping your child attend school, we are here to listen, help, and work alongside you.

"Half the battle is just showing up." – Stephen Hawking



Year 11 Exam Success!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students. This year, **100% of Year 11 students** attending our Fairview and Wickford centres left school in June with recognised qualifications in both English and Maths, ahead of receiving GCSE results in August.



CSS joins the Essex Research Schools Network!

We're delighted to announce that CSS has been invited to join the Essex Research Schools Network, part of the national EEF Research Schools Network.

The Research Schools Network is a collaboration of schools across England, supported by the Education Endowment Foundation, working to champion the use of evidence to improve teaching and learning, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged pupils.

Becoming part of this network raises our profile locally and nationally and places CSS within a community committed to high-quality, evidence-informed practice.



Essex Reintegration Project

CSS is proud to have secured the Essex Reintegration Project for a second consecutive year. This achievement recognises the positive impact of our work in supporting young people to successfully reintegrate into education. We look forward to continuing our partnership and making a lasting difference to the lives of young people across Essex.



We've launched our new website!

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new website!

Here you'll find everything you need to know about CSS, including important school information, updates, and useful resources all in one place.

Our website will continue to grow and develop, and we look forward to sharing new features and updates with you as they become available.

Please click the link below to explore our new website.



<https://www.css-essex.co.uk/>

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Looking ahead...

As we prepare for another school year, here are just a few of the developments and opportunities our students and families can look forward to in September.



Decorating and Improvements

Throughout the year, we'll be continuing a programme of decorating and improvements works across both Fairview and Wickford centres, creating fresh, welcoming and inspiring learning environments for all our students. New additions, including '**The Lounge**' therapeutic space and the **CSS Café**. This will further enhance our provision and support students' wellbeing, independence and sense of community.



New White Polo Top

From September, we'll be introducing a new white polo shirt as part of our school uniform. Details about the new polo shirt, including how to purchase it, are now available on our website.



Wildpaths Initiative

The Wild Paths Wilderness Therapeutic Approaches programme provides a structured, relationship-driven, and nature-based intervention that supports students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, to help them develop the core aims of the programme by: supporting emotional regulation and behaviour, building positive relationships, developing resilience and coping skills, improving self-esteem and identity, encouraging engagement and reconnection with learning and promoting positive risk-taking and decision-making.

Our wildpaths curriculum is based in our woodland at Kingfisher Farm, Blackthorpe and on site at Fairview Basildon.

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Staff Update



As we prepare for another school year, we're delighted to welcome new members of staff to the CSS team. Each brings valuable experience, enthusiasm and fresh ideas, and we're confident they will make a positive contribution to our school community.

We're pleased to share that **Kate Bunyan**, Deputy SENCo, **Jade Nelson**, Teacher of PE and **Jelena Watler**, Behaviour Mentor, have already joined us and have made a fantastic start. Their testimonials below highlight how warmly they have been welcomed and their positive experiences of becoming part of CSS.

We are also delighted to announce that **Reece Conway** will be joining CSS in September as Deputy Head of Service and Acting Head of CSS Wickford. We look forward to welcoming Reece to the team and wish him every success in his new role.

I'm excited to join the team as a Behaviour Mentor, bringing my experience as a Head of Year from a mainstream high school into the CSS setting. I'm passionate about building positive relationships, supporting young people to overcome challenges, and helping them recognise their strengths. I'm looking forward to learning from my new colleagues and contributing to a supportive, inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

Jelena Watler, Behaviour Mentor

I will be the new PE Teacher at CSS Wickford. I have spent the last 10 years leading PE across a range of schools in London. Before this, I was a football coach for West Ham United whilst playing semi-professionally for Charlton Athletic. PE and sport have always been my passion, and I am looking forward to sharing my experience with students at CSS and making a positive difference.

Jade Nelson, Teacher of PE

I began my career in education as a teaching assistant. I then trained to be a primary teacher and also worked as a head of year and assistant SENCo at a secondary school for 12 years. My previous role was working for the Local Authority as a SEND Inclusion Partner. I'm really excited to now be working at CSS as the new Deputy SENCo, supporting children and young people to achieve the best possible outcomes. **Kate Bunyan, Deputy SENCo**

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Tutor Time From September 2026

From September, tutor time will continue to be an important part of the school day at CSS. Guided by our school value, **“Be the best you can be,”** these sessions help pupils develop confidence, resilience and the skills they need for school and life beyond education.

A new feature this year will be our **Book of the Week**, which will be introduced across all key stages. Linked to our weekly themes, these carefully chosen texts will introduce pupils to a wide range of authors, cultures and experiences. Through reading and discussion, we hope to inspire a love of reading for pleasure, broaden horizons and encourage curiosity about the world.

In our **Primary Provision**, tutor time focuses on communication, confidence, positive relationships and understanding routines and expectations. Sessions also support literacy and numeracy, helping children build strong foundations for learning.

In **Key Stage 3**, pupils develop independence, resilience and self-awareness. Through assemblies, discussions and pupil voice activities, they explore personal development topics, current affairs and wider social issues. Regular literacy and numeracy activities also help to strengthen key skills and support learning across the curriculum.

For pupils in **Key Stage 4**, tutor time focuses on preparing for the future. Sessions include revision strategies, employability skills and careers education, helping young people make informed decisions about their next steps. Pupils will also explore global issues and current affairs, developing a greater understanding of the world around them.

Across all provisions, tutor time promotes respect, responsibility and inclusion. Our aim is to ensure every pupil leaves CSS as a confident, respectful and responsible individual, equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to succeed in education, employment and the wider community.

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Trips & Visits



Be The Best You Can Be – On DofE!

A group of determined CSS students from Wickford and Fairview have successfully completed a challenging overnight Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The trek began with a pre-planned, 10-mile route from Billericay. Split into two teams, the students spent a gruelling six hours navigating their way through the Essex countryside. Armed with maps, compasses, and their own wits, they successfully negotiated the terrain to reach their destination.

After a demanding first day in the blistering heat, the real test of independence began. The students set up camp, pitched their own tents, and cooked up well-deserved hot dinners over camping stoves. The highlight of the evening was a gathering around the campfire, where both groups traded stories, jokes and played games. The second day brought more miles and tired legs. The students pushed through the fatigue to complete their planned route and officially wrapped up the expedition.



"It was a fantastic couple of days all around," said Mr Bunyan. "The kids definitely struggled at points, but they dug deep, supported one another, and pushed through. It's a massive achievement and a truly great experience for everyone involved."

Congratulations to all the participants on showing exceptional resilience, attachment, self-regulation, tolerance, affiliation, respect, attunement and team spirit!



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Key dates

Here is our academic calendar for next year. Important dates will also be added to our website throughout the year, so please check it regularly for the latest updates.

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
										1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
28	29	30												30													

January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

School Days	School Holidays	Bank Holidays	Weekends	INSET Days
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Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 Half Term 26 October – 30 October	74 days
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 Half Term 15 February - 19 February	54 days
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 Half Term 31 May – 4 June, and May Bank Holiday - 3 May	67 days
		<u>195 days</u>

We look forward to welcoming all students back on
Thursday 3rd September

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SHOWTIME

In this section, we'll be putting each subject in the spotlight, celebrating the successes, achievements and highlights from this half term.



The ICT Department has enjoyed a highly successful year, with students achieving excellent results in both the **Essential Digital Skills Qualification (EDSQ)** and the **International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL)**. These achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and growing digital confidence of our learners as they develop the skills needed for modern life and employment.

A particular highlight of the year was our visit to the **Science Museum**, where students explored the fascinating history of computer games through interactive exhibits. They enjoyed discovering how gaming technology has evolved over the decades and even had the opportunity to play some classic games, bringing computing history to life in an engaging and memorable way.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and look forward to building on these successes next year.

Mark Gray, Head of ICT



Students exploring the history of computer games during their visit to the Science Museum.

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Maths

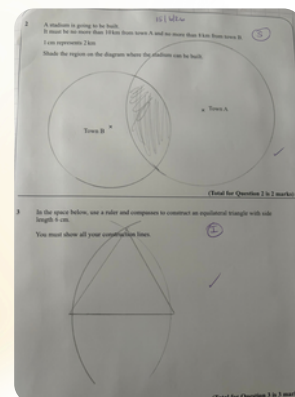
This year, students have thrived in Maths thanks to our broad and engaging curriculum, which has introduced a range of new topics and provided exciting opportunities to apply their learning in different contexts. One particular highlight has been the fantastic work completed on plans and elevations in Year 10, where students have demonstrated excellent spatial reasoning and problem-solving skills.

This topic has also created a valuable cross-curricular link with design technology (DT), helping students see how mathematics is used in real-world design and construction. In addition, students enjoyed a highly successful trip to an escape room, where they worked collaboratively to solve a series of mathematical and logical challenges. The experience provided an exciting opportunity to apply their problem-solving skills in a real-life setting, with teams successfully cracking clues, overcoming challenges, and escaping within the allotted time.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, confidence, and progress our students have shown throughout these learning experiences, and look forward to building on these successes in the future.

Paige Bootha, Head of Maths

1. $2(25+7) = 42+14 = 56$
2. $5a(4-b) = 20a-20ab$
 $9(b+2) = 9b+18$
 $4b+18 = 26$
 $4b = 26-18$
 $4b = 8$
 $b = 2$
3. $(x+2)(x+2) = x^2 + 2x + 2x + 4 = x^2 + 4x + 4$
 $x^2 + 12x + 24$
 $x^2 = 14x + 24 + 22x + 8x$
 $22x(x+4) = 33x^2 + 22x + 24$
 $22x^2 + 8x$
(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)



5. $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
6. $5(x+2) = 5x + 10$
 $5x + 10 = 15$
 $5x = 15 - 10$
 $5x = 5$
 $x = 1$
7. $5y(3y-1) = 15y^2 - 5y$
 $5y^2 - 15y^2 = -10y^2$
 $-10y^2 - 5y$
8. $6(2x-3) = 12x - 18$
 $12x - 18 = 18$
 $12x = 18 + 18$
 $12x = 36$
 $x = 3$
9. $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
10. $5(x+2) = 5x + 10$
 $5x + 10 = 15$
 $5x = 15 - 10$
 $5x = 5$
 $x = 1$
11. $6(2x-3) = 12x - 18$
 $12x - 18 = 18$
 $12x = 18 + 18$
 $12x = 36$
 $x = 3$
12. $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
 $7 \times 3 = 21$
13. $5(x+2) = 5x + 10$
 $5x + 10 = 15$
 $5x = 15 - 10$
 $5x = 5$
 $x = 1$
14. $6(2x-3) = 12x - 18$
 $12x - 18 = 18$
 $12x = 18 + 18$
 $12x = 36$
 $x = 3$
(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

Examples of the students' maths work

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English

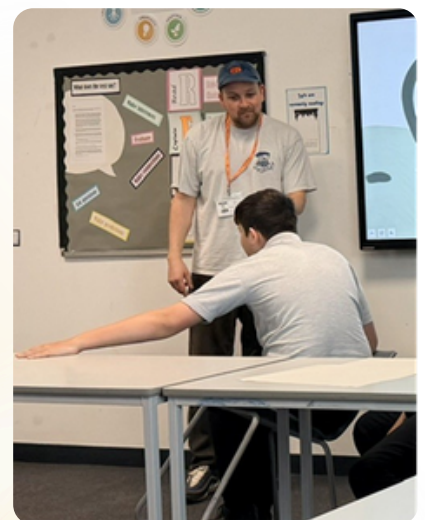
It has been a busy and inspiring term in the English Department. We were delighted to welcome Steven Camden, a children's and young adult author who has published a variety of books and delivers creative writing workshops in schools. Steven worked with our students on a series of creative writing activities. His engaging workshops encouraged students to explore their imagination, develop their confidence as writers, and experiment with new ideas and techniques. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced some fantastic pieces of writing as a result.

Alongside this, students have been creating their own 100-word stories to enter the Young Writers competition. We have been impressed by their creativity, originality and enthusiasm, and we look forward to hearing the results of the competition.

This year, some of our students also enjoyed a visit to see A Christmas Carol at the Palace Theatre in Southend, bringing the text to life and enriching their learning.

Well done to all our young writers for their hard work and commitment this term!

Sandra Higgs, Head of English



Steven Camden inspiring our students during a creative writing workshop



Young Writers Competition 2026

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Science

This has been an exciting and successful year for Science at CSS, with children enjoying a wide range of engaging and memorable learning experiences. One of the highlights was a visit from Gemma's Farm, where children had the opportunity to hold, touch and learn about a variety of farm animals and pets, bringing their learning to life through hands-on experiences.

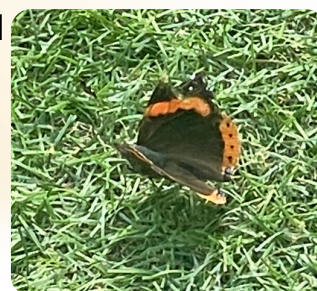
This year also saw the introduction of AQA Unit Award Scheme qualifications in Science, which have been received extremely positively and have provided many children with increased motivation, confidence and a real sense of achievement.

We are particularly proud of our Year 11 students, who approached their GCSE Biology examinations with maturity, determination and resilience, giving their very best effort throughout the exam season.

Practical science has continued to be a key feature of our curriculum, with children enthusiastically taking part in activities such as heart and chicken wing dissections, as well as observing the fascinating life cycle and metamorphosis of caterpillars into Painted Lady butterflies.

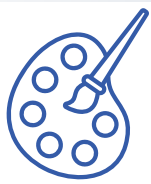
It has been wonderful to see curiosity, confidence and scientific understanding flourish across the department, and we are incredibly proud of all that our children have achieved this year.

Observing butterfly metamorphosis



Gemma's Farm visit

Ashley Wiseman, Head of Science



Creative Arts

In Art, pupils approached their mock examinations with commitment and creativity, producing work that demonstrated developing technical skills, thoughtful research, and increasingly confident personal responses. Many pupils showed strong progress in their ability to explore ideas, experiment with materials, and refine their outcomes, resulting in a number of high-quality submissions. The mock examination outcomes have provided valuable insight into strengths and next steps, placing pupils in a positive position as they prepare for their final GCSE assessments.

In Construction, Year 11 pupils are working hard to develop the key skills required to successfully complete their directed study and coursework components. Pupils are strengthening their understanding of the design process, technical drawing, construction techniques, and evaluation. They are demonstrating resilience and independence in managing projects, responding to feedback, and improving the quality of their work. This focused approach is helping to ensure that pupils are well prepared for the demands of their final assessments in Year 11 and are continuing to make good progress towards their target grades.

Overall, pupils across the Creative Arts curriculum have shown a positive attitude to learning, and staff are proud of the dedication and effort they have demonstrated throughout the year.

Student artwork examples



Samuel Druckler, Head of Creative Arts

Construction practical skills



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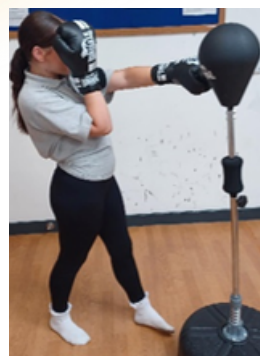
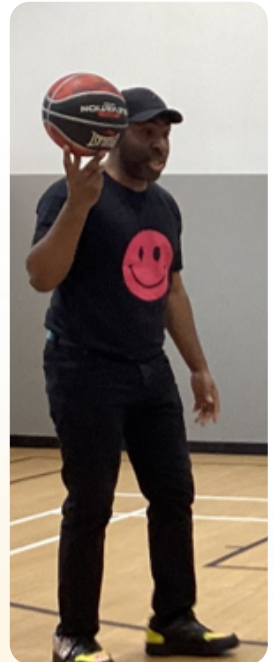


In the PSHRE, Careers and King's Trust department, has enjoyed supporting the personal development of our pupils in the following ways:

- Discussing important real-life issues in PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education) lessons, including ways to access support when you need it
- Having an aspirational attitude towards the future through Careers Education, including CV writing, college talks college visits, practice interviews and workplace visits, with two highlights being the visit of Action Jackson – Ambassador for Happiness, and the visit of GSQ Brickworks.
- Enriching our students' learning experience through the King's Trust intervention programme, including boxing and sewing with four Year 11 students also achieving the Personal Development and Employability Award.

Claire Howell, Head of PSHRE, Careers and King's Trust

Action Jackson visit



Sewing project



GSQ Brickworks visit



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Budding Bakers Get Creative!

In Food and Nutrition, students across both Primary and Secondary enjoyed a fantastic cake decorating workshop this term, kindly led by Karen from Little Pinkie Vintage Afternoon Tea.

During the session, students learned how to use a piping bag to create a range of icing swirls and decorative techniques before putting their new skills into practice. They also showed great creativity by making fondant cake toppers, including unicorns, cars and beautiful roses. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, imagination and pride in the students' creations. We may have discovered a few budding cake decorators!

Carla Blainey, Head of Food



Cake decorating workshop





Medical Education Team

It has been another highly successful term for the Medical Education Team, with many achievements worth celebrating.

Special congratulations go to our Year 11 students, who showed incredible resilience, determination and commitment by attending their schools and completing all of their GCSE examinations. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are extremely proud of them all.

We are also delighted to share that this term, 27 students across our South and West regions have successfully reintegrated into their home schools or transitioned into new educational provisions. These positive outcomes reflect the hard work of our students, families, schools and staff working together to support each young person's journey.

Throughout the term, students have enjoyed a range of engaging cross-curricular learning opportunities. These included celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, taking part in Numeracy Day activities and recognising Pride Month.

Our students produced some outstanding work, including:

- A fantastic Sir David Attenborough-inspired nature documentary featuring their own pet, created by Abigail, and a wonderful piece of descriptive writing by Jessica.
- Izzy produced an excellent budgeting presentation, and Blake completed an informative poster exploring how numbers are used in his boxing club.
- Ruby created a detailed and informative fact file on the poet Wilfred Owen, showcasing impressive research and presentation skills, while Jessica created a brilliant and moving short poem celebrating Pride.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and the enthusiasm, creativity and perseverance they have shown this term. Well done to everyone involved!

Jenny Clegg, Deputy Headteacher

LOVE OUT LOUD: EQUALITY IS PROUD.
AUTHENTICITY IS YOUR SUPERPOWER
IHa



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Testimonials

We value the strong relationships we build with our families. Here's a reflection from one of our parents about their experience at CSS.

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I just wanted to say thank you again for your support, care and commitment to Max whilst he was with CSS. Max is doing really well in his personal development ready for STEM in September, and I believe you played an instrumental part in Max's growth during this time. Your calm, understanding approach to children and ensuring to build a firm safe relationship is seriously undervalued in the SEN arena in my experience.

As we know, the protocols are never black and white when helping children who need that extra nurturing and the connection is imperative. It was a struggle at times, but you made both myself and Max feel fully supported and empowered to learn & grow with the challenges that were presented to us, and I really cannot thank you enough for this. I wish you well for the future. We will never forget the difference you made during a difficult time for us.

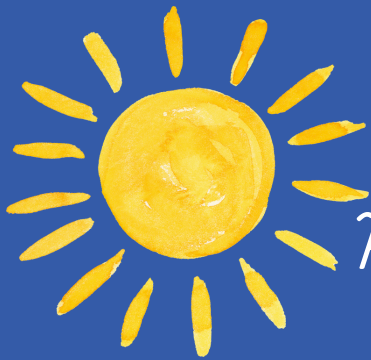
We are proud of the positive and inclusive culture we've built at CSS. We're pleased to share the thoughts of a colleague who recently worked with us and reflected on their experience.

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As the first social work student to complete a placement at the Provision, I couldn't have asked for a better experience. From day one, I felt welcomed by a team that is not only incredibly knowledgeable but also kind, approachable, and genuinely supportive. Although hosting a social work student was a new experience for the team, they embraced it wholeheartedly, creating a learning environment where I felt comfortable asking questions, learning from mistakes, and growing in confidence.

Coming from a different cultural background, this placement challenged me to see situations from new perspectives and broadened my understanding in ways I hadn't expected. Working with children and young people, alongside such an empathetic and encouraging team, has strengthened both my skills and my passion for social work. It has even inspired me to continue working with children and young people in my future practice.

I couldn't recommend the Provision enough to anyone looking for a placement where you'll feel valued, supported, challenged, and inspired every day.



*Have a restful and
safe summer!*