CSS News

Autumn 2026

A message from Michelle Steadman, Head of Service



Dear Families,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year we have had at Children's Support Service!

As we reach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the positive start we have made and the exciting developments taking place across our service.

It has been wonderful to welcome back our returning students and families, as well as those joining us for the first time. Our children and young people have settled well into their routines, embraced new opportunities and have already made some fantastic progress. I am incredibly proud of the resilience, enthusiasm and achievements we have seen across both our Wickford and Fairview centres, for our students accessing medical education and our Essex-wide reintegration project.

We continue to move forward as a service, building on our strengths and developing our provision to ensure we provide the very best opportunities and experiences for every student. From improvements to our learning environments to exciting new initiatives and activities, there is so much to feel positive about as we look ahead.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to creating a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment where every child and young person feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff team for their continued hard work, care and commitment, and to you, our families, for your ongoing support and partnership. Working together really does make a difference.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved rest and time together.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in November for another exciting and productive half term.

Warm regards, *Michelle*

Michelle's Quote For Half Term:

"You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending"

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Staff Update

As a family in our community, staff changes can feel unsettling, however, these changes reflect our unwavering commitment to delivering the very best education for our children and young people, as CSS grows its offer to families and schools across Essex.

We are delighted to have welcomed a number of new colleagues to our staff team this term. Each brings valuable experience, expertise and fresh perspectives, further strengthening our community.

It has been a very positive start to the year, and we look forward to the contributions they will make as we continue to work together to provide the very best opportunities and outcomes for our pupils.

We are pleased to formally introduce and welcome the following colleagues who have joined us:

- Reece Conway: Deputy Head of Service / Head of Wickford
- Nicola Wilson: Wild Paths Tutor
- Carly Bradshaw: Reintegration Tutor – Medical Team West
- Georgie Hutton: Outreach Mentor Lead
- Alicia Jones: Outreach Engagement Mentor
- Sophie Gafga: HLTA
- Mark Tuck: Behaviour Mentor
- Andrew Western: Teacher
- Caroline Clinton: Catering Manager

Kate Bunyan will be our new Service SENCO from January 2027.

We are also delighted to confirm that the following colleagues will be joining us after the half-term break. We look forward to welcoming them and wish them every success as they begin their new roles.

- Danielle Dansey: Business Support Administrator (Essex Reintegration Project)
- Shannon Croly: Reintegration Tutor (Essex Reintegration Project)
- Charlotte Moriarty: Outreach Engagement Mentor

After Christmas, we are thrilled to be welcoming Helen Russell, our new Head of Primary and Joe Woodley, to the Senior Leadership Team.

Recruitment for a number of roles remains ongoing, and we have been encouraged by the quality and experience of applicants. We are committed to securing the right individuals and will share updates as soon as appointments are confirmed.

Michelle

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A message from Nadia Ounzain, Deputy Head of Service



As we reflect on the achievements of last year's students, there is so much to celebrate. We are incredibly proud of everything they accomplished and the determination they showed throughout their time at CSS.

Our 2026 results were our strongest yet. Every Year 11 student left with at least one accreditation, and every Year 11 student achieved qualifications in both English and Maths. We also saw significant improvements across key subjects, with attainment in English, Maths and Science all increasing from the previous year.

Particularly pleasing was the fact that 83% of students achieved five or more GCSE or Level 1/2 qualifications, while 92% gained at least one GCSE or Level 1/2 qualification. These results reflect the hard work, determination and resilience shown by our young people, often after facing significant challenges in their educational journeys.

Our primary students also have much to be proud of. Pupils who accessed the full KS2 SATs assessments, demonstrated growing confidence and readiness to engage with learning. We were especially pleased to see positive outcomes in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, alongside achievements in Reading and Maths.

While we are proud of these results, we know that success is about more than qualifications alone. This year we are continuing to strengthen our curriculum.

Our goal remains the same: helping every young person build the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to thrive in education, employment and life.

Nadia

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A message from Emily Valentine, Deputy Head of Service / Culture and Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding Update: Enjoying a Safe and Positive Half-Term

As we approach the half-term break, we hope all of our students and families enjoy a well-earned rest. The holiday provides a great opportunity to spend time together, try new activities, and take some time to recharge before the next busy half-term.

If you are looking for advice or support during the break, there are a number of services available to help with wellbeing, parenting, family support, and emotional health:

- **Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service** – Support for children, young people and families.
- **Childline** – A free and confidential service for young people who may need someone to talk to.
- **Young Minds** – Helpful advice and resources for young people and parents around mental health and wellbeing.
- **NHS 111** – Health advice and support when needed.

The holidays are also a great time to continue conversations with your child about staying safe online, making positive choices, and looking after their wellbeing.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after half-term, ready for another successful term at CSS. In the meantime, we wish all our families a safe, happy and enjoyable break.

Emily

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A message from Reece Conway, Head of Wickford

Wickford Update:

I would like to start by thanking staff, families and most importantly, the young people we serve, for the welcome I have had within this first half term.

Staff have been incredibly supportive and have further reinforced my passion for supporting young people who continue to inspire me each day. I am so grateful to be part of this service and lead such an incredible team.

Staff have been truly resilient and driven in raising expectations and aspirations for our young people and have made a substantial impact in improving the culture of our site.

The young people have been adaptable and resilient in their learning and adjusting to new expectations and I am so proud of all of the young people who have come through reception this half term. A huge well done to the students who have achieved their bronze rewards certificates for getting 25 or more achievement points this half term.

A massive thank you to the staff who have supported our year 11 students through some of their examinations and their speaking assessments, it has been so nice to hear the young people speak with passion and care about their outcomes and see their engagement. Alongside the opportunities that have been provided for our year 11s to explore next steps and career pathways.

A huge thank you to the attendance officer, safeguarding team, engagement mentors and behaviour mentor for their incredible hard work in supporting our young people and their families to provide the best opportunities for them.

I am looking forward to further embedding our culture and working with my staff to provide the means for all of our young people to succeed, and offer new opportunities for them to develop.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and restful half term.

Reece

Reece's Quote For Half Term:

"There is nothing noble in being superior to your peers, true nobility is being superior to your former self."

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A message from James Shane, Head of Fairview

Fairview Update:

What a fantastic start to the new academic year it has been at Fairview! It's been wonderful to welcome our students back after the summer break and see them settle so positively into the new term.

We have been particularly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm shown by our returning students, who have embraced the new school year with a positive attitude. It has also been lovely to see the kindness and support they have shown towards new students joining our Fairview community, helping them feel welcome and part of the team.

It has certainly been a busy and successful first half term, with plenty of achievements to celebrate!

I am incredibly proud of the 13 students who have already achieved their CSS Bronze award, (for receiving more than 25 achievement points in the first half term alone!) Many of these students are already on their way to earning their Silver award. I was also incredibly proud of the behaviour shown by our year 11 students at the recent Basildon Skills Show, at the Basildon Sporting Village. They engaged with the venue and staff incredibly well, and were by far the best-behaved school at the event. I am also pleased to say the CSS football team won their first match of the year, against James Hornsby, but more importantly, played in a correct manner and behaved very well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at CSS Fairview, for their continued hard work and efforts with every child who attends our centre. Your commitment to the students we serve continues to inspire me on a daily basis, and I know the students appreciate everything you do for them. I would also like to thank the families of our children, who continue to support us as a school and work with us to ensure their children make progress towards their next academic steps.

As we come towards the end of the half term, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful half-term break. I urge all students to keep themselves safe over the Halloween period and I look forward to welcoming you all back next half term, where we begin the countdown to Christmas.

James

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Primary Update:

What a fantastic start to the academic year our wonderful Primary children have had! They have shown great resilience, courage and adaptability as they have navigated changes within the team supporting them. The children have embraced every opportunity on offer and have thoroughly enjoyed swimming, cooking, DT, boxing and a range of other enrichment activities.

We are particularly excited that our first Wild Paths programme will begin next half-term, with a second group taking part later in the year. These experiences provide valuable opportunities for our young people to develop confidence, independence and teamwork skills.

Attendance across Primary has been excellent, and it has been a pleasure to see our pupils making such positive progress whilst continuing to embed the CSS Way. There have been many successes to celebrate, including children achieving their "CSS Awards" and numerous "Star of the Week" recognitions.

This half-term, we have also introduced weekly assemblies, giving us the opportunity to reflect on the week together, celebrate achievements and recognise the many ways our pupils demonstrate our school values.

There have been some lovely additions to the classrooms too, particularly our new book corners, which have created welcoming spaces where children can relax, explore new stories and develop a love of reading.

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in Primary this half-term, getting to know not only the team, but most importantly the children and their families. Thank you for your continued support.

We are really looking forward to our new Head of Primary, Mrs Helen Russell, joining us after christmas, who will be visiting next half term to get to know CSS.

We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

Emily Valentine, Deputy Head of Service

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Attendance Update:

I wanted to say a huge thank you for your continued support with school attendance. We are incredibly proud of the young people at CSS, who are all attending well, engaging positively in their learning, and working hard to be the very best they can be. Every day in school helps build confidence, develop skills, and support academic progress throughout the year.

We know that getting into school can sometimes feel challenging, especially as we move into the colder, darker mornings and the seasonal coughs and colds begin to appear. However, our students continue to show remarkable resilience, and we are confident that they will keep striving to attend regularly and make the most of every opportunity available to them.



As we approached the October half-term break, we launched our “Don't Ghost Us” attendance challenge encouraging students to attend every day. Those who successfully completed the challenge will receive a spooky treat to celebrate their achievement.
Well done to everyone who took part and met the challenge!

For those who didn't quite make it this time, don't worry. Attendance is about looking forward, not looking back. What happens next is what matters most.
There will be another opportunity to get involved when we launch our “12 Days of Christmas” attendance challenge' next half-term.

If you need any support with attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the CSS Attendance Team, on 07872 107972. We are here to work alongside you and your child to ensure they can access their education and thrive.

Emily Valentine, Deputy Head of Service

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Achievements

Assemblies



We're delighted to have introduced a new weekly assembly programme for the 2026–27 academic year! Each Wednesday, students enjoy assemblies during Tutor Time, designed to inspire, inform and encourage meaningful reflection.

Our assemblies celebrate a wide range of important topics, bringing together the voices, experiences and expertise of staff from across our service. This term, students have explored themes including community and responsibility, Black History Month and International Day of Sign Languages.

Through these engaging sessions, we aim to broaden students' understanding, celebrate diversity and encourage a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Wild Paths



Our first group of students has now begun their Wild Paths journey! This exciting, nature-based programme provides a nurturing and supportive environment where students can develop confidence, resilience, emotional wellbeing and positive relationships through meaningful outdoor experiences.

We're also excited to be extending the programme to our primary students, giving even more young people the opportunity to benefit from outdoor learning, exploration and personal development.

The development of our Wild Paths area at Fairview is looking fantastic, with the space continuing to take shape, offering exciting opportunities for students to connect with nature, build independence and develop important life skills.

We look forward to seeing our students grow and thrive as the programme develops, and to sharing more of their Wild Paths adventures with you!

Community Day



On 22nd October, we hosted another fantastic Community Day across both our Wickford and Fairview centres!

These special days are a wonderful opportunity to offer students something a little different from their usual timetable, bringing a real buzz of excitement, creativity and togetherness to our school community.

Students enjoyed a fantastic variety of activities, ncluding African drumming, cooking and baking, arts and crafts, creating colourful mosaic displays, gaming, sports such as badminton, basketball and table tennis, and exciting group challenges. Some students also enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum.

Community Days are all about encouraging students to try something new, build friendships, develop confidence and enjoy shared experiences in a fun and supportive environment.









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Looking ahead...

As we head into the second half of the Autumn term, there are plenty of exciting developments and opportunities on the horizon for our students and families. Here's a little of what's coming up!

Decorating and Improvements



We're continuing to make exciting improvements across our Wickford and Fairview centres, creating welcoming and inspiring spaces for our students. Our new murals at Wickford look fantastic, with Fairview set to receive the same colourful transformation in the coming weeks!
Exciting improvements are also planned for our primary playground, including a new sensory trail, while both Wickford and Fairview secondary centres now have brand-new café areas for students to enjoy.

New Autumn/Winter Lunch Menu



After half term, we'll be introducing our new Autumn/Winter lunch menu, bringing a delicious selection of warming, nutritious meals for students to enjoy during the colder months ahead!

Books, books and more books!



A huge investment has been made to support our students with their reading. Brand-new reading areas are now available for all students to enjoy, and we're really looking forward to seeing them make the most of these fantastic new spaces!

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Trips, Visits and Enrichment

It's been a busy and exciting half term, with a fantastic range of trips, workshops and enrichment opportunities across our centres.

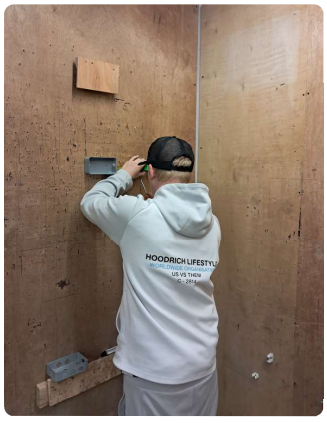
From careers guidance and college experiences to important safety and wellbeing workshops, these opportunities have helped students build confidence, develop life skills and explore their future pathways.

This half term's highlights include:

- South Essex College – College Talk
- The Children's Society – Break the Vape Workshop
- Future Ready – Six-Week Programme
- Essex Fire & Police – Arson and Hoax Calls
- Essex Fire & Police – Halloween, Bonfire Night and Firework Safety
- Southend Careers Service – 1:1 Careers Guidance Meetings
- Basildon Skills Show
- South Essex College – Basildon Experience Day

South Essex College – Basildon Experience Day





A huge thank you to all the organisations and professionals who have helped make these valuable experiences possible!

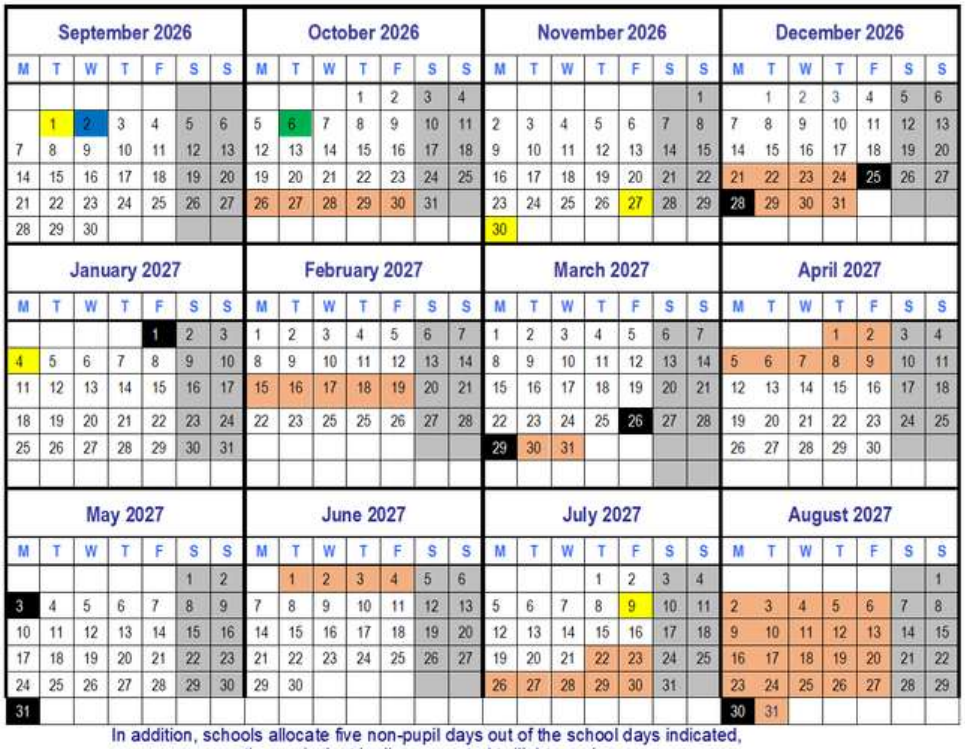


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Key dates

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.



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

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 195 days

We look forward to welcoming all students back on **Monday 2nd November.** Please note: **Friday 27th** and **Monday 30th November** are INSET days, and the school will be closed to students.

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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.

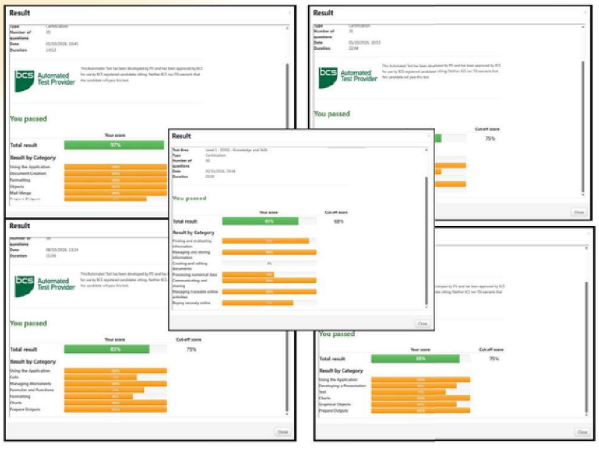
ICT

Over the first half term, the ICT Department has had a busy and productive start to the academic year. Our Key Stage 3 students have been developing essential digital literacy skills through their study of Computer Housekeeping, learning how to organise, manage and maintain digital files and devices effectively. They have also explored the important topic of Online Grooming, gaining a greater understanding of how to stay safe online, recognise potential risks and seek support when needed.

At Key Stage 4, students have been reinforcing their online safety knowledge by studying online grooming as part of their BCS qualifications, alongside developing their wider computing and digital skills.

We are also delighted to celebrate the success of our students, with five learners already achieving their BCS qualifications this term. We look forward to building on this strong start and supporting more students in reaching their goals throughout the year.

Mark Gray, Head of ICT



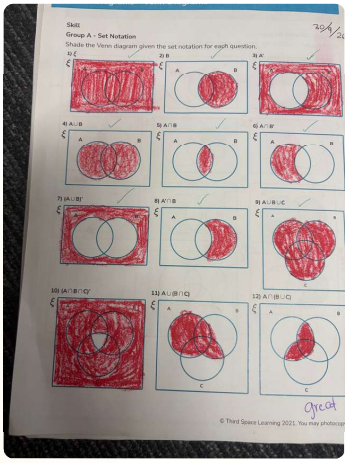
ICT passes!

CSS News

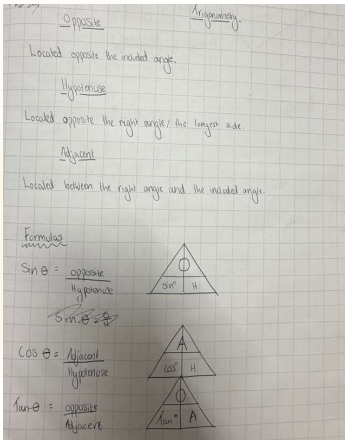
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Maths

Examples of student's maths work

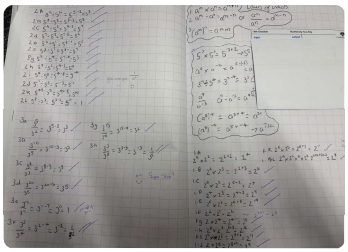


The Maths Department has made a fantastic start to the new academic year, with students already demonstrating excellent commitment and achievement. We are particularly proud that a number of students have already begun sitting their Entry Level Mathematics examinations, with some securing their first mathematics qualification of the year.
This is a significant milestone and reflects the hard work, resilience and determination shown by our students from the very beginning of term.



Across lessons, students have also produced some outstanding work, confidently drawing upon and applying prior knowledge to new learning. It has been wonderful to see learners making connections between topics, developing their mathematical reasoning and building their confidence in the subject.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our first educational visit of the academic year. Students will be travelling to the Science Museum in London, where they will have the opportunity to explore how mathematics is used in the real world and discover its many links with science, technology and innovation. The trip will provide an engaging and memorable experience, helping students to see the relevance of the mathematical skills they are developing in the classroom.



We are incredibly proud of the positive start our students have made and look forward to celebrating many more achievements throughout the year.

Well done to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Paige Botha, Head of Mathematics

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English

This half term, students across the English department have engaged in a range of exciting and challenging learning experiences. Year 11 students have worked exceptionally hard preparing and delivering speeches on topics of their choice as part of their GCSE Spoken Language assessments, developing their confidence and communication skills.

Year 10 students have been studying “An Inspector Calls”, exploring the play’s themes, characters and social messages.

In Year 9, students have been analysing “Of Mice and Men”, considering key themes such as friendship, loneliness and ambition.

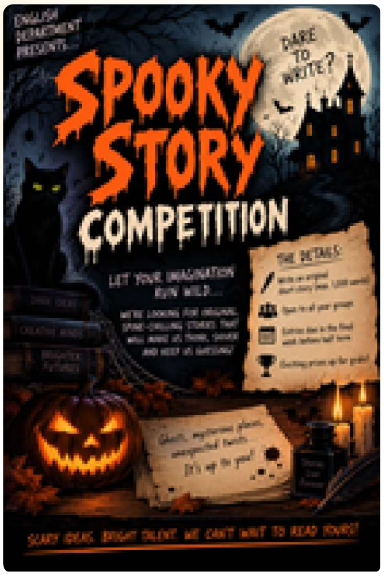
Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been exploring autobiographies, developing their understanding of how writers use language and structure to share personal experiences and engage readers.

This week, students also have the opportunity to take part in our Spooky Story Competition. We are looking forward to reading the imaginative, suspenseful and creative stories our young writers produce as they embrace the Halloween spirit!

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and commitment students have shown throughout the half term.

Sandra Higgs, Head of English

Spooky Story Competition – Inspiring our young writers to get creative this Halloween!



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Science

It has been an exciting and engaging start to the academic year for Science at CSS, with students taking part in a range of inspiring learning experiences that have encouraged curiosity, creativity and scientific understanding.

One of the highlights this half term has been our celebration of Black History Month, which linked perfectly with our learning during Space Week. Students explored the remarkable achievements of three inspirational women, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and discovered the vital contributions they made to NASA's space programme. Through their stories, students developed an appreciation of the importance of determination, resilience and breaking down barriers in science.



Our exploration of space continued with students learning about the planets and our solar system. Alongside their classroom learning, students have been awarded AQA Unit Awards, providing opportunities to celebrate their achievements, develop confidence and gain recognition for their scientific knowledge and skills.

We have lots to look forward to next half term, including another exciting visit from Gemma's Farm, giving students the opportunity to interact with animals and develop their understanding of the natural world. We are also looking forward to a trip to Call of the Wild Zoo, where students will have the chance to explore animal adaptations, habitats and conservation, bringing their classroom learning to life through memorable hands-on experiences.

Finally, we would like to wish our Year 11 students the very best of luck in their upcoming November mock examinations. We are incredibly proud of their continued hard work, determination and resilience as they prepare for this important stage of their GCSE journey. It has been wonderful to see students embracing new challenges and developing their enthusiasm for Science.

We look forward to another half term filled with discovery, achievement and exciting learning opportunities!

Ashley Wiseman, Head of Science

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Creative Arts

Art

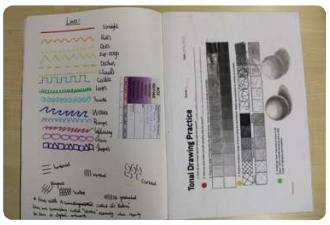
This term, pupils have been working exceptionally hard on their sketchbook and folder work, demonstrating creativity, resilience, and a growing confidence in their artistic skills. They have shown great commitment to developing ideas, refining techniques, and presenting their work to a high standard. It has been fantastic to see the pride they are taking in their folders, which reflects both their progress and the dedication they bring to every lesson. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their continued development throughout the year.

DT & Construction

Our DT & Construction learners have been working extremely hard on their practical projects, demonstrating excellent skills, creativity, and commitment. Alongside their hands-on work, students have been carefully gathering photographic evidence to document their progress and achievements. These photographs are helping to build strong portfolio evidence, showcasing both the development of their skills and the high-quality outcomes they are producing. Keep up the fantastic work!

Samuel Druckler, Head of Creative Arts

Student artwork









DT and Construction projects









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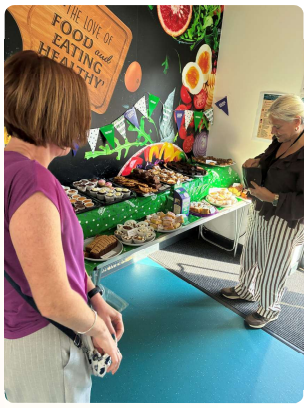
Food and Nutrition

This half term students in Primary and Secondary have been learning all about food hygiene and safety, developing their understanding of how to prepare, cook and store food safely. Through a range of practical and theory-based activities, pupils have explored topics such as preventing cross-contamination, personal hygiene, food storage and kitchen safety, helping them build essential life skills and confidence in the kitchen.

We were also proud to support the Macmillan Coffee Morning, where staff and students came together to raise awareness and funds for the incredible work of Macmillan Cancer Support. Throughout the week, students worked hard to bake a fantastic range of cakes, including gluten-free and vegan options, demonstrating excellent practical skills, creativity, teamwork and resilience while applying their food hygiene and safety knowledge.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who baked, donated, purchased cakes and supported the event, we raised an impressive £75.70. This contribution will help fund vital resources for individuals and families affected by cancer. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved for helping make the event such a success and for supporting such an important cause.

Carla Blainey, Assistant Head of Food, PE and DofE







Macmillan Coffee Morning: Student-made cakes for a wonderful cause

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Physical Education

It has been an exciting start to the year. We kicked off this first half term with our first football fixture against James Hornsby School.

We took a mixed team of boys and girls from Year 11 from both Wickford and Fairview. The team consisted of Maison, Noah, LJ, Kairon, Mason and Ellen.

Mason captained the team with pride and passion, encouraging his teammates throughout the game. He also scored three fantastic goals, securing our first victory of the season with an impressive 3–0 win!

Noah and Ellen both had fantastic games in defence showing fantastic strength and skill. Kairon and LJ showed calm and consistency and Maison worked tirelessly up and down the pitch putting in some fantastic tackles to win the ball back for the team.

However, what impressed me most was the way every student conducted themselves, representing CSS with maturity, respect and excellent sportsmanship.

Well done to everyone involved! I look forward to seeing the team continue to flourish in future matches.

Jade Nelson, PE Teacher



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PSHRE

This has been a busy half term! As well as delivering PSHRE education to all year groups, there have been several enrichment activities that students have attended.

We have hosted The Children's Society's "Break the Vape" workshops. Students can access one-to-one support if they want to learn about cutting down or quitting vaping – please ask Personal Tutors about this if your child would like this support.

Year 11 students have attended an Experience Day at Basildon College in Luckyn Lane, where they took part in Engineering, Plumbing and Electrical Installation sessions.

A group of Year 11 students also attended the Basildon Skills Show careers fair event at Basildon Sporting Village where they interacted with colleges and employers and had useful discussions about their post 16 options.



Year 11 Experience Day at Basildon College

Representatives from South Essex College have visited our centres to speak to students and Southend Careers Service have begun meeting year 11 students for one-to-one Personal Guidance meetings.

Essex Fire and Police Schools Workers have delivered sessions to students in all year groups on antisocial behaviour, arson and hoax calls. They will be coming again several times during the year to deliver sessions on other topics designed to help our students to keep themselves and others safe.



Students taking part in practica activites at Basildon College

The aim of PSHRE and Careers at CSS is to help students to learn to live life well and be the best they can be, both now and in their next steps.

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



Year 11 students at the Basildon Skills Show

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Medical Education Team

It has been another busy and successful half term for the Medical Education Team, and we are delighted to see so many students making a positive start to the new academic year.

Across South and West Essex, young people have taken important steps towards returning to education, whether by increasing attendance, attending for part of the school day or returning to school full time.

We are also pleased to share that this half term, ten students from our South and West teams have successfully reintegrated into their home schools or moved on to new educational provisions. These achievements reflect the hard work of students, families, schools and staff working together to achieve positive outcomes.

Students have also enjoyed a range of cross-curricular learning opportunities linked to National Poetry Day, Space Week and Black History Month.

Some of the highlights from this half term include:

- **Jeane** wrote an imaginative poem about Ramesses II, while **Freya** created a kenning poem inspired by Keats' To Autumn.
- **Sam** used mathematical skills to estimate the reduction of the Rhône Glacier from satellite images, while **Tommy** shared thoughtful observations during a heart dissection activity.
- 9B worked together to create a science poster celebrating NASA pioneers Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson and their contributions to space exploration. Students also explored the achievements of Black British athletes, discussed the qualities of positive role models and created a word cloud of abstract nouns.

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students this half term. Across South and West Essex, MET have awarded 35 praise certificates recognising engagement, resilience, progress and commitment to learning. We are incredibly proud of the effort and determination shown by all our students.

We have also enjoyed hearing about the continued success of former MET students. One former student, who joined us when health and wellbeing challenges prevented them from accessing education, successfully reintegrated into mainstream school, achieved excellent GCSE and A Level results, and has recently started university.

We are extremely proud of everything our students have achieved this half term and thank the families, schools and staff who continue to support them on their journey.

Take a look at some of our students' fantastic work on the next page!

Catherine O'Connell
Team Leader Medical Education Team West

CSS News

Autumn 2026

Medical Education Team - Continued

Jeane

Ramesses II
He carved his face in mountain stone,
and claimed the world was his alone, now in a museum place,
with stone cold skin and a demolished face,
the king is now on display, with all that's left is clay.

Freya

Pumpkin-picking
Hedgehogs-hibernating
Leaves-dropping
Fireworks-shooting
Fires-starting
Squirrels-running
Wind-blowing
Rain-falling
Days-shortening

Black History Month:
Collaborative science poster created by students in 9B



Black History Month:
Student word cloud exploring the qualities of a positive role model



CSS News

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Testimonials

We value the strong relationships we build with our families. Below are anonymised and adapted extracts from parent testimonials, reflecting their experiences of the support provided by CSS.

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"We would like to say a huge thank you to the whole team for their kindness, patience and understanding. The support and encouragement provided has made such a positive difference to our family.
Having a team who genuinely listened, understood our needs and took the time to build confidence has been invaluable. We are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication and reassurance shown throughout.
Thank you for making such a meaningful difference. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, and we will always be grateful."

”

"We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone at CSS for the support and care provided. We have seen such a positive difference in confidence, wellbeing and overall happiness.
It has been wonderful to see a renewed enthusiasm for learning, alongside positive changes at home and in everyday life. The progress made has been remarkable, and as a family, we couldn't be happier.
We are incredibly grateful to the whole team for creating such a welcoming and supportive environment where young people feel comfortable, valued and able to thrive."

PARENT VOICE
HAVE YOUR SAY!

We want to hear about your child's experience at CSS. Your feedback helps us understand what we're doing well and how we can continue to improve the support we provide.





Have a restful and
safe half term!