

Carshalton High School for Girls

**CHSG**

Excellence: everywhere, every day

# Culture and Values: How we do things here



**#teamchsg**



# Welcome

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Welcome to Carshalton High School for Girls.

Our aim, over the next few months is to help you to approach the transfer to our school with confidence and to enjoy the challenge such a change presents.

This booklet lays out our Culture and Values. It describes the way we do things here, at CHSG. We are a school that is fearless in its commitment to excellence. We take learning seriously – and we will help you to do the same. We take behaviour and conduct seriously. We take friendships and fun seriously, too. We have found, over time, that when students join us in aiming for excellence in every part of their school life, they do really well. We hope you will too.

We're glad you're here - you are very welcome!

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## Year 7 Team

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We are keen that you settle into Carshalton High School for Girls as quickly as possible and there are a number of members of staff who, along with your Form Tutor, are available to help with this. You'll get to know who they are very quickly but here's a handy set of photos to help you on your way.



Mr Devenney  
Headteacher



Mr Elstone  
Deputy Headteacher  
Key Stage 3 Lead



Mr James  
Assistant Headteacher  
SENDCo & Raising  
Standards Coordinator



Miss Stanley  
Year Leader 7



Miss Williams  
Assistant Year Leader



Mrs Newman  
Pastoral Support

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## Core Values

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We take our Core Values very seriously and will speak with you regularly about them. Early in the Autumn term we will spend a day looking at them in greater depth and considering what they look like in practice, both at school and in the wider community.

It is important to us that you develop lifelong attitudes that will enable you to continue to integrate well into wider society.

**Respect**, **Kindness** and **Honesty** have much to do with how you behave towards others.

**Respect** is to acknowledge that someone matters and they deserve to be treated appropriately, and with consideration. **Respect** to staff is essential since the adults in the school have been charged with keeping you safe, and providing you with an excellent education. **Respect** to other students is vital – listening when others are speaking, being careful with other students' belongings, and being open to different opinions.

**Respect** coupled with **Kindness** is a wonderful combination. Choosing to behave in a way that proves someone else matters and being thoughtful, thinking the best rather than the worst of them, keeping unpleasant thoughts to yourself and taking opportunities to make life better for others are excellent attitudes to have.

**Honesty** involves taking responsibility for yourself. Identifying what has gone well and celebrating it and looking at what could be better and committing to change it. It involves telling the truth even when it's hard or costly. Honest people are trustworthy – they are good people to have as friends.

**Ambition**, **Commitment** and **Courage** go hand in hand.

We will encourage you to be **ambitious** – to think big and to aim high. This won't always be easy; the difficulty with challenges is that they're challenging!



You'll need **commitment** to make it through. **Commitment** is the character trait that says "I'm going to keep going even when I want to give up."

We will ask you to be brave in your learning. **Courage** means taking on a challenge, in which you may not always be successful, but trying your best anyway. It means choosing to go for it, even if it feels difficult or even scary.

Our core values matter because when we commit to being the best we can be, everyone benefits.

We're glad you're going to be a part of our community. We'd appreciate it hugely if you would spend some time over the summer thinking about these values, speaking with your parents/carers about them and preparing for your time with us.

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## Settling In

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**We normally run a series of events and opportunities in the Spring and Autumn term to support your transition to secondary school. In typical circumstances these would take place as detailed below. In the event that any or all of these events cannot run we are looking towards doing things differently. We will keep you informed of events we are able to hold.**

### **Headstart (Late June)**

Headstart is our additional Induction Day for those of you who are the only one, or one of two, coming from your current primary school. This day gives you a chance to get to know others in a similar position, as well as several members of staff. Headstart takes place exactly one week before the main Induction Day.

### **Induction Evening (July)**

Induction Evening is an opportunity to hear from the Headteacher and key members of the Year 7 team about what you should expect as you begin at Carshalton High School for Girls. You will hear more about our school priorities and what excellence looks like in different areas of school life.

### **Induction Day (July)**

Induction Day is a full day which serves to give you a taste of what life at Carshalton High School for Girls is like. You will spend time with your new Tutor Group, experience some lessons, have lunch in our canteen and have the opportunity to meet your new Form Tutor.

### **Base Camp (Summer Holidays)**

Before mountaineers start a challenging climb, they will spend a few days at Base Camp preparing and adjusting to the new environment and conditions. CHSG Base Camp gives you the opportunity to get used to your new school, and meet other students, as well as some members of our school staff. Throughout the week you will take part in many fun sessions which link to the different subjects such as Numeracy, Literacy, Sport, Dance and Art & Craft.

### **Trekking In (Summer Holidays)**

'Trekking in' is the name of our Summer Holiday project. In the same way as a climber uses the time before reaching the base of their mountain to get used to the conditions, so too

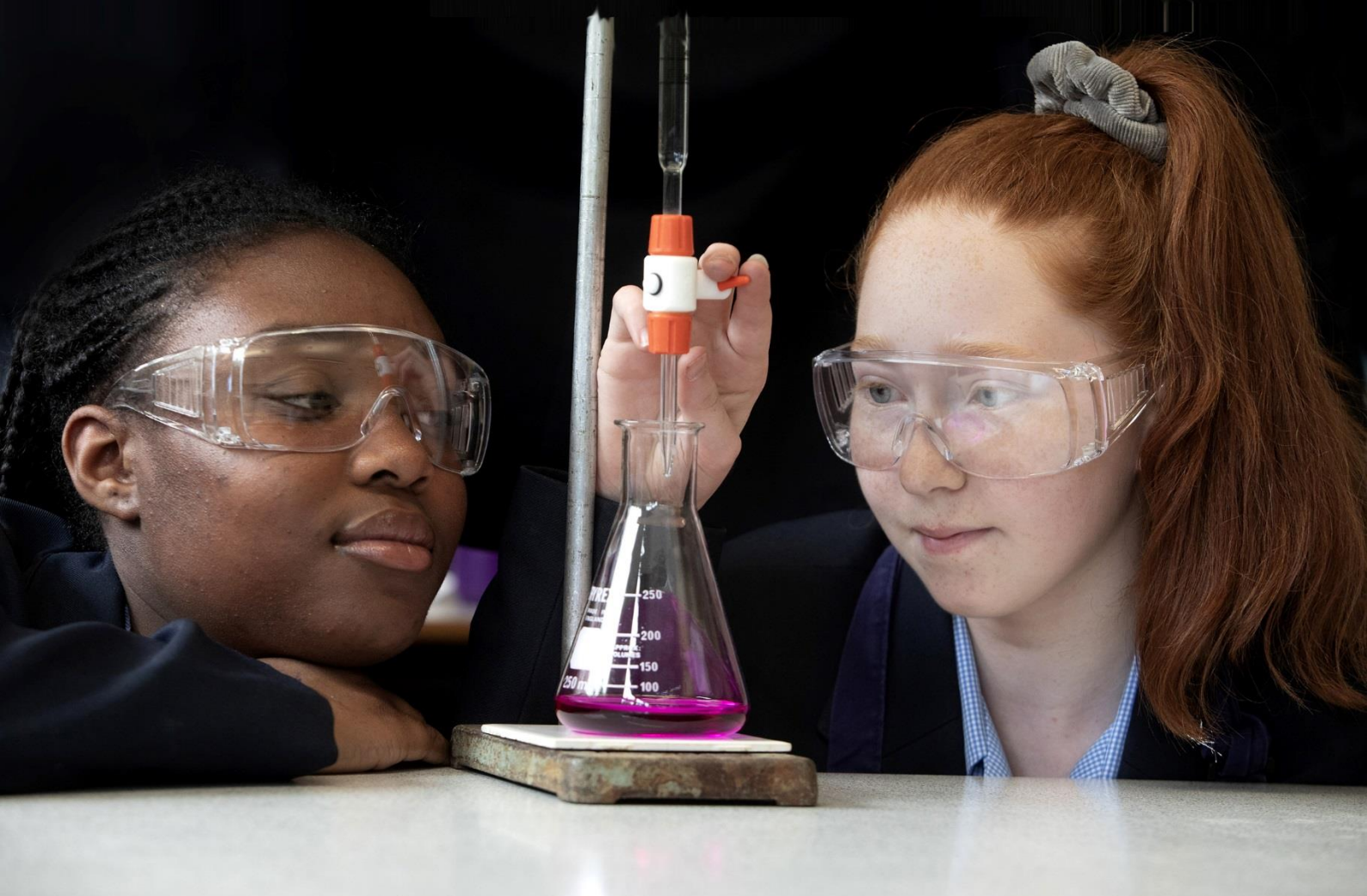
does our Trekking In programme support you in preparing for secondary school. Trekking In takes the form of a booklet which will be distributed late in the Summer Term.

### **Computer Induction (September)**

We use several online platforms to support you in your learning. When considered separately most are very intuitive but we recognise the potential difficulties that may result if you are not given enough time to learn each programme. You will spend several of your ICT lessons learning how to register, log on and use platforms such as Show My Homework, Hegarty Maths, Kerboodle & Accelerated Reader.

### **Who am I? - the character of a CHSG student. (October)**

This is an exciting new venture for the 2020/2021 Year 7 students which will provide the opportunity to spend a school day in late September focusing on our core values. You will spend the day hearing from members of our Senior Leadership team, taking part in activities and getting to know your Tutor Group better as you commit to aspiring to be an excellent CHSG student.



## Staffing

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### **Year Leader, Assistant Year Leader and Tutors**

The Year Leader, together with Assistant Year Leader, has overall pastoral responsibility for the year group. They support Form Tutors as they get to know you, help you settle in, and help you understand and meet our expectations of you as a student. Your Year Leader will monitor your progress and will work with the Raising Standards Leader to ensure you are making progress. Any queries or concerns from parents/carers should be addressed to your Form Tutor in the first instance – they will know you best and will be best placed to help with any difficulties.

### **Subject Teachers**

During the course of Year 7 you will study: English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, a Modern Foreign Language, Art, Drama, Dance, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education, DT, Religious Education and Citizenship.

You will be in several different class groups for your subjects so you'll have the chance to meet many other students in the year group developing friendships across the whole year group

You will have a different teacher for each subject. If any concerns about a subject arise and especially about the class work or homework that you do not fully understand, you should ask your teacher about it straight away.

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## Routines for Excellence

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We are convinced that excellent learning is part of a broader set of routines that will set you up for success.

### **Pre-Registration Year Group Line Up**

Every morning Year 7 line up outside the canteen at 8.25am before registration. This time is used to give announcements that are applicable to the year group, and to set the tone for the day. It is our experience that this time serves to make a distinction between the social elements of the morning that you enjoy as you eat breakfast or chat together in the canteen and the formal beginning of the school day. This helps you to shift your mindset towards the events of the day.

### **Equipment and Uniform Check**

It is a basic expectation that you have the correct uniform and equipment for the day and we carry out a uniform and equipment check each morning. Our equipment list and uniform policy is in the Policies and Procedures booklet that you will receive shortly.

### **Homework**

Homework is set regularly by each subject and serves to help you remember recent learning, or prepare for future learning. We recommend that where possible, you find a quiet space at home to complete homework efficiently. You can attend our Homework Club in the Learning Resource Centre each afternoon where support and computer facilities are provided to enable you to complete your homework to a high standard.

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## **Developing Excellent Learners**

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We are keen to support you to achieve the very best you can in your academic pursuits. For the majority of you this is achieved through teaching you well in the classroom. We recognise that for some of you, additional short term or ongoing support is necessary to enable you to reach your potential.

### **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**

The Learning Support Team led by Mr James is available to provide support to students who would benefit from it. Mr James leads a team of staff who specialise in supporting students within the curriculum. Later on this term further information will be sent to the parents/carers of those students who have been highlighted by your primary schools as likely to benefit from such support.

### **High Ability**

From mid-way through Year 7 those of you identified as High Ability are placed on a register which is updated annually. The school arranges activities for you both during and after school. Upon identification, we will write to your parents/carers to ensure they are aware of the activities and opportunities that will be provided.

### **Pastoral Support**

Your safety, health and well-being is of paramount importance at Carshalton High School for Girls and the school has a range of support structures and policies in place to ensure that we guide and care for you well. In addition to the Form Tutors and Year leaders we have team of Pastoral Support Officers who are allocated to the various year groups together with an Attendance and Welfare Officer. Further information can be found in the Policies and Procedures booklet.



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## Excellent Learning Behaviours

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The way you behave, your conduct, must be excellent.

### Classroom Conduct

We have clear expectations for classroom conduct and you will be reminded of these on a regular basis. It is essential that the learning of the majority is never disrupted by the desire of one or two to challenge the status quo in the room. Those who do not follow classroom expectations are warned and if necessary removed from the room to work in a nearby classroom so as to not disrupt the learning of their peers further.

### Out of lesson conduct

The key values of respect and kindness are ones that we take particularly seriously in regards to out of lesson conduct. We will not tolerate disrespect to staff or other students or unkindness to others in any form and those who choose such actions are sanctioned swiftly and appropriately.

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## Extra-Curricular Activities

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The school runs a rich programme of extracurricular activities that includes a number of sports, ICT, Dance, Drama, Music, Art and Crafts. We hope all of you will choose to participate in at least one of these. Details are issued termly, and can be found on the school website. As part of the induction process, we will be holding a 'Freshers' Fair' where you are informed of the clubs on offer and you are encouraged to sign up to at least one club.

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## Developing Excellent Citizens

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### House System

Each student is allocated via their Tutor Group to a House. Our Houses are named after inspirational women who have achieved the very best in their field. The Tutor Group names have the format below.

7PK	Red	Pankhurst	Named for Emmeline Pankhurst
7RD	Green	Roddick	Named for Anita Roddick
7RW	Yellow	Rowling	Named for JK Rowling
7HL	Blue	Holmes	Named for Kelly Holmes

Each House has a member of teaching staff who has a specific responsibility as Head of House, who is also an Assistant Year Leader for Years 8-11. They will make themselves known to you very quickly in September.

The House system is the main means by which fundraising and community-building events take place with regular activities in line with national fundraising campaigns such as Children in Need, Comic Relief and Remembrance Day appeals.

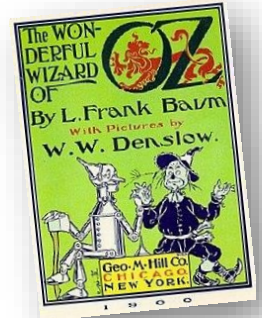
## Excellent Readers: Recommended Reading List

The following is a list of books that we recommend you to read during Year 7. They have been chosen as both students and staff have found them enjoyable. Maybe you have read some of them already.

### Classics of children's literature:

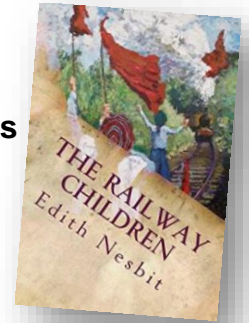
*Frances Hodgson-Burnett*  
*Rudyard Kipling*  
*Frank Baum*

**The Secret Garden and The Little Princess**  
**The Jungle Books (1 and 2)**  
**The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**



*Charles Kingsley*  
*Lewis Carroll*  
*Oscar Wilde*  
*Kenneth Grahame*  
*E Nesbit*

**The Waterbabies**  
**Alice in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass**  
**The Happy Prince and other stories**  
**The Wind in the Willows**  
**The Railway Children and Five Children and It**



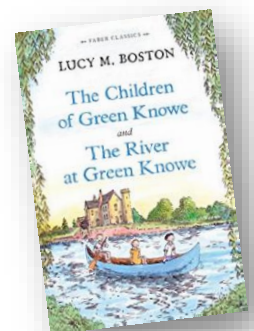
*James Barrie*  
*Michelle Magorian*  
*CS Lewis*

**Peter Pan**  
**Pan in Scarlet**  
**The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**  
**and the Narnia series**



*Louisa M Alcott*  
*Susan Coolidge*  
*Anna Sewell*  
*Mary Norton*  
*L M Montgomery*

**Little Women**  
**What Katy Did**  
**Black Beauty**  
**The Borrowers**  
**Anne of Green Gables**



*L M Boston*

**Children of Green Knowe**

**Books we have enjoyed recently:**

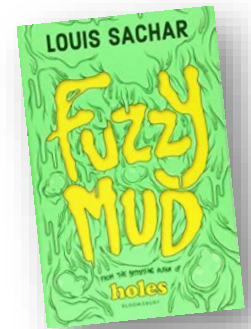
*Eoin Colfer*  
*Ursula le Guin*  
*Rick Riordan*

**Artemis Fowl**  
**Wizard of Earthsea**  
**Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief**



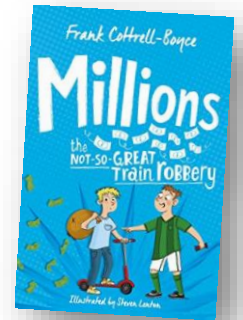
*Kevin Crossley-Holland*  
*Jenny Nimmo*  
*Lemony Snicket*  
*Sarah Crossan*  
*Philip Reeve*  
*Michael Morpurgo*  
*Essa Curtis*  
*Darren Shan*  
*Louis Sachar*

**Arthur and the Seeing Stone**  
**A Midnight for Charlie Bone**  
**A Series of Unfortunate Events One**  
**Mortal Engines**  
**Private Peaceful**  
**The Earth is Singing**  
**The Vampire's Assistant**  
**Fuzzy Mud**



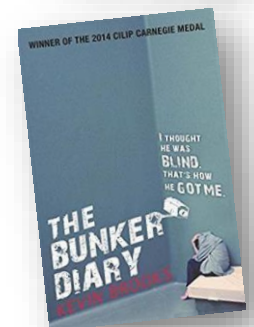
*Marcus Sedgwick*  
*Patrick Ness*  
*Malorie Blackman*  
*Morris Gleitzman*

**My Sword Hand is Singing**  
**A Monster Calls and The Ask and the Answer**  
**Noughts and Crosses**  
**Once (followed by Then and Now)**



*Frank Cottrell Boyce*  
*Eva Ibbotson*  
*Julia Bertagna*  
*Tanya Landman*  
*Kevin Brooks*

**Millions**  
**Journey to the River Sea**  
**Exodus**  
**Apache**  
**The Bunker Diary\***



*Laurie Halse Anderson*  
*Berlie Doherty*  
*Anne Fine*  
*Andy Mulligan*  
*Gillian Cross*  
*Marcus Zusak*

**Chains**  
**Dear Nobody**  
**Flour Babies**  
**Trash**  
**Wolf**  
**The Book Thief**



*\*The Bunker Diary by Kevin Brooks does deal with some themes parents may wish their daughter not to read at this age. We would encourage parents to investigate this for themselves before their daughter decides to read the book.*



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