

CARSHALTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

CHSG Leadership



Excellence: everywhere, every day

December 2024



Welcome to our first Student Leadership Newsletter of this academic year!

At CHSG we have created our leadership opportunities and curriculum to empower our girls to be future leaders and harness collective leadership responsibility. We create opportunities in which all students are presented with a range of challenges and have to work together and develop their leadership skills to solve problems and be successful.

Our student leaders have been incredibly busy this autumn term. They raised an astonishing £683.86 for Wear it Pink. It was great to see the large number of students involved in our Student Leadership Week in November. A focus for this week was to give all students at CHSG the opportunity to be accredited for their leadership skills. All students are now working toward the SSAT Leadership Accreditation Award – we are

excited to see how many students achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates this year. This week our student leaders have been decorating the school and organising our Christmas Hampers ready to donate to charities in the local community.

Student voice is a key mechanism, for us to monitor and evaluate the impact of the leadership opportunities and programme. A well-structured leadership curriculum gives clearer structure to our student voice at CHSG. Each year group has its own student council reps which meet every half-term to discuss events and projects in the school.

We would be delighted if there is something that you would like to share with us about your daughter's leadership successes outside of school and would love to include this in our next newsletter. Please contact either your daughter's Head of Year or Mrs Zghari our communications manager on Izghari@carshaltongirls.org.uk.

Miss P Jones
Assistant Headteacher





Student Leadership Conference

On Monday 18th November we hosted our Student Leadership conference. All of our student leaders from Year 7-13 attended a talk led by the founder of the popular wellbeing app Luna. The Luna team had just returned from a successful week of pitching their app to companies in America in order to grow further and support more young people. The talk covered topics including resilience, tips for starting a business, the importance of female leaders and the challenges female leaders face. It was incredibly inspiring and the girls asked very insightful questions. Well done to all those involved.

All kindness ambassadors and house captains have now completed training to ensure they are equipped for their roles as leaders. In the Kindness Ambassador Training and Leadership session, students learned to cultivate empathy, effectively communicate with each other, and developed teamwork skills to create a positive and inclusive environment in their schools and communities. They were trained to identify opportunities for acts of kindness and inspire others through role modeling and planning leadership initiatives. The session gave participants strategies to address bullying, foster mutual respect, and organize kindness campaigns, empowering them to be proactive changemakers who lead by example. Well done girls!



It has been a great pleasure to be selected for student council and my time has been incredibly rewarding. Some of the best memories were being a part of the student council meetings. We've discussed a range of topics, from improving our school mottos, to advancing our culture days for more activities such as shows and presenting cultural foods, showing the diverse needs we have in our cohesive student body. Not only that, I also genuinely enjoy all the new people I have met through the small interviews we have with them. I have learnt so much by listening to how different people respond to the same questions.



Zoe C - Year 9
Student Council Rep

Student council is so important because it is the bridge for the voices of students to teachers. Students' voices are crucial. Student council is a platform to offer a voice for students, allowing students to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions on issues affecting their learning environment and overall school experience, and foster a sense of ownership within the school environment. It has been such an essential training ground for my leadership skills, communication and teamwork skills. As Sheryl Sandberg (American technology executive, philanthropist, and writer) said, "Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence."





Student Leadership news

Music and Drama

Over the last term, students have been showing leadership skills in extra-curricular clubs in both Music and Drama. Students lead and performed the first Musical Theatre Concert as well as leadership to start to create their own pantomime in Drama Club. Music scholars have been creating and leading their own rhythm games, whilst also preparing for the scholars' concert and we have also seen several students complete ABRSM exams over the last term! Congratulations to those who have passed!

History

The History Department would like to recognise the leadership skills demonstrated by our Sixth Form historians, who have played a vital role in getting our CHSG History Pod cast up and running. These students have given up their own time to work alongside Key Stage 3 students, assisting their research and the scripting of their pod cast episodes. Rebecca A (Year 13) in particular has done an excellent job of organising and leading a team of Year 7 historians in their successful production of a pod cast episode about Marie Curie. Thank you to all our Sixth Form volunteers for the work they have done to support the establishment of this exciting extracurricular activity.

Film Studies

Student Judges Italian Film Festival!

Through her placement at the BFI Future Film Academy last year, Violet C (Year 13 Film Studies) took up a place as a juror at the Giffoni International Film Festival in Italy in the summer! The Giffoni Film Festival is an annual event that showcases films aimed at children and young people. As part of the exchange programme for this event, Violet's family will host an Italian student for the duration of the London Film Festival in February. The BFI Future Film Academy is an event run by the British Film Institute every year that introduces young people to working in the film industry. Competition for places is always high, but Violet is the latest in a line of A Level Film students from CHSG to secure a place on the programme – her experience in Italy this summer shows some of the additional opportunities it opens up for students.

Violet wrote about her experience: "Over the summer, I was invited to take part in the Giffoni film festival opportunity as a judge on a jury of other 16+ people from all over the world including Italy, Macedonia, Germany, Pakistan, the UK and more. As an international festival, I learned a lot about the different cultures especially surrounding films as the ones watched in competition were from a variety of places regarding a plethora of issues and storylines. For my role I had to watch and debate the films then vote at the end for the best one. Over the 10 days I spent time completing workshops and other events with my Italian host Andrea. She will come to the UK in February 2025 for the BFI London film festival. It was a truly unforgettable experience".



Student Leadership news

Law

During our Sixth Form open evening, I was lucky enough to have the support from a Year 12 student, Millie G. Millie led discussions with prospective year 11 students and parents. Millie spoke eloquently about life as a CHSG student in Year 12, she explained how the pastoral system worked as well as the academic side of life at Carshalton Girls. Millie was an absolute credit to the school. Well done!

Vocational Studies

In the Vocational Department, Lois C, Year 12, Vocational Representative, has taken a lead role in managing a range of activities. She has led practical demonstrations to Year 9 Child Development classes, photographed Animal Care dog handling practicals (on a very cold field) and has taken a proactive role in making speakers feel welcome in the school. Chloe L also deserves a special mention for being the instigator of fabulous seasonal displays in the department. Well done!



It's rewarding to have a say in decisions that impact the school community and to work on initiatives that improve the environment for everyone. I enjoy working with a team of diverse individuals who bring different perspectives and ideas to the table. Being part of a council is an excellent opportunity to hone leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. Helping organize events, advocate for students, and address concerns feels purposeful and impactful. It's great to connect with both students and staff, fostering a stronger sense of community.



Sofia T – Year 7
Student Council Rep



EDI Working Party

This year we launched our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) working party. Whilst this group started as a voluntary focus group, working alongside Dr Vento from the Sutton Wellbeing Centre, it has morphed into a more permanent group who meet regularly to discuss ways to make our school more culturally inclusive and to acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity in the CHSG community. The EDI Working party consists of students from Year 9 through to Year 13 and various teachers from across the school. We are always open to new students joining and so if this is something you would like to be involved with then please do get in touch with Mrs Durrett.



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The EDI Working Party can be identified by the badges that adorn their lanyards and so far they have been involved in delivering the Black History Month assembly, judging the BHM door display competition, planning and promoting the culture day, creating a #TeamCHSG quiz for the whole school and designing our Diversity display board. The group will also be working alongside Mrs Durrett to build evidence for the Race Charter Mark that we, as a school, are working towards achieving.

Peer Mentoring

Thirty-three of our Year 12 students have recently been trained up by Educational Psychologists and have completed the Peer Mentoring training. They have been paired up with students from the lower years and have now met with their mentees for the past four weeks. We have been incredibly proud of how the students have conducted themselves in their new role and know that those being mentored will enjoy and thrive having someone else to talk to, discuss friendships, school work and general issues with. Well done Year 12 and keep up the great and most useful work!



Art

Many KS3 students enthusiastically contributed their designs to the school Christmas card competition, filling the entries with creativity and festive spirit. We were thrilled to celebrate the winning design, created by Ananya T 8Y2, in assembly, where she was awarded art materials to further fuel her artistic passion. The winning design truly captured the magic of the season. In addition, Leila J in 10Y1 has made a remarkable contribution by showcasing her artwork in a public exhibition at the Delta House Studios. This achievement highlights her exceptional artistic talent and entrepreneurial spirit, and we couldn't be prouder of her success.

The Year 8 art trip to the Royal Academy of Arts was an inspiring and memorable experience for the students. They had the unique opportunity to explore the vibrant works of renowned artist Michael Craig-Martin, whose bold and colourful pieces sparked creativity and conversation among the group. The students thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the art, discussing its meaning, and gaining a deeper understanding of contemporary artistic expression. Throughout the day, they were a true credit to the



Student Leadership news

school, consistently demonstrating the school's core values. Many staff members at the Royal Academy praised the girls for their exceptional behaviour, remarking on how wonderful and well-mannered they were as they absorbed the art and culture around them.

Religion & Philosophy

This term Year 13 students Ridaa and Mitra have taken over leadership of our Philosophy Club, planning and running after-school sessions for their fellow Sixth Form students. Sessions have included lively debates about feminist philosopher Simone de Beauvoir and discussions of major ethical questions. I am really proud of all their efforts so far. I would also like to acknowledge the Year 12 and Year 13 Philosophy students who came on the Amsterdam trip and were such wonderful ambassadors for the school. Their maturity, punctuality and responsibility, as well as their kindness and enthusiasm will no doubt make them excellent future leaders!

Chemistry

Subject captains in A Level Chemistry have been promoting the subject to Year 11 through after school drop-in sessions and by attending Sixth Form open evening. They are ambassadors for the subject and did an excellent job leading on the set up of boards, organisation of materials, and having conversations with prospective students. In class, Year 12 have been putting leadership skills into practice during group work for the assessed practical component of the course.

Dance

Well done to all the Year 9 and Year 11 students who went on the Pineapple Dance Studios trip. All students demonstrated fantastic effort and enthusiasm. This was a great opportunity for all students to listen and learn from current practitioners in the dance industry. Well done girls for representing the CHSG community! A big shout out also to Isis S in Year 8 who has demonstrated excellent leadership skills. In lessons Isis is always willing to break down and simplify the moves to support her peers. Isis has worked effectively with her group to make sure everyone feels included and heard. Isis always utilises her passion for dance to encourage and motivate her peers. Well done!





Student Leadership news

PE

Lilly H, 9Y1 - Since the start of the term Lilly has shown fantastic leadership skills by helping organise and coach the Year 7 football team. Lilly shows up to after school football club every week with new ideas and works one on one with students to improve their skills and knowledge in football. Lilly has helped organise team sheets, and the positions for matches, and the Year 7's look up to her as a good role model. She has massively helped boost the Year 7's motivation, and confidence on the pitch. Thank you for all your support so far this term Lilly.

Alex P-A, 10R2 - Alex has been a committed team leader for the Year 10 netball team this term. She motivates and supports the players both during training and at matches. She brings along new ideas to training and matches, and without a doubt inspires and motivates her teammates. She is a dedicated team leader who shows up every week and is a fantastic role model to her peers. Additionally, Alex has given up her time to help coach the Year 7 and 8 netball team after school. Thank you so much Alex for your support so far this term.

English

The English department is offering two exciting opportunities for student leadership. The first, is a long-standing one: Paired Reading Mentor. Students who apply for this will be trained by the English team to support struggling readers in Year 7 to decode, achieve fluency and better comprehension in their reading. The sessions take place 3 mornings a week. It's a rewarding role that develops your ability to build trust with mentees and to coach them to improve reading ability and gain confidence.

The second is a more recent opportunity for those who wish to help with a pioneering effort: the new CHSG Community Library. In the first instance, Year 12 students will be working with Year 13 Chief Librarians to set up the library, its loan systems and personnel. They will also be a helper to Miss Trout, Assistant Head of English, with the whole school Wider Reading curriculum. They will gain valuable skills in organisation and people management, as well as being a key contributor to the already flourishing reading culture at CHSG. We cannot wait to see the impact of these initiatives.

Maths

The Maths department is very proud of our Year 12 Mathematicians for participating in Senior Maths Challenge 2024 and setting an example for the rest of the school to follow. All the participants volunteered to take part in the UKMT Maths Challenge that tested their mathematical ability, fluency and reasoning through 25 multiple-choice, problem-solving questions in 90 minutes. We are very proud of Ezel S who led the way and was awarded Best in School. Their success was celebrated in the Sixth Form Assembly and the news was shared with the rest of the school through the displays in the Maths Corridor. The next Challenge will be Intermediate Maths Challenge that will pick the leaders in Maths from Years 9, 10 and 11 in January 2025. Watch this space...





Student Leadership news

Biology

Arianne C and Teeya P are currently in the process of starting a biomedical sciences society. This will be a space for like minded budding scientists to come together and discuss the most recent medical research and news. This society will also provide a great place for our science students to discuss their applications to universities and share any tips, such as ways to revise for UCAT. Excellent work girls!

Geography



The 'Women Leadership in Climate Action' e-course aims to inspire women and girls, strengthen their leadership skills, and help them deliver the just climate initiatives needed to tackle the climate crisis. When I was first introduced to the 'Women Leadership in Climate Action' course by Mrs Stangroom, it really caught my interest. The course focused on women in leadership with taking climate action meaning that it had inspired me to think and learn how I could fulfil the role as a successful leader. Whilst on the course, I had learned a lot about the value that women have not just within climate action but also around the world and how their voice matters. It highlighted to me that their opinions and views had made significant contributions towards climate action and how positive their speeches had been during talks such as COP29. It taught me lots about the science behind climate change but also how to empower and evoke myself as a leader. After completing the course, as well as receiving my certification, I also took away a lot of valuable knowledge and also had been invited to future talks and courses with the UN. But most importantly, this has taught me how to have the confidence and the aspiration and ambition to become a true leader and how to encourage and motivate others to do the same.



Eleanor A
Sixth Form



Design and Technology



There are so many examples of student leadership in DT - students from all years support each other in lessons, giving each other feedback and suggestions of how to improve their practical and written work. Bhumika M (13G1) has been supporting an EAL student in Fashion and Textiles, allowing the student to access more of the curriculum and achieve the grades that her work deserves. Violet C (13G1) supports in the KS3 MakerSpace club on a Monday in F07. The students this half-term have been making small seasonal gifts and decorations. Violet and Sophia R (13R1) support all students (and staff) across the department.



Student Council

Hello, I'm Aishwarya, a proud member of the Year 10 Student Council. What I love most about being part of the Student Council is representing my entire year group during our meetings. These sessions have led to impactful discussions and countless unforgettable memories at CHSG, one of the most remarkable being Culture Day.

As someone who comes from a rich and diverse cultural background, having the chance to express this side of myself was an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience. Witnessing fellow students proudly share and showcase their unique traditions and heritage was truly inspiring. It perfectly embodies the spirit of #TeamCHSG—celebrating unity in diversity and fostering a sense of community.



A guiding principle I hold close is encapsulated in the profound Tamil saying, “ஒரு பணை முன்னறேினால், ஒரு சமுதாயம் முன்னறேம்”, meaning, “When a woman progresses, an entire community moves forward.” This quote resonates deeply with me, serving as a powerful reminder of the boundless strength and potential we, as young women, possess to drive meaningful change and uplift those around us.

Aishwarya R, Year 10

Becoming a student counsellor at CHSG has made me realise how important leadership is and what a great impact our voices can make. In our meetings, we identify ways to further develop our school and the educational system. A few suggestions were: school values, reward/educational trips, occasional events and competitions. I believe it is extremely important that students like myself have this opportunity to express our peers' thoughts and views towards the school environment as well as our own. “Walls turned sideways are bridges”, a quote by Angela Davis, symbolises how easy and significant overcoming fears and changing the way we see obstacles are in aiding our future development.



Amelia D, Year 8

