



Headteacher's Comment

International Women's Day is celebrated across the world to highlight the achievements and contributions of women across all generations. My daughter was born on International Women's Day, and she most definitely demonstrates a passion and drive for what is right and for success – even at the age of four!

This week, I had the pleasure of watching and supporting a group of our boys as they prepared meals to take home for the important women in their lives. The stories they shared about the women they admire – including mums, aunties, grandmothers and other significant role models – were heartwarming.

Moments like these remind us of the importance of recognising and celebrating those who inspire and support us every day. They also reflect the values we champion at Chase High School: showing kindness through thoughtful actions, building resilience by learning from the strength of others, and having the ambition to help create a more equal and respectful world.



World Book Day

#ProudtobeChase

To celebrate World Book Week the library has been a hive of activity. We have been running a cake sale all week to celebrate and to raise money for the library. In addition, there has been a competition taking place all around the school that links with International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March, whereby pupils had to find images of female authors. Correct answers will be put into a draw, and the winner of the competition will receive a £20 Amazon voucher. On Friday 24 April, we have an author and professional football player, Seth Burkett, coming into the school to work with our Year 7 and 8 pupils. Pupils will be given the opportunity to either purchase a copy of his book from the library or they can win copies from the vending machine in the library as part of our award scheme called Starbooks.



Book Buzz

To celebrate World Book Day, Chase High School has, once again, signed up for Bookbuzz by the Booktrust, which is a reading programme for schools that has been carefully designed to get young people excited about reading for pleasure. As a participating school, the pupils in Year 7 and 8 were offered the opportunity to select and keep a book from a curated list of 16 diverse and inclusive titles, judiciously selected by an expert panel of librarians and teachers. The books were delivered in January and gifted to the pupils during World Book Day to celebrate and to cultivate a love for and an appreciation of books. Each year, the selection of books include fiction and non-fiction titles across a range of genres and reading levels, so there is something for everyone!





Year 8 Parents' Evening:

We are holding our Year 8 Parents' Evening online on Thursday 12 March 2026 from 16.00 and hope all parents/carers take this opportunity to speak to staff about their child's attainment and engagement. The booking system is now open. If you are having difficulty booking appointments, please contact the Year 8 Administrator on melanie.wyer@chasehigh.org

CLICK HERE TO BOOK NOW!



Make your Mark:

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Make Your Mark 2026 assembly last week. The JLT counted the 815 votes and the top three topics selected by our pupils were sent to the Southend City Youth Council:

1. Money, housing, jobs & cost of living
2. Tackling discrimination, hate & being treated unfairly
3. Mental Health, wellbeing & substance use

SPORTS ROUND UP!

Last weekend saw some excellent performances at the Essex Indoor Athletics Championships at Lee Valley. Jenson (Year 7) broke the school indoor 800m record, finishing 4th, while Dexter (Year 9) placed 3rd in the 800m. Thomas (Year 7) was crowned County Champion in the 200m, breaking the school indoor record, before returning an hour later to compete in the 800m. A fantastic effort from all involved!

It has also been a busy week of fixtures. The Year 11 boys' football team produced an impressive 5-0 win against Shoebury High School (POM Dylan Condon). The Year 10 girls' netball team finished the week strongly with an 11-7 win over Southchurch High School (POM Lana).

There were also strong efforts across several other fixtures and tournaments, including the Essex 7 a side rugby tournaments at New Hall, where both our Year 7 and Year 9 boys performed excellently, with the Year 9 team narrowly missing out on the final.

Well done to all pupil who represented the school this week!



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Year 10 Raising Achievement Evening:

On Thursday 26 February we welcomed our Year 10 parents, carers and pupils into the school for our Raising Achievement evening. The evening started with a presentation held in the hall, where key information was communicated and discussed. Everybody then moved over to our Post-16 building where they had the opportunity to participate in study skills sessions, learning how to mind map, create flash cards and put together a revision timetable to support revision at home.

All of our subjects were represented in our 'market place' where conversations were held about specific courses and members of our SEND team were on hand to discuss any related questions or concerns that were held.

All of our pupils left the evening with a 'takeaway bag' to help them get started in their revision on the build up to their Pre Public Exams (PPEs) taking place in April.

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening and hope that everybody who attended found it to be as valuable as we did. If anybody was unable to attend, a voiced over presentation will be placed on the website and the pupils will be invited to an assembly next week to ensure that they have not missed out.



Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show:

A huge well done to all our pupils who took part in the Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show at the Palace Theatre during the half term break. It was a fantastic production, full of singing, dancing and laughter. Mrs Rock thoroughly enjoyed the show!

BOOK OF THE WEEK!

Thirteen by Tom Hoyle

Age recommendation: Perfect for Year 8 & 9

Short synopsis: There is a disturbing cult that believes all boys born at the exact start of a new millennium must die before the end of their thirteenth year. And Adam is in their sights. 12 boys have perished so far. Can Adam outwit the cult before it's too late?

Why choose this book: This dark and gripping thriller delves into adolescence, exploring themes of morality, loyalty and the high stakes of teenage choices and consequences.



Dates for your Diary:

11.03.26 Year 8 Take your Child to Work Day

12.03.26 Year 8 Parents' Evening Online

13.03.26 British Science Week – Year 9 STEM Ambassador Talk

13.03.26 Prom Committee Mother's Day Bake Sale

19.03.26 Year 7 Parents' Evening Online



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorfy and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Young Carers Action Day

CARERS TRUST

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Help us give young carers a fair future.

Young carers are people under 18 who help look after someone - often a family member - who cannot cope without their help. Does this sound like you? Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders. They need more support.

We want to ensure every young carer has the same chance to learn, grow and thrive as their friends who are not carers.

Find out how you can get involved in Young Carers Action Day:

carers.org/ycad
[#YoungCarersActionDay](https://twitter.com/YoungCarersActionDay)





CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

 [Listen to this newsletter](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

NAW2026 might be over but you can still access many resources, including this collection of short Apprentice Story films showcases the breadth and variety of apprenticeships, including Firefighting, Engineering, Broadcasting, Zookeeping and more. Apprentices are all around us, often working in surprising roles. [Watch these Apprentice Story films](#) to be inspired.

And did you know that the celebration of all things careers and futures doesn't stop there as National Careers Week 2026 (#NCW2026) runs from March 2nd-7th, 2026?! With the theme "[Own Your Future](#)," the week focuses on empowering individuals to take control of their career journeys through proactive skill-building and exploration.

You can get involved by taking part in the [virtual careers fair](#), which will go live on day 1 of Careers Week (2nd March). You can watch the [introductory video here](#).

You can match your favourite subjects to potential future jobs with the "[Jobs that use...](#)" collection on BBC Bitesize. You'll find hundreds of job profiles linking to specific school subjects, peer-to-peer advice through short films and information on entry requirements, salaries and pathways into job roles.

Universities are also getting involved in National Careers Week. Here's the information from University of Essex: "You can access our bank of resources to explore Higher Education, employability and career opportunities, as well as book onto an [Insight Day](#), enrol onto an [online course](#), or watch one of our [Student Webinars](#)."

The Green Sector is one of the fastest growing industries in the world as more and more companies are aiming to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their sustainability. [This session on 10th March at 10am](#) will feature a range roles and professionals who will open up the world of jobs in the green sector.

JOB OF THE WEEK



[Art Conservator](#)

An Art Conservator is a highly specialised professional responsible for the preservation, protection, and restoration of art and cultural artifacts. Combining science, art, and history, they analyse, stabilise, and repair damaged items to prevent further deterioration while maintaining the artist's original intent and historical integrity.

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT

The increases to the National Minimum Wage rates for 2026 have been announced by the Government, including the National Living Wage. These will be effective from April 2026. National Living Wage (21 and over) £12.71, 18-20 year old rate £10.85, 16-17 year old rate £8.00, Apprentice rate £8.00. [Source](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@chasehigh.org



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

OPPORTUNITIES

Young Game Designers, do you want to kick start your career in games? This is the place for you. Creating a space for imaginations to thrive, it's a chance for 10-18-year-olds to design, develop and present new game ideas to the world. You'll get a unique platform to showcase your talent as the competition opens up a world of creative opportunities and inspiration. Ever thought about making games when you leave school? The competition can help you start making those dreams a reality. Are you an aspiring designer? Get inspiration by reading about past winning games and testing out our game idea generator. Be in with a chance of receiving a BAFTA Young Game Designers Award and access to once-in-a-lifetime experiences with top game makers and industry professionals.



The Canon Young Champion of the Year Award is about rewarding young people who have campaigned for a good cause around a social or environmental issue. If you're passionate about supporting a local or global issue and are between 9-21 years old (at the point of the entry deadline), then you can submit an entry to this free-to-enter category, sponsored by Canon EMEA. All the information you need is here.



The Stephenson Harwood Scholarships are available for students looking to study law at university in the UK. The scholarships will provide up to five students with £15,000 per year of a three year undergraduate law degree, to cover the costs of university fees and contribute to living expenses. Recipients will also be given a mentor from the firm, invited to insight days and employment workshops, provided with work experience and guaranteed a place at an assessment centre for a training contract.



Catalyst Magazine is a free digital science journal for 14 to 19 year olds. Written by academics, scientists, engineers, and educators to illustrate scientific research and industrial developments from STEM professionals across the country, Catalyst Magazine brings STEM subjects to life, showcasing real world topics, issues, and solutions.



Next Tech Girls help students in Years 10 - 13 to find work experience placements with their network of employers.



EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

"Playground Games is a multi-award-winning AAA video game studio based in the heart of the UK. Passionate about our craft, we are a team of game developers dedicated to creating unforgettable gaming experiences that define genres. Our north star is the relentless pursuit of excellence."

You can read more about careers at Playground Games here.

UNI SPOTLIGHT

"Your time at Essex will be full of opportunities to meet new people, try new things and develop new skills. Your success is at the heart of everything we do. Did you know The University of Essex is first in the East of England for overall positivity? Or that we're 12th in the UK in the Guardian University Guide 2026?"

You can read more about the University of Essex here.

If you have any questions or need support, please email careers@chasehigh.org