



LEARNING TO BE EXTRAORDINARY

Part of the CSIA Trust, Company No. 7551989

9th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new term. This year we are continuing with our Character Education and personal development provision: Extraordinary Me, Preparation for Life, and Careers Education. These programmes are designed to support our students on their Pathway to Extraordinary to be the extraordinary success that they deserve to be, both inside and outside of the classroom.

This is a fairly long letter... but that is because there is quite a bit going on that you should know about what we are doing for personal development and wellbeing.

Character Education Quality Mark

Continuing from our successful Character Education Quality Mark in June 2022 we remain on our pathway for securing the Quality Mark Plus. Our character values form a core part of our tutorials, our assembly programme, House activities, after school and lunchtime clubs and our curriculum. Our behaviour habits for life are underpinned by our character values.

Extraordinary Me

Extraordinary Me is about your child continually developing to be a well-rounded individual who has the skills and qualities; qualifications and experiences to be that extraordinary candidate for university and the workplace.

We issued over 1000 Extraordinary Me Awards last year. Our new Year 7s entered many wonderful examples for their Foundation Award and these will be issued in the coming weeks. We have an online app which tracks students' achievements. You will receive a letter and step-by-step guide for this around the half-term holiday.

This year students are completing reading during tutorial time, and then 1 week per half term we are specifically focusing on our character values of Integrity; Ambition; Resilience; Respect and Altruism. Students discuss how they would put those into practice as well as reflecting on where they have developed those both inside and outside of school. This term we have looked at all our values and then had a week's focus on resilience and the 7C's of resilience. The 7C's are competence, coping, caring, confidence, connection, control, and character. Working on these elements help to boost the personal strength of resilience. Next half term we will focus on altruism, which will lead into our kindness projects for the community and our school community.

Assemblies

In this letter:

- Our personal development provision
- Character Education Quality Mark
- Extraordinary Me
- Tutorials and Assemblies
- Citizenship, PSHE and Careers are all compulsory – why do we call it Preparation for Life?
- Students helped to plan our curriculum
- Careers Education and Student Development Centre
- How you can help with careers
- After-school and lunchtime provision, including homework club
- Useful sections of our website for you and your children to access
- Pathway to Extraordinary attached

Our assemblies follow themes throughout the year, linking to our character values, key dates such as Remembrance and Children's Mental Health Week. There are also assemblies from the year teams celebrating successes.

This year has seen the launch of House Challenge assemblies, where all four Houses have a year group assembly and a challenge is undertaken for House Points. Mrs Haase joins in too! Those important praise points are continuing to build up for the Christmas House Auctions. Students should keep an ear out for praise point power-ups from Dr Eastburn-Cutts and the House Leaders.

Preparation for Life

You will receive a year group specific Preparation for Life letter. Preparation for Life covers Citizenship, Personal Social Health Economic Education (PSHE) and Careers which are all statutory subjects which means that children have to study it throughout their education. We call it 'Preparation for Life' because that's exactly what it is – it prepares students for life.

Last year I met with students from every year group for a number of sessions where they helped to redesign our Preparation for Life curriculum. The students were keen to ensure that subjects were covered at times that they felt were critical points in their lives and responded to questions that arose for them throughout their secondary years.

Careers Education and Student Development Centre

Careers Education is very important to us as a school. Our careers provision is structured around the eight Gatsby benchmarks which you can see in greater detail on our website. Our Careers Fayre is in March and you are invited to attend in supporting your child investigate careers and opportunities across the county. In every year group throughout the year students have opportunities to engage with employers, further education and higher education providers. If you want to take part in our careers provision and support our upcoming career networking sessions, please email me your interest. We are also looking for work experience placements for our Year 10s from the 8th -14th July.

Students can access our Student Development Centre in Room 4. This has a selection of prospectuses and career guides. Students can also have appointments with Hannah and Sharon from Careers 4 U for independent careers advice.

Our provision is always changing to make sure that your child has the best careers education, information and guidance. We regularly update our careers google classroom with careers opportunities and we will be advertising career networking sessions later in the year. The code for students to join this is 2odbn73.

You can support with their career planning through using the website links detailed on the parents section of our careers page www.cambornescience.co.uk/ceag/careers-education-parents-carers/. Many of our students have signed up to www.careerpilot.org.uk and www.unifrog.org. Careerpilot has a very useful Parent Zone.

After school and lunchtime provision

Our after-school club programme (www.cambornescience.co.uk/after-school-clubs/) is designed to support students on their Pathway to Extraordinary at CSIA and enhance the experiences element of Extraordinary Me. All students in Years 7 – 9 are expected to participate in at least 1 after-school club per week. Clubs are also available for Years 10 – 11 to support their personal wellbeing whilst studying for their exams. We have over 800 students signed up to clubs this year and are continuing to add students to activities. If your child is interested in attending a club they can see or email Mrs Gellatly.

Homework help is available every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after-school in ICT 3 and ICT 4. Students do not need to sign up, they can just turn up and ask to be added to the register for the session. Sparx club is on a Wednesday where Maths staff are on hand to support students with their Sparx homework.

Our break and lunchtime provision this year is fantastic. I have worked here for 9 years and I am so thrilled to see what is happening at break and lunchtimes this year. Students are engaging in the fitness trails, having picnics in the Japanese Garden, participating in clubs such as Monday Lunchtime Club for LGBTQ+ and allies, mindfulness, HerStory, and chess, playing table tennis, using the gym equipment and so much more. There is a truly lovely atmosphere with students inside and outside of the building.

Useful sections of our website

There are a number of programmes that we have in place to support your child's wellbeing, including our mental health provision. Our Mental Health lead is Mrs Rowles-Jane.

- Mental health programme and guidance: <https://www.cambornescience.co.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>
- Altruism (being kind to ourselves and others: <https://www.cambornescience.co.uk/altruism/>
- Safeguarding: There are numerous links within the safeguarding section of our website to support you and your child.
- Anti-bullying ambassador programme: <https://www.cambornescience.co.uk/anti-bullying-ambassadors/>

If you have any questions about the content of this letter please email me at gellatlys@cambornescience.co.uk - I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support

Mrs Susan Gellatly
Assistant Principal, Character Education