



# A 'life-changing' opportunity for Ella

STUDENT Ella has become a graduate of this year's Prestigious Colleges Programme after winning a £42,000 scholarship to a Chelsea girls' school.

The bright Year 11 student has been offered a place at the Francis Holland School, which counts royalty among its alumni, including Princess Margaret's daughter, Lady Sarah Chatto.

Other famous faces to walk the hallowed halls include model Cara Delevingne, socialite Tamara Ecclestone and actress Sienna Miller.

Ella, 15, had to come through a rigorous selection process to be offered a place, including four entrance exams and an interview at the school's central London site.

Ella, who is among our top performing students, needs to score top marks in her upcoming GCSEs to secure her place.

She said: "I am really excited to be going to a school where lots of really successful and famous people went. It's a huge honour for me.

"I am really looking forward to it and am not worried at all about the difference between myself and the other students.

"The only difference is they have been privately educated but the education I get at my school is as good.

"It is an amazing school, which really helps students from less privileged backgrounds fulfil their dreams and potential."

Headteacher Omar Deria said: "We are extremely pleased for Ella and her family. This is yet another life-changing opportunity we have been able to offer to one of our students.

"We expect Ella to be the first of many this year and we are aiming to improve on last year when we had seven leave for fee-paying sixth forms."

Chief Executive Officer of the Trust Simon Elliott said: "We call The Cumberland School the dream factory because our outstanding teachers are making dreams come true.

"Canning Town to Chelsea is geographically not very far but there are huge differences. Ella is an incredibly bright student and has had an outstanding education already. She is well-equipped to thrive and succeed in her new environment."



Ella has been offered a place at Francis Holland School

■ **Mr Green discusses the Prestigious Colleges Programme – see page 8**

Students learn posture with the help of etiquette coach Laura Akano



# The skills to succeed



STUDENTS are learning how to sit like royalty as part of lessons in etiquette and elocution to help them win places at top fee-paying schools.

Alongside helping students with entrance exams and application forms the school is giving tips to students on how to dress, communicate and conduct themselves.

The ‘finishing school’ is teaching how to sound more polished and confident, and is giving the necessary skills to succeed at interview and beyond.

Two years ago the school started its Prestigious Colleges Programme, which helps its brightest students win places at the top fee-paying schools in the country.

So far it has sent almost a dozen students to top fee-paying schools, including Eton, Kings College in Wimbledon, and Bancroft School, with scholarships worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

This year, student Ella has won a place at the exclusive Francis Holland School on a £42,000 scholarship. More are expected to follow.

The school hired top etiquette coach Laura Akano (pictured left), who featured on BBC Two documentary *Back in Time for School*,

## Top Tweet



Guy Ayling @GuyAyling · 17/10/2020  
It was great meeting very focussed and ambitious @CumberlandE13 pupils at a Q&A about life and opportunities @Mount\_Kelly #scholarship #partnership #community

to take weekly classes.

The six-week course includes modules on personal presentation and greetings, as well as table manners and place settings.

She is also giving classes in “Netiquette”, teaching students how to phrase emails formally and politely, and how to conduct themselves on their social media accounts.

Ella said: “I really think the training I got from Laura helped me at interview. I felt more confident and I knew the right way to meet and greet the person interviewing me.

“It was something that I had never thought about up until now but it really makes a difference in how you feel and how you are perceived.”

## ‘We want to level the playing field’

Headteacher Mr Deria (pictured right) says the elocution lessons have been a game changer.

“We have absolutely no worries about our students’ academic ability. But some will be going on to school and college in environments they might be totally unfamiliar with.

“This isn’t about changing who they are or the way they act. It’s about making sure they are as confident as they can be at

their new schools.

“We want to level the playing field and give our students every chance to compete with those who have come from wealthier backgrounds.

“The skills they learn won’t just help them in their new schools, but later in life as well. They’re learning little things, such as what fork to use at a fancy dinner, as well as what’s expected at job and university interviews. I’ve picked up a few tips myself.”



# Place in British Library for our students' stories

BUDDING writers have had their work published in a book available at the British Library thanks to the First Story programme.

The Cumberland Anthology, featuring poems and short stories from our students, is the fruit of a 16-week creative writing programme led by fiction writer Jarred McGinnis. The book features contributions from 15 students across year groups.

Year 8 student Annabel said: "It is so exciting to have my work published. I want to be a writer and this programme has given me the confidence and skills I need to move forward with that dream.

"I really feel my English has improved a huge amount since taking this programme. Learning

different ways of being creative has been really fun and exciting."



Aleksandra (pictured left), year 9, said: "I feel like a different person creatively after being involved with the First Story programme. It has changed the way I approach my school work, particularly English. We did loads of really fun exercises to help us start thinking creatively. I am really excited that my work is now in print and in the British Library for everyone to see. I am proud."

Head of Humanities Ms Hellyer said: "The First Story programme has had a tremendously positive impact on our students.

"It has helped to develop their creativity, confidence and English skills on top of making them published authors. It is awesome."

## TopTweet



## Rewarded for golden effort

HARDWORKING students are paving their own paths to success thanks to the new golden ticket scheme.

Introduced in September, the tickets are awarded for positive contributions to school such as excellent verbal responses and outstanding classwork.

Students say the new rewards programme has inspired them to work harder, behave better and communicate more effectively.

Year 7 Rahim has earned six golden tickets this term.

He said: "It's exciting to get golden tickets and it encourages you to work harder because what you are doing is being recognised.

"It lets you know that the work you have done is being recognised by your teachers and so it encourages you to do it more. I think it is a really good idea."

Year 7 student Amy said: "Getting a golden ticket makes you happy because it's nice to know that you've done well in a lesson or behaved well.

"It has also made it easy to work with teachers because they talk to you more and are aware when you are working hard."



## Rolling up socks against racism

STUDENTS gave a big thumbs down to bullying by celebrating their differences and individuality during Odd Socks Day.

The school marked Anti-Bullying Week by encouraging students to wear different colour socks to help raise awareness.

Student also created videos, posters,

leaflets and made themselves visible to other students by being on duty in the canteen all week.

Anti-bullying ambassador Rachel said: "The message I would like to get out is that if any students have any problems they should speak to me and I will address them."



One of the golden tickets

# Charlotte and Sean elected



## ‘I am pleased and proud’

Headteacher Mr Deria (pictured above) says his proudest moment was welcoming students back to school. He reflects on another term of improvement.

“This has been an extremely challenging term. I am so pleased and proud of our staff, students, and parents for how they have come together to support one another.

“I am extremely proud of the resilience and determination that our students have shown during these challenging times. One of my proudest moments to date was when we welcomed our students back to school after many months away due to the national lockdown.

“School is the best place for children and I am proud of the dedication and hard work that staff have shown to keep the school open.

“One of our greatest successes is our unique approach to blended learning approach. Students and staff who have been self-isolating have been able to log onto our online learning platform to deliver or take part in lessons. This meant that our teachers were able to deliver outstanding lessons and students can log on from home and not miss a single second of learning.

“This is something that we will be working on to enhance further for the remainder of the academic year.

“As we come to the end of another eventful year, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and restful Christmas and New Year.”

OUR newly elected Head Boy and Girl have vowed to give a voice to the students at The Cumberland School following their election victory.

Sean and Charlotte (pictured) stood on a platform for more representation for students at the school during a hard-fought campaign.

Sean has said he will keep his promise of introducing a buddy system for students joining the school while Charlotte wants to introduce more charity events.

Sean said: “I am so happy to have been chosen as Head Boy, it is a huge honour for me. I will dedicate myself straight

away to making good on the promise I made prior to the election.

“I worked in preparation for this moment and so my plans are prepared and ready to go.

“I will now work with the leadership team at the school to put them into action.”

Charlotte said: “I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to serve the interest of my fellow students at The Cumberland School. “I will work very hard to implement the things they have told me they want

to see changed at the school. I will work with teachers at the school to make positive change.”



## Duo create outstanding artwork

Year 8 students Kayleigh and Valerie have created paintings inspired by the artist Georgia O’Keeffe

Recitals have taken place in all areas of the school



## Poetry in the playground

EVERYDAY is poetry day at The Cumberland School – with students reciting classic prose in the playground, lunch hall and classroom.

As part of the school's initiative to make sure every second of the school day counts, students have been practising a sonnet by William Blake.

Couplets from *London* can be heard as students line up for lessons, on their way into class and even as they are eating lunch.

# Noor's award for positivity and politeness

YEAR 7 Noor has set the example for the rest of the school to follow after being chosen as the winner of the 30-day politeness challenge.

That is the verdict of headteacher Mr Deria who singled out the student for praise after she approached him about improving the school environment.

Noor (pictured below) managed to tick off



30 politeness challenges in just 48 hours, going above and beyond to make a positive difference in school.

Aside from her request to the headteacher, Noor also asked a dinner lady about her weekend and held the door open for staff and students.

She said: "I am really happy to have won the 30-day politeness challenge because I really have taken on what the teachers have told us about the importance of being nice and polite.

"It is such a small thing that can make such a huge difference to everyone's day. I really noticed how people would smile if you took the time to ask them about their day and be nice.

"It costs us nothing to be nice to people but so often we don't think to do it. I have started to include it in my life all the time now.

Headteacher Mr Deria said: "I cannot tell you just how impressed I was with Noor when she approached me about improving the school environment.

"Straight away I thought this is a student setting an incredibly good example to the rest of her peers. This is exactly what the new Cumberland is about."

## The portal that's keeping classes connected

THE school has come up with a fresh way of minimising disruption in the classroom when teachers and students are self-isolating.

Staff are streaming lessons back into the classroom via the Dynamic Progress Report (DPR) online portal while at home.

The modernised method means lessons are broadcast onto the classroom's whiteboard as a teacher self-isolates, with a cover teacher on hand to resolve any issues.

Likewise, if a student in the same class is also self-isolating, they can log on at home.

Simon Elliott (pictured above) is the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Schools Trust, which runs The Cumberland School. He told School's Week: "It's been brilliant because the students value the continuity of learning, expert teachers are delivering the lessons.

"We know how crucial it is for our young people to stay on top of their learning but also stay connected to their school, teachers and peers."



# Students are 'excited' about careers newsletter

OUR ambitious students are planning Cumberland's first careers newsletter to help each other into further education and their dream jobs.

The school's careers ambassadors took part in planning sessions in November.

The newsletter, due to launch early next year, will include jobs and education advice and interviews with students who have taken part in mentoring.

Year 10 students are also given the opportunity to work with Clifford Chance lawyers - one of the world's largest and most prestigious law firms - as part of a pioneering mentoring programme.

Students get paired with a professional from the firm and can ask for careers, CV or education advice.

Year 10 Arifa said: "Our teachers give us lots of opportunities to experience the world outside of school and the different careers out there.

"Things like the Clifford Chance mentoring scheme are really useful. Even if students don't know exactly what they want to do for a career, we hope the newsletter



## Careers ambassadors will be leading on a school careers newsletter

will help them decide on further education options."

Year 10 Madeeha added: "I wanted to become a careers ambassador because it's a way to give back to the school. Students can

come to us if they want advice.

"We're really excited about the newsletter because its a great way to let everyone know about all the opportunities which are open to us."

## In the picture



Our digital photography students are printing their photos the old-fashioned way



We proudly present our amazing Year 10 prefects. They look super smart in their new ties.



Our English superstars receive their golden tickets and goodie bags for their exemplary start to Year 11

## Top Tweet

Samantha Rodgers @S... · 07/10/2020  
 We just had our first @CumberlandE13 Student Prefect meeting. It's such an honour to work with these students 🥰  
 #studentcouncil #TCS

# Diversity and community in logo

THE school is proud to showcase the new school logo.

The C shape represents the C in Cumberland but the circular shape also represents the diversity of our community.

If you trace the etymology of “Cumberland” it effectively means ‘land of the compatriots’ – in other words, community.

The Cs and the circles are growing, to represent determination, ambition and learning.

## Achieving his goals

**NEWHAM** born and bred former The Cumberland School student Ezri Ngoyo scoring for Aston Villa in September.



# Soldiers’ sacrifices marked in assembly

OUR students took part in an emotive Remembrance Day assembly to honour those who lost their lives while serving in the armed services.

The assembly, led by Ms Mace, included a presentation and short film outlining war history and why it is so important to commemorate those who took part.

Staff and students also held a minute’s silence to mark the day and time at which World

War One ended in 1918.

It was one of the ways the school rose to the challenge to celebrate Remembrance Day during the pandemic.

Year 8 Sebastian said: “It was really good. I learned a lot about the history of the war and why we have Remembrance Day in November every year.

“It made me feel a bit sad but it made me

realise why it is important to remember those soldiers because we owe them our freedom.”

Year 8 Keila added: “The assembly made me look at Remembrance Day in a different way. If all of those people hadn’t made such huge sacrifices we would not be living the lives and enjoying the freedoms we do today.

“It made me feel grateful and humble for what they did.”



**Year 11 students Samir and Keiley (pictured above) have been shortlisted for Eton College via our Prestigious Colleges Programme**

## Analysis award

MAKING the link between Macbeth and the biblical tales of Adam and Eve won praise for one Year 11 student.

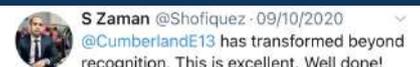
Jessica’s critical analysis of the Shakespearean play earned her a golden ticket from her impressed English teacher. A post on social media featuring Jessica and her work has become our most shared and liked story of the term.

Jessica said: “I am a Christian so as soon as I read Macbeth, I could see the parallels with the bible and Adam and Eve. Straight away it was something that interested me and I put in lots of work. It is a bit of a shock that it became so popular on our social media page. A surprise but really nice. It is always nice to be recognised for your work.”

## Tweets of the term



@CumberlandE13 staff are amazing, they support each other, they go the extra mile for our students and for each other - you are amazing, have a wonderful and well earned rest this weekend!



@CumberlandE13 has transformed beyond recognition. This is excellent. Well done!



**‘The impact on the school has been incredible’**

Mr Green (pictured above) is the lead teacher for the Prestigious Colleges Programme. He explains how it works and the secret to our success.

“Managing the selection process involves advertising the programme to students, issuing them mock entrance papers to complete and then shortlisting candidates.

“We assign them to mentors from the leadership team at the school – some of our students have even had the Trust Chief Executive Officer, Mr Elliott, as their mentor. We have weekly meetings to check on their progress and set actions.

“It starts with personal statements and references. We make sure they are well written to make the best possible impact on the target fee-paying schools.

“We liaise with our partner fee-paying schools and invite them to join us for our weekly meets. This term we have had staff join us from Mount Kelly in Devon, University College School in North London and Forest School in East London.

“We make sure all students are on track with their entrance exams and are preparing well for their interviews. This is the business end of the application and must be done correctly.

“My colleague Mr Deen, our careers manager, supports the students with the administration of the project identifying the colleges and application deadlines. His support has been instrumental.

“The impact the Prestigious Colleges Programme has had on the students who have taken part, and the school as a whole, has been incredible.

“The success of the programme last year has inspired even more students to apply. It grows bigger and bigger every year.”



Brilliant Club teaches students about protest music

# Understanding America through brilliant lessons

BRIGHT Year 7 and 8 students have enrolled in a degree-level six-week programme aimed at boosting their chance of getting into a top university.

Under the instruction of a PHD tutor, students will learn about protest music in America as part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

The project titled Music with a Message: Understanding America Through Song will see students complete a 2,000-word university style dissertation.

They are hoping to also visit a top

university to sit in on lectures and meet student undergraduates, though this is dependent on future lockdown rules.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools to increase the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds progressing to top universities.

Teacher Ms Mace said: “The students have started the Brilliant Club fantastically, already completing some interesting and thoughtful assignments, it is great engaging with such fascinating material.”



Prestigious Colleges Programme student Jessica has a virtual interview with Wellington College