



## FROM THE HEAD MASTER

Dear Parents,

### **Academic.**

As the dust settles on a particularly busy Lent Term, it is gratifying to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past three months. Most of our pupils have been working very well, both in and out of the classroom. Those in the GE, Deps and Grecians years with public exams in the summer should now be drawing breath before getting down to some sensible revision over the Easter break in preparation for what lies ahead.

Each term, the Avenue Boarding Houses compete for the prestigious Coleridge Trophy (boys) and Barnes Wallis Trophy (girls) for academic performance based on the average effort grade per pupil. The Coleridge Cup was won this term by Middleton B, while the Barnes Wallis Cup was won by Thornton B.

Academic Buttons have been awarded to the following in recognition of their outstanding work and their contribution to the academic life of Christ's Hospital: Florence Fung and Imogen Phillips.

### **Full Fee-paying Pupils.**

At present, Christ's Hospital is facing a serious financial crisis. The majority of Christ's Hospital's operating capital each year comes from the returns on its investments and those returns are significantly less now than they were two years ago. As a result, CH is facing a major deficit this year, with the cost of running the school falling well short of the available income.

The Council of Almoners recognise that we can't go on like this and in order to remedy the situation, they have agreed to a number of measures to reduce costs and increase income. Most of these will have little or no impact on the way in which the school operates, but one of them most certainly will.

There are currently only twenty one pupils in the school who pay full fees. The intention is that over the next three or four years, this number will be increased to just over a hundred fee-paying boarders. What this will mean in practice is that there will be one full fee-paying pupil per year group in each of the Avenue houses. Curiously, this is not the first time that this has happened at CH – in the early 1980's, there were 130 full fee-paying boarders following the recession of the late 70's.

Council have also decided that we should take on a small number of day pupils from this September. This means that there will be no more than one day pupil per year group per block (ie two paired houses) at any given time. Day pupils will spend almost as much time here at school as our boarders do, with their school day starting at 8.00 am six mornings a week and they won't go home until after prep in the evening.

Some members of the school community may feel that taking in fee paying pupils, particularly day pupils, goes against our charitable mission, but there are two things that we must keep in mind:

- The first is that taking in a small number of fee paying boarders and day pupils *is* going to enrich this school, both financially and culturally and the current pupils will benefit in both respects;
- The second is that we have no choice; if we want CH to survive then this is something that we simply must do.

I suspect that pupils from UK families that can afford to pay full fees and who choose CH over an “ordinary” independent school will do so because they are highly supportive of our ethos and our charitable mission. They will recognise the unique value of a CH education and they will be sensible, down to earth and unpretentious, just like our pupils. Every effort will be made to integrate them into life at CH and once they don their “Housey”, they will be indistinguishable from the other pupils.

And of course, once the economy starts to improve, we can then reduce the number of fee-paying pupils.

### **Sporting Highlights.**

The SET Tours Sussex Open Sevens Tournament was held at CH in early March and was an outstanding success with approximately 3000 visitors and players here for the day. There were over 40 schools from across the country competing for the prestigious titles and the rugby was of an extremely high standard and Brighton College won the main event convincingly by beating John Fisher School 50-12 in the final.

On the day, the Christ’s Hospital teams played with spirit and determination, with the boys losing in the Plate Quarter-Final, whilst our girls lost narrowly in their Semi-Final. Several top level players and referees including World Cup and iRB Referee Wayne Barnes, and London Irish and former England World Cup 2007 Finalist Peter Richards joined us on the day.

This event now receives national recognition and is a major event on the rugby sevens calendar and a key preparation for the Rosslyn Park Nationals. The event, now in its third year, is dependent upon all the hard and voluntary support given by the staff and pupils, as well as the valued sponsorship of a number of partners and companies.

Last Monday, we had the school Steeplechase (Cross-country run) and I must say that I was very impressed to see so many of our pupils (and one or two hardy staff) taking part. Spirits were high and the houses were locked in good-natured competition. Overall winners of the house competition were Girls: Leigh Hunt B and Boys: Middleton.

Congratulations go to our U18 Girls Rugby Sevens team, who made it through to the quarter finals of the national sevens competition.

At the end of term assembly, School Colours for outstanding achievement in sport were awarded as follows:

- Boys Hockey Colours were awarded to Angus Doyne-Ditmus;
- In Football, Colours were awarded to: James Longman and Jesse Simpson; and
- In Rugby Fives, Colours went to Luke Thomson

### **Music.**

On the music front, we have seen a number of excellent concerts this term, including the Blues Concert, the Bluecoat Concert in London and the Band Concert. All in their own way were very special events, as was the *Schola Cantorum* (thirty or so of the best of our choristers) singing Evensong at St Paul’s Cathedral. The musical highlight, however, was the

Angus Ross Memorial concert which saw over 300 pupils and adult musicians performing *The Dream of Gerontius* by Edward Elgar on the last Sunday evening of term.

### **School Trips.**

Over these holidays, we have pupils off on a range of school trips including a CCF camp in the Peak District, a ski-ing trip to Austria, a Christian Union trip to the Forest of Dean, a Football tour to Italy and a Geography field trip to Dorset. I offer my grateful thanks to the staff giving up part of their holidays to run these trips and my best wishes to all of our travellers for a safe and enjoyable time.

### **Speech Day.**

Please note that the date for Speech Day (and the end of the first half of the Summer Term) this year is **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May**.

The outline programme for this year's Speech Day is set out below:

- 11.15 am: Chapel Service for official guests, staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Form, Deputy Grecians, Grecians and the parents of this year's Grecians (*unfortunately, we can only accommodate the Grecians' parents because of limited space in Chapel*)
- 12.20 pm: Official guests, staff and *all* parents who wish to assemble in the Quad for the March Past.
- 12.30 pm: March Past by Band and the school by houses.
- 12.45 pm: All pupils (apart from the Grecians) return to their boarding houses and are then free to go home.**
- 1.00 pm: Buffet lunch for official guests, staff, Grecians and parents of Grecians in Dining Hall.
- 2.30 pm: Speeches and Prize-giving in Big School for official guests, staff, Grecians and parents of Grecians.

### **Parents' Day.**

This will take place this year on 27<sup>th</sup> June, which is the Sunday leading into the final week of the academic year. A separate notice will be sent out early next term detailing the events and activities on offer.

### **Parents' Consultation Evenings.**

- 9<sup>th</sup> May Third Form Parents' Meeting/GCSE Options/  
Prize Giving – 5.30pm Big School
- 6<sup>th</sup> June Upper Fourth Parents' Meeting and Prize Giving  
5.30pm Big School

### **Filming of the Grecians Ball.**

An independent filming company has enquired about the possibility of making a documentary about school summer leaving balls/proms. Christ's Hospital is amongst a number of schools the company has approached with a view to filming access. The company has asked to visit Christ's Hospital after the Easter break for a "recce" and to meet pupils and staff involved in the preparation of the Ball. No decision has yet been made to take part and will not be made until after this meeting when we are in receipt of a detailed proposal.

**Active Kids Vouchers.**

Thank you very much to everyone who helped the Scouts to collect Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. As a result, we were able to buy a lot of items including five tents. This year we are collecting them again. If you have any that you aren't being donated anywhere else, please may you ask your son/daughter to bring them back to school and put them in the Leigh Hunt A house pigeon hole.

**Next Term.**

The Summer Term begins on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, at 6.30pm

**Finally.**

Kim joins me in wishing you and your families all the very best for a happy and relaxing Easter break.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Franklin', with a horizontal line underneath.

John Franklin,  
Head Master.