



FROM THE HEAD MASTER

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Overall, the first half of the new term has gone very well indeed. Most of our new pupils have settled in quickly and well, while virtually all of those pupils with public exams later in the year (ie GCSE, AS or A2) are focused on their studies as they work to ensure that they do achieve the best possible grades next summer.

New Staff

We have had quite a lot of new staff join us this year and all are fitting in very well to life at Christ's Hospital.

St. Matthew's Day

The first major highlight of the term was the St. Matthew's Day ceremony in London on 18th September. Having marched from the city wall to St. Andrew's Church in Holborn, over five hundred CH pupils and staff were joined by the Lord Mayor of London and his aldermen for the St. Matthew's Day service. After the service, traffic in the city was again brought to a standstill as our band and pupils marched down to Guildhall where they were welcomed by the Lord Mayor for lunch and the traditional presentation of largesse.

Because of the later start to the term this year, the St. Matthew's Day service did not coincide with our Leave Weekend, but next year we will revert to the usual arrangement whereby pupils will be allowed to head home for their break from Guildhall.

CCF

Another highlight has been the biennial inspection of our CCF unit by Lt Col N Carson RSME. Our cadets' standard of dress and drill for the main parade was excellent, while their various field activities later in the day were also of a very high standard. Lt Col Carson was highly complimentary of the good work being done in the CCF and was particularly generous in his comments about the OC of the contingent, Major Claire Martin.

Music

On the musical front, the Choir has been doing much good work in both our School Chapel services and on St. Matthew's Day. The Band continues to impress at Band Parade and on their public outings.

"Masterpieces for String and Piano" is a Court Room Classic that will be performed on Friday 6th November at 8.00pm. Tickets are available on the door.

Our classical musicians have also been busy rehearsing in preparation for the School Concert on 8th November, and I would strongly recommend that you book tickets for this at your earliest convenience to avoid disappointment.

The Musical "*Anything Goes*", with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, is being performed on the 3rd, 4th and 5th December in the Theatre. Tickets are selling fast so please book early.

Traditionally, the first half of the Michaelmas Term ends with the House Singing Competition and this year's event was as impressive as ever. Rivalry was intense and the standard of singing and choreography was first rate, with Christ's Hospital pupils at their very best, both on stage and as a large and appreciative audience.

Hockey

Despite quite a lot of injury and illness across all teams, we have seen an encouraging start to the season

The overall results are: **Played 53 Won 32 Lost 16 Drawn 5** and it is the U13B team who are the team to beat as they have not yet lost a game.

The girls have recorded some significant wins as well as some challenging losses in their regular fixtures and there have been some good results in the County Tournaments. The U16 squad in particular played some inspiring hockey to reach the final of their tournament and although they lost to a much more skillful side which had an England player and 2 South players in it, they still qualified to represent Sussex in the National South round to be played in November.

Rugby

It has been a challenging start to our Rugby season against strong teams from Sevenoaks, Brighton, Eastbourne and Wellington. The Wanderers had a memorable victory at Wellington and the 1st XV had narrow wins against St. John's Southsea and St. Olaves, as did the Development XV.

The U16 have played well with 3 good victories and a strong performance, but a narrow loss to Wellington.

U15A have played well and managed three wins, but now face Whitgift in the second round of the Daily Mail Cup.

The U14 squads have improved as the term has progressed and this was highlighted with a win against Wellington B 15-0.

The U13 teams have played well despite the disappointment of cancellation by 3 opposition teams. The A team are undefeated with 3 good wins and it will be good to see them against some of the stronger teams after half term.

At representative level, Alex Marsh and Tom Wathey have played for the Sussex U18 side XV and Ahmed Mshelia has been selected for the U16 squad.

Leave Weekends

Given the pressure of our busy routine on pupils and staff, our terms are organised so that there is a Leave Weekend or longer break at least every three weeks. It has been the practice in the past for the school to keep one boys' house and one girls' house open over Leave Weekend for those pupils who either can't or don't want to go home.

While we will continue to do this if necessary, I would stress that staying at school over a Leave Weekend should only be an option when pupils have no other alternative. The therapeutic benefit of getting off campus and away from school should not be under-estimated, either for pupils or house staff.

CH Website and Parents' Forum (www.christs-hospital.org.uk)

The new CH website was launched earlier this month with some new features including a forum for parents. By becoming a member of the forum, we hope that parents who live in all corners of the UK and overseas will be able to share information and forge useful networks with each other.

The forum is located in the School section of the website, listed under 'Information for Parents'. To view the forum, you will need a username and password (provided by post). These are the same for every user and we will inform you if these change. As the forum is for CH parents' use only, we ask you to keep the username and password confidential.

Box Office

Tickets for the School Concert and "*Anything Goes*" are available from the Box Office 01403 247434 or email: boxoffice@christs-hospital.org.uk .

**The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 10.00am – 1.00pm
and half an hour before performances.**

Finally

Kim joins me in wishing you and your family all the very best for the second half of term and the busy run up to Christmas.

With kind regards,



John Franklin
Head Master