

# CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

## OUR HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

### Brief history

1. Christ's Hospital came about as the result of the vision of Edward VI and the actions of Sir Richard Dobbs, then Lord Mayor of the City of London. Its genesis was the earlier dissolution of the monasteries, the enclosure of common land and the resultant overflow onto the streets of the poor and destitute. Encouraged by a sermon from Ridley, exhorting mercy for the poor, the King wrote to the Lord Mayor encouraging him to action. This he did via a committee of 30 merchants. Henry VIII had already granted the use of what had been the Greyfriars Priory in Newgate to the City for the relief of the poor and Edward granted the Palace of Bridewell, his lands of the Savoy and rents and other chattels to create three Royal Hospitals – Bridewell, St Thomas and Christ's, which was for the education of poor children.
2. The first boys and girls entered the School in Newgate in late 1552 and the Royal Charter was granted and signed by its Founder, Edward VI, the following year.
3. The School occupied Newgate as its major site for 350 years, but from time to time children were housed in other parts of the country, especially after the Great Fire made parts of the School uninhabitable. Eventually, the girls settled at Hertford and the boys were relocated from Newgate to the purpose built site in Horsham in 1902. The foundation stone for the Horsham campus was laid by Edward, Prince of Wales on 23 October 1897, on behalf of the Sovereign, the date being the anniversary of the birth of our Founder.
4. Christ's Hospital was bestowed with its second Royal Charter by Charles II in 1673. This Charter specifically created the Royal Mathematical School whose original purpose was to train mathematicians and navigators to progress into careers as naval officers or merchant seafarers. Samuel Pepys, Secretary to His Majesty's Navy and later Vice President of Christ's Hospital, featured strongly in Charles II's considerable contribution to Christ's Hospital.
5. Over the centuries, Christ's Hospital has continued to enjoy royal patronage. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge started a tradition of Royal Presidents in 1854. In 1919, His Majesty George V became our first Royal Patron, followed by His Majesty George VI in 1937 and Her Majesty the Queen.
6. The magnanimous support of the City of London Corporation and Livery companies of the City (some 17 actively support children in the School) remains uninterrupted. Christ's Hospital remains true to its Founder's principles of supporting disadvantaged children by remaining a School for pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds.

### The move to Horsham

7. The proposed move to the Horsham site at the behest of a Government commission was greeted with much consternation among Christ's Hospital Governors and alumni. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was

moved to say "I am one of those who are perfectly prepared to go with the spirit of the age in which we live, but I confess that I am also one of those who do not love change for change's sake. To upset an old and long standing institution... is a very dangerous experiment to try."

8. The CH girls' move down from the Hertford campus to join the boys at Horsham in 1985 saw Christ's Hospital return to its original co-educational roots. Then, in 1987 the Clerk of the Foundation and his staff moved down to the Horsham site from their offices in Great Tower Street, London.
9. Distinguished living Old Blues include Baroness Ruth Deech, Lord Simon, Lord Justice Jackson, Joe Launchbury and Corporal Joshua Leakey VC. Distinguished deceased Old Blues include: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Charles Lamb, Sir Barnes Wallis, Edmund Blunden and Sir Colin Davis.

## **Our Governance**

10. The Council of Christ's Hospital (the Council) is the governing body of the School and Council Members are the trustees of the charity. The Council also acts as trustee for **Christ's Hospital Foundation**.
11. The Council has a membership of 15, up to four of whom are nominated by the **Court of Governors**; up to four are nominated by the Corporation of London with the remainder appointed directly by the Council.

The detailed work of the Council is undertaken by a number of Committees.

**Audit and Risk Committee** assists the Council and members of the Senior Leadership Team to maintain effective accounting and internal control systems, including systems to ensure the effective management of business risk and provides assurance to the Council that appropriate governance arrangements are in place.

**Campaign Board** provides guidance on the vision and strategic priorities for the fundraising Campaign for Christ's Hospital.

**Education Committee** ensures that all matters relating to the education, safety and welfare of the pupils at Christ's Hospital School are determined, monitored and controlled in an effective fashion.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP)** takes responsibility for the overall financial management of Christ's Hospital, ensures that Christ's Hospital's land and buildings are fit for purpose and oversees compliance with appropriate Health and Safety legislation.

**Heritage Committee** advises on and implements strategy and policy in relation to the collection, conservation and celebration of the heritage of Christ's Hospital.

**Investment Committee** is responsible for investment policies, risk parameters and strategy relating to the management of the investments of Christ's Hospital.

**Nominations and Remuneration Committee** ensures that the membership of the Council is sufficient and appropriate to its needs and makes recommendations on the pay and conditions of the Headmaster, the Chief Operating Officer and the School's Senior Leadership Team.

12. Over the centuries, the generosity of our benefactors has built up a valuable endowment which is held in a separate charity – **Christ's Hospital Foundation**. The investment returns from this endowment and linked charities are all used to support Christ's Hospital as set out below. The ability of the Foundation to meet the financial needs of the School depends critically on significant funding to grow the endowment and increase investment returns, whilst ensuring that we protect the real-term value of our endowment for the future.
13. **The Court of Governors** (the Court) is an historic body composed of the President (HRH The Duke of Gloucester) and Vice-President (the Lord Mayor of the City of London), 36 nominated representatives of the City of London, a maximum of ten Special Vote Governors and an unlimited number of Donation Governors who are elected to the Court in recognition of the support they have given to Christ's Hospital. Donation Governors each have the right to identify and present for admission a candidate whose needs accord with the ethos of Christ's Hospital.

The functions of the Court are:

- to support the charitable endeavours of Christ's Hospital;
- to nominate candidates for membership of the Council;
- to respond to matters upon which the Council may seek the views of the Court; and
- to elect the President of Christ's Hospital.

## **Funding**

14. Around 45% of the School's annual income comes from returns on the CH endowment, with the remainder provided by school fees, donations and commercial activity such as hosting Easter and Summer Schools. This means Christ's Hospital is in the fortunate position of being able to provide means-tested support for nearly 75% of its pupils.

Around 13% of pupils currently pay no fees at all and some of these also receive assistance with pocket money, clothing and travel. Less than 20% at present are paying the full boarding fee of over £34,000p.a. while the remainder pay on a sliding scale according to their family income, which is reviewed annually. There are 8% of pupils attending as fee paying Day pupils.

While the amount being contributed by parents for the education of their child may be very much smaller than school fees in most independent schools, the School is aware that this often represents a very considerable proportion of disposable income for our families.

## Senior Leadership Team

15. The School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) currently comprises:

Headmaster	Simon Reid
Chief Operating Officer & Clerk	Nick Tesseyman
Deputy Head	Jon Perriss
Deputy Head	Marlene Fleming
Assistant Head – Academic	Dr Marcus Medley
Assistant Head – Pastoral	Dayle Kirby
Assistant Head - Co-curricular	Sean O'Boyle
Assistant Head – Admissions	Dr Andrew Wines
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Dr Ruth Brading
Bursar	Keith Willder MBE

Author: NT/MP

Last review date: February 2019

Next review date: Sept 2019