



4 July 2019

Dear Old Blues,

Roger Martin, who taught at Christ's Hospital for a long period until 1996, has today been convicted of indecent assault on a pupil in 1976. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Both this and the convictions of other former teachers have exposed a dark period in the School's history during which children were manipulated and exploited. These individuals abused their positions of trust in a most serious and abhorrent way; the survivors of their offences have shown extraordinary courage in bringing them to justice. It is difficult to imagine the impact that these awful experiences must have had on their lives.

Over the last two years, we as a School have sought to find out as much information as possible about what occurred in order to fully understand the impact on those affected and their peers and, of course, to learn any lessons that could still be applied today, many years after these offences occurred. We have supported the police fully and wholeheartedly in all their investigations; we have followed each prosecution in detail; we have encouraged others who have been affected to come forward; most importantly perhaps, we have reached out to every victim of these offences in order to convey our dismay and to offer any support that may be needed. This offer remains open.

The School today is a very different place. We deploy a range of measures to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is at the centre of all we do: all staff receive regular child protection training; appropriate and clearly-defined boundaries exist between staff and pupils; a framework of safeguarding processes and procedures are effective across all houses and departments; and our dedicated safeguarding team maintains strong links with local statutory agencies to ensure that our practices and decision-making are compliant and effective. Anyone seeking further information about our child protection and safeguarding procedures can access our policy [here](#) or contact the School directly.

We continue to encourage anyone else who may have suffered abuse at the School to come forward if they feel able to do so. A report can be made in a number of ways:

- Our dedicated email address – safeguarding@christs-hospital.org.uk – which is staffed by a small team of specialists who can respond to your concerns or pass them on to the relevant authorities. All approaches will be dealt with sympathetically and in complete confidence.
- Sussex Police can be reached on 01273 470101.
- There are a number of organisations providing support for victims of child sexual abuse including NAPAC (the National Association of People Abused in Childhood) on 0808 801 0331 and the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

The experiences of those affected underpin our continued commitment to ensuring that time spent at Christ's Hospital is safe, happy and fulfilling for every child here.

Kind regards,

Simon Reid
Headmaster

Christopher Steane
Treasurer and Chairman of the Council