Many ask why Christ's Hospital calls itself ‘a school like no other’.

It is because of our roots, what the School is, what we do, where we come from and what we strive to be. There are some great stories that emerge in our pupils’ experiences as they develop through the School.

The belief in CH and its values, which I formed during my first period at CH as an English teacher and Housemaster, has drawn me back, this time with the honour to serve as Headmaster.

My immediate predecessor, is a tough act to follow. With his leadership, the School made considerable advances: with major improvements on the campus, an enhanced strategic and financial footing, and greater connectedness to the wider community, nationally and worldwide.

Most of all, CH has kept true to its original mission to create opportunity for those in need.

My wife, Michèle, and I are delighted to be part of the CH community again and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Simon Reid
Headmaster
Huge congratulations to CH Year 13 (Grecians) Art pupils who have been offered places at sought-after Art colleges. These colleges receive a high number of applicants for each place, particularly Kingston University, where there was one place for every ten applicants this year.

Kingston University – Scarlett Buckley, Joe Morrow and India Hogan (Foundation); Sol Deller (Degree course for Film Making)
Exeter – Tatiana Poulton (Foundation)
Central St Martin’s – Giovanna George and James Sibley (Foundation)
Ravensbourne – Isabelle Gzowski (Foundation)

Sol and India gained the coveted Distinction 1’s (which is higher than achieving an A* grade at A level) in the Cambridge Pre-U Art & Design course.

At the end of the summer term, the Art Department also said goodbye to its three artists-in-residence: Kit Mead, Amelia Phillips and Rosanna Catterall.

Year 13 (Grecian) Joe Morrow reflected: “For the past two years I have had the enormous pleasure of working with all three artists. They have inspired and pushed me to approach my work in ways that I could not have done without them. As they go onto their different artistic and farming routes, I will miss their company and tireless support greatly, and I am sure the rest of the art department will miss them as well.”

Poetry Please

Indigo Douglas is National Champion

CH’s Indigo Douglas is the 2017 Poetry by Heart national champion! She could be heard reciting Your Attention Please by Peter Porter on BBC Radio’s ‘Poetry Please’ in May.

Poetry By Heart, the brainchild of former poet laureate Andrew Motion, is a recitation competition in which school students must learn and perform two challenging poems from the Poetry By Heart anthology.

Indigo, in Year 13 (Grecians), had won the School competition and then the all-Sussex contest. This qualified her for a finals weekend at the British Library in London, along with 40 other county winners from all over the country.

In the final, Indigo absolutely excelled, captivating audience and judges with her renditions of ‘Pope and Porter’. After a nail-biting wait she was named overall winner by the distinguished panel of judges.

Indigo, who achieved an impressive 41 points in the IB Diploma programme this summer, will now be able to fulfill her dream to study English and Creative Writing at university. She commented: “The poems I picked intrigued me from the start, and now they will be with me forever.”
Christopher Nicholson Prize

There were 13 shortlisted entries for the senior poetry in translation competition including translations from no fewer than eight languages. A striking feature of the competition was the number of international pupils who had translated from their first language into English.

The overall winner of the 2017 Christopher Nicholson Prize, for his crystalline and elegant translation of a sonnet by the Dutch poet Gerrit Achterberg, was Year 12 (Deputy Grecian) Max Birkin.

The Cleaning Lady

She cleans beneath cupboard, crib and picture. 
Worn wooden planks make long forgotten creaks: 
Down on her knees she is amongst the creatures 
Who crawl about upon their hands and feet.

For she has pledged her purpose to the floor, 
And polishes it for the well-heeled soles Of the priest, poet and the men of law – Here is disparity in rank and role.

The Lord will find her in his Holy Land, 
Sweeping the golden streets before His throne. 
The drum beat of her brush against the pan 
Is symbol turned to cymbal, loud in tone. 
But at her death on equal terms she’ll meet 
The men of law, the poets and the priest.

Royal Farewell

John Franklin retired this summer following ten years as Head Master of CH. Events to mark John’s final year included a royal farewell lunch with the President of CH, HRH The Duke of Gloucester. John and his wife, Kim were unveiled the traditional portrait that will be hung in Dining Hall.

John Franklin said: “It has been a real privilege for Kim and I to be members of the CH community for the past decade and to play a modest part in its positive transformation. I am very privileged to have been one of the many Headmasters, the thirtieth in four and a half centuries, that have served CH. Now, I am looking forward to spending more time with Kim, settling into our new home and furthering work with our Livery Companies, the Salters’ and the Woolmen. Kim and I would like to thank the staff and governors, the pupils, parents, former pupils and benefactors for their incredible support.”

Speech Day

The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Andrew Parmley, and the Sheriffs of the City of London, were guests of honour at CH’s Speech Day in May, along with parents and supporters of the School. A service in the Chapel was a prelude to the march past by 800 pupils to the accompaniment of the band.

At the prize giving ceremony, senior pupils were presented with awards and prizes from generous supporters across the UK and overseas recognising academic achievement, leadership, international relations and outward bound activities. The highlight of the ceremony was the ten minute oration given by the Senior Grecian (Head Pupil), Peter Callas, to which the Lord Mayor gave an animated response.
History is Cast

New Sculpture in the City

The clay model of the CH sculpture for installation in the City of London in the Michaelmas term is now being cast in bronze.

Year 13 pupils, Peter Callas (Senior Grecian) and Rafaela Alford (Second Monitor) were photographed as a guide for the artist, Andrew Brown, in sculpting the modern characters in the piece. Peter went to the studio to meet Andrew and to see how the pictures had come to life.

The sculpture will be installed close to where the School once stood in Newgate Street and Christchurch Greyfriars Garden and will commemorate CH’s 350 years in the City (1552-1902).

Model United Nations

Ten Year 12 pupils (Deputy Grecians) attended the Model United Nations conference held at Wycombe Abbey School.

This was an excellent conference, based around the issue of women’s rights. CH pupils represented delegations for the UK, Ghana, Norway, Nigeria and Qatar.

Teachers John Johnson and Alicia Cassidy accompanied the pupils to the conference. Ms Cassidy said: “All our pupils addressed the conference over the two days and prizes were won by Owen Purnell and Georgia Smith who represented the UK, amending resolutions and proving extremely convincing in calling for more education to combat domestic violence. The evening dinner was also superb, with speeches and toasts. I am sure the pupils will remember this event for years to come. Our thanks to the Amicable Society of Old Blues who kindly funded the trip.”

Plans for Catering Facility

Anticipated September 2019

Plans are underway to replace the temporary kitchen, which has been in place since 2008, with a new state of the art catering facility by the start of the Michaelmas term 2019.

A considerable amount of preparation and planning has taken place over the past 18 months. A key requirement is that any new catering facility must be sympathetic to the special heritage of the site. The new facility will also incorporate a new food and nutrition department.

As the project unfolds we will keep you updated on its progress.
Exam Results 2017
IB, A Level and IGCSE

The summer 2017 examination results have been outstanding. Hard work has paid off for both the pupils and their teachers.

In July, the CH International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma cohort achieved a 100% pass rate of 30 points or more which is a record achievement. Special mention should go to Phoebe Thornhill who achieved 44 points out of 45 and will be taking up her place at Oxford in the autumn to study Biological Sciences. Other stellar performances were seen from Celine Hou (42 points), Aoife Kelly (42), Roberto Salvia (41), Indigo Douglas (41), Helen Hou (40), Riccardo Silvestri (40), Carolina Trinker (39), Clemens Vogt (39) and Rafaela Alford (38). By way of comparison, 41 points is equivalent to at least A*A*A* at A2 level.

These outstanding results will see the pupils secure places at some of the top universities in this country including Classics at King’s College London, Classics at Edinburgh, English and German Law at King’s College London, English at Warwick, Law at Birmingham, Politics, plus Philosophy and Law at King’s College London.

In August, A level pupils were celebrating their amazing results. Isaac Hayden achieved an incredible five A* grades and will go on to the University of Glasgow to read maths. Temi Adeyemi was the top girl with four A* and one A grade, securing her place at Cambridge to study natural sciences.

Overall, a highly impressive 48% of grades were A* - A, 76% A* - B and 15% A*. The average UCAS points achieved by a pupil was 136 which equates to AAB.

There were other notable individual achievements and huge congratulations go to: Hareef Asunramu three A* one A (Medicine at Imperial), Ben Johnstone three A* (Maths at Imperial) (deferred entry), Charles Lillywhite three A* one A (Natural Sciences at Durham), Michael Hobson two A* one A (Maths at Oxford), Remus Goldsmith two A* one A (Engineering at Bristol). Congratulations also to Tomaz O’Donoghue who will read History at Oxford.

The excellent set of (I)GCSE exam results added to 2017 being a strong year. 86.7% of all grades were A* - B. 30.4% of all the grades awarded were A*, 63.1% were A*. A. These results saw 25 pupils gain ten A*s or better and some brilliant individual performances: Marley Bell achieved an amazing eleven A*s and one A, Luke Watts achieved an impressive 10 A*s and one A, Maria Howard achieved nine A*s and four As, Eugene Ting achieved nine A*s and two As, Flora Thwaites nine A*s, one A and one B, Helena Walsh and Edith Thompson both achieved nine A*s and one B, Lydia Thornhill, Freya O’Brien and Dara Kuteyi achieved eight A*s and two As.
Peter Pan has been produced thousands of times throughout the years and is a well-known classic story by J.M Barrie. Could a cast of 80 11-14 year olds do the magical story justice? Yes, they could!

Director of the play, Zoe Munday, said: “This modern-day version of the story is a new adaptation by Ella Hickson entitled Wendy and Peter Pan; bringing Wendy more into our focus rather than Peter Pan. Hickson presents Wendy as more adventurous, brave and as someone who won’t conform to the stereotypical female role portrayed in the original story.”

Zoe cast two sets of main characters with Jamira Nelson and Titus Dempsey on Thursday and Friday night, however in Saturday’s performance we see Ella Perris and Tristan Berry as Wendy and Peter Pan, both new pupils to the School this year. Huge credit goes to both of them for an enchanting portrayal of the couple, as well as Hannah Chujor (Izzy Foster on Thursday and Friday night) for her modern and gutsy rendition of Tinkerbell.

Special mention also should go to Smee played by Georgie Catt who provided light entertainment throughout the play with her longing looks at Captain Hook. The ensemble also lit up the stage, being completely engaged, professional and in character at every moment of the play, from the Lost Boys being in the Home Underground to the Pirates, led by Emmanuel Odujebe as a terrifying Captain Hook aboard their ship.

However it was one character in particular that seemed to steal the show – a character with no lines and who made an appearance on stage all of three or four times; The Crocodile played by Tom Slater. The audience roared with laughter, when, upon chasing Captain Hook, he took one look over his shoulder to the audience as if to say “he’s such a drama queen” that had the audience in hysterics every time!

Of course you cannot have the story of Peter Pan without flying and a highly creative solution was found (to avoid any health and safety issues). There is a beautiful moment at the beginning of the play where Peter Pan’s ‘eight’ shadows lift him up in the air. Aided by sound and moving lights this creates the first of flying moments. The other moments are provided by a green screen animation which shows Wendy and Peter on a cloud together, which provides some light amusement for the audience as she steps off the cloud and goes “flying” with the stars.

With more than 100 pupils and teachers involved in making this show happen, everyone’s hard work paid off and a completely magical junior production has once again been delivered by CH’s drama team. Now there is excitement and anticipation for the senior production in December of The Crucible and the junior production of The Lion King!
Art History Prize

Summer Course in Italy

Beatrice Chantler-Hicks, Year 13 (Grecian) at CH, was awarded the prestigious Sir Trenchard Cox Scholarship 2017 in June.

The Sir Trenchard Cox Scholarship is an annual award open to 16-19 year olds. The prize is a place on a two week Art History summer course in Venice, Florence and Rome. The scholarship candidates have to submit two 400 word essays; one on a work of art they love and one on a piece that they loathe. Past topics have ranged from Tracey Emin’s ‘Bed’ to the National Theatre, from Rembrandt’s ‘Jewish Bride’ to Picasso’s ‘Guernica’.

On winning the award, the judges declared that: "Beatrice wrote eloquently and with passion on Marat and the Shard."

Beatrice commented: “I enjoy the painting ‘Death of Marat’ and could write passionately about it. However, my description of the Shard was not so complimentary because I feel its glass structure lacks respect for its context. I am thrilled to have been awarded the scholarship and it will be a huge privilege to be able to explore Florence, Venice and Rome and to attend seminars at the museums and galleries to further my interest in Renaissance art.”

Science Success

Biology and Chemistry Prizes

CH's scientists carried away top prizes at national and regional competitions last term. Sixth form pupils won five medals, including gold and four highly commended certificates in the British Biology Olympiad competition. Special congratulations to Phoebe Thornhill who achieved the gold medal. Congratulations too to Elspeth Muir, Crispin Leung and Max Day, who each achieved a silver medal and to Mercy Adeyemi who achieved a bronze medal.

The Year 10 (UF) team, Herman Wong, Louis Medlock, Luke Saunders and George Sanger, were crowned winners in a Chemistry Challenge competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry at Kingston University. They competed against six teams from other schools across the region.

Inspiring Young Minds

Bluecoat Nursery School

CH chemistry teachers helped to inspire youngsters when a group of children from Bluecoat Nursery School at CH was invited into the laboratory to watch science work its magic with teachers Marcus Medley and Ian Davies.
Over 18 former CH pupils, along with specialist guest speakers, visited CH for a Year 11 (GE) careers event. The CH pupils attended a lecture and a careers speed dating session, as well as breakout career sessions. Ajaz Ahmed, founder of AKQA (winner of the Queen’s Award for Enterprise Innovation, the highest accolade bestowed on a business in the UK) spoke about his career path and the world of science and the digital age. He was able to give the pupils a real insight into what his work involves, his clients and the companies he works with.

In addition, sixth form pupils at CH enjoyed a networking event held in partnership with the Guild of Entrepreneurs. The event, which took place just before the end of term, provided an opportunity for pupils to meet with former pupil entrepreneurs and Freemen of the Guild. They were given an insight into and advice on starting their own business and mingled with the guests to find out about their journey and success stories.

The Guild of Entrepreneurs welcomes interest from young people who are interested in finding out more about starting their own business:

http://guildofentrepreneurs.org/

Boarding at CH received an incredible vote of confidence following a survey conducted amongst parents. From time-to-time CH conducts satisfaction surveys amongst its parents and pupils and a questionnaire completed by parents of boarders confirmed that the full boarding experience is a highly positive one for their child. Most questions scored over 90% in terms of satisfaction.

John Franklin said: “It is important for us to monitor the views of our parents, particularly when their children are in our care during term time and we are delighted with the overall positive feedback. The survey also provides an opportunity for parents to say why something might not be quite right and we can then take steps to solve issues that come to light.”

Questions that scored over 90% included: the decision to choose boarding had been the right one; CH encourages respectful behaviour, tolerance and empathy; the environment at CH prepares young people well for their future; the diversity of pupil population helps prepare young people for the world beyond; the Upper Sixth Form (Grecians’) residences help to prepare young people for higher education/university; access to teachers for extra help/supported prep is beneficial; their child has gained independence and confidence; their child adapted easily to being back home in the school holidays and, importantly, that their child has kept a close relationship with their family and made lots of new friends.

Parents were asked to comment more generally about CH, with the most common narrative emphasising the breadth of opportunity. The majority of respondents did not have any concerns about their child settling in and if they did, these were positively and effectively resolved.

The survey received a high (60%) response rate (almost an equal pupil gender split and spread across the year groups). We would like to thank the huge number of parents who took the time to complete the survey.
Sir Colin Davis Scholars
High Achieving Musicians

Young musician and Sir Colin Davis Scholar, Tom Walker, 18, was chosen to write a fanfare for this summer’s Horsham Festival which would be accompanied by a short animation and film to promote and capture the fun mood of the Festival.

When he heard about his commission, Tom said: “I feel very privileged that my piece of music will be part of the Festival. It is quite rare for someone of my age to have work commissioned.

Music is a big part of my life. Being part of the School Band has had a significant influence on this composition because of its wide range of instruments and sounds.”

The Chairman of the Horsham Society, Malcolm Willis, presented Tom with a cheque at CH for his composition named ‘Horsham Festival March’. By courtesy of the Horsham Festival Committee, Tom’s composition now also accompanies CH’s latest promotional video which can be viewed on the School’s website.

On leaving this year, Tom’s well-earned Sir Colin Davis Scholarship award passes to Max Rosen, 14, another talented and committed musician, who, like Colin Davis was at CH, is a clarinettist. Max achieved grade 7 with distinction on the instrument this summer, to add to his grade 7 distinction already achieved on the piano. He is in the Chapel Choir, the Band and Big Band and is studying music for GCSE.

Nuffield Research Scholars
University Summer Placements

Congratulations to three CH Year 12 pupils (Deps) for securing places on the 2017 Nuffield Research Placements Scheme. These placements provide a fantastic experience for would-be scientists to develop skills and knowledge prior to attending university. This is a very well regarded scheme and the application and selection process is very competitive. The pupils will now spend part of their summer holidays as Nuffield research scholars, working alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians (STEM subjects).

Arron Shaw will be spending four weeks at Queen Mary University, London. He will be working on a project at the Blizard Institute. Arron will experience working in medical labs researching tissue culture and flow cytometry.

Alex Vojdani is spending four weeks with a principal lecturer in health sciences at Brighton University. He will be working on a mathematical project and his research will involve analysing quantitative data from the Imagine mental health programme.

Geoffrey Rwamakuba has a four week placement at UCL with Professor Coppens (Ramsay Memorial Professor and Head of Chemical Engineering) working with PhD student Nidhi Kapil, who is researching the development of novel catalytic materials.
CHRIST’S HOSPITAL

Chimes Change
As the Electronic Bell is Switched off

CH switched off the electronic bell system so that apart from the chiming of the grand clock on Big School and the Chapel bell, the pupils’ daily routine is no longer interrupted by a shrill ring.

Deputy Head, Jon Perriss said: “We decided to switch off all the bells in the houses – for example the 7.15 rising bell woke all the pupils up - and around the campus for change of lessons and breaks. Bells add to the sense of routine and familiarity but we wanted to avoid falling into the trap of Pavlov’s ‘conditioning’ experiment. We were interested to see how the pupils would react in an environment without auditory reminders, as they will need to be prepared for a sense of the world without bells. As with any change, there were some initial murmurs of disquiet, but this quickly settled down and both pupils and staff now cannot remember a time when there were bells to orchestrate their every move. Everyone knows the time they need to be in certain places – house roll calls, lessons, meals – and they just get there without fuss.”

Apart from the traditional chiming clock in the Quad and the Chapel bell, the new regime helps pupils and staff to value silence. Jon added: “It’s quite inspiring not having a modern ‘device’ breaking through the sense of grace and calmness around the School. We are fortunate to live and work in a beautiful campus; surroundings that are enhanced by peace. We live in a busy and environmentally noisy world – a school without a piercing bell is quite refreshing.”

Annual Fundraiser
Alzheimer’s and Magic Breakfast

Pupils in Maine B boarding house travelled no further than the CH sports centre but clocked up 1558km to raise £350 so far for the Alzheimer’s Society and Magic Breakfast.

Pedalling hard on exercise bikes, the total distance travelled would have comfortably taken them from the centre of the School to Lisbon, Portugal; Granada, Spain; Stockholm, Sweden or Trondheim, Norway.

The fundraiser has now become an annual event for Maine B boys and they wish to thank everyone for their support.

Rainbow Flag
CH Aiming for an Award

CH has been selected to participate in the Rainbow Flag Award scheme and will be working towards achieving the full award over the coming year, to demonstrate the School’s commitment to LGBT inclusion and education.

CH hosted a Rainbow Flag staff training day, run by the Allsorts Youth Project which supports children and young people under 26 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or unsure (LGBTU) of their sexual orientation and/or gender.

During the training day, staff from CH, along with guests from other schools, learned about legal obligations in relation to supporting LGBT pupils and explored areas such as language, the history of LGBT rights and strategies for combatting bullying and promoting inclusion.

Since then, CH has been signed up to work towards the award by demonstrating our commitment in six key areas: skilled teachers; supportive governors and parents; effective policies; inclusive curriculum; pastoral support and pupil voice. Everyone has a part to play in providing a safe and supportive environment in which all the pupils can thrive.
Sports Awards
and Sports Science Immersion

Rugby
Lennox Anyanwu (PE A) represented England in the U16 Rugby match earlier this term and scored a try in a well fought match that saw England defeat Wales 41-22. Lennox is the first recipient of the new Joe Launchbury Rugby Scholarship and received a good luck message from Joe before the game. Given his outstanding performance on the Rugby pitch and the fine example he has set for other CH Rugby players, Lennox also received the CH Sports Buckle.

Cricket
Congratulations to the following CH pupils who were selected to play county representative cricket this summer:
Gus Freeman – Sussex U15s and U16s,
Solly Woodall – Buckinghamshire U15s and U17s,
Lottie Woodall – Buckinghamshire U17s and U19s,
Elise Farquhar – Buckinghamshire U15s, U17s, U19s and Full County Women’s team.
Particular congratulations to Elise Farquhar for her selection to the senior women’s team, it is a tremendous achievement to gain a full County Cap as an U15 cricketer.

Endeavour in Sport Awards were presented as follows:
Swimming
Mikey Hobson
Tennis
Molly Todd, Jacinda Ho, Alderney Street and Will Down
Athletics
Yasmine Mafiamba, Savannah Holmes and Emmanuel Ajayi-Coker
Cricket
Oscar Williams

Colours were awarded to the following pupils:
Swimming
Jason Ng, Max Day, Indi Roberts, Chelsea Lam and Elspeth Muir
Tennis
Heather Goldring, Henry Gregson and Hadrien Giacomotto
Athletics
Solomon Deller, Hareef Asunramu, Emmanuel Onyango and Henry Watts
Cricket
Sam Winsbury

The Thomson Award for Girls’ Games is a new cup awarded for sportsmanship and teamwork and this year’s winner was Sophie Ramshaw.
The Sillett Trophy is awarded to the Boys’ Block gaining the most points from the following competitions this year: rugby, football, steeplechase, fives, swimming and athletics. This year’s results are as follows:
4th - Lamb (17 pts)
3rd - Maine (32 pts)
2nd - Peele (35 pts)
1st - Middleton (36 pts)

Sports Science Immersion Day
Ten Year 12 (Depa) A level sports science pupils spent the day at Brighton University’s sports and exercise science labs. The pupils performed maximal sprints on exercise bikes looking at power output (with and without glucose intake). They worked in the biomechanics lab measuring vertical jump height on a take-off platform using equations to calculate flight time. Finally, they undertook steady bouts on exercise bikes in a heat chamber of 40 degrees C. After cooling down, they repeated the exercise and compared heart rate, body mass difference and body temperature.
Transform a Child’s Life

Join Fellow Parents

CH parents know that the School provides a life-changing opportunity for their children. Many parents have expressed a wish to give another young person the same benefits and opportunities their own child has enjoyed and the CH Blue Fund provides an affordable means to do so.

Last year, CH parents raised over £13,000 towards the Blue Fund, to help fund a child at CH. Their generous support has been incredible with gifts ranging from £2 to £100 a month plus one-off donations.

This year, we aim to increase support and exceed last year’s total. We are enormously grateful to those parents who have raised over £9,000 so far this year and we hope that many more parents will be inspired to join forces to help surpass the success of last year.

How can you help? Whether it’s a regular gift of a few pounds a month, or a single gift if you prefer, all gifts of any size are very welcome. Every gift makes a real difference, to transform another child’s life at CH. You can make a gift online at: bluefund.christs-hospital.org.uk/donate/or by phoning 01403 247519.

End of Term Traditions

Beating Retreat and Grecians’ Ball

The traditional end-of-year Beating Retreat ceremony in the Quad at CH took place on 1 July as a final farewell to leaving pupils and staff and to mark the end of the School year. This year CH said goodbye to John Franklin (Head Master) and his wife Kim and to make this an extra special event for them the band played Waltzing Matilda as a tribute to their Australian roots.

On the last night of the School year and to mark the end of the exam period at CH, the leaving Year 13 (Grecians) celebrated in style with the customary leavers’ ball. Following a drinks reception in the Headmaster’s garden, the pupils moved to Big School, which had been beautifully decorated in a Great Gatsby style for the occasion, to dine and dance the night away.