



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

CH News

SIMON REID, HEAD TEACHER

And so Michaelmas term comes to an end, as does the year 2020. Let us not focus on the many unprecedented challenges we have faced along the way, but instead on the amazingly positive results of rising to these challenges and refusing to be defeated by them.

It has been wonderful to see Christ's Hospital's spirit shining bright this term in specially adapted events such as St Matthew's Day, Remembrance Sunday, as well as in so many music and drama productions; the School Concert, the Senior Drama production and Christmas choir and band performances. The usual Christmas fair has also adapted to the circumstances with very successful results, the House Christmas tree decorating competition being a particularly popular

addition to our festive calendar.

There is much to look forward to in 2021; for one, the theatre is reopening for the teaching of Drama lessons and in time, to host events and performances. I think I speak for everyone when I say how much the theatre has been missed over the last year or so and how delighted we are to have it back.

Another positive development is the return of Housey in the new year. It will be truly special to see the pupils back in uniform after all this time.

Meanwhile, may I wish everyone, pupils, their families and all our staff, a wonderful Christmas holiday and a happy, healthy and simpler 2021.



Issue 12 2020 / 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



SENIOR DRAMA
PRODUCTION - P5



SCHOOL CONCERT - P6



45TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE THEATRE - P10

ST MATTHEW'S DAY

It will come as no surprise that this year's St Matthew's Day celebrations were a bit different to usual.

Senior pupils and the Band marched not through the streets of London into Guildhall, as they do every year, but into the Quad at Christ's Hospital instead. There was a special service in Chapel and we were lucky enough that the Lord Mayor of the City of London came to CH in order to take part in the celebrations and present pupils with a newly minted coin, as is tradition.

It was truly wonderful to have marching and music in our Quad again; even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Although a whole-School event could not be held this year, Remembrance Sunday was still marked with a poignant, carefully thought-out ceremony.

Following a special morning Chapel Service, Deputy Grecians and Grecians (Year 12 & 13 pupils) moved outside to the Quad. After the sounding of the Last Post, the pupils silently 'planted' their poppies in the Quad, while the laying of the wreaths took place. The rest of the School were invited to plant their poppies at their leisure throughout the day.



PEER MENTORS 2020



A record number of Deputy Grecians (Year 12) completed their intensive Peer Mentor Training Programme this term. This involves training pupils to become 'listening ears', which helps them to grow emotionally and to recognise that they have the skills to help others. The pupils all received a personalised certificate, a yellow wristband and a sticker for their door to remind other pupils that they are there to help if needed.





Above: Alice, 03/Year 8
Right: Joellen 02/Year 7



ART NEWS

This term the Third Form (Year 8) have worked on transcriptions of Harlem Renaissance paintings and sculptures. This movement took its name from the social and artistic explosion that happened in Harlem, New York from 1910 through until the 1930s, which was considered to be a golden age of African American culture. The pupils have engaged with the history of New York, studied artists including William H Johnson, Jacob Lawrence and Aaron Douglas and listened to the jazz music of the time whilst painting with acrylic paint to create accurate homages of these iconic works of art



The Second Form (Year 7) have been making self-portraits in black and white, working to capture their likeness from mirrors using fineliners and pencils to make a range of different mark making techniques.

Above left: Kachi, 02/Year 7

Above right: Bashar 03/ Year 8

Left: Carys, 03/Year 8

Right: Leo, 02/Year 7



THE SHOW MUST GO ON – SENIOR DRAMA PRODUCTION

This term, the Drama department, led by our Head of Drama Fiona Bardsley, wanted to rise to the challenges brought by Covid-19 and find a way to stage a senior production, despite not being able to do this the conventional way.

And so the idea was born to film a compilation show of monologues, duologues, short scenes and musical numbers held together by a theme. This format enabled the show to be run in a Covid-safe manner, with pupils working in small numbers and separated into year group bubbles.

The show featured a talented ensemble of pupils from year groups UF to GR (Year 10 –13) as well as the amazing Grecian Band, with Mr Tichener at the helm and Mr Thompson on keys for the musical numbers, in what proved to be another successful collaboration between the drama and music departments. There was also a DG (Year 12) tech crew involved in filming the scenes, under the expert guidance of our theatre technician Paul Knott.

The project was named *A Year Like No Other* and was divided into four



sections based on the seasons, with the idea of a 'journey' through a whole year; spring signifying a time of new beginnings (new life, new love, etc) and winter bringing us full circle with the bittersweet musical number *Seasons of Love*.

The project was released to the CH community on video in the last week of term and was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Another example of how adapting to the circumstances can have amazingly positive results!



MUSIC NEWS

Whilst there have obviously been challenges, the Michaelmas Term has presented a great many opportunities for exciting music-making. As a department, we made the decision at the beginning of term to offer as much music as the restrictions allowed. The vast majority of individual instrumental and singing lessons have been taught in person, with some online. The necessity to operate in single year groups has meant the number of choirs, orchestras, bands and other ensembles has actually increased. There have been major ensembles for every year group, as well as a host of smaller groups, including, remarkably, twelve choirs rehearsing weekly! It has been wonderful to welcome our new Head of Singing, Miss Bramson, this term. She has certainly made her mark very quickly.

Although unable to put on concerts as we would normally, we have found innovative ways to share the pupils' talents and hard work. Mr Thompson (Assistant Director of Music) has produced several virtual offerings, from Informal Concerts to a Senior Music Scholars' Recital. Year group choirs have sung regularly in Chapel services, including major services such as for St Matthew's Day, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. Several of these choirs, including Grecians' Chapel Choir, Grecians' Gospel Choir, and the new Third Form Boys' Choir have produced videos, all available on the school website. The Grecians' Band Consort accompanied the only instance of marching we've been able to have this term, on St Matthew's Day, led by our ebullient new Band Director, Mr Carter. Grecians and Deps have recorded two Big Band tracks for Christmas, A



Christmas Love Song and *The Christmas Song*. These really are superb (again, available to hear on the website), and, at the risk of embarrassing him, I must thank Mr Titchener for arranging, recording, and producing these tracks, as well as coaching and inspiring such high-quality performances from the pupils.

We were delighted that our major concert this term, the School Concert, was able to take place in front of a live audience (albeit a small one made up only of staff and pupils). This featured our main ensembles as well as several soloists, the first half in Chapel with the Deps (Year 12), and the second half with the Grecians (Year 13) in Big School. It was a great treat to perform in

front of a live audience for the first time since March; our pupils really rose to the occasion. Music at Christ's Hospital remains as productive, imaginative, and rewarding as ever.

Mr P.A.J. Hodgkinson, Director of Music

It has been wonderful to see the Gospel Choir – at the moment made up solely of Grecians (Year 13) – perform in Chapel and at the School Concert this term. This impressive group is entirely pupil-led, with Esther (GR/Year 13) at the helm, her characteristic enthusiasm in abundance! Several members of the Gospel Choir made a recording of *O Holy Night*, which can be found on the school website.

Lucy (GR/Year 13), a member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and the Rodolfus Choir, has been involved in several virtual choir recordings, most recently pre-recording choruses with the Rodolfus Choir as part of a live-streamed performance of *Messiah* from St George's, Hannover Square, broadcast on YouTube.

www.therodolfusfoundation.org.uk/handel-messiah

Henry (DG/Year 12), Max (GR/Year 13), and Mutsuki (GR/Year 13) have continued attending their Saturday music schools (Guildhall and NYJO Academy), both online and, when conditions have allowed, in person. We were delighted to receive the news that, following her audition for an undergraduate place at the Royal Academy of Music, Mutsuki has been offered a scholarship, one of only a handful awarded each year.



INTRODUCING...



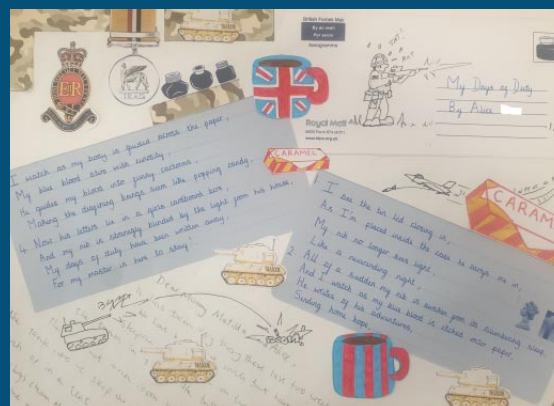
SPANISH NEWS



On World Values Day, pupils attending Spanish lessons paused to consider the values that are most important to us in the CH community and as individuals. Respeto, Generosidad, Igualdad, Justicia and Amabilidad were discussed and presented. Pupils took time to consider not only the values that really matter, but also the actions we take each day in order to live by the values we believe in. Pupils are enjoying developing their intercultural awareness and internationalism while learning Spanish!

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

National Poetry Day was in October and our Second Form (Year 7) wrote poems with the theme of 'vision'. There were two overall winners: Alice and Alfie. Well done both!



...our new Band Director and Head of Woodwind, Tim Carter!

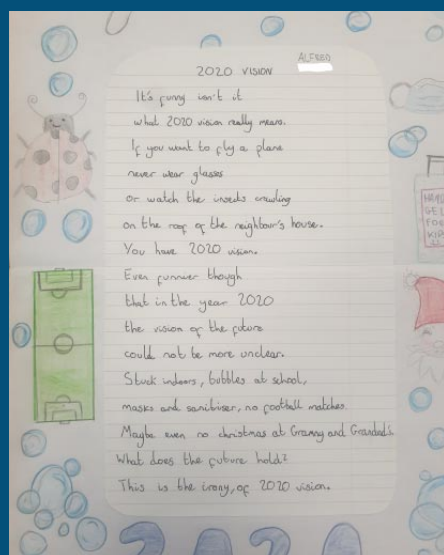
Tim began playing the violin at the age of six and his musical upbringing then continued through school orchestra and the county youth orchestra. He joined Her Majesty's Royal Marines School of Music aged 16 as a Saxophone and Violin player and was then drafted to the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marine Commandos.

In total, Tim spent 29 years with Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band Service, rising to the position of Bandmaster and serving in all the Royal Marines Bands based around the country. He has played and later conducted in some of the world's premier concert venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall and Barbican to name but three. He performed in many high-profile engagements such as royal weddings, the state funerals of Her Majesty the Queen Mother and Baroness Thatcher, and the London Olympics in 2012.

Tim's service also allowed him to continue his musical studies gaining a BMus (Hons), a Licentiate in Wind Band Direction from the Royal Schools of Music and an Associate in Music Analysis and Theory from Trinity College London.

In addition to music and his family, Tim's other passion is flying and he spends any free time he has bouncing around the skies in light aircraft building his logbook hours.

We are delighted to welcome Tim, along with his wife and two young sons, to Christ's Hospital!





POETRY TRANSLATION PRIZE

Continuing CH's remarkable string of successes in The Stephen Spender Prize – a national poetry translation competition sponsored by the Guardian – Hannah (UF/Year 10) has this year won the junior section with her version of a Tamil poem. There were over a thousand entries in the 14-and-under category this year, so this is an amazing achievement.

The judges agreed that Hannah's 'thoughtfully translated' poem *And Yet – Our Tamil Life* by Manushya Puthiran was a worthy winner of the 14-and-under category, and called Hannah's translation 'both funny and moving,' 'boisterous, charming' and 'a poem full of wisdom for our difficult times.'

Hannah received her prize at a virtual ceremony on 18 November. Her poem is published below and in the recent edition of *The Blue*, alongside some of the other entries by CH pupils this year. Hannah's is another triumph for the literary hotbed that is Leigh Hunt B, which now has two firsts, two seconds and two commended in this prestigious, annual competition in recent years!

Hannah described in the commentary that accompanied her entry how she liked the poem because it was so true to her experience of life in India. 'When we visit my family are constantly fixing things for my grandparents. As soon as we arrive, my dad puts together a long list of all the things that need fixing; inevitably, when we return, there is another list, yet we all get by just fine, even if the monsoon winds blow through the gaps in the wall.'

Hannah found the poem on a website, worked with her mum on any tricky Tamil words and then, in classic fashion, developed her literal version (what translators call a 'trot') into something more poetic, including for example the clever device of the repetition of 'And yet' in each stanza. 'One difficulty was making sure that the poem sounded funny in English yet kept the specific Tamil problems in the translation,' says Hannah.

The Stephen Spender Trust is a charity promoting literary translation and multilingualism through school workshops and the annual Stephen Spender Prize for poetry translation, organised in association with the Guardian. For more information, please go to:

www.stephen-spender.org

AND YET— OUR TAMIL LIFE by Manushya Puthiran

These doorbells -
Does it matter they don't ring?
And yet—
None of my visitors
Have gone without today's gossip.

The bathroom latch is broken, so what?
A year and a half has gone by.
And yet—
No one's privacy has been invaded,
No daydreams interrupted.

The chair may have a broken leg,
Its balance a little rocky.
And yet—
To the startled guest,
Not a hint of disrespect.

For more than a week now,
My car-brakes have been failing.
And yet—
God keeps watch on this city.
Still I return home,
In one full piece.

I suffer a pain in my belly,
But what can I do?
Nowadays it returns frequently.
And yet—
If I recline at a certain angle,
I can just about bear the pain.

Predicaments may be endless
In most parts of our life,
And yet—
Tamil life is plain sailing,
A thread without knots.

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

From 9-13 November, members of the CH Eco Rangers became Youth Ambassadors at the Youth Climate Summit, a week-long virtual festival, coordinated by environmental charity Global Action Plan, aiming to empower schools in tackling the climate emergency.

Pupils Max (DG/Year 12), Freddie (GR/Year 13) and Maddie (GE/Year 11) were among a select group of Youth Ambassadors represented on the panel and delivering talks. Other contributors included Greenpeace and WWF, among others.

Created in collaboration with teachers and young people, each day focused on a different theme, with morning, afternoon and after school sessions (film screenings and teacher CPD), as well as fringe activities provided by schools, youth-led organisations, community groups, NGOs, experts and thought leaders.

'I really enjoyed being a Youth Climate Ambassador because it gave me the opportunity to initiate ideas and learn more about eco issues which I'd never heard about before. I was also able to interview some really interesting professionals, including one of my favourite authors, Peter Wohlleben who wrote *The Hidden Life of Trees*! The event received over 7,000 live streams, some of which were broadcast to 30 children or more; overall it was a really rewarding and successful event.'

Max, DG (Year 12)



ECO-SCHOOLS BRONZE AWARD

This term, Christ's Hospital has officially achieved the Eco-Schools Bronze Award, thanks to the CH Eco Rangers, who have now got their sights firmly set on a Green Flag Award. Max (DG/Year 12) reports:

'Over the past year, the Eco Rangers have been working towards getting the Green Flag award. The bronze award is only the first step to us becoming an eco school! We are hoping to get the entire award finished by the end of this academic year.

What the award has involved so far is: proposing and carrying out eco actions, making the School body more aware of what we do, assessing the School on its sustainability within ten different topics (biodiversity, energy, global citizenship, healthy living, litter, marine, school grounds, transport, waste, water) and creating an eco board where we can display our findings. Some of the actions we have already made include getting reusable aluminium water bottles for every pupil, changing the lighting in Chapel to LED, the kilo sale held in Lent, offering healthy options in tuck shop, reviving the allotment and the virtual Eco Rangers' litter pick. Currently, we are collecting sets of data about food waste, energy and paper usage to display on the Eco Board.

Our next steps are to create an eco policy for the School in conjunction with the SLT. After being assessed for the award (and hopefully earning it) we will carry on at the same pace, with new actions to spark hope and raise awareness among the School community. Working towards the Green Flag has given the Eco Rangers real purpose!

The Eco Rangers group is open to all pupils and staff and is also keen to involve parents and the wider community. If you are interested in taking part, please email Mr Hawkins on: cgh@christs-hospital.org.uk

CH THEATRE 45th ANNIVERSARY

This December 2020 marks the 45th Anniversary of the official opening of Christ's Hospital's theatre. During the cold winter of 1975, the School welcomed HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, for the long-awaited opening of the Christ's Hospital Arts Centre. The occasion was held within the brand new theatre, where she presented awards to the architect and builders, whilst also unveiling a plaque to commemorate the event.

ARCHITECTURE

The original architectural structure was not only pioneering and innovative at the time, but also created by an award-winning architect, Professor William Howell.

The building itself won the South East Region RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) prize and came 4th in the national competition, pushing the boundaries from classically designed theatres of the time. It enhanced and developed the ideas of flexibility of space. The CH theatre design actually pre-dates the development of similar architectural layouts in professional spaces such as The National Theatre and at Stratford-Upon-Avon.

The Arts Centre was also commended for fitting well into the surrounding Edwardian buildings by the intelligent relationship to the geometry of the original designs of Sir Aston Webb (the architect of the Horsham site), specifically the octagonal turrets.

CH DRAMA BEFORE 1975

Drama was, and is, a popular activity at the School, and a staple of the CH community. Prior to the development of the theatre, the pupils and staff would put on performances in locations such as Big School, Chapel and the Boarding Houses.

This love for theatre also extended to the girls at Hertford (until 1985). For example, they regularly performed the story of the history of CH, re-enacting the key events after Edward VI founded the London school.

PERFORMANCES SINCE 1975

The first major production performed in the new theatre was Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, a whole school play to celebrate the new building. The theatre would become no stranger to the works of William Shakespeare as his plays were enjoyed throughout the years, including classics such as *Romeo and Juliet* in 2015. Most famously though was the production of *Twelfth Night* in 1978, by the Royal Shakespeare Company, joined by none other than a young



Oil pastel of theatre by Rosemarie Cockayne, 1974

Ian McKellen (see photo of programme signed by him below.)

Originally designed as an Arts Centre, there has been a multiplicity of uses since it opened. There have been artists-in-residence and exhibitions, one artist of note being the prima ballerina Rosemarie Cockayne. In 1976 she led dance workshops with the pupils. She also used this time to create a body of artworks inspired by the boys in their theatrical environment.

Many big names have graced the CH theatre over the years, including Sir Tim Rice, Roger Allam (an Old Blue) and Michael Morigo. More recently, the theatre has been host to the comedy circuit with performances from famous stand-ups such as Jack Whitehall, Michael McIntyre and Russell Howard.



FUTURE OF THE THEATRE

The year 2020 has seen the refurbishment of the award-winning theatre to update the space for today's audiences. The 'betterment project' has sought to enhance the building's performance use, for the pupils' benefit, and aesthetic for the audiences.

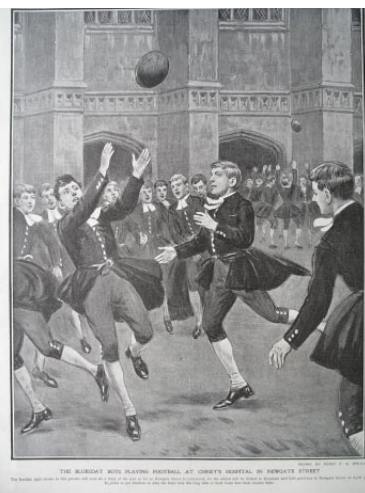
Developments include a new foyer and the redecoration of the auditorium.

In addition to this, the project has pushed forward the environmental endeavour of the School by adding major energy saving, and waste reducing elements. These include introducing LED lighting, and new toilet facilities estimated to save around 100,000 litres of water per year.

The CH theatre really looks forward to welcoming back its supportive audiences, as soon as allowed! They will be sending out information on social media, whilst also contacting all those on their mailing list when the new programme is released in 2021.



HOUSEY FOOTBALL



The earliest known reference to football in the CH archives was in 1725, where 'Playing at Football' was described as one of the Great Mischiefs and inconveniences that daily arise! Football was banned and there is no further record of football being played at CH until the early 1860s, when 'Housey Football' emerged.

'Housey Football' was a game unique to CH

from the 1860s until 1902 when the School made the transition from Newgate Street to the open spaces of Sussex. One of its unique features was the fact that it was played on asphalt, within the Newgate Street site, on what was called the 'Hall Play' in front of the Great Hall.

Housey Football was played with a round ball and shared some similarities with both Association and Rugby Football. Carrying was permitted but goals were scored by kicking (including 'punting') the ball through an archway at one end or against a door at the other. There were not many rules, but rugby style tackling was permitted by 'collaring' and long mauls called 'scrimmages' were a feature. 'Collaring' had to be 'high' not 'low' because of the dangers inherent in the matches being played on asphalt, which were ingrained on the memories of participants and are vividly recalled in many Old Blue Memoirs.

At any one time, there might be several informal Housey Football matches being played within Wards using the same pitch and goals. The boys wore their normal CH uniform with the coat being tucked into a bundle in their girdles. In addition, formal matches between Wards were played before breakfast, when jerseys were substituted for coats.

From at least 1870, CH also played matches against other schools on grass fields, based mainly on Rugby Football (which was codified on the formation of the RFU in 1871) and occasionally on Association Football.

When CH moved to Horsham in 1902, Houses played rugby union on the plentiful grass fields and the unique game of Housey Football ceased forever.

A full description of Housey Football, written by Mike Barford, has recently been included in a book about the early public school football codes, called *Puddings, Bullies and Squashes*, available from Amazon.



SUPER SATURDAY



It was wonderful to see pupils' enthusiasm and engagement in this term's Super Saturday sporting events.

With the loss of sporting fixtures, pupils were missing out on representing the School and wearing the CH crest with pride whilst competing against other schools. The series of Super Saturday events was designed to give pupils the opportunity to take part in competitive sporting activities and represent their house. House blocks competed against each other in a myriad of sports, with each competition awarding a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal to the top three placed Houses. Although there was a competitive edge to the events, the CH SPORT values were threaded throughout the competitions, with extra points awarded for teams who consistently showed these values.

As well as traditional team sports, there were a variety of activities on offer, ranging from old favourites such as hockey, netball, rugby and football, to water polo, fives, squash and fitness challenges. The Christmas edition of Super Saturday featured a Santa Skip down the Avenue, and who can forget the three dinosaurs who participated in the 'Reindeer Run'? Next year, surely, we will have to include the 'Dinosaur Dash'!

The winners for all Super Saturdays were:

Girls Golds & overall medals:

Barnes with 18 Golds and 40 medals in all

Boys Golds: **Middleton** with 17 Golds

Boys overall medals: **Peele** with 42 medals in all



GIVING TUESDAY

On 1 December, CH once again took part in Giving Tuesday, the international day of giving. Donations supported our Bright Futures campaign, to raise £1.5 million by September 2021 to create 18 bursary places for disadvantaged children.

Thanks to the generosity of the CH community, the day was a huge success. Over £57,000 was raised by over 330 parents, Old Blues and other friends, with more gifts still coming in. The total was helped by four amazing Old Blues (alumni) who joined forces to offer a Challenge Fund of £13,000 to increase the impact of donations. Parents, Old Blues and other friends of CH wholeheartedly took on these challenges, with the whole of the fund being released by the end of the day.

Thank you to everyone who supported CH for Giving Tuesday. Your support is vital for CH to offer life-changing opportunities to young people, regardless of their social or financial background. To find out how you can support CH, visit:

www.christs-hospital.org.uk/support-us/



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY ACTION



Two members of the Community Action team, Deputy Grecian (Year 12) pupils Samantha and Georgie, were worried about the local care homes missing out on visits this term because of Covid-19, so they came up with the lovely idea of making a short performance to be recorded and distributed to the care homes we normally visit.

'Georgie and I wanted to give back to the community and we thought, what better way to do that than to create a festive video? If we couldn't be there in person, we wanted to be there in spirit. The short film contains little clips of various activities in the school such as the choir singing, excerpts from the upcoming virtual school production, and so much more! We were both deeply saddened by the fact that community action couldn't take place due to the Coronavirus, so with the help of Ms Hodgkinson we were able to stay connected to others through the wonderful world of technology.'



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A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

PROUDLY
RECOMMENDED FOR
SOCIAL MOBILITY
ADVANCEMENT
2019



Address:
Telephone:
Email:
Website:

Christ's Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0LJ
01403 246 555
hello@christs-hospital.org.uk
www.christs-hospital.org.uk