

SIMON REID, HEAD TEACHER

Summer term has seen the School undergoing some significant changes; the transformation from classroom to remote digital teaching would normally have taken place over months, possibly years; CH teachers managed it in a few weeks, which is a remarkable achievement.

It is important to also acknowledge the significant difficulties our pupils and their parents have faced in adjusting to remote learning in these circumstances. It is heartening to see how well they have faced these day-in-day-out challenges, often with really successful results.

Unusual times call for extraordinary measures and, for the first time in the history of Christ's Hospital, we have been forced to hold a whole host of events in a virtual format. Open Day, Steeplechase, House Athletics, Grecian and GCSE Art Exhibitions, Concerts and of course Speech Day. For this latter celebration,

as always, there was a Chapel Service, speeches and prize-giving ceremony; the difference being that on this occasion, it was all captured digitally.

For those of our pupils returning, in so many respects the School will be the same; however, in order to protect everyone as carefully as possible, there will of course be changes. I would like to thank all those pupils who will not be returning for all that they have contributed to the School in their time here. It is incredibly sad that our leaving Grecians were not able to be here for their final term – however, I do hope they will be able to return, as soon as humanly possible, for the Leaving Service.

Good luck to our leaving Grecians as they set out on the first stage of their journey beyond CH.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the School through one of its most challenging terms and I look forward to welcoming all non-leavers back to the School in the new academic year.



HIGHLIGHTS



DT FACEMASKS - P2



EXAM RESULTS - P5



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS - P3

DT TO THE RESCUE

Throughout March and April, Covid-19 had an increasing impact on the nation, with CH sending our pupils home at the end of the Lent term. Headlines in the news highlighted the strain Covid-19 was having on the NHS and other care providers and the alarming lack of PPE. In answer to this chronic shortage of PPE, staff in our Design Technology Department created a face shield design and started making face shields in small batches; they were subsequently inundated with requests from doctors' surgeries, care homes and hospitals, after putting out a post on social media.

'We in the design technology department at Christ's Hospital have been following the PPE story very closely; there are daily articles about how health care providers do not have enough and in some cases none at all," said Rebecca Watson, DT Teacher at CH. "The school's existing PPE, such as disposable rubber gloves and masks, have been willingly donated to St Catherine's Hospice. At a time like this, people want to be helpful and be part of something positive for the cause."

'Our response was to utilise our skills as makers and put to good use the materials and processes we have available to us in the department. Through a fantastic display of cooperative design and teamwork, using inspiration from what other design technology departments have done, we created our own prototype. Our prototype uses thermoformed three millimetre acrylic, pop riveted together. With a clear PVC shield pop riveted to the front, made secure around the users head with elastic. I'm very proud to be part of a department and school who can help the local community.'







The first batch of face shields was delivered to East Lake Care Home in Godalming and was received very gratefully. Our DT department produced 454 face shields in total, and fulfilled 44 requests received from local health care workers. Recipients of the face shields have included Chestnut Tree House, St Barnabus House and the Intensive Care Unit at Royal Surrey, among many others, as well as Croydon Hospital Maternity Unit where our Senior Grecian Andre Da Silva-Jenkins's mother works. One batch was also donated to a GP practice in Brighton, at the request of an Old Blue who is a GP there.

With the crisis of COVID-19 at present, we feel totally blessed to be able to be a part of your supply chain of these shields,' said Kate Wyatt, from Anchorage Care Home in Pulborough. 'Our staff have been highly trained in the use of PPE and feel very reassured, as do our residents that we have this equipment to use. It's so lovely to have this community spirit to keep us all going during these difficult times.'

The School has also provided extra support, in the form of food vouchers, to the families of pupils who receive 100% bursaries and are particularly struggling during these difficult times. The amount of support for these families came to around £25,000 in food vouchers for the Summer term alone. A parent commented to say: 'So pleased to get this as every little helps. God bless you.'

'AT HOME' PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITIONS



Best in Show 'Light Reflected, Refracted, Removed': Ellen Warner (GE/Year 11)

The Art School initiated a series of photography competitions over Summer term whilst pupils were at home for lockdown. The competitions were open to all pupils; there were guest judges as well as prizes for all the winners, of which there were four each week: Junior, Intermediate, Senior and a Best in Show, with all the images being shown on the school website.

The first theme was 'Recreate a Famous Work of Art'. The pupils were asked to choose a famous work of art and recreate it however they could, using family members and any props they could find to depict their chosen artwork. Other themes included 'Light: Reflected, Refracted, Removed', 'Secret Selfie' and 'Food, Glorious Food'.

Art School received many complimentary comments about the standard of photographs and so decided to exhibit a selection of them around the School in the new academic year!



Best in Show 'Secret Selfie': Tai'bat Owosho (03/Year 8)



Best in Show: Constance Haigh's (DG/Year 12) recreation of 'The Milkmaid' by Johannes Vermeer.



Best in Show 'Food Glorious Food': Timur Dorokhov (UF/Year 10)

Young Artists' Summer Show

Sarah Roberts (GE/Year 11) and Jason Yip (GR/Year 13) have had a piece of their art work selected by the Royal Academy to be exhibited in the Young Artists' Summer Show.

The Young Artists'
Summer Show is a
free, open submission
exhibition for young
people aged 5 – 19
years, taking place
both online and onsite at the Royal
Academy of Arts, to
recognise talented
young artists.

This year's judging panel received over 17,700 submissions – and whittled it down to 392 works, ranging from drawing, painting and photography, to video and sculpture. Members of the public are able to vote for their favourite artwork in the People's Choice Awards.

The whole exhibition can be seen at:

www.youngartists.roya lacademy.org.uk



''Fragments' by Sarah Roberts.



'Oblique Tears in the Rain' by Jason Yip.

POETRY BY HEART SUCCESS!



Christ's Hospital's record of success in the national Poetry By Heart competition continued when Chara Banwell (GE/Year 11) was declared the winner of the West Sussex competition in the KS4 category.

Chara's victory was all the more remarkable since, after winning the School competition, Chara learned her entry would have been invalid owing to a technicality. She learned a third poem in just 24 hours and still came out on top in the county contest. The judges commented favourably, mentioning 'a wonderful rich timbre to the voice' which made her recitation of 'A Blockhead' compelling, while in 'A Martian Sends a Postcard Home' they said 'Chara conveyed a strong sense of the curiosity and strangeness at the centre of the poem.

Our senior entry, Andrew McLeod (DG/Year 12), was commended in the KS5 contest in spite of also having transgressed by learning two nineteenth century poems, including 'Kubla Khan' by Christ's Hospital's very own poet in ghostly residence Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The judges described Andrew's performances as 'two recitations which would not look out of place as finalists' videos on Poetry By Heart's website. 'Both were reflective of thoughtful, well considered engagement and avoided spurious drama in an understated delivery that was attentive to sense and musicality.'

We are already looking forward to 2021 when these two will go head to head with the ultimate aim of emulating pupil Indigo, who brought the national PBH trophy back to CH in 2017.

POETRY TRANSLATION COMPETITION

Lockdown notwithstanding, senior CH pupils were able to travel the world of languages when the senior poetry translation competition was (virtually) adjudicated in a seminar held on the Teams platform.

The field was very strong. Brilliant translations from school languages (Latin, French, Spanish and German) were complemented by equally brilliant renderings of poems from Latvian, Nepali and Esperanto. Our adjudicator, Rahul Bery – translator in residence at the British Library – had his work cut out.

'When I read these translations I immediately feared for my career!' he said. 'Luckily none of you are translating from Portuguese – yet. I particularly admired the range of the entries. Some were very much translations, some were versions. In many cases the commentaries were crucial in my understanding of what the translator was doing.' This last comment particularly applied to Stuti Adikhari, who was runner up with her rendering of a Nepali poem 'Sanai Hurima' by Bhupi Sherchan.

Rahul's choice as winner, however, was Amber Dansoh, for her fluid and experimental rendering of a section from Ovid's 'Metamorphoses' called 'The House of Rumour'. Rahul liked the way the theme of the poem 'dictated the shape of the response – the idea of the rumours layering over each other with visual effect.' Amber (whose entry is printed below) thus becomes this year's winner of the Christopher Nicholson Award.

The House of Rumour (Ovid, Metamorphoses, Book 12, lines 39-63)

There is a place in the middle of the earth, between the bounds of land and sea and high air, the treble confines of the universe,

Somewhere that notices everything, however far away, and every voice finds listening ears,

Rumour chooses a kingdom, a domain for herself on a peak, her abode has innumerable approaches and a thousand more openings And no thresholds are closed,

It is open, night and day, the whole place is made of chanting bronze, It all growls and coaxes, and relays what is heard reinvigorated, No rest within and no silent haven, Yet nor is there shouting, but petty, murmuring of sound,



Like the waves of the deep which you might just catch from far away, Like the moans when Jupiter rustled murky clouds and the furthest thunder peals,

The hall harbours a myriad, they come and go, a volatile mob.
A thousand rumours muddled with truth flit,
A thousand hums addled with chatter

A thousand hums addled with chatter are mulled over,

From whoever sates famished ears with conversation
The tale is borne elsewhere, and each teller adds something new, the girth of fiction grows...

There is credulity, there is thoughtless Error, deceptive joy, and perplexed dread

New strife, and whispering of dubious root,

She herself surveys the conduct of the sky and the sea and the earth she probes the entire world.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

71% of the pupils gained 36 points or more out of maximum of 45 and 25% of all grades awarded were Level 7s. Over two thirds of all grades achieved by the cohort were Level 6 or above. Over half of the cohort of 28 pupils gained 38 points or more and the average points achieved by the IB cohort was 37.4 points out of 45, or 221 UCAS points (equivalent to A*, A*, A*, A at A2-Level).

Huge congratulations go to all students for this impressive set of results; the following are particularly notable:

Lottie Field, 44 points (Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Oxford)

Juliet Webber, 42 points (English Literature and Language, Oxford)

Helena Thornton, 42 points (Psychology, Bristol) Lu Li, 41 points (Medicine, University of Central Lancashire)

Aaron Aguma, 41 points (Classics, Oxford)

Lilith Weingarten, 40 points (Health, Science and Society, Edinburgh)

Martha Sharp, 40 points (German and Arabic, Oxford) Lucia Walsh, 39 points (Japanese, Durham) Yasmina Mohamed, 39 points (Law, Warwick) Gabrielle Felix, 39 points (Law and Spanish, Bristol)

Overall, nine of our pupils have secured places at Oxford or Cambridge and a further five pupils have secured places to study Medicine. Out of the 121 pupils who chose to make an application through UCAS this year, 80% were able to take up either their first choice or insurance offer.

A LEVEL

Overall almost 19% of all Pre-U and A Level grades achieved were equivalent to an A* with over half the grades awarded being an Aor A* grade. Almost 80% of grades achieved being A*-B. Out of a cohort of near 100 pupils, 165 of the grades awarded were equivalent to an A grade. 27 Pupils achieved a minimum of one A* and more than a third of all the pupils were awarded a minimum of AAA or higher. The average UCAS points achieved by the cohort was 135, which is marginally short of an average attainment of AAB. There were some notable individual achievements and huge congratulations go to these students:

Alex Wang A*, A*, A*, A* (Computer Science, Cambridge) Ellen Farrelly A*, A*, A*, A* (Mathematics, Warwick)
Herman Wong with A*, A*, A*, A* (Physics, Imperial)
Andy Lau with A*, A*, A*, A (Economics, Warwick)
Laurence Maddalena A*, A*, A, A (Engineering, Exeter) George Sanger D1, A*, A, A (Architecture, UCL)

Holly Maclean A*, A, A, D3 (Philosophy and Psychology, Edinburgh)

Louis Medlock A*, A, A, B (Material Science and Engineering, Birmingham)

Rose Chisholm A*, A*, A* (Community, Public Affairs and Policy Studies, Concordia Montreal)

Amber Marshall-Porter A*, A*, A* (Spanish and Linguistics, Edinburgh)

Risa Mashimo A*, A*, A* (Biochemistry, Lancaster) Sachin Porter A*, A*, A* (Economics and Management,

Samuel Odu D1, A*, A (Human, Social and Political Sciences, Cambridge)

Andre Da Silva-Jenkins A*, A*, A (Politics and International Relations, UCL)

Eva Zhang A*, A*, A (Economics, UCL) Solomon Woodall A*, A*, A (Mathematics, Birmingham) Lucy Liu A*, A*, A (Medicine, Birmingham) Vedika Rastogi A*, A*, A (Classics, UCL)

Congratulations to the following pupils on achieving the very impressive D1 grade within their subjects: Samuel Odu in Pre-U Theology and Philosophy; George Sanger, Caitlin Wong and Leila Drew who achieved their D1s in Pre-U Art.

GCSE

Of all the grades awarded, 42% were either Level 8 or 9 (equivalent to an A*), with two thirds of all grades being awarded as Level 7 or above. Out of the 42% Level 8-9 grades 20% were awarded at the top grade of Level 9. 44 pupils achieved 10 or more grades at Level 7 (A grade) or above out of a cohort of 146. 32 pupils achieved at least 8 grades at Level 8 or higher (A* grades) but there were some great individual performances at the very top end:

Moyin Sina-Atanda, 11 Level 9 grades. Sarah Roberts, 10 Level 9 grades.

Naomi Ololuo ,10 Level 9 grades.

Ellen Warner, 8 Level 9 grades, 1 Level 8 and an A* grade. Mercy Laditi, 8 Level 9 grades, 2 Level 8 grades.

Aimee-Chance Jay, 9 Level 9 grades, 1 A* and 1 A grade. Sara Wan, 9 Level 9 grades, 1 Level 8, 1 A* and 1 A grade. Stephanie Read, 8 Level 9 grades, 1 Level 8 grades and 1 Level 7 grades.

Bebe Khamphachart-Baxter, 8 Level 9 grades, 1 Level 8, 1 A

grade and 1 A* grade.
Max Hughes, 10 Level 9 grades and 1 B grade.

Adam Beddall, 6 Level 9 grades, 4 Level 8 grades. John Sergeant, 6 Level 9 grades, 4 Level 8 grades and an A* grade.

Victor Sesay, 7 Level 9 grades, 4 Level 8 grades. Matthew Harvey Gay, 8 Level 9 grades, 3 Level 8 grades and 1 Level 7.

BRIGHT FUTURES AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

In September 2019, CH launched the Bright Futures campaign, to raise £1.5 million by September 2021 to support 18 bursary places at the School. The previous year, 17 bright children with significant need could not be offered a free place at CH due to insufficient bursary funds. Without a CH education, these children risk a waste of talent and potential; this is particularly the case for those with challenging home lives where a boarding place would have provided stability and nurture.

The devastating effects of Covid-19 have raised the urgency of our Bright Futures campaign, with the lowest paid being disproportionately affected and more families requiring CH's help. The most disadvantaged children have had their education disrupted and life chances reduced. CH must respond and support those children who are most in need.

Parents of CH pupils know better than anyone how a CH education can transform the lives of young people, developing their confidence, resilience and determination to succeed. So, it's of no surprise that many current parents have already chosen to support the Bright Futures campaign. By contributing to this appeal, you are opening the door to bright futures for more young people at CH, so they can experience the same opportunities that your own children are having at the School.

Many parents give a regular donation to CH, ranging from £5 to £50 a month, and we've also seen the Grecians already choosing to support the School by giving a gift of £1 or £2 a month. In addition to this, some parents who were able to pay full fees in the

Summer term chose to do so, with the extra being donated to the School. It's amazing to see so many examples of generosity and commitment to the CH ethos by both parents and pupils. By joining forces, donations of all sizes are making a huge difference. It is only with the full support of the CH community that we can continue to help young people achieve their potential at CH.

We're extremely grateful to every parent, pupil, Old Blue, and other friend of CH who has chosen to support the Bright Futures campaign, especially during these uncertain times. Thanks to you, so far, we have raised over £450,000 for the Bright Futures campaign, with a further £300,000 pledged. This is incredible – thank you. We're looking forward to seeing what the CH community will accomplish in the next year of fundraising, as we get closer to our target. Together, we are helping young people achieve more than they ever thought possible.

If you would like more information about the Bright Futures campaign, please visit:

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

or email:

development@christs-hospital.org.uk

or call:

01403 246570



MUSIC NEWS

As this remarkable academic year reaches its conclusion, it is appropriate to reflect on things missed: two chamber music concerts, the summer Big Band Concert and Beating Retreat, Mr Whittingham's last; a choir tour to Venice; and so on. At the same time, we can celebrate all that was achieved in the Summer Term despite the unusual circumstances. Instrumental and vocal tuition continued online thanks to our team of Visiting Music Teachers, many of whom also put small ensembles together (quite a challenge to get things together with varying internet speeds across the world!) Mr Robert Thompson, our new Assistant Director of Music (Performance) & Head of Keyboard, proved a whizz at the computer keyboard as well as the piano, and produced a series of online concerts, including a performance of Bach's first prelude featuring a total of 35 pupils!

Mr Terry Whittingham arrived at Christ's Hospital in 1999 to take up the position of Bandmaster. In his time here, he has filled many roles alongside that, including a long stint as a Housemaster (Maine B and Grecians East), an academic teacher up to A Level, and Head of Football. The extensive list of concerts, tours, City parades, Beating Retreats, major sporting events, and television appearances (including a badgewinning Blue Peter performance) is truly remarkable. Perhaps even more remarkable are the high standards and levels of commitment, loyalty and enthusiasm that Mr Whittingham has engendered from the band on a daily basis, be it for a high-profile event or simply a lunch parade on a drizzly Wednesday in February.

For over two decades, Mr Whittingham has led that group – the jewel in the CH crown – with rigour, unwavering commitment, high musical standards, and humour. The results speak for themselves. He and his family will be dearly missed from the CH community, and we wish them a long and happy retirement.





THURSDAY LUNCH WITH MS MUNDAY

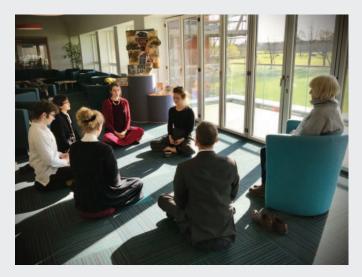


During lockdown, Ms Munday started her online Thursday Lunch cook-along; everyone was sent a vegetarian recipe every week in time for them to get the ingredients in, then joined together over Microsoft Teams at 1.15 pm on a Thursday and cooked up a storm together in the kitchen!

Recipes were always easily adaptable and pupils regularly asked questions about swapping ingredients for things that they had in, or things they preferred.

The group made all sorts, from homemade pesto and homemade garlic bread, to haloumi, avocado and hummus salad and finished on Mexican fajitas! We would like to think that parents enjoyed having a meal cooked for them as much as our pupils enjoyed cooking it!

MINDFUL MOMENTS



Mindful Moments is a small group of staff and pupils who usually meet at break times in the library for a guided, 10-minute mindfulness meditation three times a week. Mindfulness meditation has been scientifically proven to help reduce stress, improve focus and even to help you sleep better.

When the School made the quick shift to Microsoft Teams for lockdown, the group went online and slowly the mindfulness community started to grow. Every morning, Ms Munday posted a Thought of the Day and the group continued to meditate together three times a week and share positive photos, thoughts, music and articles. As Summer term ended, the group had grown to 68!

Mrs Davey (above) and Mrs Hennock (below).



YOUTH ECO FORUM

Some of the CH Eco Rangers have become part of a core group, initiated by Sussex Green Living, to set up a new Youth Eco Forum for pupils of schools local to the Horsham area, aged 11+.

The aim of the group is to allow conversations to happen between eco groups of local schools, in order to share ideas and information about how we, in and out of school, can better our environment.

The group meet every Tuesday evening, virtually, and is currently deciding its trajectory for the foreseeable future, and what they might like to focus on as a youth based eco group.

JUNIOR DEBATING

Junior debating went online in the Summer term, with over twenty junior pupils enjoying debating subjects ranging from sexism in elite sport, to whether violence can ever be justified.

We rounded things off in style with two very successful balloon debates, which saw characters as diverse as Malala, Jeff Bezos and Chairman Mao pitted against Khrushchev, Gandhi and a four year old child.

We look forward to debating in person again, but the online experience has been fun and we hope to be able to use it in future for some inter-school debates.

FAREWELL...

- At the end of the Summer term, we bid a sad farewell to Mrs Julie Davey, who has been House Parent in Coleridge A for a staggering 21 years and is one of the longest serving members of staff in this role ever. Mrs Davey came to CH in 1992 and was a tutor in Barnes B for eight years before taking over as House Parent at Col A. She will be sorely missed by colleagues, pupils and their parents alike. We wish all the best to Mrs Davey with her retirement plans; and to Mrs Russell with taking over as House Parent in Col A.
- Also leaving us for pastures new is Mrs Paula McGowan, who has been with us as Science Technician since 1991. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication over the last 29 years and wish her the best of luck with her future plans; she will be dearly missed.
- We bid goodbye also to Mrs Chris Hennock, who has been a leading member of the Mathematics department since 1996. She has taught some of our finest further mathematicians over the years, while also being school Timetabler from 2013 onwards and in overall charge of Public Examination from 2011. She is known for her forensic eye for detail, which has served her and the School extremely well over the last 24 years. Thank you Mrs Hennock!

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS SUMMER TERM 2020

Despite the strange and challenging times that enveloped the summer term, it was most impressive to see how the CH pupils managed to stay engaged in sport and physical activities. There was a host of activities to try out, from weekly cricket, hockey and rugby coaching sessions recorded and sent, to daily workout routines led remotely by the PE Department – not quite Joe Wicks, but not far off!!

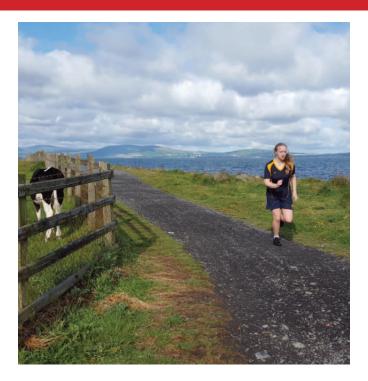
Many pupils engaged in the Virtual House Athletics and it was great to see the video clips coming in of their performances. Staying with the theme of athletics, it was fantastic to see so many pupils participating in the Virtual Sussex Independent Schools Diamond League. In this competition there were outstanding performances from: Oseobulu Ebosele-Park (02/Year 7) – seven different event medals, Sean-Nicholas Anyanwu (LE/Year 9) – gold in 300m and 800m, Tai'bat Owosho (03/Year 8) – three event medals, Amelia Blamphin (GR/Year 13) – two event medals, Ringo Yau (GE/Year 11) – gold in two events and Grace Murray (02/Year 7) – two event medals.



The sports challenge classic TV show of the 70s and 80s 'Superstars' was recreated, with pupils invited to enter weekly sports and physical activity challenges. A special mention to Emily Dann (03/Year 8) who was placed in the top three every week! The following pupils are also worthy of a mention for either being regular participants, or achieving a top three finish:

Noah Gibson-Brown (02/Year 7), Nathan Nakanda, Mariam Olusanya, Raffy Murton, Tomini Ilepe, Banji Omosini, Titilayo Sholaja, Samuel Amoabeng, Jiwon Samson, Anthony Dowling and Daniel Adeniyi (all 03/Year 8).

There were some fantastic performances in the remote Duathlon – great to see parents and staff also getting involved – with the top pupil performers being Raffy Murton (03/Year 8), David Maloney (GE/Year 11) and Max Moorcroft (GE/Year 11).



This sports report could not conclude without mention of the Remote Steeplechase which took place this term. This event epitomised the community spirit within CH, with over 53% of the School participating and, in doing so, running a staggering total of 1,525.66 km – that is over 1.5 million metres! Peele A ran 134 km, Leigh Hunt A ran 112.03 km, 41 staff ran 127.67 km between them and the furthest individual distance covered by a pupil was 5.4 km by Gus Freeman (DG/Year 12).

Thanks to all the staff who have helped to keep the pupils active and well done again to the pupils for engaging so readily in the CH Sport@Home programme!



THE CH ALLOTMENT

Christ's Hospital has a rich history of growing its own vegetables. Initially, this was done from the original estate home farm (now Bluecoat Pond) and this progressed on to support the war effort in World War 2, when Little Side was transformed into a huge working vegetable patch to grow food for the School and local community (see image below). The School allotment was recently started up again to give the CH community living on site a chance to try gardening and give them a hobby to start in lockdown!

We started working on the allotment in March, when the School was closed. At the time, it only had two beds and a lot of weeds. Then, some very passionate gardeners came and dug, planted and did a lot of weeding to transform the allotment into what it is today.

The local garden centre was kind enough to donate free compost and seeds for us to start the allotment up. We have since grown lots of plants in the allotment, including a sea of over 200 tomato plants, eight pepper plants, lots of potatoes, peas, beans, corn, cucumbers, broccoli (which the birds enjoyed) to name but a few! We planted two wildflower patches too, which the bees and butterflies are very much enjoying.

We have also invested in some water collection for the allotment, including four water butts and two water tanks.

The hope is that there will be a gardening active moving forwards to allow pupils and teachers to enjoy the outdoors and experience nature while helping the eco-system and trying home grown food.

Fingers crossed!

Written by Ela Allcorn (02/Year 7) and Annabel Pulvermacher (LE/Year 9)











NEWS FROM CH MUSEUM - A MUSEUM LIKE NO OTHER!



Sir Francis Grant

Lockdown... it's been a quiet period for many, with the beautiful summer weather lending itself to long walks in nature and catching up on books and box sets. Not so for the museum! In the autumn, we began a long overdue process of an ambitious refurbishment, with the aim to showcase artefacts and stories of CH never included before. To name but a few, new displays will include both World Wars, themes of

diversity and inclusion, environmental and global, CH train station history and a whole lot more of the girls' history at CH, hitherto overlooked.

It is inevitable with any refurbishment that the old has to be removed, to make way for the new. This has certainly been the case for the museum, therefore we have taken down many old displays – a somewhat unsettling process – but with a view to retelling the stories afresh once the galleries and stores have been renovated. Lockdown for the museum has meant that we have had time to do this – not always possible when we are giving tours to our usual 2000 visitors (and rising) every year.

Research has been a major part of the museum lockdown activities. By way of a taster of the excellent things to come, we have been nosing into the nine huge tomes that are the Hertford Archives. These were carefully hand written by each Head Girl every term, beginning from 1897 right up

until 1985 when the girls finally joined the boys here at Horsham just imagine the changes during that time! In addition, stories from the World Wars for new displays have been investigated, and random papers and letters in the collection have been explored. We have also been researching the CH medical history



and the epidemics and lockdowns of yesteryear. And, like most of us when we tidy out a long forgotten cupboard at home, there have been oh so many wonderful discoveries!

As well as copious research, to prepare for refurbishment to our main store, we have been diligently boxing up all our precious books and loose items, and have moved a lot of artefacts ourselves. Contrary to popular opinion, curatorial work can also be very physical! Temporary shelving has been installed for all of our costume collection, manuscripts, photographs and other artefacts to be moved into a now empty gallery. It has been a mammoth task, not least as we have had to secure UV blinds in the temporary storeroom, and consider light, humidity and heat levels. Although very much a work in progress, especially for three part-time professional staff (we collectively equate to 1.5 full timers), it is nevertheless an incredibly exciting and rewarding one.



As usual, the museum collection continues to increase, with some interesting recent additions. For instance, three watercolour paintings of CH views, commissioned by a parent because they so missed their child whilst he was here, including an unusual view of the Garden Quad. And an amusing cartoon print of Sir Francis Grant from the historic journal, Vanity Fair as number 21 of the 'Men of the Day' sequence. The accolade that qualified this print in 1871 reads, 'He delights in those two best products of England, beautiful women and beautiful horses' – so, how does this relate to CH? Well, Sir Francis Grant was the artist commissioned to paint Queen Victoria sat upon her rearing horse, and Prince Albert, who hang either side of the Verrio painting in Dining Hall!

As we research and plan the new galleries, we are now inviting suggestions from you on how you would like your museum to be presented. How would you like it to look and feel? Are there any themes or topics relating to CH history that you would like to see? Any ideas that you have should be emailed to:

CHMuseum@christs-hospital.org.uk

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!



Garden Quad painted by Peter Daughtrey, 1980

LOCKDOWN - WE WANT YOUR STORIES!

Daily life has changed as we know it and the lockdown is now firmly embedded in not just global history, but also in CH history. Therefore, CH Museum is seeking stories, memories, photos and films from our staff and pupils that evoke these surreal times. Be a part of our shared extraordinary history! Your thoughts on how you have experienced this can be amusing, ridiculous, thought-provoking or poignant, tales of creativity... we would like to collect it for the museum archives.

If you would like to share your stories, we will be pleased to accept anything from a few words, up to a paragraph or two on any one or a blend of the following ideas, in a digital format:

- What activities have you been doing that you wouldn't normally?
- How has lockdown made you feel?
- What's been great and what have you enjoyed about lockdown?
- What have you found difficult, and what do you miss?
- Have you been creative? Arty? Poetic? Gardening, cooking... the list is endless!
- Maybe you have photographs, film or audio recordings that you would be happy to share of activities or things you may have made as a result of lockdown?

How will the information and images that you send us, be used?

All submissions will be saved either hard copy or digitally in the CH Archives (depending on their format). In the future, we may use them for displays, printed materials and exhibitions. Before you send us anything, please ensure you are happy for us to use this publicly in the future. Once submitted, CH Museum will assume that you are in agreement with this.

How should you submit this information?

Due to space and staff restrictions, we cannot accept any hard copies until the situation has eased, so please send your lockdown activities to us digitally – either in a Word document, or embedded in an email, and any appropriate images attached ideally in a jpeg or accessible media format.

In the subject title, please write 'Submission for Tales of CH Lockdown.'

Send to: CHMuseum@christs-hospital.org.uk

Finally... Thank You for contributing to CH's long history!



