

# CH News



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

## SIMON REID, HEAD TEACHER

There has been much to celebrate this term: Christ's Hospital being named Independent School of the Year has been an obvious high point that the whole CH community has delighted in (more on page 2).

Another highlight has been marking the 350th anniversary of the Royal Mathematical School with a very special whole-school event at St Paul's Cathedral, which will undoubtedly remain in the memories of everyone who attended (more on page 3).

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the wonderful CH Theatre opening its doors. Created by award-winning architect Professor William Howell, the pioneering

and award-winning design pre-dates similar architectural layouts in the National Theatre and Stratford-upon-Avon. Many big names have graced the theatre over the years, and many of our students have gone on to have successful careers on stage and screen as well as in stage management, lighting and sound.

Our production of *Les Misérables* was a more than fitting celebration of the theatre's anniversary, being nothing short of a triumph. It is hard to believe that lead actor Dominic (DG/Year 12) had never performed in a stage production before taking on the role of Jean Valjean. Read the glowing review by the National School Theatre Awards on page 9.



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## HIGHLIGHTS



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# CHRIST'S HOSPITAL NAMED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR 2024

Christ's Hospital is extremely proud to have been awarded the prestigious title of Independent School of the Year 2024 by *Independent School Parent* magazine and the Telegraph Media Group. At the awards ceremony in London on 8 October 2024 the school also gained first place in the Performing Arts category.

Christ's Hospital was chosen by the judges to be the overall Independent School of The Year from amongst the winners of all the awards categories, standing out amongst 700 nominations from many of the most high-profile independent schools in the UK. The awards were chaired by Dr Helen Wright, international Education Adviser and past Vice Chair of the ISC, supported by a panel of judges which includes leading head teachers and representatives of the professional associations.

'To be the Independent School of the Year means representing some of the very best qualities of the sector and taking on the responsibility of leading the way in the tremendous work that is happening in the sector' the judges said. 'The Independent School of the Year Award goes to a school which embodies accessibility, sensitivity and responsiveness to pupil need, and an unremitting determination to offer to all the kind of education that every child deserves.'

Simon Reid, Head Teacher of Christ's Hospital, said:

'It brings real joy to see the hard work of everyone at the school acknowledged by the overall award for Independent School of the Year and, also, to be recognised for our work in performing arts. Our near 500-year-old mission is to provide a nurturing education to transform the lives of children – many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds. More than 75% of CH students are supported by our unique bursary programme – with an overall value of £23 million per year. Recognition like this award reaffirms our standing as one of the leading schools in the UK educational landscape – and an engine for social mobility'.



## Winner of the Performing Arts Category

Christ's Hospital was thrilled to have also been announced winner of the performing arts category at the Independent School of the Year Awards. 'The winner this year is a school which takes its pupils on a very special journey in the performing arts' the judges said. 'The majority of the pupils who join this school have had very limited prior experience of the performing arts, and this makes the wide take-up of, and success in, music and drama throughout the school of particular note. Its significant outreach programme is an added reason why Christ's Hospital is the winner of this category this year.'

'Music straddles the arts and the sciences unlike any other subject: universities and employers love it for that reason' said Christ's Hospital's Director of Music, James Bartlett. 'The set of skills one cultivates to be a successful musician – self-

discipline, dedication, persistence, co-operation, teamwork, graft, confidence – are precisely the skills which set a student up for academic success, and for success in other aspects of their life in, and beyond, school. We are especially proud that, at Christ's Hospital, every single student has the opportunity either to perform, or experience performances by their peers, on all seven days of the week. The enormous range of opportunities our students enjoy set them up for stellar achievement beyond Christ's Hospital – all whilst having a tremendous amount of fun.'

'How fantastic to see the courage, creativity and commitment of the performing arts departments recognised in the winning of this award' said Director of Drama at Christ's Hospital, Dawn Wylie. 'Drama and music are at the very heart of the Christ's Hospital experience and this recognition will inspire the dedicated staff and our ultra-talented students to even greater achievements!'



# ST MATTHEW'S DAY AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

On Friday 4 October, Christ's Hospital held a special service at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate St Matthew's Day and the school's historic connection with the City of London. The splendid event was attended by the entire school and distinguished guests, including Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (the former being the President of Christ's Hospital), the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, the Bishop of London and the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

Following the atmospheric service at St. Paul's Cathedral, which included stunning performances by the CH Gospel and Chapel Choirs, the Christ's Hospital Band accompanied the whole school – some 850 students – in a triumphant march to Guildhall. The spirited parade through the streets brought traffic to a standstill and city workers flocking to watch and cheer.

Once at Guildhall, the students entered the Great Hall, where the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, as well as the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens of the City of London, awarded them each 'largesse' – a newly minted coin – as a physical embodiment of the school's links to the City of London.

Head Teacher, Simon Reid, said: 'It was an extraordinary day and we are extremely honoured to have celebrated what was one of the biggest events in the school's history at St Paul's Cathedral; the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, added an extra layer of significance to an already memorable and meaningful day for Christ's Hospital.'

Christ's Hospital traditionally celebrates St Matthew's Day on the Friday nearest to the 21 September, when the choir, band and senior students travel to London for a service in a City church near the school's original site. This year was special in that the service was held at St Paul's – for only the eighth time in the school's long history – in order to acknowledge the end of the school's year-long marking of the 350th anniversary of the Royal Mathematical School. The last time St Paul's hosted the St Matthew's Day service was in 2012, in honour of the school's 460th anniversary.

Christ's Hospital celebrates an association with the City of London that began when it was founded in 1552. The St Matthew's Day celebration goes back to the very beginnings of the school's existence when the names



of the Governors of the Royal Hospitals, of which Christ's Hospital is one, were first given to the Lord Mayor for ceremonial approval. That ceremony is still part of the service today and is vital to maintaining the links with the City that benefit our students in myriad ways.



## LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET

Our Senior Grecian, Hoyeon, and Second Monitor, Abigail, met Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on 2 December at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall.

This formal event is held every year to mark the retirement of the previous year's Lord Mayor of London and is attended by the Prime Minister, who traditionally makes a speech. Christ's Hospital receives an invitation for two senior students to attend every year.

During the event, our students, along with other guests, heard the Prime Minister's speech on foreign policy, as well as speeches from the Lord Mayor, the Lord Chancellor and the Bishop of London.



## YOMI SODE LECTURE

On 26 September, critically acclaimed British-Nigerian poet Yomi Sode came to CH to give a poetry performance to Deps and Grecians (Year 12 and 13).

Yomi's lively and affable personality radiated throughout his performance, during which he used the whole stage and performed his poems in a conversational manner, with various added anecdotes. Twice, Yomi spontaneously invited a student to join him on stage and share their own writing or improvisation, something that was received with genuine enthusiasm by the audience.

Allegra (DG/Year 12) said: 'Yomi Sode's visit particularly resonated with us not just because of his stage presence, but because of the content of his poetry, which focuses on different experiences of upbringing, loss and the struggles of being Black. Yomi showed skill as a performer, poet and networker, garnering students' respect and fostering a real sense of kinship with us.'

Some of Yomi's highlights include performing at Wireless Festival, Latitude, New York Public Library, Sadler's Wells Theatre, as well as working with Channel 4, BBC Radio 1xtra, Southbank Centre, the National Gallery and the Louvre.



## FLOYD STEADMAN TALK

In November, Floyd Steadman OBE came to deliver a lecture entitled 'From rejection to an OBE and beyond'. Student Tanitoluwa (GR/Year 13) said:

'Floyd is a great example of an individual who refuses to allow obstacles to prevent him achieving greatness. Growing up in an abusive household and then being rejected by his father, he navigated secondary school while being in care. Here his ability to play rugby was discovered by his PE teacher. He eventually became the first Black captain of the Saracens rugby team.'

Floyd took us on his journey through discrimination and unconscious bias, inspiring us all to emulate that drive and determination. Alongside his sporting career, Floyd was a passionate teacher and paved pathways for increased diversity and inclusion in schools and wider society. After retiring from sport, Floyd Steadman received an OBE in 2023 for his services to rugby, education and charity.

A truly inspiring figure, we were delighted to welcome him to Christ's Hospital and hope he will come again soon.'



## CAREERS TEAS

On 17 October, we were joined by Bonnie Tse and her ambassador dog Arthur, to talk to our senior students about a career in medicine. Bonnie talked to the students about her current therapy work training assistance dogs and about her extensive experience as a GP. She advised the students on what it takes to be a doctor, what a typical day as a GP is like and about training for a career in medicine.

On 21 November, we were joined by Simon Williams OBE (Old Blue; 1963-70) for a Careers Tea event on working in government. Simon gave a talk to our senior students about his extensive career in both local and national policy roles across adult social care, healthcare and community provision, and explained to the students what it is like to work in government. Students had the opportunity to ask Simon questions and gain valuable careers advice.



On 28 November, we were joined by Poppy Koronka, Health Correspondent at The Times, who gave a talk to our senior students on a career in journalism. As an Old Blue, Poppy took us through her journey as a journalist since leaving CH, and explained to the students how the industry works, what her work consists of and gave a flavour of the features she's produced so far. Poppy shared lots of tips for getting into the industry and students were able to ask her questions and for career advice.



## ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

DG (Year 12) student Hetty has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship after a rigorous selection process.

Hetty designed a project looking into the mechanics of a can crusher and creating 3D CAD drawings, which she was then asked about by a panel of engineering experts during an interview. As part of her scholarship, Hetty receives a financial award to spend on STEM related activities and is paired with a mentor – a professional engineer who can provide advice and guidance about future study and career development, and even technical advice to help with projects. Hetty is sponsored by IMI Truflo Marine, a specialist designer and manufacturer of high integrity valves, actuators and pressure reducing stations for naval marine and nuclear stations.

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships is the most esteemed scholarship scheme of its kind in the UK and is designed to identify, inspire and nurture future brilliant engineers. The scholarships support students through their A levels and encourage them to pursue engineering, computing or technical design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to pursue careers in the field.

Congratulations Hetty – a brilliant future in engineering surely beckons.

## CELEBRATING OUR MATRONS' DEDICATION

**Gail Cunningham**, matron's assistant, is retiring after 24 years at CH! 'I have been fortunate enough to work in many different houses and with many colleagues over the years and I will miss CH and everyone here' says Gail. 'It has been a privilege to be part of the students' journey at CH and even more so to witness some of them return to teach at CH together with their family. Being part of St Matthew's Day this year was a lovely way to finish my time at CH.'

**Mars Schellevis** is celebrating 20 years of service as a matron at CH. Mars (see photo) started working as matron in Lamb in 2005 and has seen many changes, working with eight different house parents; yet the constant of meeting and supporting new students remains a driving force for Mars to continue to love her job. She says, 'every day is different; I'm always busy, nothing is ever a chore, and the whole team working in Lamb is just like one big family'.



## DYSON WORKSHOP

Three engineers from the James Dyson Foundation visited Christ's Hospital on 17 September to run two engineering workshops – a robotics workshop for our DG (Year 12) students and a prototype workshop for our UF (Year 10) students.

The robotics workshop started with a talk about Dyson and how they develop a product. This was followed by a hands-on session, during which students were challenged to use their engineering, electronic and problem-solving skills to programme a robot with the ability to navigate a room and avoid obstacles along the way – much like Dyson's own robot vacuum.

The prototype workshop focused on the problem of air pollution and how practical and creative skills in engineering and design play crucial roles in finding solutions. Students were encouraged to discuss why air pollution matters to them, identify its causes and prototype their solutions using cardboard, Dyson machine parts and tape. The students got creative in bringing their air pollution solutions to life and presenting them to their peers.

The James Dyson Foundation is Dyson's charitable arm and aims to inspire young people to pursue a career in engineering through hands-on learning and experimentation.



We thank Gail and Mars for their remarkable service and loyalty to CH!

## CLASSICS AND PHILOSOPHY TRIP TO ATHENS

During the half term, classics and philosophy students embarked upon an unforgettable four-night trip to Athens. It was a brilliant trip packed with excursions and tours, intense philosophical discussions and great food!

A special excursion on the first day was a journey to Delphi, a 5,000-year-old site where the Ancient Greeks believed prophecies were made. Students were driven into the Greek mountains and saw the remains of a temple to Apollo, the god of prophecy, as well as an archaeological museum. Back in Athens, students also had the amazing opportunity to walk around Kerameikos (an ancient graveyard) and, of course, the famous Acropolis. In the Acropolis Museum, students had a philosophical debate about whether the Parthenon Marbles should be returned from the British Museum to their place of origin. Walking around the Ancient Agora (marketplace) was another highlight of the trip, as well as seeing the archaeological museum and Aristotle's Lyceum, where he taught his pupils thousands of years ago. On the last day, after a drive through the stunning Athenian



Riviera, students visited Cape Sounion – an ancient temple to Poseidon overlooking the sea.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic experience – both enjoyable and educational!



## FOOD AND NUTRITION TRIP TO ITALY

During half term, the Food and Nutrition Department took students on a hugely educational gastronomic trip to Naples in Italy.

The group visited various food factories and working farms and learned how to make everything from gelato and pasta to fresh buffalo mozzarella and olive oil. A highlight was learning how to make pizza in a proper pizza oven, which was great fun and the results delicious!

In between all the food related activities, the students enjoyed trips to Pompeii as well as to the Museo Archeologico di Paestum and Sorrento, renowned for its wonderful lemons.

All in all, it was a fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable trip, with students gaining lots of inspiration and knowledge relevant to their studies.

## GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND

During October half term, geography students went on an unforgettable five-day trip to Iceland.

Activities included crossing the symbolic Bridge between Continents, which spans a tectonic plate fissure, as well as seeing various waterfalls, including the magnificent, much-photographed Gullfoss waterfall. They also visited the Secret Lagoon natural hot springs, and Geysir, a spouting hot spring that gave its name to all the world's geysers. Students explored Thingvellir national park, which straddles



the Mid-Atlantic Ridge; the frozen glacier tongue of Solheimajokull, learning how to use basic ice equipment, crampons and ice axes; and the black volcanic beach of Reynisfjara.

At Raufarholshellir, one of the largest and longest caves in Iceland, they got to see the inner workings of a lava tube. They went on a fascinating guided tour of Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station, as well as a multisensory virtual experience called FlyOver Iceland.

All in all, it was an incredibly enriching, educational and enjoyable trip for students and staff alike.



## TONY RAY-JONES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

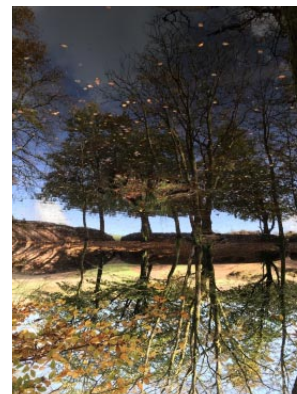
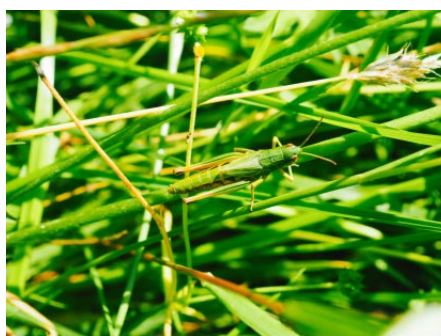


This year's theme, Into the Wild!, took inspiration from our guest judges, Olly & Suzi. They are collaborative artists who have made documenting nature and, most specifically, endangered species in their natural habitats, the focus of their artwork. They draw and paint together, working hand

over hand on the same pieces of work, and their many adventures to all seven continents of the world have brought them face to face with sharks, whales, wild dogs, bears, snakes and crocodiles. They have exhibited their work all over the world in museums and galleries, and they are currently artists-in-residence at the Natural History Museum.

After choosing his winners, Olly Williams gave an insightful talk on his art education, working as a partnership, their influences, their place in the artworld, the animals and people they have met in their career and his recent adventure into poetry. There were over a hundred entries to the competition which generally responded to the theme emphasising the majesty of nature in the form of landscapes, seascapes, fauna and animals. This year's winners were:

Junior: Dylan's (02/Year 7) rock pool in the Red Sea  
Intermediate: Stephanie's (GE/Year 11) grasshopper  
Senior: Betsy's (DG/Year 12) abandoned hut in a wood  
Best in Show: Eleanor's (03/Year 8) atmospheric reflection of a tree.



## ART LECTURE

The artist Dryden Goodwin gave a thought-provoking lecture to senior art students, discussing how he uses his drawing practice to convey important issues that affect us all. He is known for his portraits, layering traditional drawing with contemporary media, including photography, video, sound and installations, which have been shown at the Tate, National Gallery and the Venice Biennale. His work is celebrated for its intellectual depth and emotional resonance, prompting viewers to consider the passage of time, the intricacies of human experience, the role of observation in art and life and the relationship between stillness and movement. His project Breathe (2012 and 2022) was initially installed opposite the UK Parliament, featuring over 1,300 hand-drawn portraits of Goodwin's five-year-old son, capturing the vulnerability and rhythm of his breathing. The artwork, commissioned by Invisible Dust and linked to Professor Frank Kelly's research on air quality and public health, symbolized human fragility and environmental interdependence.



## OLD BLUE BIOCHEMIST DONATES 'SINGLE PEA' SCULPTURE



In September, Old Blue Nigel Fleming came to donate and install his beautiful alabaster sculpture of a single pea in the Mellstrom Centre. Before Nigel became a sculptor, he had a busy career as a clinical biochemist and entrepreneur, founding Athena Diagnostics and G2B Pharma among other companies. The pea sculpture is a tribute to Gregor Mendel who discovered the fundamental laws of inheritance through his work on pea plants! 'The pea is often wrongly portrayed as being an unblemished perfect circle' Nigel says. 'In fact, peas are organic forms with individual character.' Nigel is pictured here with his sculpture and some of our science scholars who were very keen to meet him!



## GOSPEL CHOIR AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Following on from its success at the Music for Youth National Festival in July, the Christ's Hospital Gospel Choir was invited to perform at the Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. The event celebrates the very best of young music-making from across the UK, showcasing all genres and styles.

Entirely student-led, the Gospel Choir leads the worship in Chapel and performs at school events, as well as at occasions outside of CH, such as the Black History Month service at Chichester Cathedral, Lambeth Palace at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury and, for the first time this year, at St Paul's Cathedral as part of the service marking St Matthew's Day and 350 years of the Royal Mathematical School.

At the Proms, the choir performed the Kingdom Choir's arrangement of 'Stand By Me' with a solo from Harvey (GR/Year 13), and the choir's own arrangement of a praise medley, featuring a solo from Kyria (GR/Year 13), earning rapturous applause from the audience.

For the few lucky people who ever get to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, it is usually a once-in-a-lifetime experience. For the Gospel Choir, though? Perhaps not.

## BIG BAND

A sell-out crowd enjoyed the Big Band's Christmas performance, featuring jazz, swing and pop classics. Under the direction of Mr Carter and Mr Titchener, the ensembles navigated some tricky and ambitious music with assurance and aplomb. An elite team of vocal soloists also featured as comperes, expertly guiding the audience through the Big Band's sets alongside appearances from the Senior Jazz ensemble and the Dixieland Band.



## LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

The Christ's Hospital Band marched in the Lord Mayor's Show on 9 November again this year, reaffirming the school's historic connections with the City of London, and was featured in BBC coverage of the event.

'It was a special honour again this year that the Lord Mayor's cavalcade turned in behind and followed the Christ's Hospital Band once we reached Mansion House, essentially making us the Lord Mayor's personal band all the way through the rest of the morning's parade' said Band Director, Tim Carter. 'Students taking part ranged from Third Form (Year 8) through to Grecians (Year 13) and all performed fantastically, remaining in good spirits despite the colder weather on the day.'

## SCHOOL CONCERT

Nearly 200 students from across the school took part in the School Concert on 1 December. Opening with the Symphony Orchestra's blistering performance of Marquez's *Danzon no.2* before moving, via some of our junior and development groups, to a barnstorming finale from the Band, an enraptured Big School audience enjoyed a typically eclectic CH music experience. Notable mentions included the massed strings under Mrs Marsden's direction – our younger and less-experienced musicians playing side-by-side with the Chamber Orchestra players, and the Junior Choir making its concert debut with a set which ranged from gospel to classical to jazz. The Senior Corps of Drums mesmerised with a display of drum splits leading us, after Holst's *Second Suite in F*, to the now traditional 'surprise' encore of *Sussex by the Sea*.



# LES MISÉRABLES – MAGNIFIQUE!

As an NSTA (National School Theatre Awards) representative, I had the distinct pleasure of attending Christ's Hospital's production of *Les Misérables* on 6 December. Under the expert guidance of Head of Drama, Ms Dawn Wylie, and the musical direction of Mr James Bartlett, this rendition of the iconic musical was nothing short of magnificent.

*Les Misérables* is a musical which scarcely needs an introduction to anyone with more than a passing interest in theatre, as the legendary show has been a firm favourite with UK theatregoers since it opened in London in 1985. Interestingly, the original London production included Roger Allam — a former Christ's Hospital student — as the great antagonist Inspector Javert. With this in mind, the audience at the sold-out performance would be well within their rights to wonder if they were witnessing an early performance of a soon-to-be celebrated and accomplished West End actor. By the time the final curtain was drawn, it was clear that they very well might have!

First mention must go to Gavin Pattison for the set and theatrical design; truly excellent in its classy and effective simplicity. Ragged cloth flanked the sides of the stage, lit 'à la Tricolore' to instantly evoke the poverty-stricken landscape of early 19th-century France, while a brickwork-effect platform rose up at the back of the stage. Little else was used for much of the show, nor was much else necessary — save for a raucous tavern scene here, a lavish gate there and, of course, the famous barricade that dominates Act Two.

Musically, the show is famously lavish and impressive, and it was performed here with aplomb and distinction by all the performers, including a considerable ensemble and a 13-piece orchestra, composed of current students Fleur and Sam and a few alumni, too — all expertly conducted by Mr Bartlett.

In the opening number, we were introduced to the central conflict of the musical — that between the (soon-to-be reformed) thief Jean Valjean and the hard-nosed, unforgiving police officer Javert. Dominic's effortless tenor voice as Valjean soared through the notoriously difficult musical material with complete ease. Harvey's stage presence alone as Javert was almost inconceivably powerful — and that's before he opened his mouth, revealing a rich, deep bass voice. Large segments of Javert's lines were sung down an octave by Harvey, which is extremely rare to experience, while also being so fitting for Javert's character that it makes one wonder why it has not been done before.



As a result, the contrast between the two central characters was unmissably stark.

Another cast member deserving of special praise is Amelie as the ill-fated Fantine. The role of Fantine is a unique challenge in theatre: to be introduced after the opening number, invoke as much pathos as possible, sing one of the most famous musical theatre songs of all time (*I Dreamed a Dream*), undergo a wig change, slap at least one fellow actor (on stage, ideally) and then die of an illness that is not mentioned in the text or even hinted at until your deathbed scene (which itself occurs less than half an hour after your first appearance on stage). The role clearly demands a stand-out performer, and in Amelie, we got this and more, with every checkpoint of the rollercoaster accounted for — including a genuinely excellent rendition of '*I Dreamed a Dream*'. Amelie showed control and maturity beyond her years, pacing herself throughout the song and creating one of the stand-out moments of Act One.

Other highlights in Act One were Harvey's yearning rendition of '*Stars*' — enhanced by beautiful lighting — and '*A Heart Full of Love*', in which Marius (played by Nana), Éponine (portrayed by Amelie), and Cosette (played by Alice) showcased superb vocals that intertwined and blended quite remarkably. Guy and Rosie also shone in their depiction of the abusive squalor of the slimy Thénardier household; they clearly relished the opportunity to explore the immoral, sleazy Thénardier and Madame Thénardier respectively. The final stellar performance that cannot go unmentioned was Nana's performance of '*Empty Chairs at Empty Tables*' near the end of Act Two. This was a show highlight — a three-minute masterclass in vocal performance and acting through song that really stood out, even among many other great moments throughout the evening.

Arguably most memorable about this evening for me was the opportunity to sit next to a Christ's Hospital student who was there to support his friend but had not seen *Les Misérables* before. He felt every musical peak and trough quite viscerally, sometimes audibly gasping at graceful high notes, and physically reacting to particularly impressive vocal passages or dramatic moments at other times. This was a perfect reminder of how important and powerful musical theatre can be. Through the quality of this production and these performances, the young man next to me — and the rest of the audience — was genuinely moved and inspired. What a gift to him and many in the audience, who rose to give a full standing ovation at the curtain call — a well deserved reward for the talented and passionate performers, teachers, musicians, and technicians of Christ's Hospital.



# CHRIST'S HOSPITAL GIVING DAY 2024: A COMMUNITY TRIUMPH

On 12 and 13 November, the Christ's Hospital community came together like never before for Giving Day 2024.

Over the course of just 36 hours, the generosity, enthusiasm and shared commitment of students, parents, Old Blues, staff and friends combined to raise over £178,000, making a transformative impact on the opportunities we can provide for current and future students.

Giving Day wasn't just about raising funds though—it was a celebration of the vibrant CH spirit. From the exciting Avenue Dash relay races across the quad, and the Big Draw collaborative mural project, to the Dance Fusion Fiesta and Reverse Roles Football, the school came alive with creative energy and collective purpose. Giving Day culminated in the much-anticipated Ultimate Colour Run, where Head Teacher Simon Reid sportingly took part, becoming a moving artwork as students covered him in powdered paint!

The efforts of our school community on Giving Day showed what we can achieve when we unite for a common cause. Each gift, whether large or small, played a vital role in helping us continue to change lives through education. To everyone who contributed: thank you for making Giving Day 2024 such an extraordinary success.

## THE BIG DRAW

As part of Christ's Hospital Giving Day 2024, the school embarked on an ambitious and inspiring community art project: the Big Draw. This collaborative effort brought together all 858 students to create a four-metre-long replica of the Verrio, Antonio Verrio's famous painting that adorns the CH Dining Hall.

The project served as a powerful symbol of unity and collective purpose, with each student completing their own square of the mural.

Reflecting on the project, Head of Art Paul Deller said: 'Whilst seemingly an ambitious project asking so many



people to be involved, what has been most heartening is the collective warmth of response to the idea and the energy it created. The fact that everyone genuinely gave their time to a venture that did not have any overt personal gain was, to my mind, the most rewarding aspect of Giving Day. The outcome is what it is, but like all the best art, has become a symbol for something beyond itself and, in our case, something good.'



## BETH'S FUNDRAISER



One of our monitors, Beth, has been fundraising for White Ribbon, which is the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls.

Beth was moved to fundraise in memory of Laken Riley who was murdered whilst out running last February in Georgia, USA. Despite doing everything she could to stay safe (going out in daylight and sharing her location with family and friends), she was attacked by a man during her run. Her Apple watch recorded her struggling for 17 minutes before she died, hence Beth decided to fundraise by running for 17 minutes for 17 consecutive days in December.

White Ribbon works with men and boys to challenge harmful cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence, and to promote a culture of equality and respect.

To support Beth's fundraiser, please go to [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and

## SPORTS NEWS



### RISING RUGBY STAR

U16 rugby player Max has been awarded the Joe Launchbury Rugby Scholarship. This well-deserved award is in recognition of Max's achievements on the rugby field at Christ's Hospital and at Harlequins where he is to be congratulated on being selected for the Player Development Group. Max received an inspiring visit from Premiership players and Old Blues Joe Launchbury and Lennox Anyanwu, who shared their experiences with Max. Fingers crossed he follows their path to Harlequins!

### BADMINTON SUCCESS



In badminton, Jason (UF/Year 10) has had an outstanding term. He represented Sussex U16s, won the Sussex Under 16s Singles Championship, came second in the boys' doubles and recently won the Essex U17 Bronze Singles' title, part of the Badminton England Junior Circuit. Jason secured the title with a thrilling 21-19 victory in the final, a remarkable achievement at just 15 years old!

### ENGLAND FOOTBALL SQUAD

Kiitan (DG/Year 12) has been selected for the England Football Partially Sighted provisional squad! Kiitan, who is the youngest player in the squad says: 'Given my visual impairment, playing mainstream football has become quite difficult; being called up to the England men's squad has allowed me to access so many positives, from the professionalism and positive mentality of the players to the outstanding facilities, which have enabled me to enjoy my football at a very competitive level.'



### NSEA

We are delighted that, for the first time, CH is being represented in National Schools' Equestrian Association (NSEA) competitions, thanks to

Luke (03/Year 8) and his pony Kally. Luke competed in the NSEA show jumping event at Felbridge in September and completed a clear round with a personal best time, placing eighth. He also competed at Coombelands in November, achieving two personal best times plus two clear rounds and finishing 13th.

### PREP SCHOOL LIONS



Isabella (02/Year 7) and Alethea-Becky (03/Year 8) are very excited to have been selected for the Prep School Lions U12 and U13 football A squads respectively. This means they will take part in an amazing training camp and have the chance to represent England in the Gothia World Youth Cup! Selection was extremely difficult with a very high level of play, so this is an incredible achievement.

### FIVES CHAMP

In December, Charlie (GR/Year 13) won the Fives Challenger Tournament, a national competition open to all but the top 16 ranked players in the country. Charlie defeated the current number 22 in the semi-final and the 2018 U18 national champion in the final, becoming the youngest player ever to win this tournament!



### SUSSEX CRICKET U18 SELECTION



Having been playing cricket for Sussex U16s, Josh (DG/Year 12) has now been selected to train with the U18 squad. He says: 'Being called back to the Sussex CCC U18s squad was massive news for me as this is one step closer to the Boys' Academy and to my goal of earning a rookie contract with Sussex.'



## FORMER SENIOR GRECIAN RETURNS TO INSPIRE

On 11 October, former Senior Grecian (2003-4) Tracey Abayeta returned to CH to launch her new book *Networking Made Easy: 5 Steps to Powerful Professional Relationships*, in an event sponsored by the Benevolent Society of Blues. We were delighted to also welcome another two former Senior Grecians, Hannah Fosker (2005-6) and Andre Da Silva-Jenkins (2019-20) who along with other Old Blues and professional guests kindly gave their time to network with senior students from CH and visiting schools.

Tracey had the privilege of escorting the late Queen and dining with Prince Philip during her time at CH. She is an HR professional who works in talent development within financial services and is a certified coach and podcaster.

## CH CHEF CLAIMS GOLD



A CH chef was named Young Chef of the Year in the annual Compass Chef of the Year competition. Representing Chartwells Independent, Euan Moss competed in the Young Chef section and wowed the judges with his impressive menu, which featured seasonal hogget and a vegan poached pear dessert. Euan joined Chartwells Independent in January 2020 as a Demi Chef de Partie at CH, when his talent and passion for pastry work were immediately evident. Now senior pastry chef, he oversees the production of 2,000 desserts daily as well as numerous hospitality events.

## PERFORMING ARTS DAY



On 6 November, we were proud to hold our inaugural Performing Arts Day, specifically designed for Year 5 primary school children. The event aimed to provide young students with an immersive and interactive introduction to the world of performing arts and was attended by over 60 children from 15 schools. The day featured three exciting workshops – musical theatre, technical theatre and puppetry – and culminated in a final performance in Christ's Hospital's professional theatre, where the young attendees showcased their talents and newfound abilities to parents who had been invited to attend. We look forward to this becoming a regular event in our calendar!

## GOLDMAN SACHS APPRENTICESHIPS

On 25 October, a group of our DG (Year 12) students had the exciting opportunity to attend an Apprenticeship Insight Afternoon at Goldman Sachs in London. The afternoon showcased the variety of opportunities at Goldman Sachs, focusing specifically on apprenticeships. Students learned more about Goldman Sachs, their apprenticeship programmes and the recruitment process. They also heard directly from business representatives, recruiters and current apprentices through interactive sessions and networking. It was a great opportunity for students not only to understand more about apprenticeships, but also to upskill and build confidence ahead of submitting their applications.



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